

Veterans Network Directory - Montgomery County, MD

LGBTQ+ Veteran Resources (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer)

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This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER)

Email: <u>info@aver.us</u> 678-596-1311 V)

www.aver.us

Non-profit, non-partisan, chapter-based Veterans Service Organization of active, reserve, and veteran service members dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment for all present and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, especially the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender current and prior military personnel who have been historically disenfranchised by armed forces policy and discriminatory laws governing military service and benefits. With chapters across America, AVER provides a unique and safe space where LGBT Veterans can honor pride both in our service and our identity as LGBT people. AVER is dedicated to equality for LGBT service members and veterans in all aspects of our armed forces, including recruitment, training, promotions, honors, and benefits.

Blue Alliance

Email: info@blue-alliance.org

www.blue-alliance.org

Facilitates professional networking and mentorship for LGBTQ+ cadets, alumni, Veterans, and employees of USAFA and the US Air Force. Provide educational and consultative resources that support and develop leadership and development programs of the Air Force Academy. Proud to serve and support the mission of the Air Force Academy for ALL cadets, regardless of gender or orientation.

Knights Out

506 A Street SE Washington, DC 20003 Email: <u>info@knightsout.org</u> www.knightsout.org

Knights Out focuses the bulk of our resources on advancing open and dignified service initiatives that impact the cadets and graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Work closely to support West Point's LGBTQ+ focused affinity group - Spectrum, as well as the active duty, reserve, and veteran alumni of West Point.

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Modern Military Association of America

1725 I Street NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006

202-328-3244 (V)

Email: info@modernmilitary.org
https://modernmilitary.org

Nation's largest non-profit organization dedicated to advancing fairness and equality for the LGBTQ+ military and veteran community. Working to make a real difference in the lives of our modern military families through education, advocacy and support. Legal help desk assists members with discharge upgrades, legal name changes and discrimination. Rainbow Shield certification program and other training equip military and veteran service providers with the skills they need to be culturally resilient in providing effective and efficient services to the LGBTQ+ and HIV+ military and veteran community. Military spouse scholarship enables military spouses to pursue their higher education goals. Chapter Network facilitates opportunities for fellowship, camaraderie and leadership development for individuals and families located across the country and around the world.

Office of Community Partnerships

Dr. Amena Johnson, LGBTQ Community Liaison 21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330 Rockville, MD 20850 240-777-8324 (V)

Email: amena.johnson@montgomerycountymd.gov

The mission of the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) is to strengthen relationships between the Montgomery County government and the residents it serves, with special focus on underserved and emerging communities and our neighbors in need. The OCP serves as a bridge builder between the County government and community organizations serving the residents of Montgomery County, working across the barriers of race, ethnicity, income, and religion that too often diminish communities. OCP's mission is to carry out the County Executive's commitment to build a larger policy table with participation by a more diverse range and greater number of residents as we work to become America's most welcoming community. Resource - Best Practices for Working with LGBTQ Older Adults:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/BestPracticesLGBTQSeniors.pdf

PFLAG

Email: <u>info@pflagdc.org</u> 202-638-3852 (V)

www.pflagdc.org

Organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. With over 400 chapters and 200,000 members and supporters crossing multiple generations of families in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas across America, PFLAG is committed to creating a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed. Advocate on issues and protections for LGBTQ+ veterans, servicemembers and their spouses. Advocate and support legislation including Voices for Veterans Act, Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act, and Restore Honor to Service Members Act. Support groups meet virtually and in person in Gaithersburg/Asbury, Germantown and Leisure World.

Transgender American Veterans Association

2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 465 Washington, DC 20006

516-828-2911 (V)

Email: tava.office@tavaboard.org

https://transveteran.org

Grassroots organization that advocates for the equality of transgender Veterans and active duty service members to receive fair and equal treatment in areas such as healthcare, benefits, and open transgender military service. Help Veterans change their name and gender within the Department of Veteran Affairs, update their DD 214 name and characterization of discharge, and provide services such as our transgender support locator, which offers local support for transgender persons. TAVA is committed to equal rights for all Veterans.

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Veterans Health Administration – LGBTQ+ Health Program

VA Maryland Health Care System (Baltimore) Katherine Grein, LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator 443-500-9052 (V)

Email: katherine.grein@va.gov

www.va.gov/maryland-health-care/health-services/lgbtq-veteran-care/

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) welcomes all Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivor beneficiaries, including diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. LGBTQ+ refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning identities. The '+' sign also captures identities beyond LGBTQ, including pansexual, asexual, agender, gender diverse, nonbinary, gender-neutral, and other identities. LGBTQ+ Veterans have faced stigma and discrimination, which can affect health. As a healthcare institution, we need to make sure that LGBTQ+ Veterans know that they are welcome at Veterans Health Administration (VHA). There is an LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator (LGBTQ+ VCC) at every facility to help you get the care you need. VHA policies require that your health care is delivered in an affirming and inclusive environment and that VHA employees respect your identity.