

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2023
“Advocating for Veterans & Their Families”
HONORING THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTY VETERANS



Council Vice President Councilmember Andrew Friedson and Council President Councilmember Evan Glass presented a proclamation to Ken Reichard, a lifelong County resident who served as Senator Ben Cardin’s representative for almost two decades. Ken Reichard has actively participated in the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs meetings since the Commission was established in 2009. He has been a strong advocate for Veterans and their families.



Wayne Miller, LCSW, Chair - Robert Koffman, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair
Marc Elrich, County Executive



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

November 8, 2023

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:
The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive
The Honorable Evan Glass, President, County Council
James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on Veterans Affairs is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. Under your leadership and with your support, the Commission is mandated to research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information that will assist in meeting the needs of Veterans and their families. Please see link to the timeline and major accomplishments of the Commission since it was established -- www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A&D%20Docs/CVA/CVATimeline.pdf

We continue to support coordination and collaboration among federal and state agencies, and non-profits that serve Veterans so that our community works together to provide the best services and resources possible to Veterans and their families. We work to build an inclusive community and promote social connectiveness for our Veterans and their families. We commend the County for having the goal of functional zero homelessness amongst Veterans in the County. However, at this time, we have 34 homeless Veterans. In collaboration with the Commission, Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, constructed and maintains an accessible floating launch for non-motorized boats at Seneca Landing Special Park, and this past year added another accessible launch there. Parks will now be adding accessible launches where they have boat/kayak launches.

We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication. We would like to acknowledge DHHS Director Dr. James Bridgers for his role in meeting with the Boards, Commissions and Committees to keep us informed of important health and human services issues, Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Community Outreach Manager, and Carly Clem, Program Specialist, for their support in providing the Commission with the resources needed to carry out our mission. This report is the result of our combined efforts.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and members of the Commission during our term of service. We are confident that you will continue to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the lives of our Veterans. Our meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to join us for any meeting.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Wayne Miller, LCSW, Chair



Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Robert Koffman, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair

MEMBERSHIP LIST 2022 - 2023

Veterans Representatives

Elwood Gray, Veteran
 Bob Koffman, Veteran
 Cynthia Macri, Veteran
 Wayne Miller, Disabled American Veterans
 Reggie Mitchell, Veteran
 Scott Schlesinger, Jewish War Veterans Post 360
 Anneke Vandebroek, Veteran
 Michael Wilson, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Ex-Officio Members

Jameelah Johnson, Dept. of Health & Human Services
 Joanna L. Starling, Montgomery College
 Michael L. Subin, Office of the County Executive

General Public Members

Josephine Bahn
 Susan Webman

Non-Voting Congressional Representatives

Audrey Severn, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen

Congressional Attendees

Joseph Eyong, Office of Congressman Jamie Raskin
 Vikki Garcia, Office of Congressman John Sarbanes
 Ken Reichard, Office of Senator Ben Cardin

Staff

Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager
 Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I

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ABOUT THE COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs was established by County legislation in 2008 with the goal of the Commission to provide advice to the County Executive and County Council on the status of programs and services related to the needs of Veterans. Veterans have made an important contribution to the community by their service in the Armed and Uniformed Services of this Nation, and Montgomery County is committed to showing its commitment and support for all veterans and their families.

MISSION

The Commission will research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information and educational materials relating to activities and programs that will assist in meeting the needs of veterans and their families; institute and conduct educational and other programs, meetings, and conferences to promote the rights and opportunities for veterans; advise the Executive and the Council on the status of programs and services in the State and County related to the needs of veterans and their families; and assist in planning appropriate public acknowledgement of the contributions made by veterans, and assist in planning commemoration activities recognizing the contributions made by veterans.

The Commission does not provide services. The Commission maintains a Veterans Directory online that include all the services offered by the federal state and local government and non-profit agencies - www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vnd.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on People with Disabilities is composed of 16 voting members who serve in a volunteer capacity. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The Commission includes:

- ▶ 9 Veterans,
- ▶ 4 members representing the general public, and
- ▶ 3 ex-officio members representing the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; the County Executive; and the Director of Montgomery College.

The Executive must invite a representative of the County's Congressional delegation who is either a

member of the delegation or an individual designated to represent the delegation to be a non-voting member of the Commission. The Executive must also appoint a member from the Commission on People with Disabilities to be a non-voting member of the Commission.

MEETINGS

All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. The Commission welcomes visitors to join us as we serve the County and its residents. Meetings are subject to change without advance notice. Please call to confirm day and time of meetings and to request any special accommodations. As possible, we adjust meeting dates in order to accommodate days of major religious observances. You can view the Commission meeting minutes or check meeting schedules times online at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023 - 2024

Full Commission Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the month,
except for July and August
via Zoom
6pm to 7:30pm



Visit us on the web! Read Commission agendas, meeting minutes, annual reports, testimony, and more!
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva



Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/MCGCVA



Sign up for eSubscribe to receive emails about Veterans information and resources:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery



Sign up for emergency alerts from Alert Montgomery! Alert Montgomery is the official emergency communications service for Montgomery County, MD. During a major crisis, emergency or severe weather event, Montgomery County officials can send event updates, warnings and instructions directly to you on any of your devices. Sign up at <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>.

FY25 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES



Commission on Veterans Affairs
FY25 Priorities
Wayne Miller, Chair • Robert Koffman, Vice-Chair
October 12, 2023

The Commission on Veterans Affairs thanks the County Council for the support you have provided over the past 15 years for funding programs that benefit the quality of life for Veterans and their families. We recommend the following:

1. **Vouchers for Homeless Veterans and their Families** - We commend the County for its Montgomery County's Veterans ZERO2016 Campaign and in making a priority of the addition of permanent affordable housing for the homeless veteran population. HUD-VASH is a collaborative program which pairs HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with VA case management and supportive services for homeless Veterans. Not all Veterans qualify. The Commission asked the Council to provide subsidies to Veterans who do not qualify for VA-HUD vouchers. The County has dedicated \$650,000 per year for this effort.
2. **Serving Together** - The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides funding for Serving Together programming through a Behavioral Health & Crisis Services (BHCS) General Funds/based budget contract. Contractual services were originally funded, in FY11, by a Community Grant award. We recommend that the County continue to fund this source of funding of an estimated \$170,000 that provides needed resources for Veterans and their families.
3. **Warrior Canine Connection (WCC)** - According to the VA, the PAWS Act is an "unfunded mandate". Therefore, WCC needs help to provide these services for Veterans both locally and nationally. Once again, the impact WCC has on the Veteran community merits approval of the \$50,000 Community grant from the County.

In addition, the Commission will:

- Promote suicide prevention awareness and promote resilience by Advertising Psych Armor and encourage individuals to enroll in the free trainings.
- Participate in Operation Green Light activities and celebration of Veterans Day.
- Promote social connectedness. and veteran inclusion in County activities.
- Enhance economic opportunities, financial literacy and entrepreneurship training for veterans.
- Work to increase participation of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in Veteran Service Organizations and the Commission.

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT 2023 PROCLAMATION

Proclamation

Montgomery County Maryland

WHEREAS this year Veterans Day marks the 105th anniversary of the Armistice Day of 1918. We pay tribute to those who have served our country and this community in the Armed and Uniformed Forces and their families who sacrifice so much to keep our country safe and strong; and

WHEREAS Montgomery County has joined the efforts of National Association of Counties in recognizing "Operation Green Light for Veterans." This initiative is to show support for Veterans and raise awareness about the challenges faced by many Veterans and the resources that are available at the county, state, and federal level to assist Veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS when Operation Green Light launches nationwide, counties will shine green lights on their facilities from November 6 to 12 to "send a clear message to inspire veterans to reach out to their county veteran service officers."

NOW, THEREFORE DO I, Marc Elrich, as Montgomery County Executive, hereby proclaim November 6, 2023, as the start of

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

in Montgomery County to be a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of those who serve in uniform transitioning from Active Service. We encourage businesses and residents to join us in displaying a green light in a window and recognize the importance of honoring all those who have served our country.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY JOINS 'OPERATION GREEN LIGHT' STARTING MONDAY, NOV. 6; SEVERAL SOLEMN CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD AROUND THE COUNTY HELD ON VETERANS DAY, NOV. 11

For Immediate Release: Monday, November 6, 2023

As Veterans Day approaches on Saturday, Nov. 11, Montgomery County will join the national "Operation Green Light" salute to veterans starting tonight, Monday, Nov. 6, and continuing through Nov. 12. The County's Commission on Veterans Affairs is seeking additions to its virtual tribute to County veterans. And for those who want to attend ceremonies on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, several events will be held around the County.

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and the County Council are supporting Operation Green Light, a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties to honor those who have made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom. The program asks for displays of a green light, from Nov. 6-12, in a window of businesses or residences to honor veterans.

From Nov. 6-12, Montgomery County's Memorial Plaza, which is located adjacent to the County Executive Building at 101 Monroe St. in Rockville, will be lit with green lights.

More information about Operation Green Light is available at <https://www.naco.org/blog/counties-take-action-participate-operation-green-light-veterans>.



*Memorial Plaza with green lights
Photo courtesy of David Dise*

Veterans Day ceremonies will be held at several locations throughout the County.

- Saturday, Nov. 11. 10:45 a.m. Veterans Park, Bethesda. 62nd Annual Bethesda Veterans Day Ceremonies. Corner of Norfolk Avenue and Woodmont Avenue. Sponsored by Montgomery County's Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center Office, the Bethesda Urban Partnership, the Kiwanis Club of Bethesda and Daughters of the American Revolution. Navy Captain Alan Christian, NSA Bethesda will be the featured speaker. There will be musical performances by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Brass Players and Chamber Singers. The Gaithersburg High School NJROTC Color Guard Cadets will participate. For more information, email janetammerman@gmail.com.
- Saturday, Nov. 11. 11 a.m. Veterans Park, at the intersection of MD Route 28 and Rockville Pike in Rockville. Rockville's Mayor and Council will continue the city's traditional ceremonies. American Legion Post 86 will lead the wreath-laying ceremony and its honor guard will present a 21-gun salute. Free parking will be available at [Sandy Spring Bank, 611 Rockville Pike](#).
- Saturday, Nov. 11. 11 a.m. The City of Gaithersburg's annual Veterans Day Observance will take place at the [City Hall Concert Pavilion](#). City officials and members of local veterans groups will honor those who have served in all branches of the military. Officials, veterans and community organizations will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony, followed by a reception inside [City Hall](#). The special guest speaker Paul Fowler, the chief risk officer in the United States Public Health Service. The Gaithersburg High School Jazz Ensemble will perform patriotic music and Gaithersburg High School Band member Abigail Namikisa will play "Taps." A reception with refreshments will immediately follow the ceremony in the City Hall Gallery. For more information, go to <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recreation/special-events/veterans-day-observance>
- Saturday, Nov. 11. 11 a.m. VFW Post 2562 and American Legion Post 268 host ceremonies at Wheaton Veterans Park, 11200 Amherst Ave. in Wheaton. For more information, contact vfwpost2562@comcast.net.
- Sunday, Nov. 12. 2:30 p.m. Jewish War Veterans Lt. Harold E. Greenberg-Albert I. Lerner Post 692 Veterans Day program. Bender Jewish Community Center, 6125 Montrose Rd., Rockville. The guest speaker will be Colonel David Brog, USAF (Ret). Additional speakers will be Anthony Woods, the Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Colonel Barry Lischinsky, USAF (Ret), the National Commander, JWV. *Voice of Vets* will provide musical selections. For more information, please contact Sheldon Goldberg, Ph.D., Lt Colonel, USAF (Ret), Adjutant, JWV Post 692, via email fitrg8tr@verizon.net.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY JOINS 'OPERATION GREEN LIGHT'; VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES CONTINUED

The County's Commission on Veterans Affairs is continuing to pay tribute to County veterans through a virtual "Tribute to Montgomery County Veterans" website. As Veterans Day approaches, the commission wants to add tributes to the site. The website is open to all residents who have served in military service.

In addition, there will be Montgomery County veterans' tributes during the month of November in the display cases at the Rockville Memorial Library and the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza.

Many people confuse [Memorial Day](#) in May and Veterans Day in November. Memorial Day honors military personnel who died in service, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered on [Veterans Day](#), the upcoming holiday is set aside to honor all of those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans and acknowledge their contributions to national security.

The commission is seeking to expand the Tribute to Montgomery County Veterans website by adding information on more veterans whose information is supplied either by the veterans themselves, by family members or by friends.

The tribute to veterans website can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday. From this site, there is a link to the commission's Fallen Heroes page at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fallenheroes.

A veteran can share their story, or someone can share the story of a friend or family member, by filling out the Commission's [Google form](#) or filling out its [PDF form](#). Questions can be directed to MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

The following information is needed on the forms:

- Veteran's name.
- Name of person submitting information and relationship to the individual.
- Branch of service and rank.
- Years of service.
- Era served (WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Global War on Terror or peacetime/other).
- Brief narrative of their service.
- Connection to Montgomery County (where the individual currently lives, grew up, attended high school or college/university, etc.).
- Photos (preferably one during their service and one present day).

By sending an e-mail to be included, the sender agrees to have the information shared on the County's website and in the Commission on Veterans Affairs social media.

To learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva.



PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The U.S. Census Bureau 2022 American Community Survey estimates that there are approximately **30,899 veterans living in Montgomery County, Maryland**. According to the American Community Survey 3.8% of all Americans self-reported as being a veteran. The Census Bureau defines veteran as men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4 to 6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians are classified as nonveterans.

Veteran Population of Montgomery County, MD				
Subject	2022		2021	
	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)
Population 18 years and over	30,899	811,193	32,083	810,630
Period of Military Service	Veterans	% of 30,899	Veterans	% of 32,083
Gulf War (9/2001 or later), no Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	5,903	19.1%	6,429	20.0%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) and Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	3,858	12.5%	3,441	10.7%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) and Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) and Vietnam Era	529	1.7%	230	0.7%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	4,114	13.3%	4,819	15.0%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), and Vietnam Era	520	1.7%	363	1.2%
Vietnam Era, no Korean War, no World War II	8,344	27.0%	8,241	25.7%
Vietnam Era and Korean War, no World War II	29	0.1%	118	0.4%
Vietnam Era and Korean War and World War II	0	0%	138	0.4%
Korean War, no Vietnam Era, no World War II	1,636	5.3%	1,318	4.1%
Korean War and World War II, no Vietnam Era	0	0%	0	0%
World War II, no Korean War, no Vietnam Era	431	1.4%	697	2.2%
Between Gulf War and Vietnam Era only	3,010	9.7%	4,473	13.9%
Between Vietnam Era & Korean War only	2,525	8.2%	1,816	5.7%
Between Korean War & World War II only	0	0%	0	0%
Pre-World War II only	0	0%	0	0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 & 2022

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Veteran Population of Montgomery County, MD

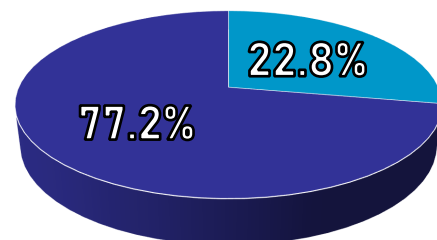
	2022		2021	
Subject	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)
Civilian Population 18 years and over	30,899	811,193	32,083	810,630
Gender	Veterans	30,899	Veterans	% of 32,083
Male	25,370	82.1%	27,166	84.7%
Female	5,529	17.9%	4,917	15.3%
Age	Veterans	% of 30,899	Veterans	% of 36,264
18 to 34 years	2,507	8.1%	2,452	7.6%
35 to 54 years	7,520	24.3%	9,290	29.0%
55 to 64 years	6,038	19.5%	5,357	16.7%
65 to 74 years	5,402	18.9%	5,854	18.2%
75 years and older	9,432	29.0%	9,130	28.5%
Age by Gender	Female	% of 5,529	Female	% of 4,917
18 to 34 years	415	7.5%	291	5.9%
35 to 54 years	2,233	40.4%	2,306	46.9%
55 to 64 years	1,679	30.4%	983	20.0%
65 to 74 years	877	15.8%	807	16.4%
75 years and older	325	5.9%	530	10.8%
Age by Gender	Male	% of 25,370	Male	% of 27,166
18 to 34 years	2,092	8.2%	2,161	8.0%
35 to 54 years	5,287	20.8%	6,984	25.7%
55 to 64 years	4,359	17.1%	4,374	16.1%
65 to 74 years	4,525	17.8%	5,047	18.6%
75 years and older	9,107	33.9%	8,600	31.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 & 2022

VA Health Care Enrollment Montgomery County, Maryland

TOTAL	8,893
Under 19	317
19 to 64	4,795
65 Years and over	3,781
19 Years and over	8,576
Source: U.S. American Community Survey, 2022	

VA Health Care Enrollment Total Montgomery County Veteran Population (Veteran Population 19 years and over)



■ Enrolled (8,576) ■ Not Enrolled (22,323)

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

Montgomery County, MD Veteran Demographics - By City (2017 - 2021)

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more.

Ashton-Sandy Spring	261
Aspen Hill	1,506
Bethesda	2,658
Burtonsville	348
Chevy Chase	381
Clarksburg	862
Damascus	1,003
Darnestown	172
Four Corners	377
Gaithersburg	2,154

Germantown	3,329
Glenmont	512
Kemp Mill	394
Layhill	151
Leisure World	1,126
Montgomery Village	1,167
North Bethesda	1,792
North Kensington	432
North Potomac	538

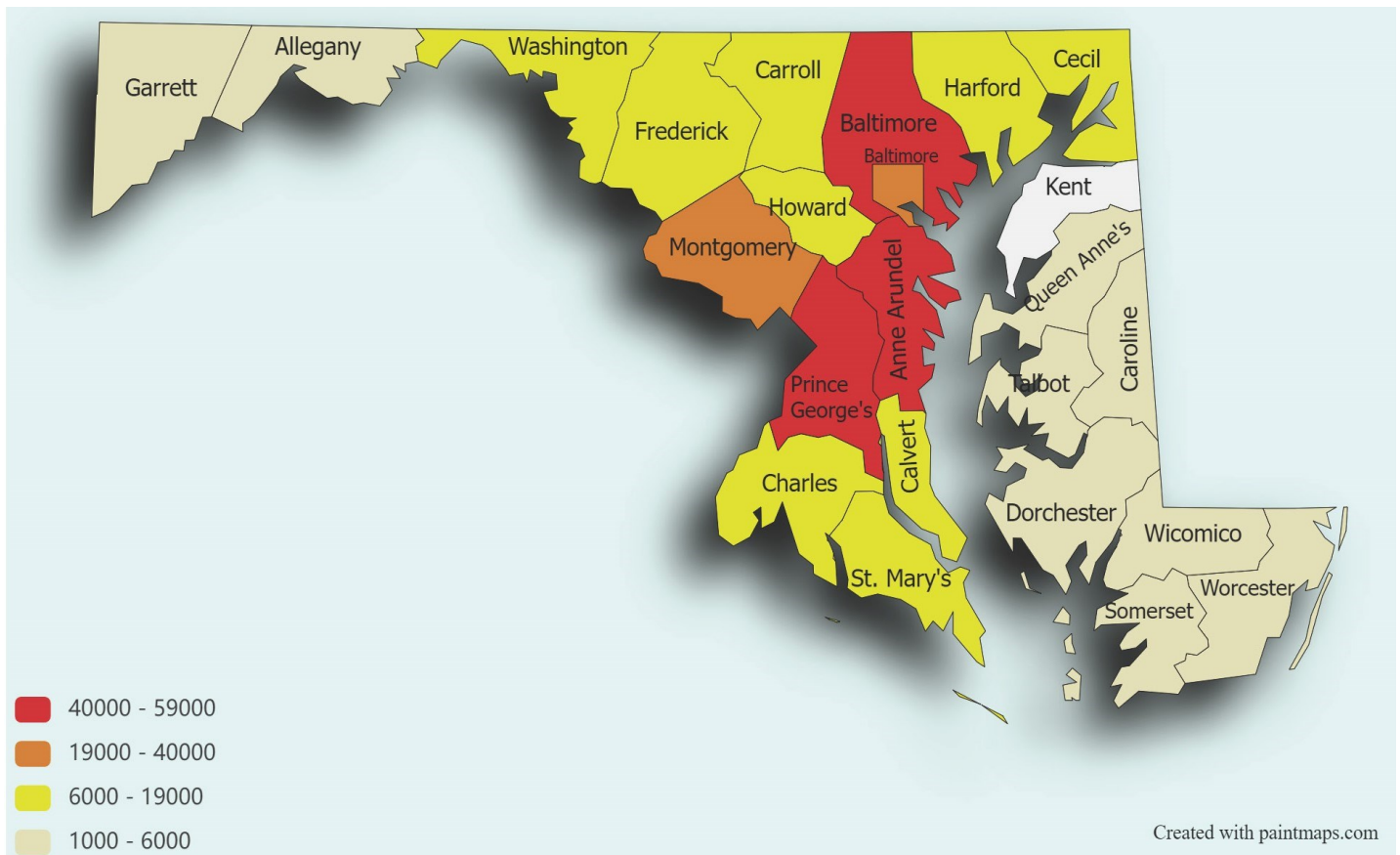
Olney	1,600
Poolesville	401
Potomac	1,705
Rockville	2,448
Silver Spring	2,048
South Kensington	370
Takoma Park	482
Travilah	305
Wheaton	1,518

Source: U.S. Census QuickFacts 2017 - 2021

NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MARYLAND - 2021 CENSUS DATA

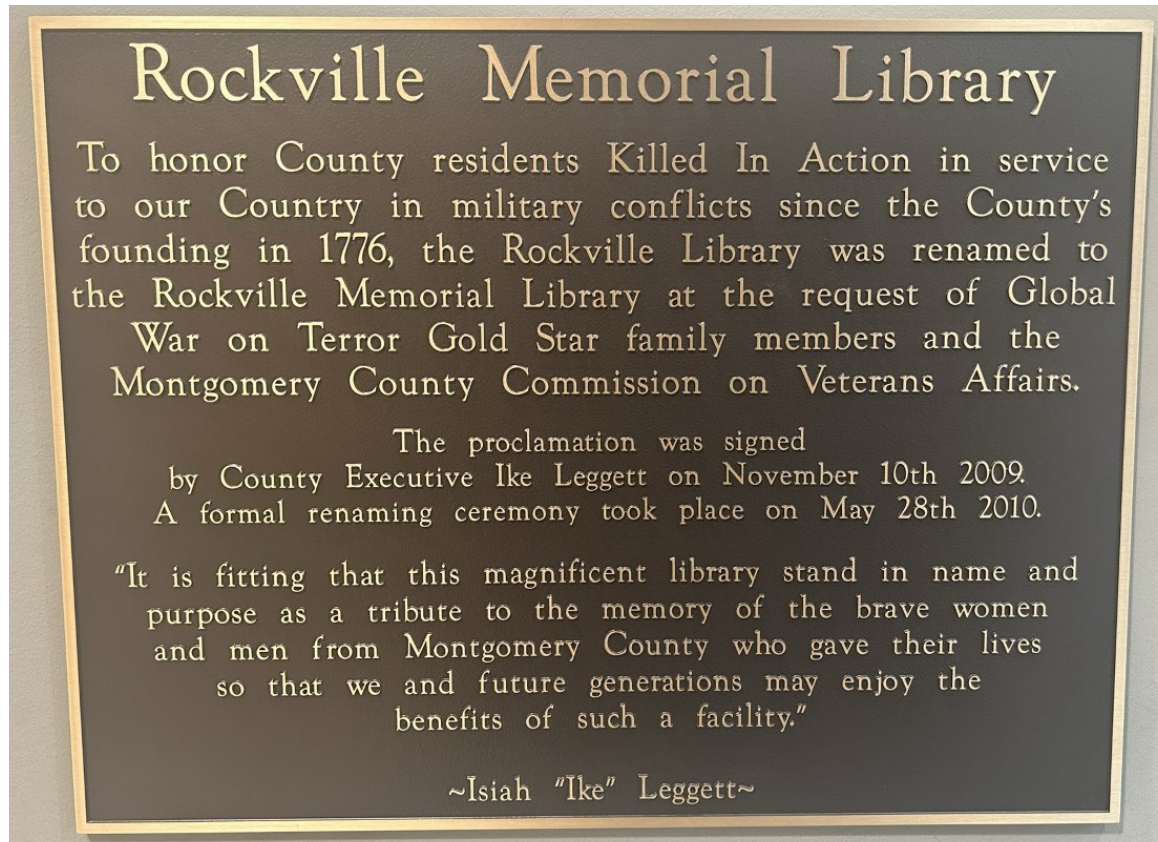
Total Number of Veterans in Maryland: 332,591

Number of Veterans in Montgomery County, Maryland: 32,083



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021

PLAQUE UNVEILED TO RECOGNIZE THE RENAMING OF ROCKVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY



For Immediate Release: Thursday, February 23, 2023

A plaque has been dedicated at the Rockville Memorial Library recognizing the name change from the original Rockville Library. The name change for the branch of the Montgomery County Public Libraries system was instituted in 2010 at the request of Gold Star families - those who have lost a family member in U.S. military conflicts - and the County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

The plaque is located on the first-floor lobby of the library, next to a digital display honoring the County's Fallen Heroes. The Fallen Heroes digital display honors County residents killed in action dating to World War I.

The Commission on Veterans Affairs has a "Fallen Heroes" website with the names of County residents killed in action. Military and private information are part of the tributes, many of which contain photos. The Fallen Heroes website can be found at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fallenheroes>

The words on the plaque include:

"To honor County residents Killed in Action in service to our Country in military conflicts since our County's founding in 1776, the Rockville Library was renamed the Rockville Memorial Library at the request of Global War on Terror Gold Star family members and the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs."

Wayne Miller, a Vietnam veteran who chairs the Commission on Veterans Affairs, said it was important that the building in Rockville Town Center have the plaque.

"The Commission on Veterans Affairs is grateful to Montgomery County Public Libraries for collaborating with the Commission to dedicate and honor county service members who were killed in action," said Mr. Miller. "Sometimes, people enter a building with a name on it and never think about how that name occurred. This wording on the plaque is a powerful tribute to those who lost their lives protecting the freedom this country knows today, and we are grateful to the Gold Star Families who have worked with us on this tribute to our County's Fallen Heroes."

PLAQUE UNVEILED TO RECOGNIZE THE RENAMING OF ROCKVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY CONTINUED

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich was on the County Council when it was decided to rename the library.

"The Rockville Memorial Library is one of the finest libraries in our system, and having it named in memory of County residents killed in action is an appropriate tribute," said County Executive Elrich. "I think this plaque will remind everyone about the ultimate price of war and it will serve as a proper reminder of why this building has its name."

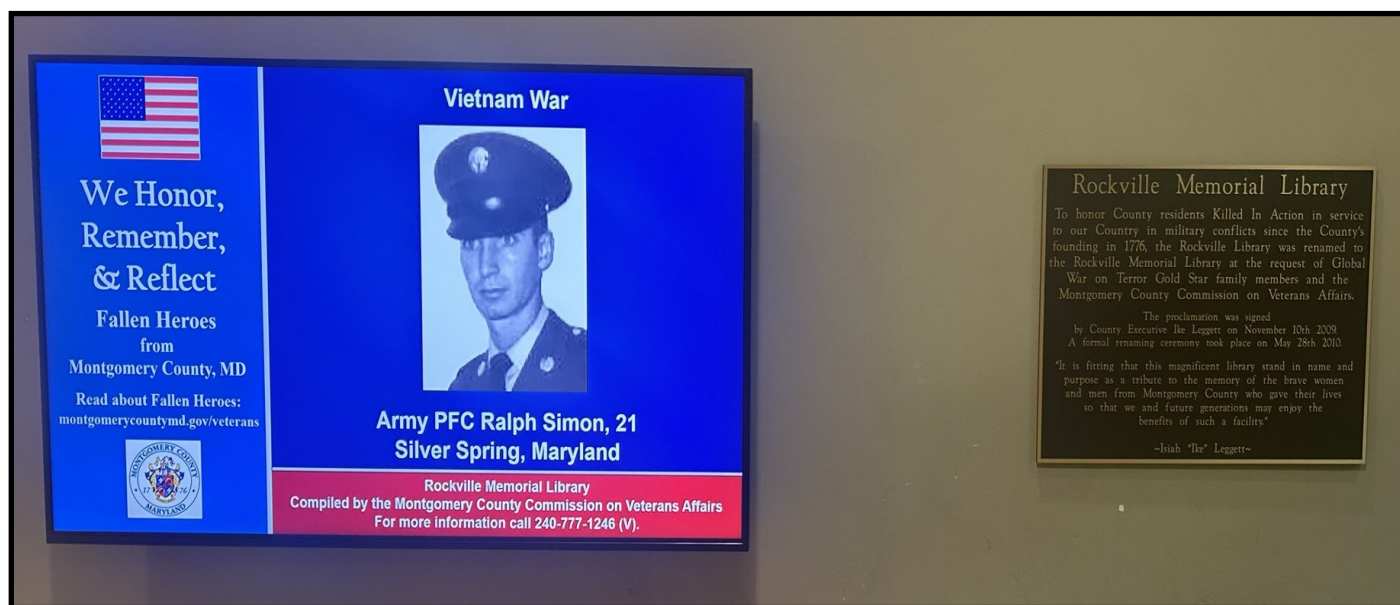
Council President Evan Glass commended the Gold Star families and the Commission on Veterans Affairs for their efforts to have the plaque created.

"The Rockville Memorial Library represents a powerful tribute to those who have lost their lives while serving honorably in the U.S. Armed and Uniformed services," said Council President Glass. "I want to extend my appreciation to our County's Gold Star families who advocated to bring this tribute to life, and to the Commission on Veteran Affairs for creating a digital archive of our County's fallen heroes, which I encourage all residents to explore."

Anita Vassallo, director of Montgomery County Public Libraries, said the Rockville branch has a special name in relation to the other branches in the system.

"The renaming of the Rockville Memorial Library in memory of County residents killed in military service to their country was a great honor for Montgomery County Public Libraries," said Director Vassallo. "We are proud of the digital display highlighting each resident and their service. The addition of the commemorative plaque completes the installation, and we encourage County residents to visit the Rockville Memorial Library to learn more about our fallen heroes."

For more information about the County Commission on Veterans Affairs, visit to <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/CVA/CVAIndex.html>.



The plaque is located next to the Commission on Veterans Affairs' Fallen Hometown Heroes digital display

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FALLEN HEROES HISTORY

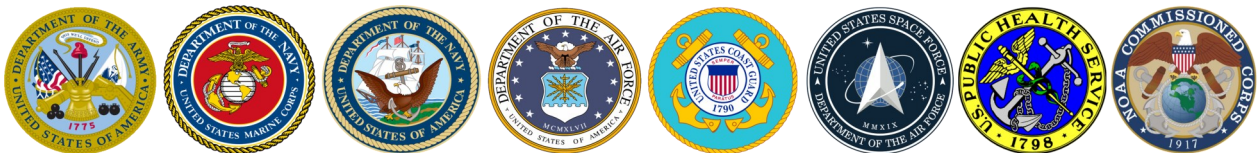
In June 2009 family members came to the Commission meeting and requested the help of the Commission in renaming the Rockville Library to Rockville Memorial Library. These family members that attended were Richard and Lee Ann Doerflinger – son Army Specialist Thomas Doerflinger killed in Mosul, Iraq on Veteran’s Day November 11, 2004, Paula Davis – son Private First Class Justin Ray Davis. U.S. Army killed on June 25, 2005 in Afghanistan, Tom and Carol Barbieri - son Army Specialist Thomas Joseph Barbieri II, 82nd Airborne Division, killed on August 23, 2006 south of Baghdad Iraq, and Nikki Bunting, wife of Captain Brian “Bubba” Bunting, U.S. Army, killed on February 24, 2009 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and her sister Tracey Paul all expressed their strong belief that to honor their family members, they request that the Rockville Library be renamed to the Rockville Memorial Library, to honor fallen soldiers. The Commission took on the mission of getting the Rockville Library renamed to the Rockville Memorial Library. Letters were written to the County Executive and the mission was accomplished in that a formal ceremony marking the official renaming of the Rockville Library to the Rockville Memorial Library was held on Friday, May 28, 2010 at 11 a.m. in the front of the building at 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. But following the meeting where family members came, the very next day Carly Clem and Betsy Luecking staffers to the Commission sat down to discuss what we as staff could do immediately to honor the fallen so that they would not be forgotten by our community. It was decided they would build a website with photos of the fallen, whatever background could be found. This was not an easy task as there were no lists and much research needed to be done. Research included visiting the National Archives in College Park, reviewing census and military records on Ancestry.com and researching article on newspapers, going to high schools to look at yearbooks, and the lists published by the Department of Defense. As time went on they were able to research those killed in action from the Gulf War, Vietnam War, Korean War, World War II and World War I. This website contents are on digital displays at the Rockville Memorial Library lobby and the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza in the front entry. In tribute to those who served and for the family members, Carly Clem did most of the research, creation of website and digital display in an outstanding way.

We proudly remember and pay tribute to the County’s fallen service members who have died in service to our country. The records show these men and women as enlisting, being originally from, or having at one time lived in Montgomery County.

[Global War on Terror](#) • [Gulf War](#)

[Vietnam War](#) - [Montgomery County Sentinel](#) - [Montgomery's War Dead 1963 to 1970](#)

[Korean War](#) • [World War II](#) • [World War I](#)



Proudly Supporting the U.S. Uniformed Services, and their families,
and Recognizing the Military Service of our Armed Forces

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS HONORS COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES FROM MILITARY ACTION DATING BACK TO WORLD WAR I WITH ONLINE TRIBUTES AS MEMORIAL DAY APPROACHES

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, May 24, 2023

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is honoring many "Fallen Hometown Heroes" with Montgomery County connections on a new website created by the Commission. The tribute is especially notable as the County prepares to commemorate Memorial Day on Monday, May 29.

The website honors veterans who were killed in action in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism (including [Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Inherent Resolve / Operation Freedom's Sentinel / Operation New Dawn](#)). The website includes photos and military histories of those who were either originally from the Montgomery County or who lived in the community after their service. The site can be viewed at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fallenheroes.

"The Commission on Veterans Affairs solemnly remembers the County's fallen service members who have died in service to our country since World War I," said Wayne Miller, a Vietnam veteran who now chairs the County Commission on Veterans Affairs. "The Fallen Hometown Heroes website pays tribute to County hometown heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We are eternally thankful for those who gave their lives in defense of the United States of America. May their bravery and devotion not be forgotten."

Earlier this year, a plaque was unveiled at the Rockville Memorial Library recognizing the name change from the original Rockville Library. The name change was instituted in 2010 at the request of Gold Star families - those who have lost a family member in U.S. military conflicts—and the County's Commission on Veterans Affairs. The plaque is in the first-floor lobby, next to a digital display honoring the County's Fallen Hometown Heroes. The Fallen Hometown Heroes digital display honor residents killed in action dating to World War I.

"Memorial Day is a special day for honoring the men and women who lost their lives while defending our nation," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "We recognize the sacrifice they and their families have made. And we will never forget. I encourage all residents to explore this website and learn about our hometown heroes."

Anyone can share the story of a friend or family member by completing a [Google form](#) or a [PDF form](#). Email MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov to learn more about the tribute program.

Visit the Commission on Veterans Affairs [website](#) for more information about their work.



NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY 2023 JOINT PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS** more than 58,000 men and women of the United States Armed Forces*, including 130 from Montgomery County, lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded; and
- WHEREAS** in 2018, Montgomery County dedicated a wall behind the Executive Office Building to commemorate the lives and service of the 130 service members who died or were declared missing-in-action in the Vietnam War; and
- WHEREAS** there are over 11,000 Vietnam veterans in the County, and they continue to contribute greatly to business, art, medicine, science, technology, and government service, and
- WHEREAS** the establishment of National Vietnam War Veterans Day is an appropriate way to express appreciation and honor the members of the United States Armed Forces, as well as other service organizations, It commemorates the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families and is part of a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home 50 years ago.; and
- WHEREAS** National Vietnam War Recognition Day was established in public law in 2017 as March 29, the day of final withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam. On that day in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. Congress encouraged the people of the United States to observe this day by promoting awareness of the numerous contributions of veterans who served in Vietnam and the importance of helping all of America's veterans return home and achieve happy, healthy, and productive lives; and
- NOW, THEREFORE DO I,** Marc Elrich, as County Executive and Evan Glass, as Council President hereby proclaim March 29 in 2023 and each succeeding year as

National Vietnam War Veterans Day in Montgomery County

to celebrate the faithful service of its Vietnam veterans. We urge all residents to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities to honor those veterans who served our country during the Vietnam War.

*United States: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Services, NOAA Commissioned Corps



Former Commission Chair and Vietnam Veteran Bill Gray assists with setting up a Vietnam War Veterans Day Display at the Silver Spring Civic Building

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY March 29, 2023



Montgomery County, MD Honors Its Residents Who Served in the
U.S. Armed Forces During the Vietnam War and Vietnam Era

November 1, 1955 - April 30, 1975



BLACK SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS HONORED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

For Immediate Release: Thursday, February 2, 2023

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is honoring County U.S. Uniformed Service members and veterans who are Black with detailed virtual tributes displayed on the County's website to mark Black History Month. February is recognized as Black History Month. The tributes of County service members and veterans feature photos, background information and details of accomplishments during their military careers and afterward.

During Black History Month, the County Commission on Veterans Affairs joins in recognizing the sacrifices of Black servicemembers such as the Buffalo Soldiers, the Harlem Hellfighters and the Tuskegee Airmen. Montgomery County also honors the Black men and women who continue to serve the nation with honor and distinction.

The Black History Month tribute is being displayed online at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/BlackHistoryMonth.html>.

Detailed tributes will also be displayed throughout February at Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall at the Silver Spring Civic Building at One Veterans Plaza in Downtown Silver Spring. The Black History Month display is free to view any time the Civic Building is open to the public.

The main room of the building was dedicated in 2018 as Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall to pay tribute to the Buffalo Soldiers unit that was formed by Congressional legislation in the 1860s to allow African Americans to enlist in the United States military.

Michael Theard, president of the 9th and 10th (HORSE) Cavalry Association Greater Washington, D.C. chapter, has loaned several items about Buffalo Soldiers for the Veterans Black History display cases. The Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall was dedicated in honor of the heroic courage and sacrifice of the 92nd Infantry Buffalo Soldiers - African American soldiers who mainly served on the Western frontier following the American Civil War.

In 1866, six all-Black cavalry and infantry regiments were created after Congress passed the Army Organization Act. Their main tasks were to help control the Native Americans of the Plains, capture cattle rustlers and thieves and protect settlers, stagecoaches, wagon trains and railroad crews along the Western front. To learn more about Buffalo Soldiers, visit www.buffalosoldiers-washington.com.

"Every veteran who has served in the history of the U.S. military has their own unique story," said Wayne Miller, chair of the County's Commission on Veterans Affairs. "It is the intent of our commission to allow residents to learn more about these remarkable people. The veterans we are honoring during Black History Month all have stories that the people of this County should know."

A veteran can share their story, or someone can share the story of a friend or family member, by filling out the Commission's [Google form](#) or filling out its [PDF form](#). Questions can be directed to MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich's thoughts on helping veterans can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans.

To learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva.



SECOND ACCESSIBLE FLOATING LAUNCH INSTALLED AT SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK (RILEYS LOCK)



Photos courtesy of Betsy Luecking



Montgomery Parks, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, has completed construction of a second floating launch for non-motorized boats improving accessibility and safety for kayakers, canoeists and paddle boarders at Seneca Landing Special Park Riley's Lock.

The site, located in Poolesville, is one of the busiest access points to the Potomac River and adjoins the National Park Service's popular C&O Canal. Prior to the new floating launch, motorized and non-motorized boats were sharing the same ramp, causing conflict and safety issues. The ramp was also not ADA accessible presenting numerous challenges for users with disabilities.

The need for an accessible boat launch was initiated by Team River Runner, a non-profit organization that provides adventure and adaptive paddles sports to veterans and their families. They approached the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs about the need for an accessible launch and were assisted by the Commission to initiate the project. On Sundays from May to November, the group hosts a kayak program at Seneca Landing with patients from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. "Having a safe and totally accessible launch for paddle craft is a game changer," said Joe Morini, Executive Director, Team River Runner. "An all-inclusive site for those with physical challenges grants equal accessibility and affords all the opportunity to find health, healing, and social connections on the beautiful waters of Seneca Creek and the Potomac River."



TEAM RIVER RUNNER
HELPING OUR WOUNDED VETERANS



Calleva, Team River Runner and Elks Lodge #15 come together to offer a unique opportunity for physically disabled children to paddle along side our Wounded Warriors.

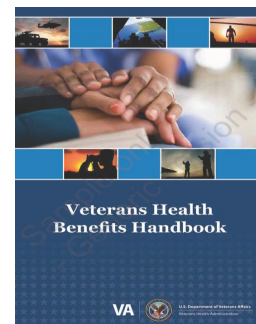


HOW TO ENROLL IN VA HEALTHCARE

There are an estimated 30,899 Veterans living in the County and only an estimated 8,893 are enrolled in the VA Healthcare system. Given that the County now has a Community Based Outpatient Clinic located in Gaithersburg, the Commission on Veterans Affairs is encouraging Veterans to enroll now. The very first step in obtaining access to your VA Health Benefits is to apply for enrollment.

Currently, Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, can complete applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a signed paper application. All other Veterans could apply by phone.

When Veterans choose to enroll, VA offers an enhancement to their enrollment experience through "Welcome to VA" (W2VA). W2VA enhances communication by reaching out to newly enrolled Veterans through personal phone calls upon enrollment, providing assistance with health care inquiries and assisting with their initial appointment at their preferred VA healthcare facility. In addition, VA sends each new enrollee an introductory letter and personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbook in the mail. For more information about the Veterans Health Benefits Handbook, visit www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vhbh/index.asp.



Here are the convenient ways to apply for enrollment:

By Telephone

The telephone application option is a more convenient way to apply for enrollment, and eliminates the need for a signed paper application.

- VA staff members will collect the needed information and process the enrollment application for an enrollment determination.
- To apply, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday to Friday between 8am and 8pm, EST.

Apply in Person

You may apply in person at your local VA health care facility.

- Complete the healthcare application online.
- For more information about the application process, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/application_process.asp.
- You will also receive information about the appeals process, if you do not agree with the enrollment decision.

By Mail

Pick up an application at your local VA or download, print, and fill out the 10-10EZ, Application for Health Care.

Complete the application (be sure to sign it) and mail to:

Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329

Apply Online

Fill out the application online and electronically submit it to VA for processing. No need for additional documents to verify military service. If you were recently discharged, we will get your military information for you.

- To complete the healthcare application, visit www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply.
- Once you complete the application, you may submit your application online.
- You will immediately receive a confirmation message notifying you that your application has been received.
- A signature is not required for online registration.
- For more information about the application process, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/application_process.asp.
- You will also receive information about the appeals process, if you do not agree with the enrollment decision.

Obtaining an Appointment

You may request a doctor's appointment when you apply for enrollment by checking 'yes' to the question asking if you want an appointment on the application. An appointment will be made with a VA doctor or provider and you will be notified via mail of the appointment. If you need health care before your scheduled appointment, you may contact the Enrollment Coordinator, Urgent Care Clinic or the Emergency Room at your local VA.

Required Signature

When you apply in person or by mail, you or the person acting as your Power of Attorney must sign and date the form. If your Power of Attorney signs and dates the form you must submit a copy of the Power of Attorney with the form. If you sign with an "X", then two people that you know must witness you as you sign the form. They must also sign and print their names on the form.

ABOUT VA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Approach

For the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), nothing is more important than supporting the health and well-being of the Nation's Veterans and their families. A major part of that support is providing timely access to high-quality, evidence-based mental health care. VA aims to address Veterans' needs, during Service members' reintegration into civilian life and beyond.

The [VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Guidebook](#) provides information on the variety of mental health services that VA offers on both a national and local level. These programs and services are rooted in several core values:

Focus on Recovery

Keeping a focus on recovery from mental health challenges or substance use issues empowers Veterans to take charge of their treatment and live a full and meaningful life. This approach focuses on the Veteran's strengths offering respect, honor, and hope to Veterans and the family members who support them.

Evidence-Based Treatments

VA provides treatments that are proven to be effective for mental health concerns. These treatments are time-limited and focus on helping Veterans recover and meet their goals. To learn more about evidence-based mental health treatments, please visit [Treatment Works for Vets](#). You can also view a video, "Evidence-Based Treatment: What Does It Mean," and other brief videos about evidence-based treatments for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder on the website for the [VA National Center for PTSD](#).

Measurement-Based Care (MBC)

In MBC, the Veteran and their health care provider use information provided by the Veteran to improve mental health care and ensure it is individualized to the Veteran's specific needs and goals. MBC helps Veterans take an active role in their care. VA is working to ensure MBC is part of the care in all its Mental Health programs.

Coordinating Care for the Whole Person

VA health care providers work together to provide safe and effective treatment for the whole person — head to toe, inside and out using a Whole Health approach. Timely medical care, good nutrition, and regular exercise — along with a sense of purpose and supportive family members and friends — are just as important to mental health as to physical health. Veterans take an active role in their care by partnering with their providers to improve their health and well-being.

Whole Health

It all starts with a simple question: What matters most to you? That's the first step in the Whole Health approach which is designed to help Veterans achieve and maintain their best all-around health and well-being. Through a Whole Health approach, VA is committed to empowering, equipping, and treating Veterans according to their preferences and priorities. Learn more about Whole Health and the impact this is having in helping Veterans live their life to the fullest by visiting the [Whole Health for Life website](#).

Round-the-Clock Service

Emergency mental health care is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at VA medical centers. VAMCs that do not have a 24-hour emergency room must provide these services through a local, non-VA hospital. Telephone evaluations at VAMCs and the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) are also available 24/7 - dial 988 then press 1.

Care Close to Home

VA is moving closer to where Veterans live by adding more rural area and mobile clinics, and working with other health care providers in the community. VA also uses cutting-edge technologies, including [telemental health](#) through video connection, for Veterans to access care from the comfort of their own homes.

VA SILVER SPRING VET CENTER SUPPORT SERVICES



Readjustment Counseling Services

After war, some veterans experience psychological and social distress and difficulties in readjusting to civilian life. In 1979, the Department of Veterans Affairs established Vet Centers to assist Vietnam-era veterans with such problems. Congress later expanded Vet Center services to include combat veterans of other conflicts. These services are available at Vet Centers in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and Guam.

Services Available

- Individual counseling
- Marital and family counseling
- VA benefits assistance and referral
- Substance abuse counseling and referrals
- Primary health care for basic medical needs
- Pre-employment assistance and employment counseling
- Discharge upgrade information
- Community, social service and medical referrals
- Sexual trauma / harassment counseling (veterans of all eras)

The Vet Center also has a network of federal, state, city and community resources to help you. We will try to address any concerns or problems you bring to us.

At the Vet Center, you can expect help from professional counselors who will treat you with respect and understanding. Many of the counselors are also war veterans, so they understand your problems first hand, and have the training and skills to help solve them.

There is no charge for the assistance you receive at the Vet Center because of your sacrifices and efforts for this country. Veterans applying for assistance are asked to bring a copy of their Military Separation or Military Discharge (DD214) with them. VA Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling to Veterans with dishonorable discharges.

Location and Hours of Operation

Wayne Miller, Vet Center Director
2900 Linden Lane, Suite 100
Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-589-1073 (V) - Ask for a counselor
Hours: Monday through Friday, 8am to 4:30pm
Services are currently being provided virtually as well as in person by appointment.

www.va.gov/silver-spring-vet-center

The closest bus stops are at Seminary Rd and Forest Glen Road, bus number 5.

Eligibility

War Zone Veterans - All Eras Including:

WWII

Three eligible categories
European-African-Middle
Eastern Campaign Medal
(7 Dec 1941 to 8 Nov 1945)
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
(7 Dec 1941 to 2 Mar 1946)
American Campaign Medal
(7 Dec 1941 to 2 Mar 1946)

American Merchant Marines in Oceangoing Service

7 Dec 1941 to 15 August 1945

Korea

27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954
(eligible for the Korean Service Medal)

Vietnam

28 Feb 1961 to 1 May 1975

Lebanon

25 Aug 1982 to 26 Feb 1984

Grenada

23 Oct 1983 to 21 Nov 1983

Panama

20 Dec 1989 to 31 Jan 1990

Persian Gulf

2 Aug 1990 to 28 February 1991

Somalia

17 Sept 1992 to - Present

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Albania

(former Yugoslavia operations)

Global War on Terrorism/OIF/OEF/OND

11 Sept 2001 - Present

Vet Center Combat Call Center
1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)

National Suicide Hot Line
1-800-273-8255 (Toll Free)

**Bereavement Counseling for
Surviving Family Members**
202-461-6530 (V)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC (CBOC) INFORMATION SHEET



Montgomery County VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)
15810 Gaither Drive, Suite 130, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
Appointments: 202-745-8000, Option 2 (7:30am to 4pm, Mon through Fri)
VA Medical Advice: 202-745-8000, Option 3 (24/7)
Administrative Clinic Receptionist: 301-591-5858, Option 8
Montgomery County CBOC Eligibility: 202-745-8000 ext. 51316 (Naz Brown)
www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care/locations/montgomery-county-va-clinic

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4pm, Closed on Saturday, Sunday and Federal Holidays

Services offered at the Montgomery County CBOC

- Primary care
- Hearing aid fittings
- Comprehensive and preventive women's health
- Behavioral health (psychiatry & psychology)
- Phlebotomy (onsite lab/blood work)
- Nutrition
- Social work
- Eligibility, enrollments and ID's
- Telehealth services including mental health, retinal care (eye), bariatric surgery (before and after operation), dermatology, rehabilitation, and primary care.

DC VA Medical Center (DCVAMC): Ancillary/Specialty Service

50 Irving St, NW; Washington DC 20422 • 202-745-8000 • www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care

Ancillary/Specialty Care services are provided at the DCVAMC. The Veteran's primary care provider will place consults for medically appropriate services to be rendered and appointments to be made.

- Radiology (X-rays, CT, MRI, Ultrasounds, etc.)
- Specialist/Referrals (Podiatry, Orthopedics, Sleep Studies, etc.)
- Physical Therapy
- Eye Clinic (Does not require a consult) 202-745-8344
- Audiology (Does not require a consult) 202-745-8270

Medication/Medication Refills

- There is no pharmacy on-site, but there are locations within the community where urgent prescriptions can be obtained.
- Veterans should discuss their current medication with their primary care provider to ensure medications are on VA National Formulary.
- Routine medication are ordered and delivered via US Postal mail from the DCVAMC (usually 5 to 7 days).
- Veterans may pick up medication from DC VAMC if needed urgently.
- Veterans can contact the Medication Refill Line (202-745-4046) for refill needs or order through My HealthVet (www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home).

Scheduling Routine Appointments/Follow-up Appointments/Urgent Care Needs

- To schedule a routine or follow-up appointment call the Patient Service Center at 202-745-8000, option 2
- Urgent Care Needs: Veterans should call 911 for any medical emergency
- The Medical Advice Line, 202-745-8247, is available 24 hours/7 days a week. Call to speak with a registered nurse (RN) for medical advice; communicate with primary care provider, or for medication refills assistance.

STEVEN A. COHEN MILITARY FAMILY CLINIC AT EASTERSEALS



Location: 1420 Spring Street, Suite 300, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: 240-847-7500 (V)

Email: info.mfc@eseal.org

Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 8am to 7pm; Wednesday and Thursday, 8am to 8pm, and Friday, 8am to 3pm

www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/our-programs/cvn-home.html

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals opened in September 2017 in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Cohen Clinic at Easterseals provides high-quality and accessible behavioral health care to the veteran, active-duty, and military family community. Services are available to any person who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, regardless of role or discharge status, and their families as defined by the service member such as: spouses or unmarried partners, children age 4 and older, parents, siblings, caregivers, survivors, and other household members.

The Cohen Clinic at Easterseals uses evidence-based practices with a holistic approach to improve the quality of life for veterans and military families. Services are provided by culturally competent, trained, and credentialed staff. Veterans and military family members are able to receive services individually and as a family unit at the same clinic. The Cohen Clinic at Easterseals can also help connect veteran and military families to community resources and services, as necessary. Services are available through telehealth to those in D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

- Depression
- Stress and anxiety
- Post-traumatic stress
- Substance misuse
- Sleep problems
- Hyper-vigilance (being on high alert)
- Anger
- Grief and loss
- Transitional challenges
- Relationship and family difficulties

Case Management

Provides assistance with unmet needs and connecting to resources such as:

- Caregiver support
- Child care
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Rehabilitation, occupation and/or physical therapies
- Peer support
- Personal finances
- Recreation
- Smoking cessation
- Transportation
- Wellness, health, nutrition, exercise

Treatments

Therapy is evidence-based and goal focused with a typical treatment window of about 4 months. Evidence-based therapies include:

- Cognitive processing therapy
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Motivational interviewing
- Integrative couples and family therapy
- Problem solving therapy
- Prolonged exposure therapy

Telehealth

Telehealth provides high-quality, confidential care through secure video conference when you are unable to visit your therapist at the clinic.

- It's **Easy**. Get access to care from the comfort of your own home. All you need is a smartphone, tablet, or computer with internet and video capabilities.
- It's **Accessible**. Continue to receive treatment if you are unable to visit the clinic due to distance, lack of transportation, work schedule, health problems, or other reasons.

Offer a variety of wellness programs, workshops, events, and opportunities to include:

- Arts and Crafts
- Mindfulness and Yoga
- Creative Writing Workshops
- Legal Clinics
- Finance Workshops
- Psychoeducational Classes such as Stress Management, Sleep Enhancement, and Problem-solving
- And more!

COMBAT²COLLEGE

Mentoring and Support for Veterans and Service Members

Combat2College is Montgomery College's veterans transition program, providing student veterans with resources to help them navigate college.

Program Features

- Gathering spaces on each campus for veterans and service members
- Identified counselors for academic advising
- Benefits information and assistance
- Referral/coordination with external agencies and resources
- Dedicated open gym hours, yoga classes, and guided meditation sessions
- Opportunities for financial assistance
- Activities, outings, and special events



Photo Courtesy of Montgomery College Combat2College

To get involved, contact a Combat2College program manager:

Joanna Starling, ACSM EP-C, Veterans Program Manager
240-567-7103 (V), joanna.starling@montgomerycollege.edu

Jason Franklin, ACSM EP-C, Veterans Program Manager
240-338-2687 (V), jason.franklin@montgomerycollege.edu

Website: www.montgomerycollege.edu/veterans-and-military/combat-to-college.html

Important Campus Locations for Student Veterans and Service Members

Germantown Campus

Veterans Center: Humanities and Social Sciences Building, Room 250A&B

Rockville Campus

Veterans Center: Computer Science Building, Room 107

Center for Women Veterans:
Campus Center, Room 002

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

Veterans Center: Resource Center, Room 210



KEY CONTACTS FOR THE VA AND OTHER RESOURCES

New Phone Number to Access VA Services: 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311) is a go-to source for Veterans and their families who don't know what number to call.

REQUESTING YOUR DD-214

Whenever a veteran requests benefits and services, a copy of the individual's discharge papers are required to verify eligibility. This includes admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's five cemeteries, VA claims and a myriad of other services provided to veterans and their families. Veterans and their next of kin can request a copy of the service member's DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the National Archives. You can request the DD214 online via their website - www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records. Click on the link "Submit your request online". You can also make a request by sending a letter to **The National Archives & Records Administration** at 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740. For questions, please call 1-866-272-6272 (Toll Free).

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE - MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (MDVA)

David Skisano, Veterans Benefits Specialist II (VBS) 301-987-8412 (V)
Email: davidj.skisano@maryland.gov 301-987-8496 (FAX)
Gaithersburg Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center Contact via email or phone.
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Please leave a message and he
15 Metropolitan Grove Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 will return the call as soon as possible.
By appointment only. No walk-ins.

Phil Munley, Director, Veteran Service Program 410-230-4444 x 6457 (V)
Email: phillip.munley@va.gov 1-800-446-4926 x 6457 (Toll Free)
www.veterans.maryland.gov

The MDVA Service and Benefits Program provides assistance to the men and women who served in the Uniformed Services of the United States, their dependents, and survivors in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Dept. of Defense, State of Maryland and other programs for veterans and their families.

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE - VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS - NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION BENEFIT OFFICE

Keith Garrison, Associate Director 202-530-9385 (Main)
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 202-530-9388 (Direct)
1722 I Street, NW, Suite 207, Washington, DC 20421 Email: kgarrison@vfw.org

VFW Service Officers are trained experts, helping Veterans develop their case with ease by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations and medical histories. Assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs. Request hearings before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals to present oral arguments when needed. VFW Service Officers are with America's veterans every step of the way once they're ready to file a claim. The VFW offers these services free of charge to anyone seeking assistance with the claims process.

HOMELESS OUTREACH - DC VA MEDICAL CENTER (DCVAMC)

The VA is available to assist veterans by making referrals and connecting veterans who are eligible for VA services with the VA healthcare system.

- Imani Colbert, VA HUD VASH Senior Social Worker E-mail: imani.colbert@va.gov, 202-714-9362 (V)
- Fatmata Kamara, VA Outreach Social Worker E-mail: fatmata.kamara@va.gov, 202-256-9261 (V)

VA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC (CBOC) - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

15810 Gaither Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Appointments: 202-745-8000, Option 2 (7:30am to 4pm, Monday - Friday)
VA Medical Advice: 202-745-8000, Option 3 (24/7)

Administrative Clinic Receptionist: 301-591-5858, Option 8 (V)

Montgomery County CBOC Eligibility: 202-745-8000 ext. 51316 (V - Naz Brown)

www.washingtondc.va.gov/locations/Montgomery_County_Community_Based_Outpatient_Clinic.asp

Operating Hours: 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. The new VA clinic provides Veterans with primary care, women's health, mental health and social work services, as well as nutrition counseling, pharmacy consultation, audiology device fitting and adjustment, and specialty care via clinical telehealth technology. Free parking.

KEY CONTACTS FOR THE VA & OTHER RESOURCES CONT.

SILVER SPRING VET CENTER - READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND FAMILY SUPPORTS

Wayne Miller, Vet Center Director
2900 Linden Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Services are currently being provided virtually as well as
in person by appointment.
www.va.gov/silver-spring-vet-center

301-589-1073 (V)
Ask for a counselor.
202-273-9116 (Bereavement Counseling)
Open Monday through Friday, 8am to 4:30pm
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Walk-ins permitted, but appointments are requested. After hours appointments as needed. Veterans must show proof of service. Provides benefits counseling and assistance with navigating the VA and paperwork, as well as employment counseling, counseling on PTSD and sub-PTSD, substance abuse counseling, family and marital counseling, psychological counseling related to readjustment, coordination and referral with doctors, employment related issues, assistance with basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, medical and legal referrals, homeless assistance and will work with Montgomery County to find shelter placement, sexual trauma counseling, community outreach, bereavement counseling, and more. Services are provided at no cost to veterans and their family.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTER (CRRC) - DC VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

1500 Franklin Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018

202-745-8000 x 53602 (V)

www.washingtondc.va.gov/locations/Community_Resource_and_Referral_Center_CRRC.asp

Operating Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Offer services to Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Although not a shelter, the CRRC provides services to assist Veterans which include a computer lab, laundry, showers, social work services and a host of community services. Offices located in the CRRC include the DCVAMC's Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV), Employment Assistance, Compensated Work Therapy (CWT), HUD/VASH case workers, vocational rehabilitation specialists, mental health professionals, Veterans Supported Employment Program, and Pathways to Housing.

THE STEVEN A. COHEN MILITARY FAMILY CLINIC - EASTERSEALS SERVING DC | MD | VA

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic
Mallory Lass, Outreach Manager
1420 Spring Street, Suite 300
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Email: mlass@eseal.org

240-847-7500 (V)
Hours of Operation: Monday and Tuesday, 8am to 7pm;
Wednesday and Thursday, 8am to 8pm, and Friday, 8am to 3pm

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals provides veterans, active-duty, and the entire military family (as defined by the service member/veteran: spouse, children, partners, household members, caregivers, and survivors) with high-quality and accessible behavioral health care services by culturally competent, trained, and credentialed staff. Counseling options include individuals, child/adolescent (ages 4+), group, couples, and family. To make an appointment, please call 240-847-7500 (V) or email info.mfc@eseal.org.

SERVING TOGETHER — WHERE VETERANS FIND LOCAL RESOURCES FOR THE MISSION AHEAD

Beatriz Mendez, Care Coordinator, bmendez@every-mind.org
Cornelius Johnson, Care Coordinator, cjohnson@every-mind.org
Destiny Nettles, Program Manager, dnettles@every-mind.org
Christy Kenady, Director, ckenady@every-mind.org
www.servingtogetherproject.org

301-738-7176 (V)
1-855-738-7176 (Toll Free)
Monday through Friday, 9am to 4:30pm

Care coordinators work to guide military, veterans and their families through a sometimes complicated and fragmented system of resources and information in Montgomery County, MD. They also work to connect the Montgomery County community with veteran events. You can view the event calendar on their website.

MILITARY ONESOURCE

www.militaryonesource.mil

1-800-342-9647 (24/7 Toll Free)

Information on family and recreation, health and relationships, financial and legal, career and education, military life and deployment, and crisis. Offer three kinds of short-term, non-medical counseling to active-duty, Guard, and Reserve service members and their families. Eligible individuals may receive confidential services at no cost. Participate in online webinars, subscribe to monthly e-newsletters, read expertly prepared articles about issues that concern military families, and order or download free CD's, booklets, and DVDs. Offer online Live Chat assistance. Part of the U.S. Department of Defense's Military OneSource network.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

veterans.maryland.gov



Service and Benefits Program

Providing representation for veterans and dependents seeking VA benefits



410-260-3838



MDVeterans



@MdVeterans



@mdveteransinfo



Cemetery and Memorial Program

Providing interment services for veterans and eligible dependents
410-923-6981, Cemeteries
410-354-3550, Memorials



Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

Assisting veterans who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties
1-800-446-4926, ext 6460



Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Providing skilled nursing & assisted living care to veterans and eligible spouses
301-884-8171, ext 5111



Outreach and Advocacy Program

Providing education to the community about veteran benefits and services
410-260-3842/3840

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides healthcare, benefits and access to national cemeteries to former military personnel and their dependents. The VA has responsibility over three administrations. They are: the Veterans Health Administration; the Veterans Benefits Administration; and the National Cemetery Administration.

For VA healthcare enrollment:

Central Maryland/Eastern Shore veterans are seen by the VA Maryland Healthcare System and can call 1-877-222-8387

Western Maryland veterans are seen by the Martinsburg VA Medical Center and can call 1-800-817-3807, press 4

Montgomery County/Prince George's County/Southern Maryland veterans are seen by the Washington DC VA Medical Center and can call 202-745-8000, ext 56333

For VA benefits questions: Federal VA benefits, veterans can call 1-800-827-1000
Federal VA education benefits, veterans can call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551), 7am-6pm CT,
M-F Federal VA home loan program, veterans can call 1-877-827-3702

If a veteran has questions about burial in a National Cemetery, they can call 1-800-535-1117

If a veteran has questions about Arlington National Cemetery (managed by the Dept of the Army), they can call 1-877-907-8585

MDVA SERVICE PROGRAM OFFICE LOCATIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all MDVA Service Program offices are open Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm by appointment only. Please call an office near you to schedule an appointment in advance of visiting.
<https://veterans.maryland.gov/maryland-department-of-veterans-affairs-service-benefits-program/>

Baltimore Regional Office

Phil Munley, Director
Debra Hynes, Deputy Director
Gerry Taylor, Chief, Veterans Appeals
Cardell Bass, Western Area Supervisor
Garry Brown, Veterans Benefit Specialist Advanced
Stacy Travers, Veterans Benefits Specialist Advanced
Sharron Hall, Administrative Aide
31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 3020
Baltimore, MD 21201
1-800-446-4926, ext. 6450 (follow prompts for transfer to appropriate staff person)

Baltimore VA Medical Center

(Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am to 3pm)
Garry Brown, Veterans Benefit Specialist Advanced
VA Maryland Healthcare System
10 North Greene Street, 6th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-299-0304

Bel Air

Michael Cantrell, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Jermaine Wesley, Office Secretary, Contractual
Motor Vehicle Administration
Bel Air Service Center
501 W. Macphail Road
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-638-6501 (benefits specialist)
410-638-638-6507 (office secretary)
410-683-6549 (fax)

Camp Springs

Aaron Awkward, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Corey Bryant, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Mikele Moses-El, Office Secretary III
Harriet Hunter Building, 6420 Allentown Road
Camp Springs, MD 20748
301-248-0463

Carroll County Veterans Services Program

(Supported by, but not an MDVA service office):
Call for informaton on hours
125 Stoner Avenue
Westminster, MD 21157
410-386-3800

Charlotte Hall

Willie Borden, Jr., Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Yvette Carey, Office Secretary III
29449 Charlotte Hall Rd., Bldg. 3, Room 105
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-8177, 301-263-7194 (fax)

Cumberland

Aaron Clark, Veterans Benefits Specialist Advanced
Cumberland Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center
13300 Winchester Road, SW
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-729-4676

Easton

Janet C. Thomas, Area Supervisor
Ashley Lahm, Office Secretary III
11 South Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601 (physical address)
P.O. Box 1148
Easton, MD 21601 (mailing address)
410-690-7181

Frederick

Andrew Rutherford, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Multi-Service Center
100 West Patrick Street, Rm 2120
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-2155

Gaithersburg

David Skisano, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Gaithersburg Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center
15 Metropolitan Grove Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-987-8412, 301-987-8496 (fax)

Glen Burnie

James Wilkes, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Jynell Proctor, Office Secretary III
Motor Vehicle Administration
Glen Burnie Service Center, Ground Floor
6601 Ritchie Highway
Room 30 (for a benefits specialist)
Room 8A (for mail)
Glen Burnie, MD 21062
410-424-3039, 410-424-3047 (fax)

Hagerstown

Andrea Jones, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center
18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-527-6894, 240-527-6893 (fax)

Laurel

Katherine Perkins, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Howard County Multi-Service Center
9900 Washington Blvd., Suite I
Laurel, MD 20723
410-313-0229

Salisbury

Jodi Satterfield, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration - Salisbury Branch
251 Tilghman Road
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-219-7256 (voice mail is monitored)
410-219-7257 (fax)

MOBILE APPS TO SUPPORT VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



PTSD Coach provides the information, support and tools needed to manage PTSD. A companion app, PTSD Family Coach, is for family members and friends supporting someone with PTSD.



ACT Coach aims to help Veterans live with unpleasant thoughts, feelings and impulses without avoiding them or being controlled by them.



AIMS for Anger Management provides users with education about anger, opportunities for finding support, the ability to create an anger management plan, anger tracking and other tools to help manage angry reactions.



Beyond MST is a secure, trauma-sensitive mobile app created for survivors of Military Sexual Trauma (MST).



Insomnia Coach features a guided, weekly training plan to help you track and improve sleep.



Couples Coach is designed for partners who want to improve their relationship and explore new ways to connect.



STAIR Coach is designed to help users manage trauma symptoms and help improve their emotional well-being and relationships with others.



Stay Quit Coach helps people create a tailored plan to quit smoking and stay smoke-free.



VA Mental Health Checkup for Veterans allows Veterans to monitor, assess and access information for mental health conditions from the comfort of their home.



COVID Coach supports self-care and overall mental health during the coronavirus pandemic.

NEW VETERANS CRISIS LINE NUMBER



Share the new
Veterans Crisis Line number
with your Veteran loved ones.

Dial 988 then Press 1



COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2022 - 2023

- November 2022:** **Veterans Hiring Preference in the Montgomery County Office of Human Resources** - *Krista Paula Simkins, Chief Talent Acquisition Officer (CTAO), Montgomery County Government Office of Human Resources*
- Veterans Preference in the Montgomery County Office of Procurement** - *Ash Shetty, Chief, Procurement Officer, and Director, and Grace Denno, Chief, Division of Business Relations and Compliance, Montgomery County Office of Procurement*
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- January 2023:** **Montgomery County Department of Corrections: Overview of Veteran Services** – *Kendra Jochum, LCSW-C, Deputy Warden, Inmate Services, Detention Services Division, and Shaunda Legg, Re-entry Services Unit Manager, DOCR*
- The American Minority Veterans Research Project (AMVRP)** – *Commissioner Dr. Elwood Gray, Executive Director, AMVRP*
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- February 2023:** **The Work of Rebuilding Together, Montgomery County – Repair and Assisting Making Homes Accessible** – *Maury Peterson, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together, and Shelby Badge, AmeriCorps Client Outreach Coordinator*
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- March 2023:** **"Reconsolidation of Traumatic Memories" Protocol** – *Dr. Michael Roy, Walter Reed, and Dr. Greg Jolissaint, MD MS CPE, US Army Veteran (Infantry and Medical Corps)*
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- April 2023:** **Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act Briefing** – *Antione Waller, Executive Director, Baltimore Regional Office, National Capital Region Benefits Office*
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- May 2023:** **Veterans Hiring Preference in the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Update** – *Anthony Woods, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs*
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- June 2023:** **Update – Veterans Homelessness** – *John Mendez, Executive Director, Bethesda Cares*
- Maryland General Assembly Key Veteran Bills** – *Lynn Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN, Communications Director, Maryland Military Coalition*
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- September 2023:** **Serving Together & Suicide Prevention** – *Christy Kenady, Program Director*
- Military Initiative Committee** – *Roweena Davis, Chair, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Eta Theta Sigma Alumnae Chapter*
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- October 2023:** **Veteran Institute for Procurement through Montgomery Chamber of Commerce: Veteran Entrepreneurs** – *Mauricio Vera, Assistant National Director, Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP) (www.nationalvip.org)*

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Marc Elrich**

The **County Executive** can be reached at:

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-0311 (V)
240-773-3556 (TTY)

CountyExecutiveIQ@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

Standing, left to right: Sidney Katz, Laurie-Anne Sayles, Andrew Friedson (Vice President), Natali Fani-González, and Gabe Albornoz. Seated, left to right: Will Jawando, Kristin Mink, Marilyn Balcombe, Evan Glass (President), Dawn Luedtke, and Kate Stewart.

The **County Council** can be reached at:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-7900 (V)
240-777-7914 (TTY)
240-777-7888 (FAX)

County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Marc Elrich, County Executive
James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA, Director
Patrice L. McGhee, DPA, Chief
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services, Commission on People with Disabilities
401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777-1252 (V) ♦ via MD Relay at 711
MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission,
please call the telephone numbers or email via the contact information listed above.**

***Montgomery County does not discriminate on the basis of disability
in employment or in the admission or access to its programs or services.***

2022 - 2023 Annual Report Prepared By:

Betsy Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*

Carly Clem, *Program Specialist II*