

# COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2024



## COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

November 14, 2024

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:  
The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive  
The Honorable Andrew Friedson, 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](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A&D%20Docs/CVA/CVATimeline.pdf).

We continue to support coordination and collaboration among federal, state and County agencies, and non-profits that serve Veterans so that our community works together to provide all of the all 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. In collaboration with the Commission, Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, constructed and maintains two accessible launches for non-motorized boats at Seneca Landing Special Park. Because the general public and Veterans have benefitted so much from their installation, Parks plans to add accessible launches where they have boat/kayak launches. We thank the Montgomery County Department of Transportation for a Ride on Bus Wrap honoring Operation Green Light and Veterans Day and bus cards for 385 buses with contact information for ServingTogether and the Commission

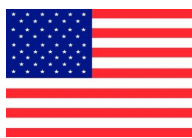
We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication to Veterans and their families We would like to acknowledge DHHS Director Dr. James Bridgers for his role in meeting 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 II, 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,



Michael Wilson, Chair



Sincerely,



Anneke Vandenbroek, Vice-Chair

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## MEMBERSHIP LIST 2023 - 2024

### Veterans Representatives

Bernard Chesman, Veteran  
Drew Garza, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Elwood Gray, Veteran  
Miguel Sapp, Veterans of Foreign Wars / American Legion  
Scott Schlesinger, Kemp Mill Jewish War Veterans  
Christopher Thomas, American Legion / Navy Club  
Anneke Vandebroek, Veteran  
Charles Von Goins, 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

Grace Caulfield  
Veronica Pei

### Non-Voting Congressional Representatives

Charlise Richardson, 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, Program Specialist II

## COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2023 - 2024

- November 2023** **Veteran Homelessness in Montgomery County** – *John Mendez, Executive Director, Bethesda Cares, Inc.*  
**Montgomery College TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) Postsecondary Services to Veterans residing in Montgomery County** – *Beverly Coleman, Director TRIO Educational Opportunity Center*
- December 2023** **The County's Commitment to Veterans and their Families** – *James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA., Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services*
- January 2024** **Property Tax Credits for Veterans (State and Local) and Other Key Veteran Legislation at Maryland General Assembly** – *Lynn Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN, Communications Director, Maryland Military Coalition*
- February 2024** **Update on the DC VA Medical Center** – *Michael S. Heimall, FACHE, Medical Center Director, Washington, D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center*  
**The Silver Spring Vet Center (and Other Vet Centers)** – *Wayne A. Stinchcomb, MDiv, CPLC, Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, Army Veteran, Silver Spring Vet Center, Department of Veterans Affairs*
- March 2024** **Operation Second Chance and Women Veterans Programs** – *Katie Sanders, Director of Outreach and Development, Operation Second Chance*
- April 2024** **Bill to Reduce Property Taxes for Veterans with Severe Disabilities (Bill 6-24) which is currently pending a hearing date** – *Councilmember Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Montgomery County Council*  
**Why Psychedelics for Veterans? Why now?** – *Robert Koffman, MD, MPH, Captain, MC, USN (ret.), Vice-Chair, Veterans Affairs Commission*
- May 2024** **The Role of the 44nd/100th/MIS Full Integration of the US Armed Forces** – *Cynthia Izuno Macri, M.D., FACS, FACOG, CAPT MC USN (Ret.) Member, Japanese American Veterans Association*
- June 2024** **Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic Overview and Updates** – *Grace Caulfield, LCPC, LPC (DC), LPC (VA), CAC-AD, Director, The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic and Vice President at Easterseals DC/MD/VA*
- September 2024** **Veterans and the Court System & the Veterans Hiring Preference** – *Phil Andrews, Director of Crime Prevention Initiatives, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office*
- October 2024** **Discussion and Completion of the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) Questionnaire, Plans for National Veterans and Military Families Month in November, Highlight the County's Veterans Day Plans Including Operation Green Light** – *Commissioners*

# 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](http://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](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva).

### **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023 - 2024**

#### **Full Commission Meeting**

3rd Tuesday of the month,  
except for July and August  
meet virtually via Zoom  
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



**Visit us on the web!** Read Commission agendas, meeting minutes, annual reports, testimony, and more!  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva)



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# MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH AND COUNTY COUNCILMEMBERS HONOR VETERANS WITH OPERATION GREEN LIGHT RIDE ON BUS UNVEILING

**For Immediate Release: Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and members of the County Council joined the County Commission on Veterans Affairs and community leaders today for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) unveiling of the Ride On "Operation Green Light" themed bus at a ceremony to honor veterans.

[Operation Green Light](#), a program sponsored by the [National Association of Counties](#), honors veterans for their immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom. The program asks for displays of a green light, from Nov. 4-11, in a window of businesses or residences to honor veterans. The campaign also aims to highlight resources available to veterans for support.

"Operation Green Light is an opportunity to lift up our veterans and recognize the sacrifices they made so that we all may live in freedom," said County Executive Elrich. "Through Operation Green Light we hope to raise awareness of the issues faced by veterans when they return home and highlight the resources available to them. I encourage all veterans, and their families, to connect with the County's Commission on Veterans Affairs for ongoing support and services."

Also attending the ceremonies were County Council Vice President Kate Stewart, County Councilmembers Will Jawando, Sidney Katz and Dawn Luedtke. County councilmembers, speakers and community leaders arrived at the ceremony on MCDOT's Operation Green Light Ride On bus on its inaugural journey. It finished at Montgomery County's Memorial Plaza, located adjacent to the County Executive Building in Rockville.

The bus is wrapped in a design depicting the U.S. flag, an outline of veterans, and highlighting Operation Green Light. The bus also features a neon sign reading "Operation Green Light" to illuminate the bus at night. The [Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs website](#) and resource line is printed on the back of the bus.

Montgomery County Council President Andrew Friedson, who could not attend the event, joined in his support for Operation Green Light.

"I am proud of this tribute to the men and women in our County who have served with the armed forces," said Council President Friedson. "Operation Green Light sends a signal to our veterans that our County recognizes the personal cost of their sacrifices and stands ready with the services and support they need to live and thrive in Montgomery County."

In addition, all Ride On buses will have informational advertising cards on board with QR codes and a phone number for information for veterans resources and services. Those services can be accessed by calling Serving Together at 855-738-7176 or visiting the [Commission on Veterans Affairs website](#).

"The Operation Green Light bus will circulate around the County throughout the month of November as a tribute to our veterans," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "Ride On buses will have signs on board highlighting Operation Green Light and directing veterans to resources. We know many veterans rely on our Ride On buses, and we hope to make them aware of the support available to them."

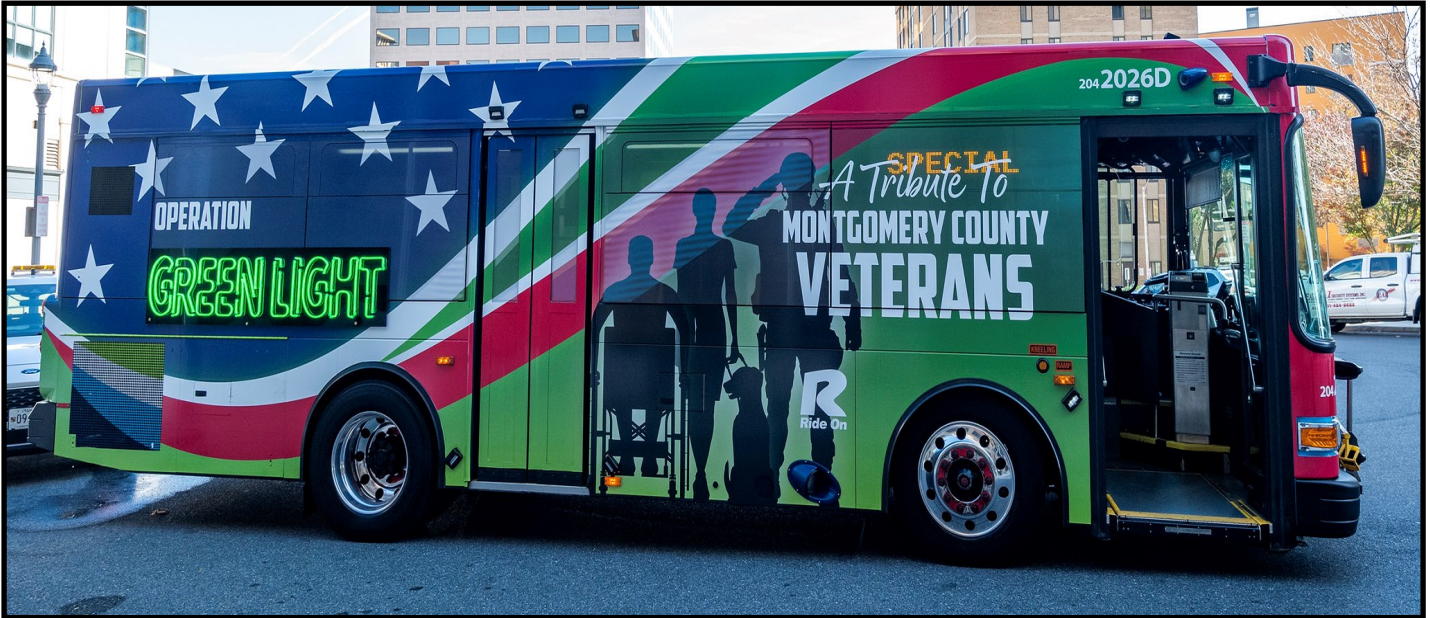
The Operation Green Light bus will be deployed on bus routes throughout Montgomery County. Riders hoping to catch the Operation Green Light bus can follow [@MCDOTNow](#) on social media to find out where the bus is scheduled to run.

Look for photos of the Ride On Operation Green Light bus in motion on the MCDOT social media channels or by following the [#OperationGreenLight](#) hashtag. Riders are encouraged to post and share their bus photos in support.

More information about Operation Green Light is available [here](#).

For more information on MCDOT programs and services visit [montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot), follow [@MCDOTNow](#) on [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and subscribe to MCDOT's "Go Montgomery!" newsletter.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH AND COUNTY COUNCILMEMBERS HONOR VETERANS WITH OPERATION GREEN LIGHT RIDE ON BUS UNVEILING



*Chris Thomas - Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Global War on Terror" Commander, US Navy (RET.) Member, Commission on Veterans Affairs thanked the County on behalf of the Commission for their support of Veterans and their families at the press event.*



## AS VETERANS DAY APPROACHES ON MONDAY, NOV. 11, MONTGOMERY COUNTY JOINS 'OPERATION GREEN LIGHT,' SEVERAL SOLEMN CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD AND ADDITIONS SOUGHT FOR TRIBUTE TO COUNTY VETERANS

**For Immediate Release: Wednesday, October 30, 2024**

As Veterans Day approaches on Monday, Nov. 11, Montgomery County will again join the national "Operation Green Light" salute to veterans and the County's Commission on Veterans Affairs is seeking additions to its virtual tribute to County veterans. For those who want to attend ceremonies on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, several 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. 4-11, in a window of businesses or residences to honor veterans. From Nov. 4-11, 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>.

As part of this year's salute to veterans, the Montgomery Department of Transportation is wrapping a Ride On Bus with tributes to Operation Green Light and Veterans Day. In addition, 385 Ride On buses will have informational advertising cards with contact information for Veterans Resources and Services. Those services can be accessed by calling ServingTogether at 855-738-7176, going to its website at [www.servingtogetherproject.org](http://www.servingtogetherproject.org) or by going to the Commission on Veterans Affairs website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans). The commission encourages all veterans and their families to reach out to find out what resources, services and benefits are available in the County to support them.

Veterans Day ceremonies will be held at several locations throughout the County. [View Veterans Day events](#) being held throughout Montgomery County.

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](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday). From this site, there is a link to the commission's Fallen Heroes page at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fallenheroes](http://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](mailto:MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov).

To learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva).

# VETERANS DAY - OPERATION GREENLIGHT FOR VETERANS

## *Proclamation Montgomery County Maryland*

WHEREAS, the residents of Montgomery County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces and Uniformed Services; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces and Uniformed Services have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our residents; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County, as a Green Light for Veterans County, seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Marc Elrich, County Executive, Andrew Friedson, Council President, and the entire Montgomery County Council hereby declare November 4<sup>th</sup> through Veteran's Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as:

### **Operation Green Light for Veterans**

which is a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service. Montgomery County, in observance of Operation Green Light, encourages its residents to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



*Council President Andrew Friedson and Chief Administrative Officer Richard Madaleno, on behalf of County Executive Marc Elrich, present a proclamation in recognition of Operation Green Light for Veterans, which is a national initiative recognizing the contributions of veterans and their families.*

# MONTGOMERY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS HONORS FALLEN HOMETOWN HEROES FROM MILITARY ACTION DATING TO WORLD WAR I WITH ONLINE TRIBUTES AS MEMORIAL DAY APPROACHES

**For Immediate Release: Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is honoring “Fallen Hometown Heroes” with Montgomery County connections on a website created by the commission. The tribute is especially notable as the County prepares to commemorate Memorial Day on Monday, May 27.

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 lived in Montgomery County and were killed in action. The site can be viewed at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fallenheroes](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fallenheroes).

“We owe a great debt of gratitude to our local heroes, as well as all service members, who made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to our nation,” said Michael Wilson, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran who currently chairs the County Commission on Veterans Affairs. “I encourage residents to visit the County’s Fallen Hometown Heroes website and learn more about these heroes dating back to World War I and as recent as the Global War on Terrorism. Their sacrifices will always be remembered and honored.”

In 2023, 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 honors 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 urge every resident to take a moment to reflect on our local heroes and learn more about their courageous stories through this website.”

To share the story of a friend or family member who was killed in action, complete a [Google form](#) or a [PDF form](#). Visit the Commission on Veterans Affairs [website](#) for more information about their work.





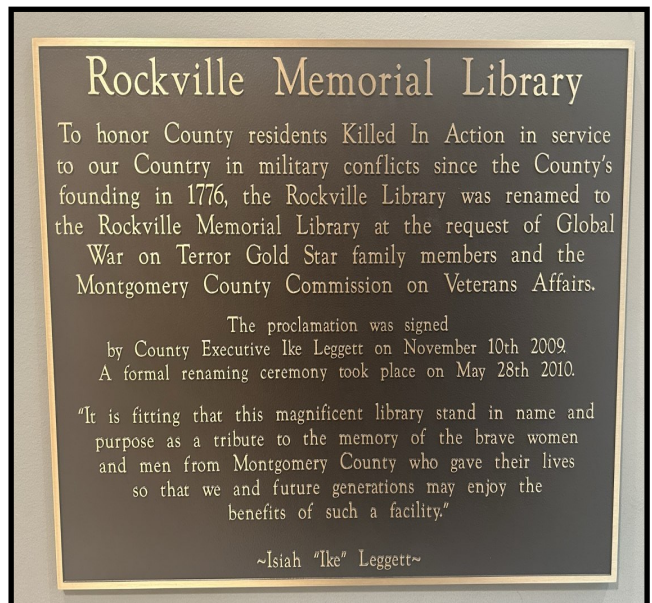
# MEMORIAL DAY



*Commission Chair Michael Wilson was interviewed by anchors Wisdom Martin and Allison Seymour from channel WUSA 9 about Memorial Day.*



*Memorial Day display case at the Rockville Memorial Library installed by the Commission on Veterans Affairs*



*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.*

# 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



# BLACK VETERANS TO BE HONORED IN TRIBUTES BY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs will honor Black County veterans with detailed virtual tributes displayed on the County's website as it recognizes February as Black History Month. The tributes of County veterans will feature photos, background information and details of accomplishments during their military careers and afterward.

During Black History Month, in addition to individual veterans, the County Commission on Veterans Affairs will recognize the service and sacrifices of Black veterans who served in such heroic units as the Buffalo Soldiers, the Harlem Hellfighters and the Tuskegee Airmen. Montgomery County also will honor the County's Black men and women veterans who continue to serve the nation with honor and distinction.

The Black History Month tribute will be displayed online at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/BlackHistoryMonth.html>. Detailed tributes also will 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 honor 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 Frontier. To learn more about Buffalo Soldiers, visit [www.buffalosoldiers-washington.com](http://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](mailto:MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich's thoughts on helping veterans can be found at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans).

To learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva).



A graphic banner for Black History Month 2024. The banner features a colorful background with diagonal stripes in red, yellow, green, and black. On the left, it reads "Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs" and "CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2024" with the Montgomery County seal. On the right, it reads "HONORING MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMED AND UNIFORMED SERVICES" and includes a row of military service seals.

## NBC4 NEWSTORY: 76 YEARS SINCE DESEGREGATION OF US MILITARY, BLACK VETERANS HONORED

Black veterans are being honored in Montgomery County. One Vietnam War veteran says he shares the stories of current and former service members to “pass the baton of history.” News4’s Dominique Moody has the details. Persons who were interviewed include Wayne Miller, Chair and commissioners Dr. Elwood Gray and Jameelah Johnson. Watch:

[www.nbcwashington.com/discover-black-heritage/76-years-since-desegregation-of-us-military-black-veterans-honored/3544122/](http://www.nbcwashington.com/discover-black-heritage/76-years-since-desegregation-of-us-military-black-veterans-honored/3544122/)



## UKRAINE DELEGATION VISIT WITH U.S. SENATOR CHRIS VAN HOLLEN



U. S. Senator Chris Van Hollen and his staff hosted a Delegation from Ukraine for a meeting in his office last week. The Ukrainian Delegates wanted to learn more about services and programs for Veterans to take back to Ukraine. On the panel meeting with the Delegates were Gerry Taylor, MDVA Deputy Director of Service & Benefits, Denise Nooe, MDVA Deputy Director of Communications, Outreach & Advocacy, Dr. James Dula, Director of the Prince George’s Office of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Cori Carfagno, Director, ServingTogether and Bill Gray, Chair Emeritus, Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs.



# MONTGOMERY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS JOIN CELEBRATION OF 'NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY', FRIDAY, MARCH 29

**For Immediate Release: Friday, March 29, 2024**

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is joining the national celebration of “National Vietnam Veterans Day” TODAY, Friday, March 29. The commission will honor more than 80 Montgomery County Vietnam War Era veterans with detailed tributes displayed on a special website created by the commission.

“National Vietnam War Veterans Day” is observed every year on March 29. The special day recognizes the nine million U.S. Armed Forces and Uniformed Services personnel with active-duty service between Nov. 1, 1955, and May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service.

The Vietnam War was one of the longest wars involving America. Starting in 1955, the war went on until 1975, making it the second-longest war with U.S. involvement after the Afghanistan War. More than 2.7 million Americans served during the Vietnam War. In 1973, all combat and support units withdrew from Vietnam, but the war continued to have an impact on many U.S. service members, their families and other Americans.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day honors all who served during its 20-year time. Since respect and combat support was not immediately given to those who served after the war ended and those who died as a result of the war, the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act was signed into law in 2017 to finally offer that respect to everyone involved.

The Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs website includes photos, military histories and later personal updates of Vietnam veterans who are either originally from the County or who lived in Montgomery after their service. The site can be viewed at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vietnamvetday](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vietnamvetday).

“A special day has been created to honor the veterans who served in the Vietnam War era,” said Wayne Miller, a Vietnam veteran who now chairs the County Commission on Veterans Affairs. “However, the people who served in that difficult period of our nation’s history should be honored every day. This website enables people of our current generation to learn more about the Americans who served during the Vietnam War. The website provides details on how the war influenced the rest of their lives. It also pays tribute to those who gave their lives when asked to serve their country.”

According to the latest available U.S. Census Bureau estimates, there are more than 32,000 County residents who are veterans. Of that number, more than 8,400 are Vietnam War Era veterans.

Records show that 130 County residents were killed in Vietnam and their names are on the County's Vietnam Memorial Wall, which was dedicated in 2018 on Memorial Plaza adjacent to the Executive Office Building in Rockville. A video summary of the memorial dedication can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6QWL-Z81Uk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6QWL-Z81Uk).



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

The Vietnam Veterans site also provides access the County’s tribute to “Fallen Heroes.” That site pays tribute to the County’s fallen service members who died in service to the country since World War I. The records show the men and women honored as enlisting, being originally from or having at one-time lived in Montgomery County. That site can be accessed directly at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/FallenHeroes.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/FallenHeroes.html).

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 about the tribute program can be directed to [MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov) individual.

To view Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich’s thoughts on helping veterans or to learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans>.

To learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva).



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS TO JOIN IN CELEBRATION OF 'WOMEN VETERANS DAY' BY RECOGNIZING COUNTY'S FEMALE VETERANS ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

**For Immediate Release: Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

Montgomery County's Commission on Veterans Affairs will join in the Maryland celebration of Women Veterans Day on Wednesday, June 12, with a virtual tribute to the County's female veterans and a tribute display set up at the Silver Spring Civic Building in Downtown Silver Spring. The Silver Spring Civic Building is located at 1 Veterans Pl. in Silver Spring.

Women Veterans Day is an official day of recognition in many states. However, it is not a nationally recognized day of honor. Maryland has recognized Women Veterans Day since 2023. The United States on June 12, 1948, approved the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, which allowed women to become permanent members of the military. The act also allowed African American women to serve in the military. Before the act was approved, women could only serve in the reserve and regular forces during peacetime, and only as nurses. Today, women serve in all military occupational specialties, including intelligence, logistics, munitions and combat.

"Today, as a female veteran and vice chair of the County veterans commission, I stand in solidarity with my fellow sisters-in-arms, honoring their extraordinary contributions to our nation's defense," said Anneke van den Broek, who is vice chair of the Commission on Veterans Affairs. "As we celebrate Women Veterans Day, let us recognize not only the collective bravery and sacrifice of women in uniform, but also the unique journey of each individual who has served. It is a privilege to join hands with these remarkable women, amplifying their voices and ensuring their stories are heard and honored."

The Commission on Veterans Affairs' tribute to Montgomery's female veterans can be found at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/WomenVeterans.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/WomenVeterans.html).

"The movement to have the contributions of women to American's military efforts formerly recognized continues to gain momentum nationally and in Maryland," said Michael Wilson, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran who chairs the Commission on Veterans Affairs. "In Montgomery County, we have long-recognized how women have helped the military efforts of our nation, literally going back centuries. We created this online tribute and the display in Silver Spring to honor our women veterans and we look forward to seeing the number of tributes continue to grow."

Women have served in America's wars and conflicts throughout history. They played vital roles in the Revolutionary War, serving as soldiers, raising morale and spying on the enemy. It is known that some even [disguised themselves as men](#) to be able to serve.

More than 400 women fought in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. During World War I, about 35,000 women officially served. Women served in lifesaving roles such as nurses, and critical support staff roles such as [the Hello Girls](#), formally known as the Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit. In World War II, 350,000 women served in the U.S. military in occupations such as nursing, military intelligence, cryptography and parachute rigging.

In August 1943, the Women's Flying Training Detachment and the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) merged into a single unit for all women pilots and formed the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs). They flew more than 60 million miles in two years. During this time, the [6888th](#) Battalion was formed as the first and only all-Black Women Army Corps unit to deploy overseas during WW II. Their nickname was "Six-Triple Eight" and their motto was "No Mail, Low Morale."

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 [PDF form](#).



# 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.





# PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The U.S. Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey estimates that there are approximately **36,589 veterans living in Montgomery County, Maryland**. That is an **increase of 5,690 veterans** since last year's census. According to the American Community Survey, 6.1% 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		2023	
	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)
Population 18 years and over	30,899	811,193	36,589	816,002
Period of Military Service	Veterans	% of 30,899	Veterans	% of 36,589
Gulf War (9/2001 or later), no Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	5,903	19.1%	9,586	26.3%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) and Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	3,858	12.5%	4,365	11.9%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) and Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) and Vietnam Era	529	1.7%	71	0.2%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	4,114	13.3%	3,946	10.7%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), and Vietnam Era	520	1.7%	513	1.4%
Vietnam Era, no Korean War, no World War II	8,344	27.0%	9,435	25.7%
Vietnam Era and Korean War, no World War II	29	0.1%	201	0.5%
Vietnam Era and Korean War and World War II	0	0%	0	0%
Korean War, no Vietnam Era, no World War II	1,636	5.3%	1,170	3.2%
Korean War and World War II, no Vietnam Era	0	0%	142	0.4%
World War II, no Korean War, no Vietnam Era	431	1.4%	735	2.0%
Between Gulf War and Vietnam Era only	3,010	9.7%	5,353	14.6%
Between Vietnam Era & Korean War only	2,525	8.2%	1,072	2.9%
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, 2022 & 2023

# PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

## Veteran Population of Montgomery County, MD

Subject	2022		2023	
	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)
Civilian Population 18 years and over	30,899	811,193	36,589	816,002
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	<b>30,899</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	<b>% of 36,589</b>
Male	25,370	82.1%	31,962	87.4%
Female	5,529	17.9%	4,627	12.6%
<b>Age</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	<b>% of 30,899</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	<b>% of 36,589</b>
18 to 34 years	2,507	8.1%	3,376	9.2%
35 to 54 years	7,520	24.3%	10,199	27.9%
55 to 64 years	6,038	19.5%	6,354	17.4%
65 to 74 years	5,402	18.9%	5,706	15.6%
75 years and older	9,432	29.0%	10,954	29.9%
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	<b>% of 30,889</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	<b>% of 36,589</b>
White alone	19,268	62.4%	21,022	57.5%
Black or African American alone	6,349	20.5%	7,535	20.6%
Asian alone	2,189	7.1%	2,101	5.7%
Some other race alone	1,329	4.3%	1,074	2.9%
Two or more races	1,642	5.3%	4,350	11.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,673	8.7%	3,638	9.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	18,598	60.2%	20,919	57.2%

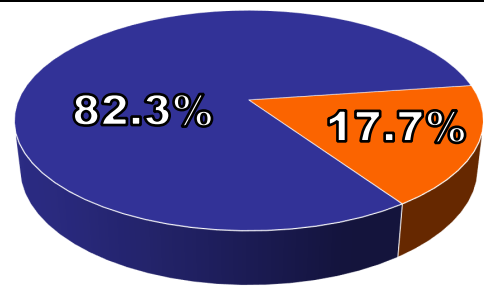
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022 & 2023

### Veterans Median Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)

Civilian population 18 years and over with income	\$92,810
Male	\$94,681
Female	\$75,429

Source: U.S. American Community Survey, 2023

### Montgomery County VA Health Care Enrollment Total VA Health Care Enrollment: 12,622 Enrolled at Gaithersburg CBOC: 4,836



Female (2,233) Male (10,389)

Source: Montgomery County VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, October 2024

# PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

## Montgomery County, MD Veteran Demographics - By City (2018 - 2022)

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

Ashton-Sandy Spring	228
Aspen Hill	1,335
Bethesda	2,201
Burtonsville	240
Chevy Chase	397
Clarksburg	863
Colesville	597
Damascus	996
Darnestown	244
Fairland	674
Flower Hill	339
Four Corners	428

Forest Glen	140
Gaithersburg	2,083
Germantown	3,514
Glenmont	470
Kemp Mill	385
Layhill	213
Leisure World	990
Montgomery Village	1,193
North Bethesda	1,530
North Kensington	425
North Potomac	512

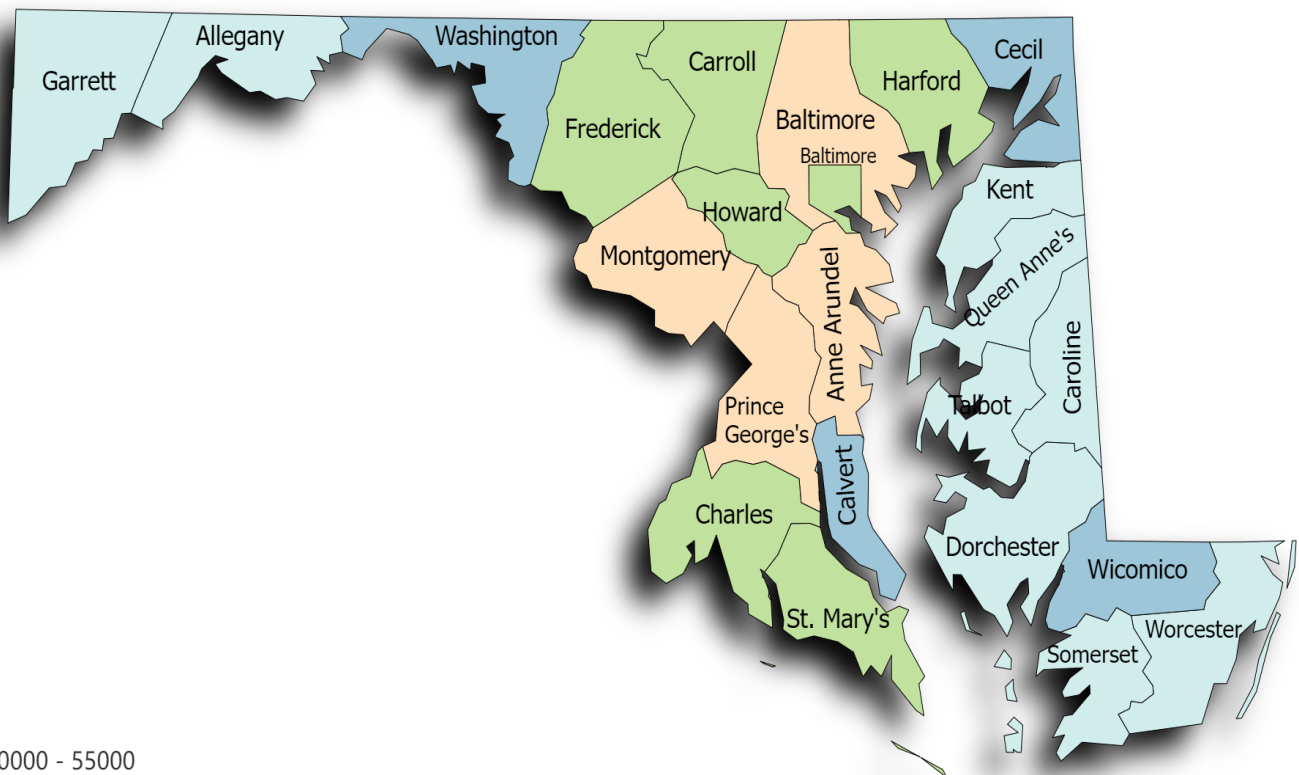
Olney	1,424
Poolesville	349
Potomac	1,662
Redland	756
Rockville	2,269
Silver Spring	1,836
South Kensington	337
Takoma Park	555
Travilah	289
Wheaton	1,412
White Oak	310

Source: U.S. Census QuickFacts 2018 - 2022

# NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MARYLAND - 2023 CENSUS DATA

**Total Number of Veterans in Maryland: 318,150**

**Number of Veterans in Montgomery County, Maryland: 36,589**



- 30000 - 55000
- 10000 - 30000
- 5000 - 10000
- 1000 - 5000

Created with paintmaps.com

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023



# COMMISSION EFFORTS ON VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION AND THE ABUSE OF FENTANYL

October, 2024

For the past 6 years, Robert Kauffman, Retired Navy psychiatrist served on the Commission. He was very involved in National Suicide Prevention efforts. He also is actively involved in suicide prevention treatment that involves psychedelic drugs here at Shady Grove Hospital.

With regards to opioids, Commissioner Chris Thomas served in the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for 4 years, two years each with the Bush and Obama Administrations. His portfolio was focused on reducing opioid supply, specifically from south Asia, but he also worked demand reduction and improving access to care and addiction treatment.

Mike Subin has hosted Cable TV show Homefront and had guests on to address suicide prevention and mental wellness and included staff from the Steven Cohen Military Family Clinic, Silver Spring Vet Center and Veterans Services at Holy Cross Hospital.

Grace Caulfield currently serves on the Commission and is the Director, The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic and Vice President at Easterseals.

Behavioral Health hold the contract for Serving Together which is the information source for Veterans. Serving Together screens callers and makes referrals for needed services.

The Commission on Veterans Affairs has actively promoted mental health and wellness and promotes the programs that are helpful to Veterans. The Commission has taken some calls from Veterans who are suicidal and have referred them to the resources that could best help them.

## VETERANS CRISIS LINE NUMBER



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

Dial 988 then Press 1

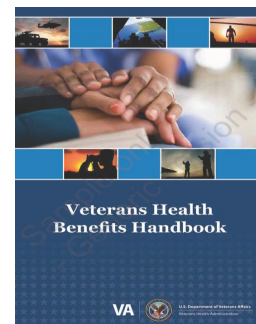


# HOW TO ENROLL IN VA HEALTHCARE

There are an estimated 36,589 Veterans living in the County and only an estimated 12,622 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**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)

## **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](http://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



# 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](http://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](http://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 HealtheVet ([www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home](http://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](mailto: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](http://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!

## COMBAT<sup>2</sup>COLLEGE

### 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](mailto:joanna.starling@montgomerycollege.edu)

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

**Website:** [www.montgomerycollege.edu/veterans-and-military/combat-to-college.html](http://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

**Call MyVA311 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

1-866-272-6272 (Toll Free)

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 DD-214 online via their website - [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://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, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740

## ENROLL IN VA HEALTHCARE

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

1-877-222-8387 (Toll Free - Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST)

You may be able to get VA health care benefits if you served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.

## VA HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

Washington DC VA Medical Center - Eligibility Office  
50 Irving Street, NW, First Floor, Room 1B100  
Washington, DC 20422  
[www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility](http://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility)

**Eligibility Office:** 202-745-8000 ext. 4 (V)

**Military Discharge Types and Eligibility for VA Services:**

<https://lawforveterans.org/work/84-discharge-and-retirement/497-military-discharge>

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

Shady Grove Development Park  
15810 Gaither Drive, Suite 130  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**Appointments:** 202-745-8577 (7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon through Friday)

**Mental Health Care:** 202-745-8000 x 58127 (V)

**Mental Health Care:** 202-745-8000 x 58127 (V)

**VA Medical Advice:** 202-745-8000, Option 3 (24/7)

**Make an appointment online:**

[www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care/make-an-appointment](http://www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care/make-an-appointment) **Administrative Receptionist:** 301-591-5858, Option 8 (V)

[www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care/locations/montgomery-county-va-clinic](http://www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care/locations/montgomery-county-va-clinic)

**Clinic Hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The 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. Conveniently located to the Shady Grove Metro Station via Ride On Bus #63 and #63X. Route #63X provides additional service between Gaither Road & Gaither Drive and the Shady Grove Metro Station to augment Route #63 trips on weekdays. Service is available from approximately 6:20 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## BENEFITS ASSISTANCE – MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

David Skisano, Veterans Benefits Specialist II

301-987-8412 (V)

Email: [davidj.skisano@maryland.gov](mailto:davidj.skisano@maryland.gov)

301-987-8413 (V)

Christina Williams, Veterans Benefits Specialist II

301-987-8496 (FAX)

Email: [christina.williams1@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.williams1@maryland.gov)

Contact via email or phone. Please leave a message and they will return the call as soon as possible.

### Montgomery County Office

Gaithersburg Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center  
Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families  
15 Metropolitan Grove Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

**By appointment only.**

Phil Munley, Director, Service and Benefits Program

Email: [phillip.munley@va.gov](mailto:phillip.munley@va.gov)

[www.veterans.maryland.gov](http://www.veterans.maryland.gov)

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 such as VA Aide and Attendance Benefits from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Dept. of Defense, State of Maryland and other programs for veterans and their families.



# KEY CONTACTS FOR THE VA & OTHER RESOURCES CONT.

## BENEFITS ASSISTANCE – VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS – NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION BENEFIT

Daniel Lenhert, Associate Director  
1722 I Street, NW, Suite 207  
Washington, DC 20421  
Email: [slenhert@vfw.org](mailto:slenhert@vfw.org)

202-530-9385 (Main)  
202-547-3196 (FAX)

[www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits)

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. Services offered free of charge to anyone seeking assistance with the claims process.

## SILVER SPRING VET CENTER - READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND FAMILY SUPPORTS

Wayne Miller, Vet Center Director  
2900 Linden Lane, Suite 100  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Email: [wayne.miller3@va.gov](mailto:wayne.miller3@va.gov)

Services are currently being provided in-person and virtually.

[www.va.gov/silver-spring-vet-center](http://www.va.gov/silver-spring-vet-center)

301-589-1073 (V)  
202-273-9116 (Bereavement Counseling)  
**Hours:** Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

Walk-ins permitted, but appointments are requested. After hours appointments as needed. You do not need to be registered for at a VA health care facility, rated for a service-connected disability, or receiving any other form of VA benefits to receive services at the Vet Center. 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 the veteran and their family.

## SERVINGTOGETHER – WHERE VETERANS FIND LOCAL RESOURCES FOR THE MISSION AHEAD

Beatriz Mendez, Care Coordinator, [bmendez@every-mind.org](mailto:bmendez@every-mind.org)  
Cornelius Johnson, Care Coordinator, [cjohnson@every-mind.org](mailto:cjohnson@every-mind.org)  
Donny Williams, Regional Manager, [dwilliams@every-mind.org](mailto:dwilliams@every-mind.org)  
Cori W. Carfagno, Ed.D., Director, [ccarfagno@every-mind.org](mailto:ccarfagno@every-mind.org)

[www.servingtogetherproject.org](http://www.servingtogetherproject.org)

Serve active duty, National Guard, Reservists, veterans and their families who reside in the Metropolitan Washington DC and Greater Baltimore area. Support all individuals who have worn the uniforms of our military – regardless of age, era, branch or discharge status. Care Coordinators guide veterans, service members and their families to the most appropriate services and resources available from employment to benefits navigation, education to mental health and wellbeing supports. Events happening in your area: <https://servingtogetherproject.org/washington-dc-veteran-events/>

301-738-7176 (V)  
1-855-738-7176 (Toll Free)  
**Hours:** Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES – EASTER SEALS SERVING DC | MD | VA

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals  
1420 Spring Street, Suite 300 Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Email: [info.mfc@eseal.org](mailto:info.mfc@eseal.org)

240-847-7500 (V)

**Hours of Operation:** Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/programs-and-services/cvn-home.html](http://www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/programs-and-services/cvn-home.html)

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. Appointments are available for in-person care and by telehealth.

# KEY CONTACTS FOR THE VA & OTHER RESOURCES CONT.

## HOMELESS VETERAN CARE - VA COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTER (CRRC)

Denneze Nelson, Homeless Veterans Coordinator  
Email: [denneze.nelson@va.gov](mailto:denneze.nelson@va.gov)

202-745-3012 x 53653 (Denneze Nelson)  
202-948-6176 (Denneze Nelson - Work Cell)

Fatmata Kamara, VA Outreach Social Worker  
Email: [fatmata.kamara@va.gov](mailto:fatmata.kamara@va.gov)

202-256-9261 (Fatmata Kamara)

Leah Lyons, VA Outreach Social Worker  
Email: [leah.lyons@va.gov](mailto:leah.lyons@va.gov)

202-745-3012 ext. 8 (Homeless Veteran Care Main Line)

1500 Franklin Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20018

[www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care/health-services/homeless-veteran-care](http://www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care/health-services/homeless-veteran-care)

Help veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to financial hardship, unemployment, addiction, depression, or transition from jail. Get help with immediate food and shelter, including both transitional and permanent housing; job training, life skills development, and education; support with justice system navigation and community re-entry from jail; financial support to prevent homelessness; treatment for addiction and depression; and health and dental care.

## EMPLOYMENT – VETERAN PROGRAM - MD DEPT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION (DLLR)

LeRoy Thomas, DLLR Veterans Program Manager  
Email: [leroy.thomas@maryland.gov](mailto:leroy.thomas@maryland.gov)

410-767-2015 (LeRoy Thomas)

### WorkSource Montgomery – American Job Center

George Hawley, Local Veterans' Employment Representative /  
Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist  
11510 Georgia Avenue, Suite 100  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
Email: [george.hawley@maryland.gov](mailto:george.hawley@maryland.gov)

240-283-1542 (George Hawley - Office)  
410-241-7586 (George Hawley – Work Cell)

### WorkSource Montgomery – American Job Center

12900 Middlebrook Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Email: [info@worksourcemontgomery.com](mailto:info@worksourcemontgomery.com)

240-406-5485 (Germantown)

<https://dllr.state.md.us/employment/veteranservices.shtml>

Local Veterans Employment Representatives work with businesses, contractors, and employer organizations within local areas to develop career opportunities for veterans. Disabled Veterans Outreach Program staff also provide specialized intensive employment assistance to eligible veterans with employment and training needs. American Job Centers offer a variety of services to assist veterans, transitioning military personnel, and other qualified individuals. Staff will help you, the transitioning service member or veteran, successfully transition to a rewarding career. Priority of service is given to veterans and their eligible spouses who meet certain eligibility requirements. Additional information regarding services and resources is found at DLLR's Maryland Workforce Exchange Virtual One Stop.

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM (CSP) – U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)

1-855-260-3274 (Caregiver Support Line)  
202-745-8000 x 55926 (Caregiver Support Team - DC VA Medical Center)

Provides resources, education and support to caregivers of Veterans. The Veteran does not need to have a service-connected condition, for which the caregiver is needed, and may have served during any era. Caregivers who enroll in the Program for General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS) have access to education and training, including courses at local VA medical centers (VAMCs). Caregivers can also participate in support services and take advantage of VA home and community-based care. CSP now offers Primary Family Caregivers enrolled in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) access to expert-led legal and financial planning services: [www.caregiverfinanciallegal.va.gov](http://www.caregiverfinanciallegal.va.gov). For additional resources, view Caregiver Supports listed in the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs Veterans Network Directory: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vnd](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vnd).

# KEY CONTACTS FOR THE VA & OTHER RESOURCES CONT.

## OPERATION SECOND CHANCE

Email: [assistance@operationsecondchance.org](mailto:assistance@operationsecondchance.org)  
<https://operationsecondchance.org/support-and-assistance>

301-972-1080 (V)  
1-888-672-4838 (Toll Free)

Provide airfare and essential daily assistance. Items that will be considered for assistance:

- Rent/Mortgage (must be accompanied by a copy of mortgage statement with account number and billing address. If rental assistance is being requested, a copy of the rental agreement that has the name/address of the rental/lease company, monthly rent amount.
- Utility bills (electric, gas, water, sewer).
- Childcare during illness or surgery.
- Housing and/or airfare for a family member to assist an injured or recovering member.

Please have your service liaison, chain of command, or care provider request an application by email.

## WOMEN VETERANS/INCLUSION PROGRAM – MD DEPT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

Roslyn Jones, Women Veterans/Inclusion Program Manager  
Outreach & Advocacy Program  
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs  
16 Francis Street, 4th Floor  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Email: [roslyn.jones1@maryland.gov](mailto:roslyn.jones1@maryland.gov)

410-260-3971 (Office)  
443-223-2831 (Cell)

<https://veterans.maryland.gov/women-veterans-inclusion-program/>

Charged with advocating for women veterans and other traditionally underserved veteran populations, along with their families. Provide outreach and education on federal and state VA benefits earned through military service. Collaborate with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, state and local governments, and the community to raise awareness of the needs of Maryland's women, minority, and other underserved Veteran populations.



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



[veterans.maryland.gov](https://veterans.maryland.gov)



410-260-3838

Email [mdveteransinfo@maryland.gov](mailto:mdveteransinfo@maryland.gov)



## Service and Benefits Program

Providing representation for veterans and dependents seeking VA benefits



## Cemetery and Memorial Program

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



## 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



## Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

Assisting veterans who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties  
410-260-3836



## Women Veterans Inclusion Program

Coordinate events to raise awareness of the needs of Maryland's women, minority, and underserved veteran populations  
410-260-3971

**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

# MARYLAND DVMF SERVICE PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all 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  
Gerry Taylor, Deputy Director  
Stacy Travers, Chief, Veterans Appeals  
Cardell Bass, Western Area Supervisor  
Garry Brown, Veterans Benefit Specialist Advanced  
Sharron Hall, Administrative Aide  
31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 3020, Baltimore, MD 21201  
1-800-446-4926, ext. 6450

## 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, Eastern Area Supervisor  
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 MDVMF service office):  
Call for information 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

Ashley Lahm, Veterans Benefits Specialist II  
11 South Harrison St, Easton, MD 21601 (physical address)  
P.O. Box 1148, Easton, MD 21601 (mailing address)  
410-690-7181

## Elkton

James Wilkes, Veterans Benefits Specialist Advanced  
Elkton Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center  
105 Chesapeake Blvd., Suite A, Elkton, MD 21921  
667-225-6870

## Frederick

Andrew Rutherford, Veterans Benefits Specialist II  
Veterans Service Center  
1750 Monocacy Blvd, Frederick, MD 21701  
240-651-8896

## Gaithersburg

David Skisano, Veterans Benefits Specialist II  
Christina Williams, Veterans Benefits Specialist II  
Gaithersburg Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center  
15 Metropolitan Grove Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-987-8412, 301-987-8413, 301-987-8496 (fax)

## Glen Burnie

Kiana Hinton, Veterans Benefits Specialist II  
Alfreda Smith, Veterans Benefits Specialist II  
Jynell Proctor, Office Secretary III  
Motor Vehicle Administration  
Glen Burnie Service Center, Ground Floor  
6601 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21062  
Room 30 (for a benefits specialist), Room 8A (for mail)  
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 Dr., 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

## Rosedale

(Wednesday, 9am to 1pm, excluding federal holidays)  
Debra Hynes, Veterans Benefits Specialist  
VA Eastern Baltimore County  
Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
Franklin Square Professional Center  
5235 King Avenue, Suite 200, Rosedale, MD 21237  
410-605-7000 ext. 51052

## 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)

# FY25 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES



## Commission on Veterans Affairs Testimony on FY 25 Operating Budget April 8, 2024 Wayne Miller, Chair

The Commission on Veterans Affairs wishes to thank the residents of the County and the County Council for their combined support for Veterans over the past 16 years for funding programs that benefit the quality of life for Veterans and their families. We recommend the following:

- Vouchers for Homeless Veterans and their Families** - We commend the County for 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. However, not all Veterans qualify due to receiving less than an honorable discharge and are therefore not eligible for VA programs. The County has appropriated \$650,000 per year for this effort and recommends this funding continue. For Veterans who do qualify for VASH vouchers, the Commission was recently informed by Senator Van Hollen's office that the County has been awarded an additional 20 VASH vouchers bringing the total to an estimated 118. In partnership with the Commission, Senator Van Hollen's and Senator Cardin's office the County received 98 VASH vouchers between the years of 2010 - 2016 years and now in 2024 an additional 20 vouchers, each worth \$13,122 or \$1.5 M total per year in housing subsidies.
- Serving Together** – The 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 in FY2024 of \$171,865 with a recommended increase of 3% to an estimated \$177,000 in FY 25 that provides needed referral resources for Veterans and their families.
- Warrior Canine Connection** - 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 continue to:

- Promote community outreach efforts with the media to educate on the many Veteran programs and services. We especially thank Barry Hudson and Neil Greenberger of the Public Information Office for their strong support in promoting and recognizing the services and sacrifices of our Veterans and their families.
- 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 with the Council on the proposed legislation for property tax credits for Veterans

In conclusion, again thank you for your continued support. I look forward to your questions.



# TESTIMONY: BILL 6-24: PROPERTY TAX CREDIT DISABLED VETERANS

## Commission on Veterans Affairs Michael Wilson, Chair

June 11, 2024

### Montgomery County Council Testimony on Bill 6-24; Property Tax Credit – Disabled Veterans [Bill 6-24 – Property Tax Credit – Disabled Veterans](#)

On behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs, I am testifying in favor of this bill, with amendments that will provide honorably discharged disabled Veterans a property tax credit to financially assist them to age in place. It was noted that income in Montgomery County is different than counties with higher property taxes. The county should be trying to attract and retain more veterans to the county to help the economy and the job force. This bill was discussed with the Commission on Veterans Affairs in March and in May and I will share with you their recommendations:

1. The income cap is too low. Eligibility is for the federal adjusted gross income not exceeding \$100,000. The Commission recommends that you use instead the average median income. The median household income in Montgomery County is \$129,636.
2. Some commissioners expressed concern that critical components such as whether it is combined income or just the Veteran's income was not spelled out and should be. Women veterans are disproportionately married to other veterans and their total combined retirement income is more likely to be over \$100,000 and make them ineligible for the tax credit. You may want to double the average median income for married couples. Income from VA disability payments are non-taxable and would not be included in gross income. You may want to consider adding this to the bill.
3. The Commission recognizes that there could be improvements to Bill 6-24 but the County must follow what is currently noted in the state law. If Bill 6-24 passes, we ask that the Council work to get the law changed at the state level to update the disability ratings income caps and estimated value of the homes.

We recognize that 100% disabled veterans currently do not pay property tax in Maryland and this will continue. We want to thank Councilmember Fani- Gonzalez for reaching out and meeting with the Commission on this bill. And, thank you for the opportunity to share with you the recommendations of the Commission.

# COUNCIL ENACTS NEW PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR VETERANS WHO ARE SEVERELY DISABLED

**For Immediate Release: Tuesday, July 30, 2024**

*From the Office of Councilmember Natali Fani-González*

**ROCKVILLE, Md., July 30, 2024**—Today, the Montgomery County Council enacted [Bill 6-24](#), Property Tax Credit—Disabled Veterans, which was led by Councilmember Natali Fani-González, to establish a new local property tax credit for honorably discharged veterans who are severely disabled and earn \$100,000 or less in federal adjusted gross income. Consistent with Maryland’s enabling law, veterans who are determined to be 50 to 74 percent disabled would be eligible for a 25 percent tax credit, and veterans who are 75 to 99 percent disabled would be eligible for a 50 percent credit. Veterans who are 100 percent disabled for service-connected causes are already eligible for an exemption from property taxes.

“Our commitment to veterans needs to go beyond mere words, and this bill is one of many steps we are planning to take to meet the unique needs of our veteran community,” said Councilmember Fani-González, who represents District 6 and chairs the Economic Development Committee. “We must ensure that our veterans receive the support they earned for their service when they return home. One fundamental way we can do that locally is to lighten the property tax burden for their families.”

Disability percentages are determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and are based on how much a disability interferes with a veteran's daily life. VA disability ratings are assigned in increments up to 100 percent. If the veteran has multiple disabilities, then VA will assign a combined disability rating.

On June 11th, the County Council held a public hearing featuring moving testimonials from the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs, VFW Post 2562, Easterseals, and individual veterans. The bill received strong support by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, highlighting their Veterans Institute of Procurement (VIP) Program. Their stories underscored the importance of this bill and its positive impact on the military veteran community.

Council President Andrew Friedson and Councilmembers Marilyn Balcombe, Dawn Luedtke, Gabe Albornoz, Sidney Katz and Laurie-Anne Sayles cosponsored the legislation. The Council staff report and Bill 6-24 can be viewed on the Council’s [website](#).

The new legislation will become effective 91 days after the County Executive signs the bill, and he may issue Method 2 regulations to administer this tax credit.

For more information, please contact the office of Councilmember Fani-González at [Councilmember.Fani-Gonzalez@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Fani-Gonzalez@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov).

# TESTIMONY: BILL 45-23 - PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

## Commission on Veterans Affairs

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Andrew Friedson, President  
Montgomery County Council

Dear Council President Friedson:

*Via: Electronic Facsimile*

On behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs, I am making recommendations to you regarding Bill 45-23, Property Tax Credit which will be heard by the Council on January 23, 2024.

Montgomery County is home to an estimated 40,000 Veterans who vote and want to be able to live in the county where they have served and raised their families, and where their families continue to live. They are finding it harder and harder to live here and without the benefit of this bill will find it harder to do so. Property taxes have increased exponentially and most feel they are receiving less and less services. While we understand the various equity, economic, and political constraints that can be reasonably associated with this legislation, please consider:

1. Amending this legislation to reflect the enabling state legislation, Maryland Code Tax-Prop. §9-265, under property tax credit for VA-rated disabled service members; and
2. Ensuring that those uniformed services retirees who are considered Veterans and are now in receipt of the current property tax credits are "grandfathered" into the subject bill's provisions so that there is no loss of a previously authorized county benefit.

A property tax credit will greatly promote retired Veterans and their families to stay in the county and allow us to age in place. We are concerned that having a ten-year limit for the property tax credit could potentially force individuals out of their homes at the end of the ten-year period as the assessed value of the home continues to increase. The time limits potentially force veterans out of the homes they have lived in for a considerable amount of time. In addition, the limits on the assessed values of their homes punishes those who purchased their home many years ago but live in areas of the County where the assessed values of homes have far outstripped the values of theirs when they purchased them.

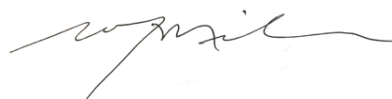
Veterans with severe disability of 100% should continue to get the property tax exemption regardless of income and age. Maryland veterans with a 100% Permanent and Total (P&T) VA disability rating are exempt from paying property taxes on their primary residence. We recommend that the bill have a greater effect on Veterans with severe disabilities of 90 – 100%. Certain unremarried surviving spouses may also be eligible for this exemption. Surviving spouses of military personnel killed in the line of duty may apply for an exemption.

Please amend the language in this bill to comport with Maryland Code, Tax-Prop. §9-265 – Tax credit for disabled veterans.

Veterans and their families contribute greatly to the local economy. Many Veterans like living here but would appreciate some help with a property tax credit so as not to be forced for economic reasons to move elsewhere.

We urge your support of Montgomery County Bill 45-23 with our suggested recommendations. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Wayne Miller, Chair



**TESTIMONY: BILL 10-24, CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT - LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM - VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS PREFERENCE POINTS**

**COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**July 10, 2024**

The Honorable Andrew Friedson, President  
Montgomery County Council

*Via Electronic Facsimile*

Re: Bill 10-24, Contracts and Procurement – Local Small Business Reserve Program – Veteran Owned Business Preference Points – Established

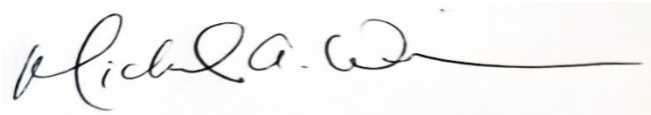
Dear Council President Friedson

On behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs, I am writing to express the Commission's strong support for Bill 10-24 that would give a 5 percent preference for Veteran owned local small businesses when bidding on County funded procurement opportunities. The passage would increase awareness/navigation of secure application process through the County's procurement system. This effort would join with the effort of the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs which is the State's primary advocate for small, minority- and women-owned businesses.

The Commission supports the County Executive to enable veteran-owned local small businesses to gain access to more County procurement opportunities by awarding preference points of five percent to certified veteran-owned local small businesses that submit a proposal to a County request for proposals (RFP). We applaud this effort. To be eligible for these points a small business must have a valid Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) certificate from the U.S. Small Business Administration or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The County is also to be commended for the passage of the Hiring Preference for People with Disabilities, Disabled Veterans and Veterans in 2012. The passage of Bill 10-24 would further demonstrate the County's commitment to Veterans and their families and show much deserved support for their service to our country. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Wilson", is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Michael Wilson, Chair

# 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](mailto:CountyExecutiveIQ@montgomerycountymd.gov)



**Montgomery County Council**

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

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](mailto:County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov)

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**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](mailto: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.***

2024 Annual Report Prepared By:

Betsy Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*

Carly Clem, *Program Specialist II*