

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commission for Veterans established May 2011

COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Janice Agazio
- Reginald Avery
- Jonathan Branch
- Michael Blum
- Steven Bolen
- Robert Gillette
- Michael Griggs
- Greg Jolissaint
- Kelly Kesler
- Robert Lowell
- Keith McGuire
- Howard T. Mooney, Jr.
- Robert Moore
- Craig Porterfield
- Paul Rivers
- Christopher Williams

COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019

Partnership Meetings and Initiatives

Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)

- Access to Care – chronic disease self-management programs and access to dental health care resources
- Behavioral Health – Howard County Behavioral Health Crosswalk and HCLHIC Partner Mental Health First Aid & Suicide Intervention Program Resource Guide
- Healthy Aging – connection to resources across the lifespan
- Nutrition and Physical Activity Resources – food assistance and nutrition education and organized youth sports resource guides

VA Medical Healthcare

- Maryland VSOs and stakeholders come together monthly to share best practices, resources, event information and legislative issues as they relate to Veteran healthcare.

Howard County Joint Military Council

AMERICAN LEGION POST 156

- Support Veteran-Friendly Businesses Expansion
- ROTC and JROTC Award Program
- Boys State/Girls State Summer Leadership Programs
- Quarterly Flag Retirements
- Veteran Community Awareness Program
- Honor Flight Support Program
- Support for Howard County Veterans Day Parade
- Support for Clarksville July 4th Parade
- Support for Color Guard Activities
- Funerals for Veterans Support Details
- Public Awareness – Handing Out Poppies (2x/year)
- Support for 10 Veteran-focused Charities
- Sponsors a Boy Scout Venturing Crew
- Sponsors a Shooting League

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

- Quarterly Flag Collection and Retirement
- Sponsors Annual Scholarship for High School Students
- Fundraising Activities to Support Charities
- Annual Game Hen Trap Shoot
- Annual Colonel Lou Schott 200-yard Offhand Shoot
- Public Awareness – Handing Out Miniature Roses
- Support for the Annual Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" Program

AMERICAN LEGION POST 300

- Support Veteran-friendly Businesses Expansion
- ROTC and JROTC Awards Program
- Boys State/Girls State Summer Leadership and Citizenship Programs
- Quarterly Flag Retirements
- Veteran Community Awareness Program
- Support for Howard County Veterans Day Parade
- Support for Clarksville July 4th Parade
- Funerals for Veterans Support Details
- Public Awareness – Handing Out Poppies (2x/year)
- Support for seven American Legion National Programs
- Sponsors a Boy Scout Venturing Crew 400
- Sponsors BSA Troop 540 and Venturing Crew 540
- Annual Memorial Day Parade in Arbutus & Ceremony at Loudon Park Veterans Graves
- Memorial Day Presentation at Morningside Senior Home – Ellicott City
- Glenwood 50+ Center Annual Wellness Fair

VFW POST 7472

- Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Student Essay Contests
- Participants in the Catonsville 4th of July and Howard County Veterans Day Parade
- Sends Christmas Care Packages to Deployed Service Members
- Participated in Veterans Day Celebrations at Veterans Elementary and Century High Schools
- Hosts the Boy Scouts Weekly Meetings
- Supports the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland
- Monthly Visits to the Loch Raven Veterans Hospital
- Hosts two annual picnics for the Perry Point and Loch Raven Veterans Hospital Patients
- Service Officer assists Veterans with health-related claims and other concerns
- Donation and support efforts for other Veteran groups

Memorial, Independence Day and Veterans Day Events

- Harriet Tubman School Flag Raising Memorial Day weekend
- Elkridge Elementary School's Memorial Day event
- Clarksville 4th of July Parade
- Implemented a "Veterans in School" Program at Harper's Choice Middle School
- Longfellow Elementary School's Veterans Day Breakfast
- Veterans Day Ceremony at Howard Community College
- Attended Howard County Chamber of Commerce Veterans Luncheon
- Marine Corps Birthday Celebration and Veterans Day Gala
- Organized and participated in the Howard County Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony
- VSO fundraising efforts – handed out poppies at local hardware stores on Veterans Day
- Veterans Day Program for Veteran Residents at Vantage House Assistant Living
- Attended Patriot Day 9/11 Ceremony at the George Howard Building

Legislative Support

- Wrote letters to support the World War II 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion efforts to gain a Congressional Gold Medal of Honor unit citation. Letters were signed by the Commission Chair and sent to U.S. Representative Ms. Gwen Moore (D–WI 4th) sponsoring H.R. 3138 and U.S. Senator Mr. Jerry Moran (R–KS 1st) sponsoring S. 633. Drafted letters for Howard County Executive
- The Six Triple Eight was an all African-American, all-female unit that served in the European theater during World War II clearing approximately two years of backlogged mail for nearly seven million troops, U.S. government personnel, and Red Cross workers. Facing racism, sexism, and working in austere conditions, the Unit cleared the backlog in three months by working three shifts daily and moving nearly 65,000 pieces of mail per shift. “No mail, low morale!” was their battle cry that kept loved ones back home and soldiers in the field in touch with each other. Two of these Veterans currently reside in Maryland (Laurel and Mt. Rainier)
- Represented the County at the Maryland State General Assembly Veterans Caucus Summit

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Awareness

- Supported the LHIC’s goal to increase participation in evidence-based addiction, suicide and mental health stigma reduction programs by participating in a mental health first-aid training course; NARCAN training; and QPR training (Question, Persuade and Refer)
- Supported the VA Way grant proposal presentation at the Horizon Foundation’s Changemaker Challenge in support of funding for Mental Health First Aid Training for Veterans and their families
- Attended the Horizon Foundation’s mental health film festival featuring “We Are Not Done Yet” documentary about Veterans getting help for PTSD and MST through writing and oral presentation and post-film panel of Veterans.

Other Projects, Services and Support

- Frederick County Inaugural Veteran Advisory Board
- Organize and conduct monthly open Commission meetings
- Attended the Governor’s “Year of the Veteran” Proclamation Event in Annapolis
- Co-hosted 4th Annual Veterans and Military Families Resource Fair at Howard Community College
- Attended Howard Community College Veteran Graduation Cording Ceremony
- Participated in 5K Resilience Run for Suicide Prevention, hosted by the Maryland Army National Guard in partnership with the Anne Arundel Striders, Team Red White and Blue (RWB) and the Maryland Vet Center
- Participated in the Howard County Public School System 5th graders’ Simulated Congressional Hearings
- Staffed exhibit table at the Howard County Fair Veterans Service Organizations (VSO)
- Supported Operation Gratitude’s “Made With Love” initiative by collecting 470 scarves, 85 hats, 6 blankets and cards for care packages sent to deployed service members
- Attended Age-Friendly Community Launch
- Participated in the Howard County 3rd annual Toys for Tots program, hosted by the County Executive
- Participated in St. John Lutheran Church and Salisbury Wreaths Across America
- Attended the American Legion Post 156 Christmas party
- Attended Howard County Library System Veteran Films
- Continued support of the Howard County Veteran Foundation’s Veteran Monument efforts
- Solicited and won county approval to name lakefront area under development “Bailey Park” in honor of WWII Veteran and local resident Vivian “Millie” Bailey
- Groundbreaking for Veterans Monument and Park in June
- Supports LHIC’s goal to increase participation in evidence-based chronic disease and pain self-management programs by regularly sharing programs through marketing efforts
- Attended Unaccompanied Veteran Service for Captain Philip Brown on September 19 at the Baltimore National Cemetery

COMMISSION GOALS 2020

- Continue to expand and produce the annual Resource Fair for Veterans and Military Families
- Continue to lead the effort in the design, funding and construction of the Howard County Veterans Monument
- Partner with the Columbia Association to further expand the annual Veterans Day parade
- Participate in county-sponsored Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs
- Expand mental health support for Veterans and military families
- Expand the “Vet-in-School” program to include participation in additional HCPSS schools
- Continue outreach to business and property owners to install Reserved Veteran Parking signs



99 ½ yr old WWII veteran, Colonel Lou Schott (USMC Ret) and Ellicott City American Legion Post 156 Commander, Colonel Ed Hall (USMC Ret) and veteran and active duty parents greeted by Longfellow Elementary School students at a Veterans Day Breakfast. Fifth grade students had an opportunity to ask Col. Schott questions about his service.



◀ Made With Love Handmade Scarves and Hats mailed from Postal Xpress to Operational Gratitude to go out in care packages. Pictured, L to R, County Executive Calvin Ball, DCRS Deputy Stephanie Adibe, OVMF Manager Lisa Terry, Made With Love coordinator, Heather Thamers, Ellicott City Postal Xpress owner, Donna Maertens, who mails the donations for free.

▶ Vivian “Millie” Bailey receives a certificate of appreciation from a Fort Meade soldier at the Veteran Resource Fair and Celebration.

The acknowledgment was presented in gratitude for “Bailey’s Bundles,” care packages sent to deployed soldiers.



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Pictured right, Howard County Veterans Foundation Groundbreaking Ceremony of Bailey Park.

Second picture on right, Commission members walking in the 5th annual Veterans Day Parade.

Bottom picture on right, Lisa Terry, Office of Veterans and Military Families, and Anna Terry handing out lollipops and flags at the Veterans Day Parade

Below, left, commission members participate in a mental health first aid training course.

Below, bottom, Atholton High School JROTC marching in Veterans Day Parade



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If you need this information in an alternate format, contact the Department of Community Resources and Services at 410-313-6400 (voice/relay).