

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carroll County's Veteran Services Program Overview

Westminster, MD, Monday, April 29, 2019 – On Thursday, April 25, 2019, during the Priority Carroll section of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners' (BOC) open session, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, District 5, highlighted a visit from State of Maryland Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs George Owings. Secretary Owings gave the key note address at the Freedom Area Lions Club Veterans' Appreciation Dinner in Eldersburg on April 24th. The Secretary acknowledged Carroll County Veterans Services Programs as a model for other jurisdictions to follow.

Commissioner Rothstein noted that the county is extremely successful in developing and making services available to Veterans and said, "We have an excellent county team; county staff join with many non-profits and members of the community to provide an extensive array of services and the program strives for continuous improvement and outreach to affected citizens."

Commissioner Richard Weaver added, "All Veterans should regularly check the website www.veterans.maryland.gov to look for changes and updates which may apply."

Veteran Assistance Program Highlights

- In FY2017, the Veteran Services Program, located within the Carroll County Bureau of Aging, began receiving a grant from the Kahlert Foundation to assist Carroll County Veterans with needs that cannot be met through traditional resources.
- A part-time Coordinator of Case Management Services is employed to work under this grant and provides case management services to Veterans.
- The Veteran Services Program serves as the primary point of contact for homeless Veterans in Carroll County. The grant provides funding for emergency housing and other emergency needs such as food, clothing, homelessness diversion efforts, transportation and training.
- Carroll County completes shelter intakes and provides emergency housing to Veterans on the same day.

CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email ada@carrollcountymd.gov as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

Provided Services

- Three part-time Veteran Services Officers (VSO's) assist Carroll County Veterans with completing and filing pension and compensation claims with the Veterans Administration. The program receives in-kind support and training from Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.
- The VSO's assist Veterans with obtaining military discharge papers, link Veterans to the VA Medical System, advocate for Veterans and connect them to other community resources.
- Since the inception of the program in October 2013, the program recovered over \$14,000,000 in awards for Carroll County Veterans.
- In FY2018, the program served 812 Veterans; the projected number to be served in FY2019 is 825.
- Carroll County also provides a Veterans Transportation Shuttle with service to specified Veteran Administration (VA) medical sites, Monday–Friday. There is no cost for the veteran or their personal care assistant to ride. There are currently 374 registered riders for the veteran's shuttle.

For more information on Carroll County's Veteran Services Programs, please visit the website carrollcountymd.gov or call 410-386-3800.

Open Session is available for viewing on the [county meeting portal](#) and [YouTube channel](#). In addition, all meetings will be replayed on Comcast Channel 24.

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