

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post 31 (2 Sycamore Street, Westminster, MD)

Chairperson: Bob Eney

Vice-Chair: Elaine May-Stem

Topic	Discussion
Mission Statement	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
Vision Statement	That Carroll County offers our Veterans quality services and programs to ensure the enrichment and enhancements of life for our men and women and their families.
Attendance (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)	Bob Eney, Elaine May Stem, Brian Kilheffer, Bill Nash, Nigel Forney, Jack Curran, Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, Commissioner Tom Gordon III, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Amanda Coshun, Bobbie Lawrence, Jason Martin, Megan Klein, Francine Hahn, Rick Pollard, Tony Roman, Stacey Nash, Jennifer Gensler, Rick Richard, Margie McWilliams
Welcome and Introductions	1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Bob Eney) – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending. Thanked everyone who attended the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall event in New Windsor. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> 3. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> led by Bob Eney 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Kenneth Kiler • Officer Zumbrum Roadway Dedication was October 4. Thanked everyone who attended. • Immanuel Lutheran Church in Manchester, Veterans eat free for breakfast during the month of November, from 7:00 – 11 a.m. The date is November 15th. • Thanked everyone for attending the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall event. Commissioner Thomas Gordon III • Exceptional turn out for Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall event. • Remains of WWII soldier Pfc. Lawrence. R. Beard were returned to his hometown of Westminster in Carroll County in September 2025. Funeral and burial took place at St Mark's Cemetery in Snydersburg. • The 2025 Veterans Breakfast at the Shauck Auditorium in Carroll Hospital will be Wednesday, November 12, from 8:30-10 a.m. The event is hosted by BridgingLife.
Old Business	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Quorum established; September minutes approved. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> 1. <u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for September 2025:</u> (Megan Klein) • 23 claims submitted • 11 new representations • 34 office visits • 2 home visits • 17 phone appointments

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	• 1576 telephone and email contacts • Total cumulative payments since program start have exceeded \$94 million • Attended 1 networking event at Residences at Hampstead School; met a few Veterans and did a couple of claims. 2. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report for September 2025</u> – (Stacey Nash) • Month of September, 23 Veterans served and 39 trips • Total cost: \$7,418.91 <u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans</u> (Jennifer Gensler) • 15 Veterans on case load last month, with 200 activity codes (helping with employment referrals, resume). • 1 person found employment for the month of September. • Very busy overall <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) • Tony Roman continues to provide case management to Veterans experiencing financial hardship and homelessness • Currently providing emergency housing to a Veteran and his spouse who will be moving to Bo. county with a VASH voucher in November. • Working with the VFW Auxiliary to identify Veterans in long term care facilities who would benefit from visits from other Veterans • The SSVF program through Sheppard Pratt has now been transferred to "Friendship Place" a program based in DC that manages a "Veteran's First" program. Bobbie will continue to attempt to connect with the Maryland liaison. • Gina Valentine provided an update regarding the Veteran's Treatment Court and collaborating with the United Way to assist with transportation resources. Currently in the process of scheduling meetings with their staff to discuss further, along with other ways to coordinate services for Veterans.
New Business	• Celene Steckel ○ Bob Eney has committed to ride in Mad Dog Shuttle for the Veterans Parade on November 8, 2025. ○ The event starts at 10:00 a.m., but participants should arrive by 8:30 a.m. for lineup in Downtown Westminster. Anyone who would like to walk or ride along is more than welcome to join; see Amanda Coshun for sign ups. ○ Stacey has coordinated a driver, so we do not need to provide one.

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	○ Stress flag balls have been ordered and contain information about our Veterans Celebration. We will also be handing out postcards. ○ Veterans Day is approaching on November 11. ○ We are participating in the 50th year of Operation Green Light to recognize and thank our Veterans. ○ The Caregiver Conference will take place on Saturday, November 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Westminster Senior Center. Call the Division of Aging and Disabilities for more information and to register. ● Bob Eney ○ Visit https://themilitarywallet.com. They have a discount page with great information for Veterans. ○ Boscov's gives a great military discount. Tomorrow, October 22, they are having an event: "Friends Helping Friends". ● Tony Romo ○ Was able to interact with many Veterans at the Vietnam Wall event. Discovered that many people traveled far and wide to attend the event.
Announcements	● Rick Richard ○ Working on deal for Annapolis Good Samaritan Law for Firearms. ○ The Armory Project (TAP) helps prevent firearm suicides by facilitating safe, voluntary, out-of-home firearm storage with trusted firearm dealers and other vetted partners in local communities. ○ If you would like information, reach out to Rick Richard. Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday November 18, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.