

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: September 16, 2025

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair:

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)	Bill Nash, Jack Curran, Bob Eney , Celene Steckel, Stacey Nash, Mick Schmidt , Chris McLean, Amanda Coshun, Jason Martin, Kati Townsley, Gina Valentine, Larry Burbank, Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, Commissioner Thomas Gordon III, Tony Roman, Nigel Forney , Kathy Barna, Marc Fisher , Francine Hahn, Reva Coussey, Brian Kilheffer , Elaine May-Stem
Welcome and Introductions	1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Bob Eney) – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> - Gina Valentine introduced Amanda Coshun, new Event and Project Specialist. 3. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> led by Bob Eney 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Kenneth Kiler • Officer Zunbrum Roadway Dedication October 4th at 10am; parking available at Manchester Business Center • Gina will follow up with Babylon Vault on the correct spelling of Officer Zunbrum's name on the wall • Commissioner Thomas Gordon • Bridging Life and Gold Star Luminary Event on September 28th at 6pm • New Commissioner Susan Krebs has been appointed by Governor Moore
Old Business	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> –Quorum established; August minutes approved. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> 1. <u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for July 2025:</u> (Megan Klein) • 26 claims submitted • 23 new representations • 45 office visits • 2 home visits • 10 telephone appointments • 1501 telephone and email contacts • Total cumulative payments since program start have exceeded \$93 million 2. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – (Stacey Graham) August 2025: • Month of August, 23 Veterans served and 42 trips • Total cost: \$7,000.00

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	<u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans:</u> • No update <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Tony Roman) • Veteran couple are being hotelled pending final approval VASH papers; should be housed by October • We are working with United Way on the Veterans Treatment Court • Working with Veterans in the treatment court to provide transportation
New Business	• 250th Anniversary – planning for the Veterans Celebration and incorporating other activities and initiatives to celebrate; a 250th committee has been established to work together • A request has been made by Daphne Daly to have the 250th anniversary traveling display to come to Carroll County and will appear at the Veterans Celebration in May • This year the Veterans Celebration will be honoring ALL veterans and will be given a commemorative coin and a 250th Celebration certificate • Jim McCarron is on a committee on Taneytown that is participating in the celebration • Kati Townsley is on the celebrating America Committee ○ Grant money available for VSOs and non-profits ○ The libraries and historical society have applied for these grants ○ MD250 has a section on their website for this grant ○ Easiest way to get involved with the 250th Anniversary celebration is to have the VSOs get in touch with the Libraries • Bob Eney ○ Thanked the Council for their participation at the Aging Your Way Expo ○ Interested in having more of a presence around Carroll County and the idea of having a meeting at different Legions and VFWs across the county • Elaine May-Stem ○ Vietnam War Wall is coming up in October ○ The flyer is out and being circulated ○ Walk thru meeting tomorrow ○ The Wall will be escorted in by Jeeps and motorcycles ○ An MC has been hired for the event and a schedule of speakers has been established ○ Lorien is providing transportation from their facilities for veterans to visit the Wall

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	○ Dense Beaver of Economic Development will go before the BoCC to promote the event ○ Set up for the event is October 8th and tear down is October 13th; sign up genius is available online to help volunteer ○ Blood Drive upcoming at Post 31 ○ Selling tickets for Crab Feed on October 25th
Announcements	Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday October 21, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.