

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: January 20, 2026

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, Bill Nash, Nigel Forney, Mick Schmidt, Marc Fisher, Jack Curran, Brian Kilheffer, Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, Amanda Coshun, Gina Valentine, Bobbie Lawrence, Jason Martin, Megan Klein, Tony Roman, Rick Pollard, Stacey Nash, Chris McLean, Jack Bayne, Reva Coussey
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> led by Bob Eney <u>Chair's Comments with Chair/Vice</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Eney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th Annual Veterans Celebration is Sunday May 3, 2026 If you know of anyone who would like to loan something to the Celebration, let us know Elaine May-Stem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th annual Gilchrist Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration, March 22, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Martin's West in Baltimore <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements led by Chair/Vice-Chair</u> <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Kenneth Kiler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments today <u>Public Comment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack Bayne – Carroll Technology and Innovation Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are offering 50 HP Chromebook laptops to Veterans in need. The devices are user-friendly and easy to learn. The only requirement is a photo ID. The office is located at the Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. An additional 200 laptops are expected at the beginning of March They offer weekly classes for three weeks out of each month, covering smartphone skills and laptop skills. There are also open drop-in hours where participants can receive immediate tech assistance, such as setting up an email address or adjusting specific phone settings These services are currently offered at senior centers, with plans to expand into the library (see the schedule on the Carroll Tech website). Classes are available in person or in a hybrid format Jack Curran

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Old Business	<p><u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Quorum established; December minutes approved.</p> <p><u>Monthly Program Reports:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for December 2025:</u> (Megan Klein) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 28 claims submitted ● 17 new representations ● 45 office visits; 6 home visits ● 12 phone appointments ● 1,533 telephone & email contacts ● \$4,415,877 total recurring monthly payments since program start ● \$98,548,044 total cumulative payments since program start 2. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report for December 2025:</u> – (Stacey Nash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 23 Veterans served ● Total of 32 trips ● Total cost: \$6,643.80 ● November Stats: 23 Veterans Served, 29 trips <p><u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans</u> (Reva Coussey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Month of December: closed out 6 Veterans that were on Jennifer’s caseload ● Jennifer is still covering Carroll County and Baltimore County <p><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assisted one veteran with a vehicle-related expense ● Met with Ellen Myers of The Kahlert Foundation to share program highlights and review a grant ● Visited the Martinsburg VA Clinic with Celene Steckel for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of their new Women’s Primary Care Clinic
New Business	
Announcements	Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 2 pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.