

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: December 16, 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
<b>Mission Statement</b>	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
<b>Vision Statement</b>	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.
<b>Attendance (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)</b>	<b>Bob Eney, Elaine May-Stem, Marc Fisher, Nigel Forney, Bill Nash,</b> Gina Valentine, Amanda Coshun, Megan Klein, Tony Roman, Rick Pollard, Francine Hahn, Stacey Nash, Rodger Portz, James Lowery, Jennifer Gensler, Jevina Lindsey
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u><b>Pledge of Allegiance</b></u> led by Bob Eney</li> <li>2. <u><b>Chair's Comments with Chair/Vice-Chair</b></u></li> <li>3. <u><b>Attendee Introductions and Announcements led by Chair/Vice-Chair</b></u></li> <li>4. <u><b>Commissioner's Report</b></u> Commissioner Kiler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Received a ticket from Secretary Rothstein to attend Army-Navy game in Baltimore and was able to speak with several people there.</li> <li>- A public hearing will be held tonight at the South Carroll Senior Center regarding deferrals. A vote will likely take place on Thursday.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <u><b>Public Comment</b></u> Nigel Forney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lethal Means Community Education Event: March 14, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 31 Westminster, with breakfast</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><u><b>Approval of Minutes</b></u> – Quorum established; November minutes approved.</p> <p><u><b>Monthly Program Reports:</b></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u><b>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for November 2025:</b></u> (Megan Klein) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 claims submitted</li> <li>• 10 new representations</li> <li>• 42 office visits; 1 home visit</li> <li>• 17 phone appointments</li> <li>• 1,507 telephone and email contacts</li> <li>• \$4,367,777 total recurring monthly payments since program start</li> <li>• \$96,335,580 total cumulative payments since program start</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <u><b>Veteran's Shuttle Report for November 2025:</b></u> – (Stacey Nash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Month of November, 23 Veterans served. Number of trips missing from stats, will provide update at next meeting</li> <li>• Total cost: 5,093.58</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><u><b>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans</b></u> (Jennifer Gensler)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of seven Veterans gained employment this past quarter</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently added a homeless veteran to caseload, and he is currently housed at the shelter on Stoner Avenue</li></ul> <p><b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Gina Valentine)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Westminster Lions Club partnered with Westminster Walmart, resulting in many donated items. These items will be distributed to veterans in need.</li><li>In November, the program referred 22 veterans to Babylon Vault for a Thanksgiving meal.</li><li>One veteran received rental assistance, and another received assistance with vehicle-related expenses.</li><li>One veteran was referred to HUD-VASH for an assistance screening.</li></ul>
<b>New Business</b>	<p>Presentation: Rodger Portz, Program Specialist: National Cemetery Administration: Baltimore National Cemetery U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mission: The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation</li><li>NCA manages 155 National Cemeteries, provides perpetual care for 5.3 million Veterans and family members in 4.1 million gravesites</li></ul> <p><b>What We Do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide burial space for Veterans and eligible family members and maintain national cemeteries as national shrines</li><li>Administer the Federal grants program for construction of State and Tribal Veterans cemeteries</li><li>Furnish headstones, markers and medallions for the graves of Veterans around the world</li><li>Administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate program</li><li>Administer the First Notice of Death program</li></ul> <p><b>Eligibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who dies on active duty</li><li>Any Veteran who was discharged under qualifying conditions (<i>other than dishonorable</i>).</li><li>National Guard members and Reservists with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay or who served the full period of service after being called to active duty</li><li>Spouses, minor children and adult dependent children.</li><li>The National Cemetery Scheduling Office serves the National Cemeteries, seven days a week, 362 days a year for scheduling and Pre-Need requests</li></ul> <p>Toll Free Number 800-535-1117</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Burial benefits include opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, government headstone or marker, burial flag (veterans), presidential memorial certificate, zero cost to the families, some may be eligible for burial allowance.</li><li>• Veterans married to Veterans are entitled to their own adjacent gravesites if they choose</li><li>• Headstone- Veteran's name inscribed on front</li></ul>
<b>Announcements</b>	Bob Eney <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moment of silence held for Veterans lost in the past year</li></ul> Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 2 pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>