

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: June 16, 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, Nigel Forney, Bill Nash, Jack Curran, Marc Fisher, Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Amanda Coshun, Megan Klein, Francine Hahn, Tony Roman, Stacey Nash, Jevina Lindsey, Erin Barna, Jason Sidock, Kati Townsley, Chris McLean, Christine Mauer, Yvonne Gambrill, Sherwood Gambrill, Mike Pennington, Tim Reger
Welcome and Introductions	<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> led by Bob Eney <u>Chair's Comments with Chair/Vice</u> Bob Eney - Memorial Day Parade in Westminster was fantastic - Army Museum bus trip to Fort Belvoir was fantastic, special thanks to the Library and the Kahlert Foundation Elaine May-Stem - A reminder that the American Legion Post 31 hosts regular blood drives - Historical Society of Carroll County – 250th events lots of them - Attended the Women Veterans Recognition Day Event in Baltimore that was held on June 12th (Secretary Rothstein was present) <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements led by Chair/Vice-Chair</u> <u>Commissioner's Report</u> Commissioner Kenneth Kiler - Early voting has started <u>Public Comment</u> Jevina Lindsey - A Night of Color & Community – LGBTQ+ Event @ Warrior Canine Connection: Boyds, MD Saturday, July 25, 2026 from 2-6 p.m. Food, games, karaoke, and dogs Sherwood Gambrill - Retired Vietnam Veteran who attended the bus trip to the National Museum of the United States Army, was blown away by the experience and the exhibits
Old Business	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Quorum established; May minutes need to be amended. Needs to include discussion of the naming of the two highways and clarification of the

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: June 16, 2026

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bob Eney

Vice-Chair: Elaine May-Stem

	funding for the Veterans Facility in Sykesville. Council approved minutes once they are amended. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> 1. <u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for May 2026:</u> (Megan Klein) • 51 claims submitted • 17 new representations • 57 office visits; 8 home visits • 26 phone appointments • 1636 telephone and email contacts • \$4,641,069 Total Recurring monthly payments since program start • \$104,934,969 Total Cumulative Payments since program start 2. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report for May 2026:</u> – (Stacey Nash) • 20 Veterans Served • 26 Trips • Total cost \$4,761.39 <u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans</u> (Reva Coussey) • Not present, no update <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Tony Roman for Bobbie Lawrence) • 1 Veteran was able to get a new place in Westminster • 1 Veteran got his VASH last week • 1 Veteran started his VASH paperwork • By the end of the month should be housing about 3-4 Veterans
New Business	Voting of VAC Officers (Chair and Vice Chair) Chair – Bob Eney re-elected Vice-Chair – Bill Nash elected as new Vice-Chair Reminder – there will be no meeting in July Aging Your Way Expo – September 23, 2026 – volunteers needed for booth Bill Nash confirmed; will be there all day Celene Steckel • Maryland SUN Bucks helps families with school-aged children who receive free or reduced-price meals buy groceries during the summer break when school meals are unavailable. • Families who qualify for the Maryland SUN Bucks program will receive \$40 for June, July, and August (a total of \$120) for each eligible student. Maryland SUN Bucks benefits will be loaded onto an existing SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card if your household has received benefits on an EBT card before.

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: June 16, 2026

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bob Eney

Vice-Chair: Elaine May-Stem

	Benefits will be issued on a white card that says “Maryland SUN Bucks” if your household has never had an EBT card before. Can be used to purchase healthy foods including farmer’s markets. There is an online application if they are not automatically enrolled. Maryland Sun Buck’s web page: https://dhs.maryland.gov/sunbucks/ • CCPS Summer Meals for Kids: households need to pre-register to pick up meals in the summer at one of their five weekly distribution sites. • HUD has released the FY26 CoC NOFO. We encourage all interested agencies to review the NOFO and consider applying in the local competition. Chris McLean • 9/11 Day of Service on September 10th – Carroll Community College • Hampstead Post 200 – Crab event in August. Have about 50 tickets left (\$60/person) Christine Mauer • Representing Kolmac Integrated Behavioral Health • https://www.kolmac.com/who-we-treat/veterans-first-responders/ • Kolmac is in network with Humana Military (TRICARE East), the Veterans Affairs Community Care Network (VA CCN), and other national payers that cover veterans, active-duty military, and first responders. Our admissions team will verify your specific benefits and explain any costs before you begin Al Painter • Here to represent the Westminster Elks Lodge • Has done work with CCVIP • Program coming up on July 9 to prepare care packages for troops overseas Marc Fisher • Carroll County 4H Fair coming up – July 31st – August 8th, 2026 • Discussed possible representation from Sykesville/Mt. Airy on the VAC in terms of membership– requested someone send out communication to commanders of the VSO’s in those areas and encourage folks to apply Nigel Forney • Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 22 • Chapter has volunteered over 10,000 hours
--	---

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: June 16, 2026

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bob Eney

Vice-Chair: Elaine May-Stem

	• Attended the DAV State Convention in Ocean City in May Jack Curran • You can record your DD-214 for free at the Clerk of the Circuit Court in your county to ensure your discharge document is safely stored and easily accessible for future benefits, employment, and retirement
Announcements	Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, August 18th, 2026, at 2 pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.