

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 19, 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, Brian Kilheffer, Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, Commissioner Thomas Gordon III, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Amanda Coshun, Megan Klein, Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Rick Pollard, Tony Roman, Stacey Nash, Jevina Lindsey, Roslyn Jones, Erin Barna, Jason Sidock, Kati Townsley
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> led by Bob Eney 2. <u>Chair's Comments with Chair/Vice</u> Bob Eney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks for a great Veterans Celebration, and all who helped. Heard nothing but good feedback! Highlight was the Chinook. Elaine May-Stem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some local Memorial Day events coming up: • Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery Ceremony - 10:30 - 25May - Owings Mills, MD • Post 223 - Sykesville, MD - 11:00 - 25 May - The bike riders will be in the parade starting at 10:00 in Westminster - then ceremony at their Post & followed by a picnic • Post 120 - Taneytown, MD - 10:00 - 25 May - Ceremony at Memorial Park - Then a City Parade starts at 1:00 down Main St • Post 31 - Westminster, MD - Parade starts at 10:00 & then a ceremony at the Cemetery - followed by refreshment at the Hall upstairs • Senior Center- Taneytown, MD - 11:30 - 27 May 3. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements led by Chair/Vice-Chair</u> 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> Commissioner Thomas Gordon III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to all who attended the Veterans Celebration • Several Memorial Day events and parades coming up Commissioner Kenneth Kiler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to all who attended the Veterans Celebration

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Fisher’s 100th birthday was the day before • Thursday, May 21st – look out for budget approval <p>5. <u>Public Comment</u></p> <p>Nigel Forney – discussion around the naming of two highways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion was held regarding a proposed highway designation related to Vietnam-era veterans. Council members reviewed options including "Agent Orange Highway" and "Vietnam Veterans Highway." Concerns were expressed by several veterans regarding the use of the "Agent Orange Highway" designation, with some indicating a preference for a name that more broadly honors Vietnam veterans. • The Council also discussed a proposal to utilize sponsorship donations generated through the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall event to support the highway designation effort. Members expressed differing viewpoints regarding the appropriateness of using event donations for this purpose. <p>Kati Townsley – announcement for bus trip tomorrow to the National Museum of the United States Army</p> <p>Erin Barna – Where are 250th events published?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carroll County Historical Society of Carroll County has information on their website for 250th events, Kati Townsley also mentioned a flyer that listed them as well
<p>Old Business</p>	<p><u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Quorum established; April minutes approved.</p> <p><u>Monthly Program Reports:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for April 2026:</u> (Megan Klein) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted 35 claims • 23 new representations • 45 office visits, 6 home visits • 3 Survivor’s Pensions • 15 phone appointments • 1,598 telephone & email contacts • Total recurring: \$4,599,440 • Total Cumulative: \$103,807,865 2. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report for April 2026:</u> – (Stacey Nash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Veterans • 33 trips • Total cost: \$7,123.63 • Shuttle will be in the Memorial Day parade on Monday

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	<p><u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans</u> (Reva Coussey) Not present, no update</p> <p><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided emergency housing to 2 different Veterans • Helped a Veteran with a car repair • Had a few Veterans that were approved for a VASH • 2 active Carroll County VASH referrals
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Celene Steckel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone wants to ride in the Mad Dog Shuttle on Memorial Day, let Amanda/Gina/Celene know • Medication take back and shredding events throughout the Senior Centers in Carroll County for the month of May <p>Jack Curran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked if anyone has any information about the opening of the Veterans Facility in Sykesville • Funding for the project has not been transferred yet <p>Bob Eney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed that we canceled July meeting, vote was unanimous <p>Gina Valentine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote for chair and vice-chair will take place at the June meeting, will become effective July 1st • Email will be sent out to submit nominations <p>Jevina Lindsey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Intercept Mapping training for veteran suicide prevention
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.</p>
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 16th, 2026, at 2 pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</p>