

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: February 17, 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
<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, Bill Nash, Nigel Forney, Mick Schmidt, Marc Fisher, Jack Curran, Brian Kilheffer</b> , Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, Commissioner Thomas Gordon III, Amanda Coshun, Gina Valentine, Bobbie Lawrence, Jason Martin, Megan Klein, Tony Roman, Rick Pollard, Stacey Nash, Chris McLean, Jason Sidock, Jack Bayne
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></b> led by Bob Eney</li> <li>2. <b><u>Chair's Comments with Chair/Vice</u></b> Bob Eney welcomed those attending</li> <li>3. <b><u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements led by Chair/Vice-Chair</u></b></li> <li>4. <b><u>Commissioner's Report</u></b> <p>Commissioner Kenneth Kiler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating a possible change in how billboards are done primarily would affect Route 30 up through Hampstead, 140 through Finksburg. Reached out to Finksburg Group and scheduled meeting at Finksburg Library, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.</li> <li>• Going to Annapolis every Wednesday</li> </ul> <p>Commissioner Thomas Gordon III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flyers in the back for the Veterans Celebration</li> <li>• End of January Congressman Johnny Olszewski met with BOCC</li> <li>• CCVIP project received \$1 million federal grant</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <b><u>Public Comment</u></b> <p>Jack Bayne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just a reminder if any Veterans you know or work with would benefit from a Chromebook, please let me know</li> </ul> <p>Gina Valentine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning continues for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Celebration of Carroll County. Sunday, May 3, 2026. Requests have been submitted for military band and equipment; they will likely not be confirmed until closer to the event. Midnite Run is confirmed. VSO resource area is pretty much full at this point, will need to start wait listing organizations that are interested</li> </ul> <p>Chris McLean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save the Date: 1<sup>st</sup> of May (Friday) 11:00 a.m. Spring Salute at Carroll Community College. Texas Roadhouse to provide the food. Will bring a flyer at the next meeting</li> </ul> <p>Nigel Forney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterans Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting was this morning</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 899; temporary holding of weapons for those struggling with mental health</li> <li>• Resources for safe medication disposal?</li> </ul>
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> – Quorum established; January minutes approved.</p> <p><b><u>Monthly Program Reports:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for January 2026:</u></b> (Megan Klein) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 claims submitted</li> <li>• 13 new representations</li> <li>• 36 office visits; 3 home visits</li> <li>• 9 phone appointments</li> <li>• 1,504 telephone &amp; email contacts</li> <li>• \$4,431,522 total recurring monthly payments since program start</li> <li>• \$99,925,616 total cumulative payments since program start</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b><u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report for January 2026:</u></b> – (Stacey Nash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 Veterans served</li> <li>• Total of 23 trips</li> <li>• Total cost: \$5,647.23</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b><u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report this month</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Bobbie Lawrence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to provide case management to homeless Veterans</li> <li>• 3 Veterans have been awarded HUD-VASH Vouchers</li> <li>• Assisted 3 Veterans with Auto-related needs</li> <li>• Continuing collaboration with Friendship Place, has been joining our ending Veterans Homelessness meeting</li> </ul>
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poll of appointed members to check availability for March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Next meeting was scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> but there is a conflict – confirmed member availability, we will have the meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the same time and place</li> </ul>
<b>Announcements</b>	Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 2 pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>