

## 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
<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, Bill Nash, Nigel Forney, Mick Schmidt, Marc Fisher, Jack Curran, Brian Kilheffer,</b> 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
<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Eney                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Celebration is Sunday May 3, 2026</li> </ul> </li> <li>If you know of anyone who would like to loan something to the Celebration, let us know</li> <li>• Elaine May-Stem                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 8<sup>th</sup> annual Gilchrist Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration, March 22, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Martin's West in Baltimore</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </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> – Commissioner Kenneth Kiler                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments today</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <b><u>Public Comment</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jack Bayne – Carroll Technology and Innovation Council                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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</li> <li>○ 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</li> <li>○ 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</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jack Curran</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Baltimore Station – therapeutic residential treatment and transitional housing program supporting Veterans</li> <li>● Nigel Forney</li> <li>○ A part of the Maryland Military Coalition</li> <li>○ Vietnam Veterans of America, dissolution effective 2027</li> </ul>
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> – Quorum established; December 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 December 2025:</u></b> (Megan Klein) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 28 claims submitted</li> <li>● 17 new representations</li> <li>● 45 office visits; 6 home visits</li> <li>● 12 phone appointments</li> <li>● 1,533 telephone &amp; email contacts</li> <li>● \$4,415,877 total recurring monthly payments since program start</li> <li>● \$98,548,044 total cumulative payments since program start</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b><u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report for December 2025:</u></b> – (Stacey Nash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 23 Veterans served</li> <li>● Total of 32 trips</li> <li>● Total cost: \$6,643.80</li> <li>● November Stats: 23 Veterans Served, 29 trips</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b><u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans</u></b> (Reva Coussey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Month of December: closed out 6 Veterans that were on Jennifer’s caseload</li> <li>● Jennifer is still covering Carroll County and Baltimore County</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Bobbie Lawrence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assisted one veteran with a vehicle-related expense</li> <li>● Met with Ellen Myers of The Kahlert Foundation to share program highlights and review a grant</li> <li>● Visited the Martinsburg VA Clinic with Celene Steckel for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of their new Women’s Primary Care Clinic</li> </ul>
<b>New Business</b>	
<b>Announcements</b>	Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 2 pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>