



**Government Office Building  
9830 Patuxent Woods Dr., Columbia, MD 21046**

**Minutes**

**Thursday, 03 October 2019**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present:** Mr. J. Greg Jolissaint, Mr. Reginald Avery, Mr. Michael Blum, Mr. Steven M. Bolen, Mr. Robert Lowell, and Mr. Bob Moore.

**Members Excused:** Mr. Jonathan K. Branch, Mr. Robert Gillette, Mr. Greg Porterfield, Ms. Jennifer Anthony

**Howard County Government Officials in Attendance:** Ms. Lisa Terry (Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families)

**Special Guest:** Ms. Marquita Mitchell (Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation/ Military Corps Career Connect), 613 Global Way, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

**Others in Attendance:** Mr. Ed Hall (Chair, Howard County Joint Military Council), Mr. Lou Schott (American Legion Post 156), Mr. John Way (The VA Way), Robert A. Berlett, Sr. (American Legion Post 300), Mr. Tom Glenn (American Legion Post 156), Mr. Paul Rivers, Mr. Yale Stenzler

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

1905 hrs<sup>1</sup> Mr. J. Greg Jolissaint, Chair, Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families (HCCVMF), presiding, opened the meeting.

- 1) The Role was called: Six Commission members being in attendance, Mr. Jolissaint declared the Commission was in quorum and brought the meeting to order.
- 2) Mr. Jolissaint acknowledged the attendance of key Commission personnel: Ms. Lisa Terry, Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families and Mr. Ed Hall, Chair, Howard County Joint Military Council.
- 3) Mr. Jolissaint acknowledged the attendance of special guest(s): Ms. Marquita Mitchell, Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC)/Military Corps Career Connect (MC<sup>3</sup>).



4) Special Presentations:

- a. Ms. Mitchell briefed the Commission on how MC<sup>3</sup>/AAWDC is serving Maryland veterans, transitioning service members, and active duty spouses. MC<sup>3</sup> is funded through a US Department of Labor grant awarded to AAWDC to provide career planning, coaching, certifications, and on-the-job training through paid work experience and their fellowship program. The goal of the grant program is to place transitioning service members into jobs. Ms. Mitchell estimated that of the approximately 800 service members that they have worked with, about 300 to 400 have been placed into jobs.

Mr. Blum asked if the employment fellowship program impacted a veteran's G.I. Bill benefits. Ms. Mitchell said that it did not.

Mr. Jolissaint requested that Ms. Mitchell get back with the Commission to provide more precise metrics regarding the program's success rate in training and placing service members into jobs.

For more information on the AAWDC/MC<sup>3</sup> and upcoming training classes please go to [www.militaryc3.org](http://www.militaryc3.org).

5) Approval of the 05 SEP 2019 Minutes

- a. Mr. Jolissaint entered the 05 SEP 2019 Commission minutes onto the table and opened the table for discussion. Mr. Hall asked that the date for the next U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony be corrected to reflect 22 October (item 7.i.5). Mr. Lowell asked that the date for the November Commission meeting be corrected to reflect 07 November (item 8.a). The amendments were adopted without exception.
- b. Mr. Jolissaint called for motion to approve the minutes as amended. A motion and second to the motion were made. Mr. Jolissaint called for a vote and the minutes were approved by voice vote. Subsequently, Mr. Jolissaint directed that the 05 SEP 2019 Commission minutes as amended be entered into the official record and it was so done.

6) Old Business

- a. Ms. Terry updated the Commission on the status of the Howard County Veteran-Owned Small Business Certification Initiative. She stated that the County was



not going to offer assistance at this time to help veterans through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) certification/verification process. The VA verification program affords verified firms, owned and controlled by veterans and service-disabled veterans, the opportunity to compete for certain VA set asides and sole-source contracts. Howard County has a goal of awarding up to 1% of County contracts to veteran-owned, small businesses. Mr. Way of The VA Way stated that his foundation was currently going through the verification process and that the process was long and complex.

Ms. Terry stated that the Howard County Executive was going to hold a “Small-Business Summit” on 15 October that may be of interest to veteran-owned small businesses.

- b. Mr. Blum updated the Commission on the Veteran Friendly Businesses Program. He stated that 42 locally owned businesses and over 450 veterans and their family members have signed up for the program. The Program aims to provide discounts to veterans and their families at participating businesses, to endorse and promote local area merchants, and to facilitate the creation of a database of over 300,000 Maryland veterans and family members to better assist in communicating events and initiatives of interest to the veteran’s community.
- c. Ms. Terry updated the Commission on the Howard County Veteran Parking Initiative. She stated that there was nothing further to report from the last meeting.
- d. Ms. Terry updated the Commission on the letters of support for the U.S. Army 6888<sup>th</sup> Postal Directory Battalion of World War II. She stated that Mr. Bolen drafted the letters which were signed by Mr. Jolissaint, Chair, Howard County Commission of Veterans and Military Families on behalf of the Commission. She also stated that Mr. Bolen drafted similar letters of support for the Howard County Executive.
- e. Mr. Jolissaint entered into the record that the Commission added the Distinguished Service Award to its award options. The action was passed unanimously on 30 May 2019 by electronic vote. The virtual meeting minutes from the May 2019 meeting can be found as Attachment A to these minutes.
- f. Mr. Jolissaint entered into the record that the Commission Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Mr. Howard T. Mooney, Jr. (former Chair, HCCVMF) and Ms. Janice Agazio (former Commissioner, HCCVMF). The action for both awards was passed unanimously on 30 May 2019 by electronic vote. The virtual meeting



minutes from the May 2019 meeting can be found as Attachment A to these minutes. Note that both of these recognition awards were presented during the June 2019 HCCVMF meeting.

## 7) New Business

- a. Mr. Jolissaint stated for the Commission that construction on the Neighborhood Square and Monument, sponsored by the Howard County Veterans Foundation, Inc., has begun. No date has been set for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the construction.

Mr. Jolissaint stated that it is anticipated that Maryland State Senator, Mr. Clarence Lam (D), District 12, Co-Chair, Howard County State Delegation, will be introducing a bond initiative request to fund the construction of the Neighborhood Square and Monument. The Delegation will listen to testimony on this request on 19 November.

- b. Mr. Moore stated for the Commission that he looked into getting the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) to participate in the Veterans Day Howard County Schools Presentation Program. He stated that a couple of local schools may be interested but he was not able to get a commitment. Mr. Jolissaint stated that the goal of the program was to get our schools to recognize Veterans Day. Ms. Terry stated that each school handles their Veterans Day events differently. Mr. Rivers suggested that the Commission reach out to the Parent Teacher Association Council (PTAC) of Howard County for ideas on how to engage the school system. Mr. Jolissaint requested that Ms. Terry determine the best group to talk to about engaging our schools. Ms. Terry suggested that, in addition to PTAC, the Commission could contact one of the County Board of Education members to get their advice on how best to engage HCPSS.
- c. Mr. Hall stated for the Commission that he registered the HCCVMF and several local veterans service organizations (VSOs) to participate in the Howard County Veterans Day Parade. The Parade will step off at 0930 hours on 10 November from Merriweather Post Pavilion. Multiple organizations will be involved in the parade including American Legion posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, a local high school color guard, and vintage patriotic vehicles. Mr. Hall also stated that the parade was still in need of sponsors which will be recognized at the parade.

Mr. Hall stated that the County will provide digital signage again this year, but the county will not provide this signage again next year.



The Parade is a community partnership with the Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Affairs, Howard County Veterans Foundation, and the Columbia Association. More information and to register for the parade can be found here: <https://www.howardcountyveterans.org/parade/>.

- d. Mr. Jolissaint stated for the Commission that the theme of this year's Howard County Veterans Day Parade is "The Citizen Solider." This is to commemorate and honor those who served and who have returned home to give back to the community through volunteer work or other service.
- e. Ms. Terry stated for the Commission that the next Veterans Resource Fair will take place at the Howard County Community College (HCCC) newly renovated Galleria on 21 April from 1600 to 1900 hours. A host of local, state, and federal vendors and organizations will participate.
- f. Mr. Hall briefed the Commission on the Howard County Joint Military Council (JMC) items of importance to the Commission:
  - 1) Farewell to former USMC Captain and Vietnam Veteran, Gordon M. MacPhee, who passed away on 21 September at the age of 77. Memorial services will be held on 19 October from 1400 - 1500 hours at Witzke Funeral Homes, 5555 Twin Knolls Rd., Columbia, MD. A veteran's ceremony will be held in his honor at 1400 hours. (THANK YOU, MARINE, FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTY - YOU WILL BE MISSED DEARLY.)
  - 2) The next U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony will take place on 26 October at 1200 hours at the Yingling-Ridgely VFW & Auxiliary Post #7472 (4225 VFW Ln, Ellicott City, MD).
  - 3) VFW Post #7472 will hold a Gala on 10 November. All veterans are welcomed to attend. The Gala will feature Voices of Vets, a non-profit performing group that travels the U.S. providing live music to veteran homes.
- g. Ms. Terry stated for the Commission that there has been no change in status on the disposition of new commissioner applications. The applications are currently with the Howard County Executive's Office.
- h. Other New Business



- 1) Mr. Way briefed the Commission on the 18 September Veterans Administration Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) and Congressional Stakeholders (CS) Meeting in Baltimore. For more information, please refer to Attachment B of these minutes.
- 2) Ms. Terry stated that military and civilian personnel at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland will observe Veterans Day on 8 November.
- 3) Mr. Way stated that The VA Way held a week-long mental health first aid training class on 23 - 27 September to train instructors to teach mental health first aid to persons, groups, or organizations who work with young people. He noted that three veterans were among those that graduated from the course.
- 4) Ms. Terry stated that Mr. Way of The VA Way was one of ten finalists in the Horizon Foundation Changemaker Challenge. The Challenge gives individuals, teams, and nonprofits the chance to receive up to \$25,000 in prize money to carry out their idea for social change in Howard County. The VA Way is seeking to offer mental health first aid courses to veterans and youth groups. The prize awardees will be announced on 11 November. (GOOD LUCK, MR. WAY!)
- 5) Ms. Terry stated that HCDrugFree will hold its next drive-thru medication and sharps collection on 26 October from 1000 to 1400 hours in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot. (During their 27 April collection they collected 993 pounds of medication and 20 bins of sharps.) For more information, visit <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1>.
- 6) Mr. Bolen stated that the Howard County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in coordination with the American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide (AFPS) Howard County Walk, kicked off a 22-a-day push-up challenge on 28 September. The goal of the challenge is to raise awareness, and to honor and remember those active duty military, veterans, and first responders who take their lives by suicide every day. The challenge runs for 22 days and ends on 19 October.
- 7) Mr. Moore stated that on 19 September he participated in the Baltimore National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veteran Burial Ceremony for former U.S. Army Captain Phillip Lynn Brown. Captain Brown was a



Vietnam War Veteran and a recipient of the Bronze Star with “V” device and the Purple Heart. (RIP, CAPTAIN BROWN.)

- 8) Ms. Terry stated that The Horizon Foundation was holding a Mental Health Film Festival on 23 October that will feature videos of Veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- 9) Ms. Terry stated that Maryland Therapeutic Riding, located in Crownsville, MD, will be working with the Fort Meade Alliance to offer therapeutic horseback riding to veterans.
- 10) Ms. Terry stated that she is working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide benefits counseling to veterans in Howard County. The goal is to make a counselor available once per month to help veterans. The service will be located in a Howard County government building.

8) Next Commission Meeting Date(s)

- a) Mr. Jolissaint announced that the next meeting of the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families will be held on Thursday, 7 November starting at 1900 hours at the Government Office Building, 9830 Patuxent Woods Dr., Columbia, MD 21046.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

2035 hrs Mr. Jolissaint, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion and second to the motion were made. Subsequent to the motions for adjournment, Mr. Jolissaint closed the meeting and directed the Commission to stand in adjournment until 7 November 2019.

Minutes were drafted by: Mr. Steven M. Bolen

J. Gregory Jolissaint, MD  
Chair



Notes:

Note 1: Per the discretion of the presiding officer, the meeting started five minutes late to allow Commission members who were in delay to attend the start of the meeting.

Attachments:

- A) Virtual Commission Meeting Minutes from May 30, 2019
- B) Meeting Notes: 18 September 2019 VAMHCS VSO & CS Stakeholders Meeting



## ATTACHMENT A

### Virtual Commission Meeting Minutes from May 30, 2019

October 1, 2019

1. On May 30, 2019, Commissioner Jolissaint convened an electronic meeting of the Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families. The purpose of the meetings was two-fold:

- a. to consider a new Commission recognition award
- b. assuming this new award is approved, to nominate and consider approving this new award for Howard T. Mooney, Jr. (the Outgoing Commission Chair) and Janice Agazio (a Commissioner whose term was expiring).

2. Participating Commissioners:

J Greg Jolissaint  
Reginald Avery  
Mike Blum  
Jonathan Branch  
Bob Lowell  
Steve Bolen  
Bob Gillette  
Bob Moore

3. A quorum was established for this virtual meeting.

4. Commissioner Jolissaint first proposed the Commission consider the approval of the Distinguished Service Award (DSA). The proposal included the following:

*\*The DSA will be a superior level of award compared to the HCCVMF Appreciation Plaque (which is a 6" x 8" wooden plaque that acknowledges an individual [or an organization] for demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting Howard County veterans and military families through loyal and repetitive service). The DSA will be presented as a 10" x 12" wooden plaque emblazed with a HCCVMF logo and containing an engraved recognition inscription.*

*\*The DSA will be subordinate to the HCCVMF Lifetime Achievement Award (which formally recognizes extraordinary and sustained support for Veterans and Military families; the Lifetime Achievement Award also awards individuals that demonstrate an unwavering commitment to honoring those who have served in the Armed Forces*



*of the United States and to their family members, as well as, to the mission of the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families, for a period of ten or more years).*

5. Participating Commissioners unanimously approved the creation of the Distinguished Service Award, as proposed.
6. Commissioner Jolissaint then proposed awarding the newly approved DSA to Howard J. Mooney, Jr., the outgoing Chair of the Commission, and Janice Agazio, a Commissioner whose term was expiring.
7. Participating Commissioners unanimously approved Howard J. Mooney, Jr., and Janice Agazio to receive the HCCVMF Distinguished Service Award.
8. A summary of the electronic voting is enclosed with these meeting minutes.
9. Upon completion of the stated purpose of the virtual Commission meeting, Commissioner Jolissaint adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Gregory Jolissaint'.

J. Gregory Jolissaint, MD  
Commissioner

Electronic Proposals discussed:

- a. Approval of the proposed HoCo Commission Distinguished Service Award
- b. Approval of Janice's DSA and the wording for her DSA plaque
- c. Approval of Howard's DSA and the wording of his DSA plaque

Commissioner Jolissaint recommended approval of all 3 recommendations. Electronic responses follow: I

approve!

Bob Moore

**Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families**

[robert.moore@va.gov](mailto:robert.moore@va.gov) (5/31/19)

-----  
All, I concur with all recommendations and drafts, great work team.

Cheers,

Reg (5/30/19)

---

I concur and comfortable with Greg's recommendations.

Mike (5/30/19)

Yes Greg, I approve all recommendations! Thanks,

Jonathan (5/30/19)

-----



I vote yea on all. (5/30/19)  
Steve

---

I vote to approve all of the proposals as described by Greg and thank him for all of his hard work on these important matters. Bob Lowell (5/30/19)

---

All, I concur with Greg's recommendations and move to adopt as he has outlined. Bob G. (5/30/19)



## ATTACHMENT B

### Veterans Service Organization (VSO) & Congressional Stakeholder (CS) Meeting

VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS)  
Baltimore VA Medical Center  
Multipurpose Room, 3A-300  
10 North Greene Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

18 September 2019

Recap of the Veterans Service Organizations & Congressional Stakeholder Meeting.

- The VA has a new Gourmet Program at Perry Point and at in-patient settings at VA.
- Perry Point now has the most advanced water treatment plants in the Northeast.
- The tele-mental health resource hub should be up by early October. This will help with veterans in rural areas.
- All episodes on the Veterans' Health Watch on You Tube can now be accessed.
- No smoking on any VA properties effective 1 October 2019.
- Flu shots available 1 October. The VA has partnered with Walgreens and other urgent cares to provide flu shots for veterans. For more information, visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>
- On 9/11, twenty volunteers cleaned 3,000 headstones at the Baltimore National Cemetery.
- The Baltimore National Cemetery is now on Facebook: @natcembaltimore.
- Drug take-back program at VA pharmacies: a simple to use envelope can now be used to put unused medications in to be mailed off for incineration.
- The VA has a new LSTDI (Life Sustaining Terminal Directives Initiatives) program. For more information on LSTDI, go to <https://www.ethics.va.gov/lst.asp>.



- Veteran homelessness is down by 8% - an estimated 350 homeless, with about 250 in Baltimore City. About 92% of these are in MCVET, Baltimore Station, and other shelters.
- Tri-West 3<sup>rd</sup>-party insurance authorizer is changing to Optima in December.
- Starting in December, the VA will be taking back-appointment scheduling.

Next meeting: 16 October, 1100 hours, VAMHCS, Baltimore VA Medical Center, Rm. 3A-300.

Notes taken by: Mr. John Way