



9830 Patuxent Woods Drive / Columbia, MD 21046

**Agenda
07 April 2022**

**Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families
Hosted by Lisa Terry**

<https://howardcountymd.webex.com/howardcountymd/j.php?MTID=mb6d9a84fbf3851c3c0795f555883b4fe>

Thursday, Apr 7, 2022 6:50 pm | 2 hours | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 2303 520 9402

Password: p3jQGeEYA35

Join by video system

Dial 23035209402@howardcountymd.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

1-650-479-3207 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Access code: 230 352 09402

Commissioners:

Greg Jolissaint, Chair

Jonathan Branch, Co-Chair

Jerry Wykoff

Kelly Kessler

Mike Blum

Bob Lowe

Keith McGuire

Michael Griggs

Lula Blakely

Steve Bolen

Paul Rivers

Reg Avery

Nafrettifi Griffin

1. Roll Call of Commission Members to Establish a Quorum

2. Acknowledgement of Howard County Government Officials in Attendance:

Lisa Terry (Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families)

3. Special Guest(s):

4. Others in Attendance:

5. Welcome by the Commission Chair/Pledge of Allegiance

6. Reminders of Virtual Meeting Etiquette

7. Guest Speaker(s):

8. Consideration of the March 2022 Meeting Minutes

9. Opening Comments by Commission Chair

- a. Thanks to those who were able to participate in the HoCo Veterans Collaborative on March 8
- b. Thanks also to those who were able to recognize National Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th.
- c. Thanks to anyone who supported the Adaptive Hike in Patapsco Valley State Park on March 12th.
- d. Finally, thanks to Kelly Kessler who volunteered to serve as our Recorder for this and future commission meetings until she is officially relieved of those duties. And thanks to Steve Bolen who has been our recorder for a couple of years now – your minutes were always amazing.

10. Reoccurring Business

- a. Veterans Peer Support Group Update (Paul Rivers and John Way)
- b. Howard County Veterans Foundation Update (Bob Gillette)
- c. Mental Health First Aid Classes for Fort Meade (Jonathan Way)
- d. Status of Honor Cords for Graduating Seniors enlisting in the military post-graduation (Kelly Kessler; Reg Avery)
- e. Highlights of March VA Maryland Health Care System VSO and Congressional Stakeholder Meeting (Steve Bolen)
- f. Update on VA Mental Health Council and Potential Members (Lula Blakely, Paul Rivers)
- g. Update on “No Struggle No Success - Recidivism, Entrepreneurship” – Guest Speakers, Mentors, etc. (Lisa/Jerry)

- h. Update on HoCo Public Schools Simulated Congressional Hearings (May 6-Jun 9) (Reg Avery)
- i. Update on Veterans Day Presentations in HCPSS and Identifying which schools will want speakers for in-person events (Reg Avery)
- j. Feedback on Blue Star Families and virtual MHFA March 25th (Lisa Terry)
- k. Attendees for HCC Veteran Graduation Thursday May 12 (Lisa, Lula, Kelly)
- l. Update on HoCo Fallen Heroes Tribute page (Lisa Terry)
- m. Update on Health Improvement Coalition website (Veterans Resource Center – Kelly)

11. New Business

- a. Blue Star Families Welcome Week. Request for re-allocate Spring Resource Fair food funds (\$400) to the Blue Star Families Welcome Week food funds October 1 (Lisa Terry)
- b. Howard County Joint Military Council Items of Interest (Michael Jackson)
 - 1) Planning regular coordination meetings with VSO Leaders, Commission Chair
 - 2) “Brothers, Sisters, Ukraine.” American Legion Post 156, Ellicott City Maryland, in collaboration with Veteran Service Organizations of Howard County, has established Brothers, Sisters, Ukraine’s to organize monetary donations; donations will be used to purchase specifically identified and high-quality items or provided directly to vetted aid organizations to meet clearly identified needs (**such as medical kits, food provisions, and other urgently needed resources**).
- c. New Business from HCCVMF Commissioners (Greg, et.al.)
- d. Additional Dates of Significance:
 - 3) Month of the Military Child (April), posted photos from Family Freedom Fest
 - 2) National Military Brats Day (April 30)
 - 3) Memorial Day Weekend Guest Speaker Opportunities:**
 - a) **Saturday May 28th**, 1pm, Ellicott City Courthouse Memorial Day Ceremony and Wreath Laying (VFW has the lead). POC: Commissioner Jolissaint
 - b) **Sunday May 29th**, Saint Johns Episcopal Church, Ellicott City (American Legion has the lead) POC: [Ismael Vequilla-Cruz](#)

c) Monday May 30th, 8:30 am, Harriet Tubman High School (Marine Corps League has the lead) POC: [Bill Swain](#)

4) July 4th Clarksville Parade

5) August Howard County Fair

6) Veterans Day Parade and Lakefront Ceremony

e. Other Miscellaneous Items

1) Commissioner Shirts (Jerry and Lisa)

12. Next Commission Meeting Dates

- May 5; June 2; no meetings in July or August

13. Adjournment