



**Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services
9830 Patuxent Woods Drive / Columbia, MD 21046**

**Agenda
05 May 2022**

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

Join from the meeting link

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Commissioners:

Greg Jolissaint, Chair

Jonathan Branch, Co-Chair

Jerry Wykoff

Kelly Kesler

Mike Blum

Bob Lowell

Keith McGuire

Michael Griggs

Cherron "Lula" Blakely

Steve Bolen (Final Meeting)

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):** [Jesse Sieff, Sheffield Institute for the Recording Arts, Phoenix, MD](#)
- 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 April 2022 Meeting Minutes**
- 9. Opening Comments by Commission Chair**
 - a. Flag Retirement Ceremony attendees
 - b. Howard Community College attendees
 - c. Steve Bolen
- 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. Update on VA Mental Health Council and Potential Members (Lula Blakely, Paul Rivers) – Paul submitted his information to serve on the commission
 - f. Update on HoCo Public Schools Simulated Congressional Hearings (May 6-June 9) (Reg Avery).
 - g. Update on Veterans Day Presentations in HCPSS and Identifying which schools will want speakers for in-person events (Reg Avery). Pending publication of 2022-2023 Academic Calendar
 - h. Update on HoCo Fallen Heroes Tribute page (Lisa Terry). Met with DCRS IT guy
 - i. Update on [Health Improvement Coalition website](#) (Veterans Resource Page – Kelly)

- j. Update on “No Struggle No Success - Recidivism, Entrepreneurship” – Guest Speakers, Mentors (Lisa/Jerry -- waiting to make presentation to BT Veterans Treatment Ct)
- k. May 25 graduation at Annapolis. Blue Angels looking for a “group of Veterans” to attend graduation Wednesday 1000-1500hrs. (Mike Blum)
- l. Veterans Treatment Court for HoCo – Judge Weinstein (Lisa and Jerry)
- m. HoCo Proposed Operating Budget includes “Pay-As-You-Go-Funds:” (Lisa)
 - 1) \$50K for VFW Post 7472 – cannon refurbishment
 - 2) \$110K for Veterans Foundation – includes \$10K for Veterans Day Parade

11. New Business

a. Memorial Day Weekend Events:

- 1) **Saturday May 28th**, 12:30pm, Ellicott City Courthouse Memorial Day Ceremony and Wreath Laying (VFW has the lead). POC: John Spain; **Speaker: Commissioner Jolissaint**
- 2) **Sunday May 29th**, 12:30pm, Saint Johns Episcopal Church, Ellicott City (American Legion has the lead) POC: Ismael Veguilla-Cruz, **Speaker: Commissioner Wykoff**
- 3) **Monday May 30th**, 08:30 am, Harriet Tubman High School (Marine Corps League has the lead) POC: Bill Swain; **Speaker: Commissioner Griffin**

b. Howard County Joint Military Council Items of Interest (Michael Jackson, Chair, or Bob Pelletier, Vice Chair)

c. New Business from HCCVMF Commissioners (Greg, et.al.)

d. Additional Dates of Significance:

1) **Military Appreciation Month** (May). Officially designated by Congress in 1999, Military Appreciation Month takes place every year throughout the entire month of May. Each year, the president issues an annual proclamation reminding Americans to celebrate this patriotic month that pays tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

2) **VE Day – May 8**. Marking the end of a long, deadly war, VE Day, short for “Victory in Europe Day,” celebrated the end of World War II on the European front. Since this momentous occasion in 1945, much of the world has continued to celebrate VE Day on May 8 every year. It is now an official recognition day during Military Appreciation Month.

3) **Military Spouse Appreciation Day – May 8**. Military Spouse Appreciation Day honors the military spouses who sacrifice so much in support of their service member’s mission. President Ronald Regan first proclaimed “Military Spouse Day” a

holiday in 1984 before Congress declared it part of Military Appreciation Month in 1999.

4) **Armed Forces Day -- May 16.** The day Americans celebrate their currently serving military forces.

5) **Memorial Day – May 30.** A federally recognized holiday for remembering and honoring the military personnel who have **died while serving in the United States armed forces.** Over the years, our country has also informally honored those who served honorably and subsequently died following their military service.

6) **July 4th Clarksville Parade**

7) **Howard County Fair** August 6 and August 7

8) **Veterans Day Parade and Lakefront Ceremony. November 13.** Theme: Honor Through Service

11. Other Miscellaneous Items

- Commissioner Shirts (Lisa)

12. Next Commission Meeting Dates

- June 9
- no meetings in July or August

13. Adjournment