



## Minutes of the HCCVMF Commission Meeting held 9 June 2022

### Role Call of Commissioners:

Greg Jolissaint, Chair (P)	Michael Griggs (P)
Jonathan Branch, Co-Chair (P)	Cherron "Lula" Blakely (P)
Jerry Wykoff (P)	Terri Taylor (P)
Kelly Kesler (Ex)	Paul Rivers (P)
Mike Blum (P-V)	Reg Avery (P)
Bob Lowe (Ex)	Nafrettifi Griffin (P)
Keith McGuire (P-V)	

(P) – Present                      (Ex) – Excused  
(P-V) – Present Virtually

1. **The Chair confirmed a quorum was present for the meeting.**
2. **Howard County Government Officials in Attendance:**  
**Lisa Terry** (Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families)
3. **Special Guest(s):** Bob Pelletier (V), Chad Vaughn (V)
4. **Others in Attendance: Terry Taylor**, CE Nominee for vacant Commission Seat.

Vikki Garcia – Congressmen Sarbanes Office; Jessica Clark– Representative Sen. Cardin's Office

5. **The Commission Chair welcomed all attendees, then led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.**

**The Chair then reminded attendees of both in-person and virtual meeting rules of etiquette.**

### **Consideration of the May 2022 Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chair asked whether there were any corrections to the May Commission meeting minutes.
- b. May minutes approved.

### **Opening Comments by Commission Chair**

- a. The Chair thanked those Commissioners who attended Memorial Day Ceremonies.
- b. The Chair announced that Commissioner Lowe has tendered his resignation and thanked him for his service to the Commission.

## 6. Reoccurring Business

- a. Veterans Peer Support Group Update  
Commissioner Rivers provided an update about the Support Group including posters, business cards and flyers with a QR code to promote sessions. A targeted outreach campaign is being planned for the Howard County Fair in August. Adding additional sessions to offer programming twice a month was discussed for consideration.
- b. Howard County Veterans Foundation Update.  
No new fundraising update.
- c. Update on VA Mental Health Council and Potential Members  
No new updates.
- d. Update on HoCo Public Schools Simulated Congressional Hearings (May 6-June 9) (Reg Avery).  
Commissioner Avery thanked Commissioners for participating in a SCH session(s). Based on participants recommendations and school preferences, the HCPSS will make every effort to conduct these Hearings in-person next year due to the challenges associated with using virtual technologies for “judges.”
- e. Update on Veterans Day Presentations in HCPSS and Identifying which schools will want speakers for in-person events.  
Commissioner Avery iterated that he has a new HCPSS point-of-contact and he is awaiting the publication of the Howard County Public Schools 2022-2023 Academic Calendar before any forward progress can be made on scheduling presentations in schools. The Chair reiterated that the addition of American Legion poster competitions or American Legion patriotic speeches could also be incorporated into the Veterans Day school activities (this recommendation seemed favorable to the commission as an addition to the presentations).
- f. Update on HoCo Fallen Heroes Tribute page.  
Lisa Terry reported that the page is up and running.  
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/fallen-heroes>
- g. Update on Veterans Treatment Court Initiative.  
Lisa Terry shared that Howard County had hoped to partner with Carroll County on a VTC, but Carroll is not funding one at this time. Howard County is still collecting data and trying to identify a veteran judge or supporter.
- h. May 25 USNA graduation at Annapolis.

Commissioner Rivers attended; he reported that fundraising was being conducted by the Blue Angels Foundation during the event, but the event was excellent overall.

- i. Update on Commissioner Nomination – Terri Taylor provided testimony and was approved for her Commission appointment. The Chair and Commissioners congratulated Terri Taylor on her appointment.
- j. Honor Cord Update for enlisting graduates  
Will be readdressed in the 2022-2023 Academic Year.
- k. Outcomes from Memorial Day ceremonies  
Vice Chair Pelletier also voiced his appreciation for any Commissioners attending the 3 Memorial Day events held over the holiday weekend.

## 11. New Business

- a. Recommendations are being solicited to fill Bob Lowe's **HCCVMF Veteran Commissioner vacancy** (Greg and Lisa).
- b. **2 Commissioner Volunteers** were requested to participate in HoCo Veterans Foundation Working/ Brainstorming Session on Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 1:00pm regarding the text that will be displayed on the HoCo Veterans and Military Families Monument at Millie Bailey Park (located next to Whole Foods on the Columbia Lakefront). The meeting's objective is to develop recommendations to the HCVF board of directors for the text that will appear on the Monument. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served for participants. Bob Gillette and the HCVF are inviting 2 Commissioners to participate in this session that will be held at the Howard County Non-Profit Center, 9770 Patuxent Woods Dr, Columbia, MD 21046. Commissioner Kesler has volunteered to participate and an additional volunteer is requested.
- c. **Commission Webpage vs. FaceBook Page** (Lisa and Greg). Commission is not allowed to have its own page for posting of photos and Commissioner ceremonial remarks. Department of Community Resources and Services may post on the Commission's behalf.
- d. **Howard County Joint Military Council Items of Interest** (Michael Jackson, Chair, or Bob Pelletier, Vice Chair).
  - 1) **Clarksville River Hill Independence Day Parade July 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am-Noon.**  
Commission is registered as part of a large group (the Joint Military Council of Howard County registered the following Veterans Service Organizations: **HoCo Commission for Veterans and Military Families**; American Legion Post 156 and Post 300; VFW Post 7472; Marine Corps League Detachment 1084; Military Order of the World Wars, (Fort Meade chapter); Jewish War Veterans. **AND** Cub Scout Pack 678, Boy Scout Troop 851, Venturing Crew 156, AL Post 300, baseball team;

Old Post Rifle and Pistol Club; Col Dorsey chapter of the DAR and SAR, HoCo CAP and HCCC Student Veteran group).

- 2) **Flag Retirement Ceremony July 23rd.** VFW Post in Ellicott City.
- 3) **Howard County Fair** August 6 (booth) and August 7 (parade).
- 4) **Veterans Day Parade and Lakefront Ceremony.** Sunday November 13. Theme: ***Honor Through Service.*** Commissioners are asked to please start thinking about potential nominees for Grand Marshall.

e. New Business from HCCVMF Commissioners

No new business was submitted by Commissioners in attendance.

f. Additional Dates of Significance: The Chair reminded meeting attendees of the following dates and their military significance:

- 1) June 14 – Flag Day
- 2) June 14 – US Army Birthday, 1775
- 3) June 27 – PTSD Awareness Day
- 4) June – PTSD Awareness Month
- 5) July 27 – Korean War Armistice Day, 1953
- 6) August 4 – US Coast Guard Birthday, 1790
- 7) August 7 – National Purple Heart Day
- 8) September 2 – Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day)
- 9) September 11 – Patriot Day in memory of 9-11 victims

## **12. Next Commission Meeting Dates**

- No meetings in July or August
- Next meeting 1 September

**13. Having no further business to conduct, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.**