



**Meeting Agenda
HCCVMF Commission Meeting
October 6, 2022**

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Meeting number (access code): 2305 235 5422

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Role Call of Commissioners:

Greg Jolissaint, Chair

Jonathan Branch, Co-Chair

Jerry Wykoff

Kelly Kesler

Mike Blum

Nafrettifi Griffin

Michael Griggs

Cherron "Lula" Blakely

Terri Taylor

Paul Rivers

Reg Avery

Keith McGuire

Vernon "C.J." Parks

1. **Quorum established** (Chair)
2. **Recognition of Howard County Government Officials in Attendance** (Chair)
Lisa Terry (Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families)
Others
3. **Special Guest(s):**
4. **Others in Attendance:**
5. **Commission Chair Welcome; Chair leads recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.**
6. **Consideration of the September 2022 Meeting Minutes** (Chair)
7. **Opening Comments by Commission Chair** (Greg)
8. **Reoccurring or Old Business**



- a. Howard County Veterans Foundation Update (Bob Gillette)
- b. Veterans Peer Support Group Update (Paul Rivers)
- c. VA Mental Health Council (Paul Rivers)
- d. Update on Veterans Day Presentations in HCPSS and Identifying which schools will want speakers for in-person events (Reg Avery)
- e. HoCo Fallen Heroes Tribute page (Terri Taylor)

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/fallen-heroes>
Special Task Force update on establishing recommended inclusion criteria
- f. Veterans Treatment Court Initiative, Blue Star Families event (Lisa Terry)
- g. Honor Cords for enlisting HoCo high school graduates (Kelly Kesler, Reg Avery)
- h. Commissioners Serving as Judges for the HoCo Public Schools Simulated Congressional Hearings (Reg Avery).
- i. Local Health Improvement Coalition Veteran's Resources on www.hclhic.org website. (Kelly Kesler)
- j. HoCo Assisted Living Facilities that are "Veteran Friendly" – Official Recognition (Greg)

11. New Business

- a. Veterans Day Parade and Lakefront Ceremony Sunday November 13.
 - Nominations deadline was September 23rd for Parade Grand Marshall. Grand Marshall Theme: Honor Through Service
 - American Legion establishing a HCPSS Veterans Day Poster and Essay/Speech Contest prior to the Parade (with potential announcement of overall winners at the Ceremony)
 - Yard Signs Advertising Parade
 - Parade "Logistics"
 - Parade "Budget"
 - Lakefront Ceremony planning and logistics
- b. Recommendations to fill **HCCVMF Veteran Commissioner Avery's impending vacancy**. Commissioner Avery is allowed, by statute, to continue serving until a new Commissioner has been approved by the County Council.



c. **Howard County Joint Military Council Report** (Bob Pelletier, JMC Vice Chair)

- 1) Commissioner Greg Jolissaint is officially serving as the **JMC Chair**; first meeting held Saturday September 24th
- 2) **Quarterly Flag Retirement Ceremony** will be conducted on Saturday October 22nd at 11am, St. John's Episcopal Church, Ellicott City.
- 3) **VFW Bull Roast October 29th**, Ellicott City VFW Post, \$50 per person.
- 4) **Veterans Day Parade and Lakefront Ceremony**. Sunday November 13. Commissioners are asked to block their calendars for participation.
- 5) **Marine Corps Gala?**
- 6) **Supporting Wreathes Across America in HoCo** (Terri Taylor)
- 7) **BWI Honor Flights – May 2023?**

d. New Business from HCCVMF Commissioners (Greg)

- 1) Home for Troops Welcome Kickoff for Brandon and Nettie Huff – Sat, Oct 8 at 9:30am at Lisbon Elem
- 2) Operation Green Light Initiative

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

- 1) US Navy Birthday, October 13, 1775
- 2) US Marine Corps Birthday, November 10, 1775
- 3) Veterans Day, November 11, 2022
- 4) Veterans and Military Families Month (November)

12. Next Commission Meeting Dates

- Next meeting November 3, December 1*

Hiring Resilient Veterans – Oct. 20, 8am-10am in Columbia

A Veterans Narrative – Oct. 20, 6-8pm

Military and Veteran Discovery Fair – Nov 5 at Annapolis Library in Annapolis Mall – see flier