



**Meeting Agenda
HCCVMF Commission Meeting
February 2, 2023**

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Roll Call of Commissioners:

Greg Jolissaint, Chair	Michael Griggs
Jonathan Branch, Co-Chair	Cherron "Lula" Blakely
Jerry Wykoff	Terri Taylor
Kelly Kesler	Paul Rivers
Mike Blum	Reg Avery
Nafrettifi Griffin	Keith McGuire
	Vernon "C.J." Parks

- 1. Establish Quorum**
- 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):** Will Huff, Director Partnerships www.soldierstosidelines.org
- 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 November 2022 and January 2023 Meeting Minutes (Chair)**

*minutes were not drafted for the December 2022 social event at the Timbuktu Restaurant
- 7. Opening Comments by Commission Chair (Greg)**



*HoCo VSO Quarterly Flag Retirement Ceremony at the VFW Hall on January 28th

8. Reoccurring or Old Business

- a. Veterans Peer Support Group Update (Paul Rivers)
- b. VA Maryland Health Care System Mental Health Council (Paul Rivers)
- c. HoCo Fallen Heroes Tribute page (Terri Taylor, Lisa Terry) – changes made

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/fallen-heroes>

- d. Veterans Treatment Court Initiative (Lisa Terry) – no update
- e. Update on Presenting/Providing Honor Cords for HoCo high school graduates who have signed enlistment contracts for the military (Kelly Kesler, Reg Avery)
- f. Update on Commissioners Serving as Judges for the HoCo Public Schools Simulated Congressional Hearings March-May 2023 (Reg Avery)
- g. Recommendations to fill HCCVMF Veteran Commissioner Avery's impending vacancy. NOTE: Commissioner Avery is allowed, by statute, to continue serving until a new Commissioner has been approved by the County Council.

11. New Business

- a. Commission Annual Report (Lisa Terry)
 - *Draft report shared with Commissioners
 - *Lisa requesting photos to accompany report
- b. Employment Resources for Military Spouses (Lisa Terry)
 - *see handout
- c. Howard County Joint Military Council Update (Bob Pelletier, JMC Vice Chair)
- d. New Business from HCCVMF Commissioners (Greg)
- e. New Business from meeting Guests and Visitors (Greg)
- f. Additional Dates of Significance for Veterans and Military Families: The Chair reminded meeting attendees of the following dates and their military significance:



1) National Salute to Veteran Patients (week of February 14)

*pays tribute to the thousands of patients a day that receive medical treatment in VA medical facilities around the world.

2) Brain Injury Awareness Month (March)

*provides an opportunity to bring attention to the prevention of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and to promote strategies to improve the quality of life for persons living with TBI as well as their families.

3) Anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner (March 6)

*On March 6, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional resolution officially making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem of the United States of America.

4) National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29)

12. Next Commission Meeting Dates

- March 2nd
- April 6th