



## **Virtual Meeting**

### **Agenda Thursday, June 4, 2020**

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Members Present:**

#### **Members Excused:**

#### **Howard County Government Officials in Attendance:**

#### **Special Guests:**

#### **Others in Attendance:**

#### **Commission Business Items:**

- 1) Establishment of Quorum
- 2) Consideration of the May 2020 Meeting Minutes.
- 3) Presentation(s) by invited guests?
- 4) May Events and Old Business.
  - a. Feedback on VAMHCS Monthly Meeting for May (Steve Bolen)
  - b. Update of Commission's Exploratory Committee for studying the feasibility of building a Veterans Home in Howard County (e.g., identifying potentially donated land; etc.). Committee Members: Mike Blum (Chair), Jennifer Anthony, Kelly Kesler, and Bob Moore (Mike Blum)
  - c. Update on Monument (Lisa, Bob Gillette).
  - d. Update on Veterans Support Group and feasibility of NAMI conducting virtual peer facilitator training (Paul Rivers, Lisa Terry, Kelly Kesler)



- e. Update on Veterans Day Presentations (in person or virtual) in HoCo Schools, to include outcomes of outreach to HCPSS, Teacher's Union, PTAC, and schools with JROTC programs. (Bob Moore)
  - f. Update on the Mental Health Support for Veterans Webinar with Local Health Improvement Coalition [LHIC] and HCCVMF (May 27; Kelly Kesler)
  - g. Update on creating a Joint Activities Calendar (Ed Hall, Lisa Terry)
  - h. Update on MHFA Proposal to Fort Meade Alliance Foundation Board (John Way, Lisa Terry)
- 5) New Business.
- a. Update on the American Legion "Buddy Check" outreach program (Ed Hall or John Spain)
  - b. Update on HoCo school level "buddy" program (and identification of a Pilot Elementary/Middle School and High School). The program would be designed provide support for children of military families and recognize their achievements. (Lisa Terry)
  - c. Howard County Joint Military Council (JMC) significant items (Ed Hall)
  - d. New business from Commission Members?
- 6) Upcoming Events of Importance:
- a. June 9 – Meet the Veteran Author: Elliott Ackerman (Live Event), 7-8pm  
Widely acclaimed author Elliot Ackerman discusses his new novel, *Red Dress in Black and White*, a stirring drama that unfolds during the course of a single day in Istanbul. Discover the story of an American woman attempting to leave her life in Turkey--to leave without her husband. Riveting and unforgettably perceptive, the novel presents personal and political intrigue that casts light into the shadowy corners of a nation on the brink of war.  
ELLIOT ACKERMAN is a National Book Award finalist, author of the novels *Waiting for Eden*, *Dark at the Crossing*, and *Green on Blue*, and of the nonfiction book, *Places and Names*.  
Both a former White House Fellow and a Marine, he served five tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, where he received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart.



Elliot Ackerman will be In Conversation with Phil Klay.

Phil Klay is the author of the forthcoming novel, *Missionaries* and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. His 2014 short story collection, *Redeployment*, received the National Book Award for Fiction. He currently teaches writing at the Fairfield University MFA in Creative Writing. We welcome your questions after the session. Register with your email to receive a link to join the event.

<https://bit.ly/meetackerman>

- b. Saturday July 4 activities
  - c. HoCo Fair, August 8-15; HoCo Fairgrounds in West Friendship
- 7) Additional items for discussion from commission members or attendees?
  - 8) Discussion of Potential Commission Meeting Date(s) - July 2, 2020; August 6, 2020; September 3, 2020
  - 9) Adjournment