



COMMISSION FOR VETERANS
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
6420 ALLENTOWN ROAD
CAMP SPRINGS, MD 20748



Meeting was held at the Oxon Hill Library in Oxon Hill, MD and began at 7:01 PM on May 6, 2019.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Roll call

Excused Absences: Commissioner Milligan and Commissioner Hollis. Commissioner Dickens arrived late.

Minutes were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Martel and seconded by Commissioner Watson. Passed 7/0. Commissioner Nordhorn abstained.

Chairman Jewitt introduced The Secretary for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, George Owings. Secretary Owings gave a brief overview of the department. He stated it was an honor to be here in front of the Commission. He can be reached at 410-260-3838.

Dr. Dula welcomed Secretary Owings, thanked the chair and vice chair and the members of the commission for their service.

He reminded everyone that this is military appreciation month. Additionally, he spoke of the Community Familiarization Program which provides assistance on education, employment and with those who have a disability. He highlighted that the local CTV channel 76 on Comcast and channel 42 on Verizon covers county affairs. He briefed the Commission of the event on May 17 "Know Your Rights" session which will be hosted in Oxon Hill.

3 Guest Speakers:

VeteransCommission@co.pg.md.us

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/709/Commission-for-Veterans>



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Mr. Phil Munley from the Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs. He can be reached at 410-230-4444 extension 6457. He highlighted their programs:

- 1- Maryland State Veterans Cemetery Program
- 2- Outreach located in Annapolis which includes a weekly newsletter
- 3- Trust Fund which is nonprofit
- 4- The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Which is a five-star facility
- 5- Service program which helps veterans identify their benefits

The second guest speaker:

Mr. William Alli is a United States Marine Corps veteran who spoke about the Korean War Memorial. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Korean War Memorial Foundation since 2014. 23 men lost their lives from Prince George's County in this war. He is requesting for people and organizations to donate money to etch these names into a memorial. The approximate cost is \$410 per name.

The third guest speaker:

Mr. Roberts from the Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce which is to be opened in September of this year. Their mission is to help veterans start and grow their businesses. Their five pillars are:

- 1- Family
- 2- Business
- 3- Wellness
- 4- Employment
- 5- Education.

Commissioner Hendricks-Roach gave the highlights for the Workforce and Education subcommittee. They have been referring veterans to DLLR employment section which helps people to find jobs for veterans and they are working with the Prince George's County Economic Development Department. Additionally they have been referring

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people to the veterans center within marble hall to use the computers and receive counseling as needed.

Commissioner Watson of the Communication and Outreach subcommittee highlighted that the Commission needs to think out-of-the-box and leverage technology more to include social media within Facebook and Instagram. The website should continue to be updated, and highlight the events within the County with churches, local organizations and other facilities.

Commissioner Jewitt reported on the Programs and Activities subcommittee. They are looking to put together an event in advance of Veterans Day and author a recognition program. Commissioner Nordhorn would like to start with the Vietnam Service Pins.

Commissioner Jewitt confirmed that the commissioners do not have access to an email which is a difficult way to stay in touch with Veterans who have questions or need help.

Old Business:

Commissioner Nordhorn asked if anyone has located the five flags that were donated to the commission. Commissioner Jewitt responded that he has done extensive research with Dr. Dula, and unfortunately they have not been found.

Commissioner Nordhorn would like to know if the Commission is able to accept donations of draw string bags from other military organizations and pass them out at events. These bags may include shampoo and other such items that are free from hotels. Dr. Dula will get a ruling from the County Ethics Department.

Dr. Dula has asked the Commission to provide him with a list of what they need to include on their business cards.

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Commission Jewitt reminded the Commission that the mission of this organization is to evaluate programs and assess the county's ability to help veterans and to report such findings to the County Executive via the VAO.

New Business:

The annual report to the County Executive is due at the end of June. Commissioner Jewitt has emailed a spreadsheet for each commissioner to complete by May 30. A draft will be provided at the June meeting for finalization.

Commissioner Martel highlighted the April 16, 2019 Maryland Veterans Commission meeting held in Middletown, Maryland. Updates were given by Secretary Owings in regard to the trust fund and a plea to get veterans to sign up with MDVA. Furthermore, they are still searching for a location for the second veterans home within the state.

Citizens comments:

The guests asked for more advertisement and communication. Secretary Owings highlighted that residents should check Veterans.Maryland.gov to learn more about potential benefits.

Honors to the Colors

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Jewitt

Acting Secretary

20 guests total

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