



2010 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR VETERANS PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive; The Honorable Ingrid M. Turner, Council Chair and Distinguished Members of the County Council, I am pleased and honored to submit for your study the Annual Report of the Prince George's County Commission for Veterans, established by Council Bill 17-2006

The Commission has been active individually and collectively on a wide range of activities during the calendar year which concluded on December 31, 2010.

During the 2010 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, the Commission was represented on every single piece of legislation considered by either the House or Senate. Vice Chair Gerard F. Devlin, Commissioner Glynn Parker, and Commissioner Elbert White on a regular basis, and other members as well, on an occasional basis made sure that our voice was heard on matters of concern to the Veterans' Community. This is especially important because of the fact that Prince George's County has the largest number of veterans , 77,000 strong, of any of the State's major jurisdictions.

While fiscal constraints played a major role in getting many programs enacted, our members endorsed and testified in favor of two bills (SB 171 and HB 359) which provides State assistance to Veteran owned business enterprises. The bills sponsored by Senator Douglas J. J. Peters and Delegate Mary-Dulany James were signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley in May, 2010.

Commissioner Glynn Parker gave several well prepared presentations to the Commission on the National scene and how it relates to the needs of local veterans.

We were honored to have present at our monthly meeting, large numbers of distinguished and elected public officials including: Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward Chow, Jr.; former Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs Wilbert Forbes; and Secretary of the Maryland Veterans Commission Fred Shinbur.

Mr. Martin Fahey, Superintendent of the Veterans Cemetery at Cheltenham, gave valuable information about the Veterans' Cemetery Program in Maryland which is a national model.

Several elected officials appeared before the Commission including Senator Douglas J. J. Peters, Co-Chair of the Legislative Joint Veterans Caucus; Delegate Melony Griffith, Chair of the Prince George's County House Delegation; Senator Ulysses Currie and Delegate James Proctor.

Mr. Joseph Roll, Director of the Prince George's County Psychological Services Division, made an excellent presentation on steps the County Police Department was making in dealing with the needs of police officers returning from the Middle East battlefields.

Ms. Jean Langbein from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Program Manager of the Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom, gave an excellent presentation on the special needs of veterans of these actions.

A significant number of representatives of veterans' organizations and the general public made appearances before the Commission during the year as well.

A number of public relations type activities were addressed by the Commission, including setting up of a booth at the Bowiefest in that City by Commissioners Robert West and Andre Martel.

Also, Commissioner Robert West along with Vice Chair Gerard Devlin and Secretary Raymond Chatary continue to moderate Veterans Forum, which is broadcast on the City of Bowie Cable Channel.


A Commission brochure has been approved and printed and distribution will soon be underway. (Copy is attached for information)

The Commission has begun looking into the possibility of the County government utilizing the Summerfield Military Housing area in Landover which has the potential of being used for the benefit of homeless veterans and low income Prince Georgians. The housing area as more than 1,200 units of which 97% are unused at this time. Under Title V of the

Federal McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, the property can be transferred to the County government. We intend to pursue this further.

I would be remiss if I did not publicly commend the assistance we have received from Ms. Patricia Morris, Director of the Prince George's Department of Family Services and Mr. Jermoni K. Dowd, whose yeoman efforts developing the Web page and keeping it updated were invaluable. This service helps keep the veterans in the County currently informed. Secretary Raymond A. Chatary, who has once again, been the great unifying force behind the Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,



**HENRY C. TURNER, JR.
Chairman, Commission for Veterans of Prince George's County**

Commission Members

Henry C. Turner, Jr., Chairman	Public Member
Gerard F. Devlin, Vice Chairman	Public Member
Alfreda M. Alexander	Public Member
Anthony J. Begenwald	Marine Corps League
Robert J. Lambird	Military Order of the Purple Heart
Andre R. Martel	American Veterans (AMVETS)
Stanley R. Murphy	Vietnam Veterans of America
Frederick H. Nordhorn	Public Member
Glynn E. Parker	Disabled American Veterans
Beverly Y. Phillips-Rouse	Women's Army Corps Veterans
Regina A. Powell	Public Member
Robert T. West	Veterans Of Foreign Wars
Elbert D. White	American Legion

Raymond A. Chatary (Secretary – Nonvoting Commission Member)