



## Commission for Veterans and the Prince George's County Office of Veterans Affairs



1301 McCormick Drive, Largo MD



### Meeting Notes

Monday, October 6, 2025

1900 Hours/7:00pm – 2000 Hours/8:00pm

Prince George's County Commission for Veterans Affairs

October 2025

Submitted by: Vice Chair LaShonda C. Henderson

Opening: The monthly meeting was called to order by Chair Gregory Jackson at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were Ethel Sligh, Henry Harris, James Childs, Glynn Parker, Greg Jackson, and LaShonda Henderson. The Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) was represented by Director Dr. George and Dr. Dula.

#### **OVA Director's Remarks**

Director George opened the session with words of appreciation and shared his professional background, highlighting his service in two areas and his retirement as a Major. He expressed enthusiasm for serving the County's veteran community and announced that the OVA currently operates out of two locations, with the main office at 1301 McCormick Drive.

He confirmed that the Commission's website is now fully operational, with updated meeting notes and agendas. Commissioners are asked to submit their bios and contact links to support transparency and engagement. The Vice Chair will assist in coordinating these updates

to ensure the site becomes a one-stop resource for veterans seeking information and services.

Dr. Dula provided updates on outreach efforts, including identifying points of contact for all municipalities to improve coordination and targeted service delivery. A major focus will be on growing social media engagement, especially to reach younger veterans. Commissioners were also reminded to save the date for Veterans Day — November 5th.

### **OVA Operational Update**

Dr. Dula welcomed Director George and provided an overview of ongoing operations during the federal government shutdown.

Continuing Services: Outpatient health care, education and compensation benefits, disability processing, burial services, and crisis support (including 988 and iMind) remain active.

Temporarily Paused: Transition assistance, career counseling, and outreach operations.

OVA continues to work with partners such as Operation Basecamp to provide emergency housing for unhoused veterans. Dr. Dula thanked the Commissioners for helping to spread awareness about available services and for identifying community needs.

### **Commissioner Reports**

***Chair Jackson:*** Reported collaboration with the County's Office of Communications to support a Martial Arts Day recruitment event. A Letter of Appreciation template was developed in partnership with Mr. Garcia to recognize community recruiters and partners who serve veterans. This template will serve as the model for ensuring partners are appreciated.

#### ***Vice Chair Henderson:***

Co-authored a white paper with Director George proposing a Police Pathway Program modeled after Troops to Teachers to create employment opportunities for veterans.

Pitched a Veteran Storytelling Initiative to the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to highlight the experiences and contributions of Maryland's veterans. Our focus in Prince George's County Veterans

Attended the Elks Lodge Veterans Barbecue in September, where she learned about their Women Veterans Mental Wellness Circle and was invited to speak at their upcoming Veterans Day program.

Presented on veteran initiatives at the Camp Springs Civic Association.

Reported that the Commission's social media campaign has grown to 100 members. Posts are scheduled weekly on Saturdays, and content submissions are due by Friday.

**Commissioner Sligh:** Reflected on her service since 2019 and announced the conclusion of her term. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and highlighted her 42-year federal career as both a public servant and military spouse.

**Commissioner Parker:** Recognized as one of the original members of the Commission. Shared his ongoing commitment to supporting veterans through community collaboration.

**Commissioner Harris:** Introduced as a new DAV representative. Announced plans for a radio segment focused on veterans' issues.

**Commissioner Childs:** Newly appointed AMVETS Department of Maryland Commander. Shared ongoing fundraising efforts for a veterans' statue in Thurmont, MD, and discussed ways to increase engagement among younger veterans. Very focused on veteran engagement and ways to ensure that the 30,000 registered AMVET can engage locally as well. Considering initiatives that will include family and areas that they are interested in.

Dr. Dula emphasized the need for innovative approaches to engage the Post-9/11 generation. Public attendee Ovid Luke offered to volunteer and assist with Commission efforts as needed.

**Closing**

Chair Jackson reviewed Commission bylaws, membership rules, and procedures. The OVA shared the ordinance link in the meeting chat for reference. The Commission currently has 13 voting members. Membership appointments and removals occur at the discretion of the County Executive following a background review process.

The next meeting will include discussion of operating procedures.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: 8:06 p.m.