

**MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS
AFFAIRS**



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

State Government Article § 9-946 (MSAR # 14170) &
State Government Article § 9-928(c) (MSAR # 5567)

GOVERNOR

Wes Moore

SECRETARY

Anthony Woods

LT GOVERNOR

Aruna Miller

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Robert Finn



Annual Report

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Secretary's Message

It is my pleasure to present the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs annual report for 2023. The following pages highlight the hard work and tireless efforts of our staff and partners across the state in serving service members, veterans, and their families. 2023 has been a year of renewal. I came into this role one year ago and have been inspired by the work we have accomplished.

We have worked to transform Charlotte Hall Veterans Home into a facility worthy of our residents' honorable service. In partnership with the Maryland General Assembly, and stakeholders in St. Mary's County, we improved oversight at the home and brought in new leadership. We are continuing to make progress in improving the quality of life for the veterans that call Charlotte Hall home.

We have re-affirmed our commitment to the VA/SAMHSA's Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families and launched Maryland Joins Forces, an initiative to encourage government, non-profits, and the private sector to renew their focus on veterans and military families. Our work in these areas over the past year has led Governor Moore to declare 2024 as "Maryland's Year for Military Families."

We have also continued to assist veterans and their families in all stages of life. From accessing VA benefits to ensuring an honorable burial at one of our five State Veterans Cemeteries to providing emergency financial assistance through the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, the MDVA staff works hard to ensure that Maryland's veterans receive the support and care that they need.

The Department will continue to work and serve Maryland's veterans and families. Our dedicated staff are committed to fulfilling our mission and I look forward to what we accomplish in 2024.

Sincerely,



Anthony C. Woods
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Data Snapshot

Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program

Total Contacts 4.2 million

Service and Benefits Program

Monetary Awards \$38 million

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Census 251

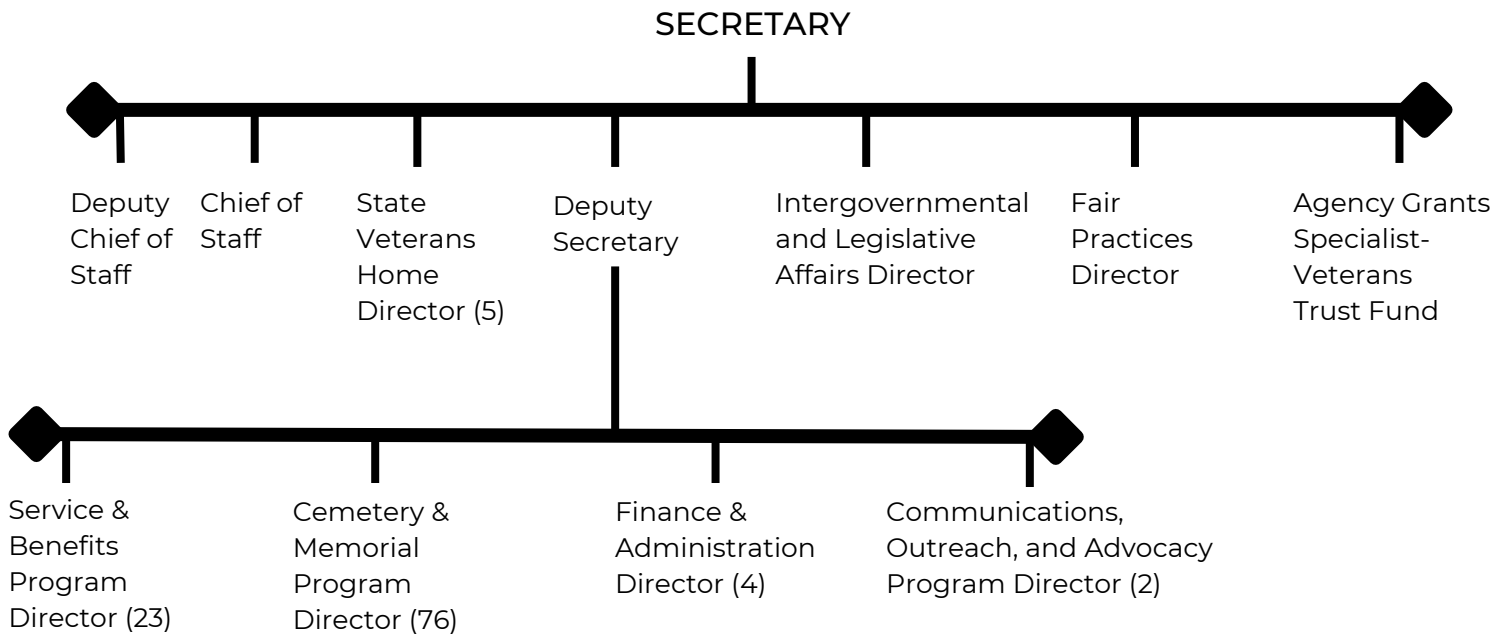
Cemetery and Memorial Program

Interments 3,663

Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

Grant Awards \$402,000

WHO WE ARE: Organizational Chart*



*Contractual staff not included on the organizational chart/Numbers in parentheses represent total subordinate regular PINS.



WHO WE SERVE: Maryland Veteran Population



Period of Service*

World War II	2,033
Korean Conflict	11,728
Vietnam Era	93,868
Gulf War Era	176,787
Peacetime	72,509

Age Distribution*

17-44	76,327
45-64	127,038
65-84	122,906
85+	22,188

Homelessness

Nationally in 2023, according to the US Office of Housing and Urban Development, veteran homelessness rose by 7.4%. However, between 2022 and 2023 veteran homelessness in Maryland dropped by almost 10% from 303 to 291. During the 2023 count, 121 were sheltered in emergency shelter, 132 were sheltered in transitional housing, and 11 were sheltered in supportive housing. The remaining 27 were unsheltered. Of the 291 veterans, 20 were female.

Total Veterans*	348,459
Women Veterans*	52,338

Race/Ethnicity Distribution***

White, Not Hispanic	55%
Black/African American	27%
Hispanic/Latino	5%
Asian	3%
Other (including two or more races)	10%

Income**

less than \$49.9K	40%
\$50K to \$99.9K	30%
\$100K or more	30%

Educational Attainment**

High school graduate	24%
Some college or associates degree	32%
Bachelor's degree or higher	40%

Veteran Unemployment Rate***

Veteran	2.1%
Non-veterans	4%

VA Benefits Utilization**

Education beneficiaries	23,000
Receiving disability compensation	98,000
Receiving pension	2,300
Enrollees in the VA healthcare system	157,000

Maryland Veteran Suicide Data

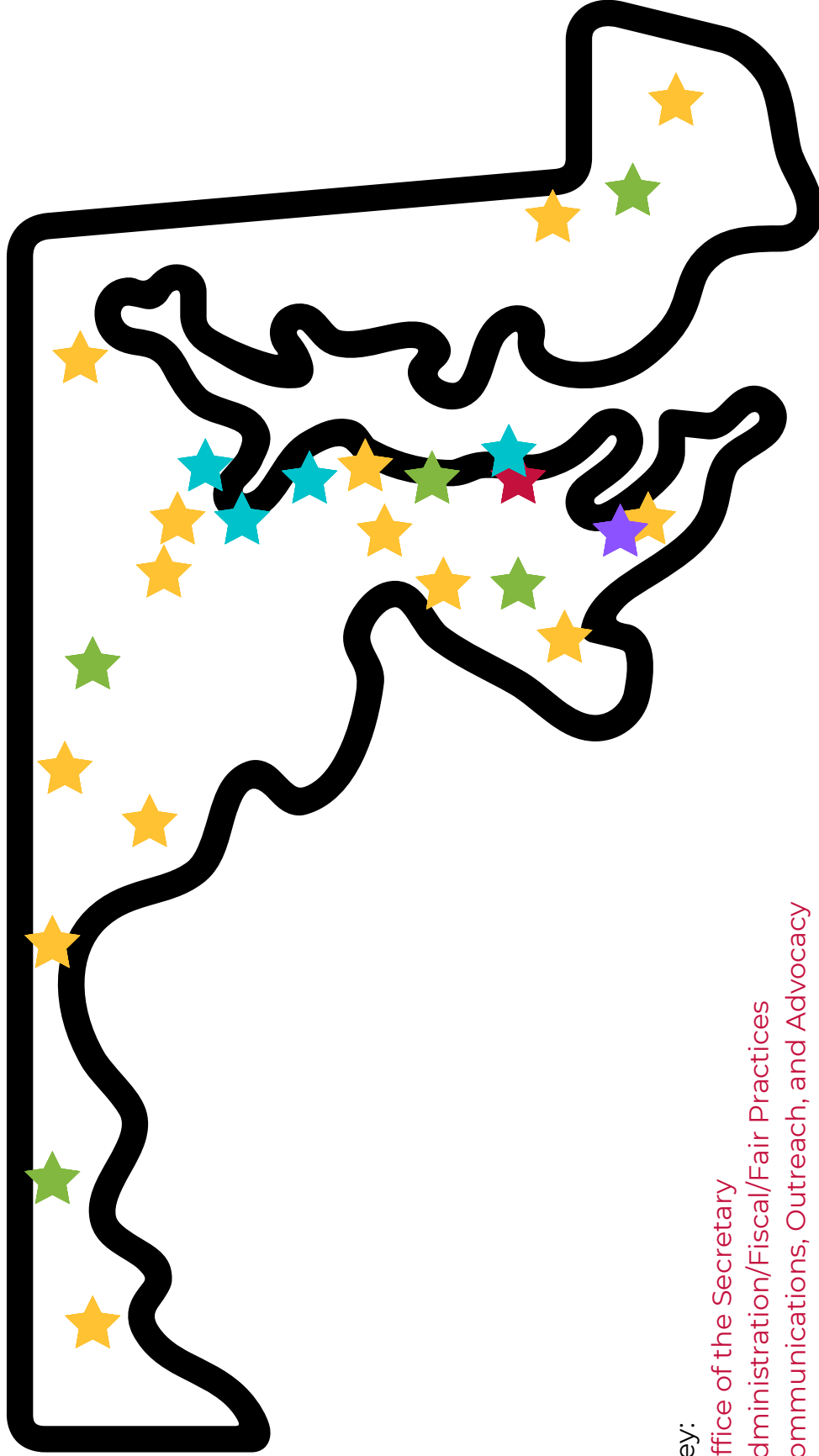
According to the US Department of Veterans Affairs available suicide data in 2021, 89 veterans died by suicide. In 2020 79 veterans died by suicide and in 2019 66 veterans died by suicide.

*www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp/: Veteran population projections 2020-2050 (reported to the nearest 1000)

**www.datahub.va.gov/stories/s/8vmb-86pa (VA data sources from 2021)

***usafacts.org/topics/veterans/state/maryland/ (Source: American Community Survey)

WHERE WE SERVE: Locations



Key:

- Office of the Secretary
- Administration/Fiscal/Fair Practices
- Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy
- Service Offices
- State Veteran Cemeteries
- Veteran Memorials
- Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

SIGNATURE INITIATIVES

MARYLAND JOINS FORCES

Announced this November at a joint Veterans Day event with Operation Homefront, Maryland Joins Forces is a new MDVA initiative designed to mobilize partners across sectors to meaningfully address issues affecting veterans and military families. The initiative is centered around five focus areas with specific outcomes in mind:



- (1) **Employment:** Reduce veteran & military spouse unemployment and make it easier for spouses to transition to the state without career disruptions.
- (2) **Food and Housing Insecurity:** Ensure no military connected family experiences food insecurity and eliminate homelessness amongst veteran families.
- (3) **Education:** Members of the military-connected community gain the skills and credentials they need to find meaningful employment and contribute to a thriving Maryland economy.
- (4) **Health and Wellness:** Military connected families live healthier lives – both physically and mentally with increased access to health and wellness resources.
- (5) **Volunteer Service:** Increase the number of opportunities for members of the military connected community to serve alongside their non-military connected neighbors to reduce the civil-military divide.



2023 established partnerships:

- [American University](#)
- [Blue Star Families](#)
- [Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Maryland Department of Disabilities Council](#)
- [Operation Homefront](#)
- [Team Red, White, and Blue](#)



SIGNATURE INITIATIVES

GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE TO PREVENT SUICIDE AMONG SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND FAMILIES (SMVF)

MDVA continues its partnership with the Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration to co-lead Maryland's participation in the VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Families.

In November, Governor Moore reaffirmed the state's commitment to this work and officially launched the statewide Ask the Question Campaign. This campaign, a Governor's Challenge team initiative lead by the MDVA Director of Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy, encourages organizations to screen for military service and refer to service member, veteran, and family member specific resources.

Since September 2023, 300 individuals have been trained on Ask the Question. Organizations trained thus far include the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Disabilities, Maryland Veterans Commission, Harford County Government, Washington County Mental Health Advisory Committee and local veterans commissions.

Ask the Question materials are now available for governments, nonprofits, and businesses and provide education on how to screen for military service. In addition, resource pocket cards are being distributed to constituents all across the state which direct them to VA benefits. Organizations requesting materials can also request training on Ask the Question, military cultural competency, and suicide prevention.




HOW WE SERVE: MDVA PROGRAMS

SERVICE AND BENEFITS PROGRAM

The MDVA Service and Benefits Program assists veterans, dependents, and survivors, in obtaining benefits from the VA, the U.S. Department of Defense and the State of Maryland. With offices statewide, benefits specialists have access to VA claim tracking systems which allows personnel to provide the most accurate information. Since October 15, 1979, the program has served as a repository for DD214s for veterans released from active duty who return to Maryland. The program partnered with VA in 2023 to host three claims clinics/resource fairs.

The Service and Benefits Program accepted power of attorney for 2,278 veterans and processed 1,235 property tax exemption applications. The program also verified veteran status for 228 Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Program applications.



FY23 contacts 153,309
FY23 claims filed 4,423
FY23 VA payments \$37.8 million dollars
FY23 claim approval rating 92%

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

"I am writing to say that we are extremely happy with Aaron Awkward here in the State VSO office. He is doing a great job and serves as my "go to guy" for senior veterans and families in dire need. Today I forwarded another WWII veteran case to him for assistance as the family is seeking aid and attendance prior to placing him in an assisted living home. He is 99 years of age and I know Aaron will take great care of him.

Again, it gives me comfort knowing Mr. Awkward is on the job and there to handle many of the cases coming through the Prince George's County office."

-Veteran assisted by the Prince George's County Service Office



CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is a 444-Bed facility in St. Mary’s County providing assisted living and skilled nursing care for Maryland Veterans and eligible spouses.

Calendar year 2023 was a time of transition for Charlotte Hall. In addition to hiring a new and wholly experienced new state veterans home director, MDVA instituted four major reforms to improve quality of care.

1. New management contract: PruittHealth has the track record necessary to transform the home.
2. New contract structure: This new model, used in other states with high-performing homes, incentivizes quality care and safety. The structure ensures profits are never put before the well-being of our veterans.
3. New oversight guidelines: Industry best practices have been implemented to focus on collecting real-time data on healthcare quality measures.
4. New deficiency reporting requirements: The Moore-Miller Administration worked in partnership with the state legislature to require contractors operating state-owned nursing homes, including Charlotte Hall, to provide notice of deficiencies and levied enforcement actions. This new reporting requirement, signed into law last session by Governor Moore, will increase transparency and help ensure better oversight and care for Charlotte Hall residents.

PruittHealth and the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs are working in lockstep to turn Charlotte Hall around and to take care of our most vulnerable heroes.

**Moving Forward:
Sykesville Veterans Home**

In June 2023, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved an architect firm to design a new veterans home. The home will be located in Sykesville, Carroll County. It will be an innovative, state-of-the-art, non-institutional skilled nursing facility that provides veterans with the best care in a resident-centered environment. Maryland will use the US Department of Veterans Affairs Small House Model Design Guide which integrates design with resident centered care.

The home is programmed for 128 beds. On-site services will include 24 hour nursing care, dialysis, dental, optometry, occupational therapy/rehab and pharmacy. It will be the first newly constructed home to implement in house dialysis services for residents. Additional features planned are a community center, wellness center and barber/beauty shop. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2025 and completed in the summer of 2027.

Resident population
15% female
10% spouses
34% age 80-89
85% wartime veterans

FY23
Average census 251
Occupancy rate 57%
Volunteer hours 4,419
Contributions \$122,000

Large scale projects this fiscal year totaled 2.5 million dollars, including an HVAC renovation and a complete generator overhaul for \$400K.



CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The MDVA Cemetery Program maintains five veteran cemeteries, providing a final resting place for Maryland veterans and their eligible dependents. This year, 3,663 veterans and dependents were interred at our cemeteries. The cemeteries include Crownsville in Anne Arundel County, Cheltenham in Prince George's County, Eastern Shore in Dorchester County, Garrison Forest in Baltimore County and Rocky Gap in Allegany County. Interment services are provided Monday through Friday and cemeteries are open to the public 365 days a year. Over the past five years, the Cemetery Program has averaged 3,501 interments each year. Since the establishment of the Cemetery Program, the department has interred more than 122,000 veterans and dependents.



HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, the burial fee for veteran dependents was removed. In person Memorial Day events were held at the Vietnam War Memorial, World War II Memorial, and all cemeteries. Veterans Day events were held at the Vietnam War Memorial, World War II Memorial, and all cemeteries.

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery added additional pathways around the exterior of the administrative building and replaced the large shelter glass window to view the memorial urn fountain.

Crownsville Veterans Cemetery raised and realigned 2055 headstones as well as replaced the maintenance shop and committal roofs.

Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery repaired the HVAC system in the administration building and shelter. The front gate was also repainted.

Walden University volunteers spread 30 yards of mulch, stained the wooden perimeter fence, and painted parking lot lanes at Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery. A repaving project is underway.

Staff at Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery constructed a cover behind the storage garages to protect large equipment. The storage facility and exterior blocked surfaces were repainted. A Department of Natural Resources grant was awarded to plant 30 trees and a traffic mirror was installed to improve traffic egress.

On Memorial Day, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore and Secretary Woods participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument infrastructure project is expected to be complete by June 2024.

Several events were held at the WWII Memorial to include one with Bells Across America and a cleanup project with Maryland State Delegate Dana Jones.

COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The MDVA Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program is charged with implementing innovative practices to seek out and inform veterans and families about benefits, services, and incentives that are available from federal, state and local governments and the community. The program is also responsible for representing MDVA on a number of commissions and councils and serving as a voice for the veteran community across many subjects including behavioral health, homelessness, workforce development, health equity, and employment.



FY23 Data Highlights

- 420 events attended
- 7,856 face to face or virtual contacts
- 2,448,695 newsletters opened
- 787,113 Facebook reach
- 12,615 Twitter reach
- 147,088 website visitors

TOTAL CONTACTS ACROSS ALL CHANNELS 4,217,732

WOMEN VETERANS/INCLUSION PROGRAM

As 2023 concludes, the Women Veterans/Inclusion Program continues to grow. The second annual focus group was held to identify unique challenges experienced by women veterans and other underserved veteran populations. More than 75 veterans participated. A key takeaway was that most veterans, regardless of geographical location, experience similar challenges.

In response to feedback, the program launched its quarterly virtual chat series for veterans, caregivers, and dependents, a monthly electronic newsletter, and an annual diversity event.

A women veterans recognition and wellness event was held in partnership with the American Legion in June 2023. Sixteen women veterans were recognized with Governor’s citations.

Monthly outreach to the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women continues. In 2023, the first Women Veterans Day observance event was held at the institution.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

“I just want to say how proud I am to be a veteran of the U.S. Army and how welcome your MDVA newsletter is in my inbox. This is a very important way for us veterans to know that we are appreciated, if we need help you have given us the resources to find it, and it gives us a better sense of community and pride in what we’ve contributed to this great nation and the world. Thank you so much for this newsletter!”



MARYLAND VETERANS TRUST FUND

A 501c3 organization, the Veterans Trust Fund provides nonemergency, financial assistance to Veterans or widows/widowers of Veterans. Following an applicant interview with the Trust Fund's Administrator, if eligible, the Veteran submits an application with required backup documentation to the Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund's Review Committee approves or denies grant applications. Committee members strive to ensure equitable distribution of grants and to assist as many individuals as possible.

In 2023, a contractual employee was hired to support the Trust Fund Administrator.

2023 Donations and Contributions: \$645,747
2023 Grant Awards to applicants: \$402,400

Donations come from individuals, organizations and the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Agency. It is governed by a Board of Trustees and chaired by the MDVA Secretary.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES MANAGED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

MARYLAND VETERANS SERVICE ANIMAL PROGRAM AND FUND

Established in 2017, the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Grant Program provides grants to organizations who train service dogs or provide qualifying equine therapy to veterans. The foundational purpose of the Service Animal Grant Program is to reduce suicide risk for veterans and improve their mental health and well-being. In FY23, the Grant Program Review Committee approved \$31,000 in funding for each of the seven organizations who applied for funding. Individual grantees are listed below, together with how the largest portion of their grant award was utilized.



FY23 Grant Awardees

Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding, Inc. (Harford County)

Supported the establishment of a Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center at the Maryland Health Care System at the Perry Point VA Medical Center.

Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program, Inc. (Cecil County)

Supported professional certification for multiple staff who provide equine assisted therapy for veterans.

Lifeline Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc. (Montgomery County)

Supported the services of a mental health and equine specialist who provides equine-assisted psychotherapy for veterans and supported professional certification for multiple staff.

Maryland Therapeutic Riding, Inc. (Anne Arundel County)

Supported professional accreditation for multiple staff and outreach activities to promote Maryland Therapeutic Riding services for active military and veterans.

Promise Landing Farm, Inc. (Prince George's County)

Supported professional certification for multiple staff and provided in-person training for equine-assisted service providers on suicide prevention facilitated by a suicide prevention subject matter expert and instructor.

Warrior Canine Connection, Inc. (Montgomery County)

Supported the establishment of a service dog training program for incarcerated veterans at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services facility In Jessup, MD.

Wellspring of Life Farm, Inc. (Baltimore County)

Supported professional accreditation for multiple staff members and supported the purchase of a horse driving cart/harness and a pony driving cart/harness for disabled veterans.

**PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES MANAGED BY THE
COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

VETERANS SERVICES SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Established in 2017, the Veterans Services Specialist (VSS) Program designated veteran liaisons in state government. Liaisons convene for education on VA resources and are charged with sharing resource information with veteran employees and constituents. They also refer veterans to MDVA for assistance.

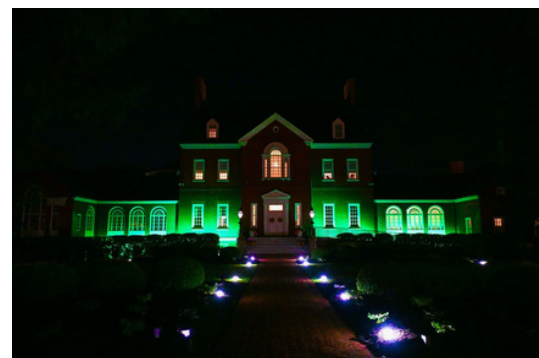
Two meetings of the VSS program were held in 2023. The first, held in May, was hosted by the Maryland Stadium Authority and included a Baltimore Station briefing as well as discussion on the establishment of a VSS Program liaison handbook. The second, held in September, was hosted by the Maryland Department of Transportation and included training on the Governor’s Challenge, military screening (Ask the Question), and the newly published liaison handbook. The November meeting also included local county veteran commission chairs and other nonprofit partners.



OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

Participating bigger and better this year, MDVA again lead the state’s participation in Operation Green Light. The campaign ran from November 6 to 12 with the goal to increase awareness of VA resources and to show our veterans and military families they are seen, heard, and appreciated.

New this year was a week-long Operation Green Light spotlight campaign to raise awareness of uncommon state benefits for veterans and families. The campaign led to a significant increase in social media activity and education to our constituents on these benefits. Special thanks to the Office of the Governor, Department of Taxation and Assessment, Office of the Comptroller, Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Program, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Budget and Management for their partnership during Operation Green Light.





BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Maryland Veterans Commission

This commission meets quarterly and advises the Secretary on issues related to veterans, including veteran related legislation. Commissioners represent the Department at commemorative events and present Governor's Proclamations on special days to include Veterans Day and Memorial Day. The Commission has one active sub-committee, Combating Substance Misuse Impacting Maryland Veterans and Their Families. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to five-year terms. The Governor also names the Chair.

In addition to the eight congressional districts, the following organizations or categories are represented:

- American Ex POW's
- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Catholic War Veterans
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Disabled American Veterans
- Fleet Reserve Association
- Jewish War Veterans
- Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
- Marine Corps League
- Maryland Officer's Association of America
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- National Association of Black Veterans
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- Pearl Harbor Survivors Association- (honorary nonvoting member)
- Polish Legion of American Veterans
- Reserve Officers Association
- Reserve Organization of America (added in 2023)
- The Retired Enlisted Association
- Iraq/Afghanistan War Veteran
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Women Veterans Member

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Maryland Veterans Home Commission

The Veterans Home Commission advises the department on issues related to state veteran homes. They interact with veterans and other organizations to disseminate information concerning Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. The commission has fourteen members and meets quarterly. Eleven members are named by the Governor with Senate advice and consent to five-year terms. Three members serve ex-officio, representing the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

War Memorial Commission

The War Memorial Commission shares custody and supervision of the War Memorial Building and the War Memorial Plaza with the City of Baltimore. Maintenance costs are equally shared by the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore. The Commission meets quarterly and consists of ten members who serve five-year terms; five are appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the Governor's approval, and five by the Mayor of Baltimore.

The MDVA Secretary or his/her designee is appointed and serves as a member of the following commissions, councils or boards.

- Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission (COA)
- Maryland Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention (COA)
- Governor's Workforce Development Board
- Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission
- Maryland Commission on Health Equity (COA)
- Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness (COA)
- Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial (COA)
- Commission to Establish a Global War on Terrorism Memorial
- Opioid Response Advisory Council (COA)
- State Coordinating Committee for Health and Human Services Transportation (COA)



**Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Five Years of Progress**

Data Point	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Five Year Totals/ Averages
VA claims submitted	4,917	4,170	2,798	3,715	4,423	20,023 claims
New/ increased cash benefits	\$34 million	\$32 million	\$30 million	\$37 million	\$38 million	\$171 million
Veterans Home census	399	307	300	295	251	310 (Avg) residents
Cemetery interments	3,390	3,159	3,929	3,470	3,663	17,611 burials
Total grants to veterans/ widows(ers) in need	\$126,000	\$138,538	\$230,000	\$246,000	\$402,000	\$1,016,664 in grants
Newsletter subscribers	136,347	146,201	167,616	198,995	206,307	206,307 subscribers
Customer service satisfaction ratings	86%	89%	88%	85%	85%	87% (Avg) service rating

Operational Budget

Program	FY23/FY24 Budget
Service and Benefits Program	\$2,027,160/\$2,344,252
Cemeteries (FY23 budget included \$8.2 million dollars for headstone raising and realignments)	\$15,148,261/\$7,179,079
Memorials (budget includes \$177,000 for the War Memorial)	\$427,744/\$447,046
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home	\$31,668,042/\$40,399,160
Executive	\$1,700,043/\$2,175,188
Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program (FY23 \$250,000GF and FY24 \$212,000GF for the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program)	\$635,986/\$653,019
MDVA	\$51,607,236/\$53,197,744

Retirements



Bruce Webster, Superintendent
Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery
18 years of MDVA service

Debra Hynes, Deputy Director
Service and Benefits Program
15 years of MDVA service

Janet Thomas, Area Supervisor
Service and Benefits Program
47 years of combined state service

In Memoriam

George W. Owings, III, Former Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs,
Former Maryland State Delegate

Andrew (Andy) Johnson, Major General, US Army (Ret.),
Maryland Veterans Home Commission

Erwin Burtnick, Colonel, US Army (Ret.), Maryland Veterans Commission

John Francis (Johnny) Wood, Jr.
Maryland Veterans Home Commission, Former Maryland State Delegate

Richard Lane, Master Sergeant, US Army, US Air Force, and Maryland Air National
Guard (Ret.), Maryland Veterans Commission

References/Resources

USA FACTS <https://usafacts.org/topics/veterans/state/maryland/>

US Office of Housing and Urban Development 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar/2023-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us.html>

VA 2023 National Suicide Prevention Annual Report
<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2023/2023-National-Veteran-Suicide-Prevention-Annual-Report-FINAL-508.pdf>

VA National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp

VA Open Data Site
<https://www.datahub.va.gov/stories/s/8vmb-86pa>

VA Veteran Population Projections 2020-2040
www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/Demographics/New_Vetpop_Model/Vetpop_infographic2020.pdf

MDVA Leadership Team

Anthony Woods
Secretary

Morgan Murphy
Senior Advisor to the Secretary

Robert Finn
Deputy Secretary

Peter Pantzer
Chief of Staff

Andrew Libraty
Deputy Chief of Staff

Marian Charland
Finance and Administration Director

Ross Cohen
Strategic Partnerships and Intergovernmental
Relations Director

Phil Munley
Service and Benefits Program Director

John Lombardi
State Veterans Home Director

Russell Ware
Cemetery and Memorial Program Director

Dana Burl
Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy
Program Director

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs is a State Government Executive Department with a service mission to assist veterans, active-duty service members, their families and dependents, in securing benefits earned through military service.

Department of Veterans Affairs Programs:

Maryland Joins Forces
Service and Benefits Program
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
Cemetery and Memorial Program
Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program
Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

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