



THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

The Official Publication of the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



vfwmd.org

November—December 2018

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Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program and Fund

During the 2017 Maryland Legislative Session, Senate Bill 441 created the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program and Fund in the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill was approved by Governor Hogan May 4 and took effect July 1, 2017.

The Program educates veterans and the community about Maryland based service and support dog programs and the benefits such dogs may provide to veterans living with a disability.

The Program also establishes the *Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program Fund* in the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. Donations to the fund will be disbursed by the Department to participating service animal programs to reimburse for costs associated with training and placing a service dog with a military veteran.

FOR VETERANS SEEKING A SERVICE ANIMAL If you are interested in learning more about guide and service dogs, visit '[Guide and Service Dogs](#)' on the MDVA website.

Participating Service Animal Programs

Hero Dogs, Inc.

Located in Brookeville, Maryland, “improves quality of life for our nation’s heroes by raising, training, and placing service dogs and other highly skilled canines, free of charge with lifetime support of the partnerships.”

Warrior Canine Connection (WCC)

Located in Boyds, Maryland, utilizes a “Mission Based Trauma Recovery model to help recovering Warriors reconnect with life, their families, their communities, and each other”.

Fidos for Freedom, Inc.

Located in Laurel, MD, “enhances the quality of life for people in the Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan community by providing specially trained hearing dogs, service dogs, and therapy dogs”.

If you have questions related to the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program or about participating service animal programs, please contact the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs at 410-260-3838 or 410-260-3842.

FOR INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE PROGRAM:

Donations are accepted by check or online by credit card. Checks must be payable to the **Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program Fund** and mailed to:

Dana Burl, Director
Outreach and Advocacy Program
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
16 Francis Street, Fourth Floor
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Please note on the check if you wish to remain anonymous. If not noted your name will appear as a donor on the MDVA website.





**Thomas Williams
Jr. Vice Commander
Dept. of MD VFW**

Comrades,

Summer is over and Old Man Winter is around the corner. It's time to get your programs done and membership on track. I know you are tired of hearing the same old thing from Department, but this is what we're here for. We have a Council of Administration coming up on November 3 at Post 7687 Chesapeake City. Have your District Commander bring your concerns to the table. We can't act on anything if we don't hear from you all.

Happy Anniversary to Wicomico County Memorial VFW Post 10159 with 49 years. The ceremony was well attended by Department and members. As you know, Veteran's Day is just around the corner. All posts should have a ceremony at the post, invite the public, and/or have an open house. Members can go to the schools and talk to the children. They ask a lot of questions about history and

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**Frank Bennett
Surgeon
Dept. of MD VFW**

Comrades,

Time to go out and sign up new members! Many will need help. Introduce them to the Post Service Officer.

Time to get your reports in. At your Post Meetings, listen to the information given by the Service Officer, Chaplain and Hospital Chairman. They do a lot of your work. Make sure that the work that they do gets the credit it deserves by sending in a report of their activities.

The weather will be getting cold...Keep trash and leaves out of drains. Remember to change batteries in your smoke detectors and turn back your clocks at the appropriate time.

In Comradeship,
Frank Bennett
Jr. Vice Commander

THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

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WEBSITE
www.vfwmd.org

VFW 
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Jr. Vice, from page 2

things that are forgotten. The next generation should not let our stories and history be lost.

The Vietnam Veterans should try to let the past go. I know it's hard to forget what our country did to you all when you came home. The VFW is not about that. You all are doing exactly what the WWII veterans did to you. The VFW can't survive by trying to recruit members this way. This Veteran's Day put on your cover and walk proudly. Welcome each other home. Talk to the new veterans, invite them into the post and show them what we're really about. I'm tired of hearing the same two lines: "That won't work"; and, "We always did it like that." It's time for a change this year. I'm pushing for credit cards in the posts. The old cash box is obsolete.

Mos posts are changing over to a Point of Sale system. When you order this system just add the credit card recorder. The new members don't carry cash. This is the future and we need to catch up.

Some of the post work well with their Auxiliary. These combined efforts can ensure the programs get done. In addition to post and auxiliary meetings you should have a joint meeting. Members can plan and come up with new ideas. Our new saying is "One Team, One Mission." There is no more "us" and "them". We all should have a goal for our community and our veterans. Get involved with veterans, community, and the next generation.

Got any questions or concerns? Give me a call or email USNR23@outlook.com, 443-537-7695

In Comradeship,
Thomas Williams
Jr. Vice Commander
USNR Retired Seabee



QUARTERMASTER ELECTION

NOVEMBER 3, 2018

This is a reminder that the position of Department Quartermaster will come up for a vote at the November 3, 2018 (Saturday) Council of Administration meeting to be held at Chesapeake City Memorial VFW Post 7687 at 12:00 noon.

Any VFW member in good standing is eligible to run for this position. Please notify Department Commander Denise Perry or Adjutant, Doug MacArthur of any interest at your earliest convenience.

This is a paid position with a mandatory two day presence in the office at the War Memorial Building in downtown Baltimore.

District Commanders, please get this information out to your Post Commanders as soon as possible.

Interested parties should plan to be at the meeting with your sponsor available to make the nomination on Novem-



Tiffany Daniel
Chaplain
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,

Online Reporting System for Chaplains

A special shout-out to those who file their Chaplain's Report each month. Thank you for the work you do and for faithfully filing reports. For those who are not familiar with the reporting system, the National Chaplain has been kind enough to share their reporting system with us.

Simply click on this link; [http://](http://vfwchaplain.puptent1.org)

vfwchaplain.puptent1.org and it will take you directly to the reporting system. VFW Chaplains are encouraged to report their monthly activity no later than the 2nd Saturday of each month for the previous month using this reporting system. Once you submit your report you will receive an email containing the data you submitted. That email can then be forwarded to me or I can download them from the site. It can also be forwarded to your Post and included in the Post Community Service Report.

In support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, TeamMD (our virtual team) on behalf of Mental Health Awareness has registered for the walk on November 3rd in Baltimore;

MD walk

<https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=5587>

Following on November 10th there will be a dinner and dance on behalf of the VFW National Home for Children, password

VFW;

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vfw-fundraising-murder-mystery-dinner-and-dance-tickets-51026020200>

Both the suicide rate and the homeless statics are raising daily. There are practically 2 Warriors/Veterans committing suicide each day. Let's help bring this mystery out of the darkness.

And lastly, please see the attachments concerning the Community, Clergy Training Program designed specifically by VA to be our Community Training Partner Initiative to help Veterans access care and resources.

Thank you for your continued support and willingness to be a part of the Ministry of HELPS.

Tiffany Daniel

Tiffany Daniel

Chaplain

VFW Maryland

Ministry of **HELPS**

"Help Enlighten and Lead People to Serve"

Community Clergy Training Program, on Page 5



COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM: Helping Veterans Access Care and Resources

Many Veterans and their family members seek help for their problems from clergy. As a member of the clergy, you and your house of worship are an important contact point for Veterans in your community. Sometimes clergy members aren't aware of the Veterans in their congregation or how they might help a Veteran and their family following deployment. Clergy may recognize Veterans who are struggling in their return to civilian life, but don't know how to support them.

Community Training Partner Initiative

Clergy provide anonymity and confidentiality, and there is less stigma associated with seeking counseling from the faith community for issues such as post-traumatic stress, depression, or difficulty transitioning from military to civilian life. Yet, clergy members sometimes have limited knowledge about the unique health issues and readjustment difficulties common to returning warriors. We would like to partner with you to provide you with critical resources to assist the Veterans in your congregations and community.

THE COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (CCTP) Educates and informs clergy and others about:

- Military culture and civilian cultures
- Common combat and military service-related health concerns
- The challenges of readjusting to civilian life
- Pastoral care for Veterans and their families
- Working with VA and community health care professionals
- Building a network of community support for military members, Veterans and their families

If you are interested in participating in, hosting, or helping to organize a CCTP training event in your area, please contact.

Chaplain Joy Carrington
Wilmington VA Medical Center
CCTP Coverage Area: Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands
(302) 994-2511 • Joy.Carrington1@va.gov
Www.patientcare.va.gov/chaplain/clergytraining



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration



Delayed Housing Payments Im- pacting 180,000 Student Veterans

VFW requests patience and understanding from landlords

WASHINGTON — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is urging tens of thousands of student veterans to immediately contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at 888-GIBILL-1 (or 888-442-4551) if they are facing a financial hardship due to delayed VA housing payments.

The VA said that as many as 180,000 student veterans housing payments were delayed this month in part due to computer updates to reflect benefit changes through the Forever GI Bill. Until the problem is fixed, VA is requiring benefits processors to work overtime and weekends, while many student veterans may be forced to raid their individual savings accounts or borrow money from their families to hopefully avoid late fees, ruined credit ratings or eviction.

“The VA reports that education claims will be processed immediately, as will disbursements, but if student veterans do not achieve resolution within three business days, I urge them to contact the VFW through our 1StudentVeteran@vfw.org email address,” said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. “We will intervene directly with the VA to ensure your housing allowance is correct and paid. In the meantime, I would encourage all student veterans to contact their landlords and explain the VA’s computer processing problem, and for landlords to be patient and understanding, because they will be paid.”



Tom Kimball
PSC
Dept. of MD VFW

Dear Maryland Comrades,

It's just before Veterans Day 2018 and we need to remember the many friends the VFW has and those who have done so much to support veterans.

Burger King remains in the forefront in support of us and the Unmet Needs Program who has furnished aid to thousands of veterans and their families during emergencies and when things go wrong with vehicles; or when there is a need for food, money to pay utilities and for food or other basic needs. Burger King has been there.

This year let's get out and support Burger King, take the family, get together as a post or District and go to your local franchise and show them that we appreciate their support.

In Comradeship,
Tom Kimball
PSC



In honor of Veterans Day, the following Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs ceremonies will take place Sunday, November 11, 2018

10:30 AM

World War II Memorial- Route 450 at Naval Academy Bridge, 1920 Ritchie Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401

11:00 AM

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery – 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, Maryland 20623
Crownsville Veterans Cemetery – 1122 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville, Maryland 21032
Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery – 11501 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117
Vietnam Veterans Memorial – Middle Branch Park, 2825 South Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD 21225

1:30 PM

Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery – 6827 East New Market Ellwood Road, Hurlock, Maryland 21643
No Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery in Allegany County due to construction.

The following Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Day Ceremony will take place Monday, November 12, 2018

11:00 AM

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622, RSVP to Carole Lewis – clewis@hmrmd.com or 301-884-8171 ext. 483



Auxiliary News



**Dr. Joyce Thomas, President
Dept. of MD VFW Auxiliary**

Greetings,

Veterans Day Message

Let us take time out of our busy schedules to pay special tribute to our Veterans in honor of Veterans Day. It is because of their sacrifices that we are able to enjoy the freedom that has been given to us. I thank each of you for all that you do for our Veterans everyday of the year. Thank you for making every day Veterans Day for Veterans and their families.

Suggestions for Helping Veterans:

- Share the Veterans Crisis Line
1 (800) 273-8255
- Pay for the meal of a Veteran
- Take items to the Homeless Shelters for Veterans e.g. McVet
- Be aware of Veteran legislative issues in Congress that need your support by contacting your Congressman

- Take a Veteran out for a meal e.g. lunch or dinner

Thank you very much for making every day "Veterans Day." Keep up the good work and know that through your efforts, you are making life a little brighter for those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Respectfully,

Joyce M. Thomas

Dr. Joyce M. Thomas, President
VFW Auxiliary Department of
Maryland 2018 - 2019



Auxiliary News



Gloria Joy Bauerline

Gloria Bauerline, a 71 year Charter Member, of Emmitsburg Auxiliary 6658, turned 95 on September 5, 2018. Happy belated Birthday Gloria!



Betty J. Stahm, PDP
Membership Chairman
Dept. of MD VFW Aux.

Volunteers

Valuable is the work you do.

Outstanding in how you always come through.

Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer,

Untiring in your efforts throughout the year.

Notable are the contributions you make,

Trustworthy in every project you take.

Eager to reach your every goal,

Effective in the way you fulfill your role.

Ready with a smile like a shining star,

Special and wonderful - that's what you are.

"Membership" - It is who we are and what we do! No one does more for Veterans than the VFW with the Auxiliary by its side. Without our members there would be no support for our Veterans, Military and their families. It is the **"Why"** we joined. Our heroes made us eligible to join this great organization called the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. By remaining a member in good standing with our great organization, you help our Veterans through our legislative causes. Our membership numbers count when we go before our legislators in Washington, D.C. The money from your dues is being used in our organization to support the following programs: Cancer Grants for Our Members, VFW National Home for Children, Scholarships for Our Youth and Members, Hospital Programs and Visits, National Veteran Services, Legislative Action, UnMet Needs (Aid to Veterans and their Families), Military Assistance Program (MAP), Youth Programs and so much more! To remain a member in good standing your dues must be paid by December 31st. If you have not paid your dues, please take the time to submit today. A Hero is depending on you.

It is hard to believe that the Holidays are fast approaching us. I would like to wish from my house to yours a "Blessed Thanksgiving, a Very

See **Membership**, Page 9



Auxiliary News



Membership, from page 8

Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year"!

Respectfully Submitted:

Betty J. Stahm

Betty J. Stahm, PDP
Membership & Recruitment Chairman
VFW Auxiliary - Department of Maryland



"Believe - Yes we can"....."Bee Miracle Workers for our Veterans"!



BUS TRIP



COME JOIN THE DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND VFW AUXILIARY
AS WE VISIT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

3573 S Waverly Rd (471.82 mi)
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

Thursday April 4th – Saturday April 6th, 2019

Departing from Yingling-Ridgely VFW Post 7472
4225 VFW Lane Ellicott City, MD

Depart from Post 7472 at 5:30 am on April 4th, 2019
Arrival in Eaton Rapids at approximately 4:00 pm on April 4th, 2019
Depart Eaton Rapids on April 6th, 2019 at approximately 9am
Arrival at Post 7472 on April 6th, 2019 approximately 7pm

Transportation price is **\$145.00** per person.
A deposit **\$45.00** is needed to reserve a seat.

Make checks payable to: **Dept of MD VFW Auxiliary.**
Mail to: **Carole Betro, 26595 Blue Jay Lane, Hebron, MD 21830**

Please call to make your personal room reservations at the

Comfort Inn:

1302 E Packard Hwy
Charlotte, MI 48813
517-543-7307

Group Name VFW Dept of Maryland # 3414868

Room Type
Single \$75.00 + Tax
Double \$75.00 +Tax

For further information please call:
Cynthia Davis 443-629-3270

VFW & Auxiliary In the Spotlight

