



JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Department of Maryland

Email: Info@jwvmaryland.org

Website: www.jwvmaryland.org

January – March 2023 Newsletter

Membership

Department of Maryland Leadership

Posts & Post Commanders

Maryland Veteran News

National Veteran News

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Resources

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Resources



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Membership: All Jewish men or women who have served honorably during war or peacetime in any branch of the U.S. Military on active or reserve duty, or as national guardsmen are qualified and encouraged to join.

Department of Maryland Leadership

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Commander | Erwin Burtnick | eburtnick@comcast.net |
| • Senior Vice Commander | Charles Jay | jayfamcs@comcast.net |
| • Junior Vice Commander | Michael Zippert | mazippe@netzero.net |
| • Judge Advocate | Sheldon Goldberg | fitrg8tr@verizon.net |
| • Adjutant | Andrew Wolkstein | awolkstein@comcast.net |
| • Quartermaster | Charles Sandler | casandler3@gmail.com |
| • Chaplain | Rabbi Chesky Tenenbaum | rabbict@gmail.com |
| • National Executive Committee | Scott Schlesinger | scott@schlesingers.com |

Posts & Post Commanders

- Maryland Free State Post 167 - Charles Sandler; casandler3@gmail.com
 - Owings Mills MD 21117
- Kemp Mill Post 360 - Scott Schlesinger; scott@schlesingers.com
 - Silver Spring MD 20902
- Commodore Levy Post 380 - Arnold Abraham; arnold.abraham@gmail.com
 - Annapolis MD 21401
- Krieger-Loube Post 567 - Jerome Cohen; jeromeacohen67@outlook.com
 - Silver Spring MD 20906
- LT Harold Greenberg-Albert Lerner Post 692 – Michael Glick; commander@jwv692.org
 - Rockville MD 20850

Maryland Veteran News:

Maryland Legislature “Season:” Its legislature season in Maryland – thanks to the Maryland Military Coalition – these are some of the Veteran related bills being discussed this session:

Senate Bill 258: The bill would expand the existing property tax credit for disabled veterans by lowering the threshold from 100% disability to 80% disability. Importantly, the legislation would apply not only to disabled active duty service members and disabled veterans but to qualifying surviving spouses of individuals who died in the line of duty.



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Senate Bill 572: The bill creates a subtraction modification against the state income tax for any individual who has a federal adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less and (1) is receiving old age or survivor Social Security benefits or (2) is at least age 65 and is not employed full time. The governor has also proposed additional measures to exempt law enforcement, fire and rescue, corrections, and emergency response personnel from state tax on all retirement income specific to their service, and to increase the tax exemption for all military retiree pensions.

Coalition Supports Bill to Expand Polling Place Access at Colleges and Military Bases: A bipartisan group of Maryland's elected officials has pre-filed legislation in the House and Senate with the goal of giving students and active-duty military members' easier access to voting resources.

Sponsored by House Majority Leader Eric G. Luedtke (D-Montgomery) and Mike Griffith (R-Harford) and Sen. Sarah Elfreth (D-Anne Arundel), the legislation would allow active-duty military members to electronically register to vote and request an absentee ballot as well as make public colleges and universities formulate plans to encourage students to vote.

The Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act (HB156 / SB 283) would create formal processes for "large residential communities" such as universities, military bases, and senior communities to request on-site polling places. It would also require public higher education institutions to increase voter registration efforts on their campuses, and give college students excused absences to vote.

Both public and private higher education institutions would be required to create websites that link to voting information if the bill passes, and would have to report how many students are using those sites.

Military members would be allowed to register to vote online using their Department of Defense Common Access Cards if the bill passes. Luedtke noted that many military voters don't serve near a post office or embassy, and can't easily register to vote under Maryland's current system.

The bill has support from student and military advocates, who say the legislation would increase voter turnout. Patrick Guibao, the Vice President and Legislative Director for the Maryland Military Coalition, said the bill would benefit Maryland's overseas service members. "Voter empowerment is citizen enrichment," Guibao said.

National News:



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The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

VA offers \$30M in grant funding to assist formerly homeless Veterans

WASHINGTON — As a part of ongoing efforts to prevent and end Veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs is announcing \$30 million in grant funding for organizations to help formerly homeless Veterans maintain their independence and housing stability.

This funding opportunity will give organizations the funding they need to hire case managers, who will help Veterans search for, obtain, and successfully transition to permanent housing; troubleshoot challenges and barriers to maintaining permanent housing; connect with services to address issues such as poor credit history, rent arrears, and legal issues; and more.

VA anticipates awarding 100 Case Management Grants for up to \$300,000 each to support approximately 150 case manager positions nationwide. Awards will fund two years of operations, starting on Oct. 1, 2023, and ending Sept. 30, 2025. The funds are available through VA’s Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority of VA and the entire Biden Administration. The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has fallen by 11% since early 2020 and 55.3% since 2010. Additionally, during 2022, VA placed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans into permanent housing — exceeding VA’s goal by more than 6%. In late 2022, the Biden Administration released All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, which lays out the goal of reducing homelessness for all Americans by 25% by 2025.

“For many Veterans experiencing homelessness, moving into permanent housing is the first step toward the stability and independence they deserve,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “But



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our work doesn't stop there — these case managers help ensure that once Veterans become housed, they get the resources they need to stay housed.”

VA's efforts to combat Veteran homelessness are grounded in reaching out to homeless Veterans, understanding their unique needs, and addressing them. These efforts are built upon the evidence-based “Housing First” approach, which prioritizes getting a Veteran into housing, then provides the Veteran with the wraparound support they need to stay housed — including health care, job training, legal and education assistance and more.

Eligible entities, as described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, may apply for these Case Management Grants. Grant applications must be received by the GPD Program Office by 4 p.m. ET on Thursday, May 4, 2023. View the NOFO and learn more about GPD or email GPDGrants@va.gov.

If you are a Veteran or know a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness or at risk for homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838). Visit the VA Homeless Programs website to learn about housing initiatives and other programs for Veterans exiting homelessness.



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Veteran Resources



Maryland State Department of Veterans Affairs

Anthony Woods, *Secretary*

Phone: (410) 260-3838/Toll Free: 866-793-1577; Hours: 8:00 to 4:30

mdveteransinfo@maryland.gov

- **Service and Benefits Program** - Providing representation for veterans and dependents seeking USDVA benefits 800-446-4926, ext 6450
- **Cemetery and Memorial Program** - Providing interment services for veterans and eligible dependents Cemeteries 410-923-6981, Memorials 410-354-3550
- **Charlotte Hall Veterans Home** - Providing skilled nursing & assisted living care to veterans and eligible spouses 301-884-8171, ext. 5111
- **Maryland Veterans Trust Fund** - Assisting veterans who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties 800-446-4926, ext. 6460
- **Outreach and Advocacy Program** - Providing education to the community about veteran benefits and services 410-260-3842/3840
- **Maryland State Agencies Veterans Specialist Program.** Veterans do you have questions for another Maryland State Agency? Learn more about the Veterans Services Specialist Program (VSS Program).
 - <https://veterans.maryland.gov/veterans-services-specialist-program/>



Contact Card



QR Code
to visit our website

410-260-3838 

mdveteransinfo@maryland.gov 

veterans.maryland.gov 

MDVA Programs

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Service and Benefits Program
800-446-4926, ext 6450
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
301-884-8171

Cemetery and Memorial Program
410-923-6981

Outreach and Advocacy Program
410-260-3842/410-260-3840

Maryland Veterans Trust Fund
800-446-4926, ext 6460

VA Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255, press 1 or text to 838255
VA National Center for Homeless Veterans 877-4AID-VET
VA Women Veterans Call Center 855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)





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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Phone (800) 698-2411 – Hours: 24/7

- VA Healthcare Administration/Enrollment - Central Maryland/Eastern Shore Residents 877-222-8387
- VA Benefits Administration 800-827-1000
- VA Education Benefits 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551) VA Home Loan Guaranty Program 877-827-3702
- VA National Cemetery Administration 800-698-2411 Arlington National Cemetery 877-907-8585
- VA Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255, press 1 or text to 838255
- VA National Center for Homeless Veterans 877-4AID-VET
- VA Women Veterans Call Center 855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)