

Minutes

Wednesday, January 7, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting



PRESENT: Patricia McCoy, Am Legion Post 206; Rebekah Richard, Educator; Wesley Mumper, American Legion Post 274; Jackie Turnboo, Military Spouse/Veteran Caregiver; Craig Jones, At-Large; Meg Faller, District 3; Christian Zimmerman, College of Southern MD; John Gray, American Legion Post 220 Rep; Mike Benton, Business Owner

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Sullivan, BOCC Rep, Office on Aging; Kristin Byerly, Univ. of MD Campus

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Mike Sweeney, District 2; Robert Sprecher, Am Legion Post 85

GUESTS: Donny Williams, Serving Together; Teresa Weeks, SAO Advocate; Chris Vassallo

CCG STAFF: Tykia Everett, CCG Admin.

Pat McCoy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Call to Order and Administrative Actions

- Quorum confirmed with 7 voting members present.
 - Agenda Approval: Motion to approve the January 7, 2026, meeting agenda made by Kristin Byerly, seconded by Mike Benton. Approved unanimously.
 - Minutes Approval: Regular Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve the Nov. 5, 2025, minutes made by Meg Faller, seconded by Jackie Turnboo. Approved unanimously.
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II. Announcements and Introductions

- Pat welcomed all in-person and virtual attendees.
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III. MEMBERSHIP

- One vacancy noted: **At-Large position.**
- Interested veterans may apply via the Calvert County website (Commissions → Veterans Commission).

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

- **Owings District Court Discussion:** Joshua Marks noted that the late George Owings, former Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, was a strong statewide advocate for Veterans Treatment Courts. In recognition of Secretary Owings' contributions, Mr. Marks requested that the Commission consider providing a letter of support to assist in

gaining state-level backing for legislation to name a Judicial District 4 District Court venue in his honor. Mr. Marks was present virtually and available for additional comment. Mr. Marks noted that the late George Owings, former Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, was a strong statewide advocate for Veterans Treatment Courts. In recognition of Secretary Owings' contributions, Mr. Marks requested that the Commission consider providing a letter of support to assist in gaining state-level backing for legislation to name a Judicial District 4 District Court venue in his honor. Mr. Marks was present virtually and available for additional comment.

VI. Information Sharing / Member Updates

- **Purple Heart Highway Sign:** An update was provided on the Purple Heart Highway signage. Staff reported continued coordination with the State Highway Administration and noted that additional examples of Purple Heart signage from other states had been shared for reference. An update from the State is expected within the next week. Challenges remain regarding the proposed placement along Route 4, as the State has expressed concerns about removing an existing "Welcome to Calvert County" sign. Further clarification and review of signage requirements are ongoing.
- **Outreach:** An outreach visit is scheduled for January 30th, 2026, at Huntingtown High School during a teacher workday to meet with school staff and provide an overview of the Commission's role and available community support. Coordination with Calvert High School is also being explored. A JROTC instructor at Huntingtown High School was identified as a potential candidate for Commission membership due to strong community involvement.
- **Military Families Event:** Planning is underway for a Military Families event scheduled for April 18, to be held from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion location. Additional details will be provided as planning continues.
- **Office On Aging:** Information was shared regarding available resources through the Office on Aging. Veterans aged 50 and older who may need assistance, including nutrition services, caregiver support, or housing resources, are encouraged to reach out for potential support.
- **Veterans Treatment Court:** It was noted that there is currently no funding available for a Veterans Treatment Court. The matter will continue to be monitored and explored for future opportunities.
- **Farmers Market:** The Commission discussed plans to begin participating at the North Beach Farmers Market on select Saturday mornings to promote the Commission and increase community awareness.
- **Serving Together:** An update was provided for Serving Together, noting a return to twice-monthly in-person availability on the second Wednesday and fourth Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Southern Pines Senior Center. Additionally, information was shared about the Caregiver Connect Program, a monthly virtual support group for caregivers, including those who are military members themselves or who care for individuals in military families.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Motion for adjournment by Jackie Turnboo and seconded by Mike Benton. Approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the Community Resources Building, Extension Service Conference Room with virtual option available.

Adopted on the 4th of February 2026 – minutes transcribed by _____.

Signed Patricia A. McCoy

Date: 2/7/2026