



**Maryland**

DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**Maryland  
Department of  
Veterans &  
Military Families**

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

**Governor**  
Wes Moore

**Lt. Governor**  
Aruna Miller

**Acting Secretary**  
Edward Rothstein

**Deputy Secretary**  
Jimmy Anderson

**Deputy Secretary, Military Family Policy & Programs**  
Dana Burl



# Secretary's Message

It is my honor to present the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families' Annual Report. This report reflects the dedication of our staff and partners and our shared commitment to leave no one behind as we serve Maryland's military-connected communities.

Over the past year, DVMF made meaningful progress in strengthening services and expanding access statewide. Our Service and Benefits Program delivered record levels of claims assistance, connecting veterans and families to millions of dollars in earned benefits. Charlotte Hall Veterans Home achieved a significant quality turnaround, improving to a four-star CMS rating and reinforcing our commitment to safe, high-quality long-term care. Through Maryland Joins Forces, we deepened collaboration with community, nonprofit, and government partners—turning service, outreach, and connection into tangible support for military families across the state. We also continued to honor service through our cemeteries and memorials, expand support for women veterans, and provide critical financial assistance through the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

When the federal government shutdown threatened the financial stability of veterans, service members, and their families, DVMF responded quickly. We worked alongside the Governor's Office and our Maryland Joins Forces partners to connect impacted families with emergency assistance, address food insecurity, and ensure no one was left to navigate uncertainty alone. During this period, the Veterans Trust Fund experienced an increase in applications, underscoring both the need for—and the importance of—strong, responsive state support.

These accomplishments are the result of strong partnerships, dedicated public servants, and the voices of the military-connected community who guide our work. As we look ahead, DVMF remains focused on building on this momentum—listening, learning, and leading to ensure every veteran and military family has access to the care, benefits, and support they have earned.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Ed Rothstein  
Acting Secretary  
Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families



# DVMF Overview & Mission

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) was established by the State Legislature in 1999 as an executive agency charged with leading veterans, service members, and their families through life's transitions.

## DVMF's Core Programs:

**Service and Benefits Program:** Assists veterans, dependents, and survivors in accessing federal, state, and other benefits.

**Charlotte Hall Veterans Home:** Provides assisted living, skilled nursing, and secure memory care for aging veterans and eligible spouses.

**Maryland Veterans Trust Fund:** Provides grants to veterans and their families who are facing urgent financial needs.

**Cemetery and Memorial Program:** Honors veterans and eligible dependents through dignified interment at five state veterans cemeteries across Maryland.

**Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program:** Coordinates with government agencies and community partners to connect veterans and families to benefits, services, and resources.

## Veteran & Military Population in Maryland

 **348,459**  
Veteran Population\*

 **52,338**  
Women Veterans\*

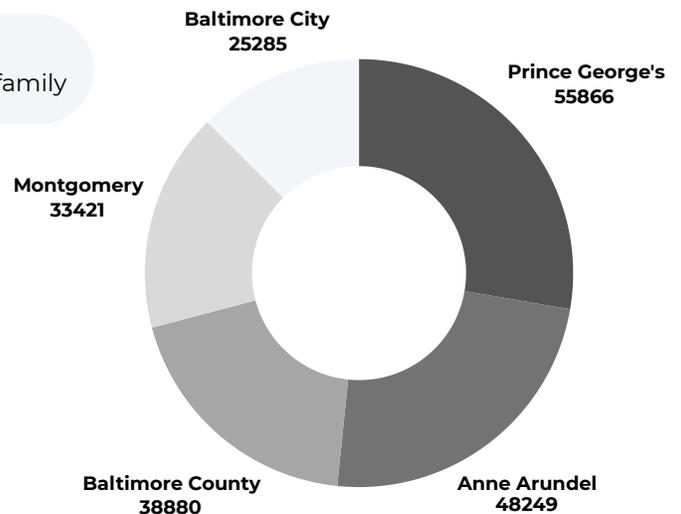
 **36,000+**  
Active-Duty Service Members\*\*

 **60,000+**  
Military-connected family members\*\*

 **25,000+**  
National Guard & Reserve Members\*\*

Maryland is home to more than 340,000 veterans, ranking 19th nationally for veteran population according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to veterans, the state includes tens of thousands of active-duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and their families, creating a large and diverse military-connected community across all regions of the state.

### Top 5 Counties in MD 2025 Veteran Population



\*<https://www.data.va.gov/stories/s/38ij-jq95>

\*\*<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/state/MD>

# Service & Benefits Program

## 2025 Impact at a Glance



**196,506**

Veteran & Family Contacts



**5,667**

VA Claims Filed



**95%**

Claim Approval Rate



**\$54.4M**

Federal VA Benefits Secured

- **Partnered** with VA to host claims clinics in Columbia, Arnold & Baltimore City
- **2,891** New Power of Attorney accepted
- **425+** Veteran Owned Small Business Certificates verified
- **Opened 2 New Offices** at MVA Annapolis & MVA Waldorf
- 25 Staff | FY26 Budget: \$2.55M

# Cemetery & Memorial Program

## 2025 Impact at a Glance



**3,327**

Interments in 2025



**3,464**

Five-year Average Annual Interments



**128,541**

Veterans & Dependents Interred since Inception

### Program Highlights

- **Honoring the Unaccompanied:** Conducted 4 Unaccompanied Veteran Honors ceremonies for 8 veterans.
- **Historic Interment:** Interred Civil War veteran Cpl. Nicholas Waters, 19th Infantry Regiment, at Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery
- **Modernized Operations:** All VA burial claims now 100% digitally submitted, enabling full tracking & accountability
- **Staff Readiness & Safety:** Formal training monitor program established; AEDs installed at all cemeteries
- **Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery** achieved a 4.7 star Google Rating

### Capital Improvements

- **Braille** U.S. Flags scheduled at all primary flagpoles
- **Crownsville:** New lobby and breakroom completed
- **Garrison Forest:** Front lobby fully remodeled by staff
- **Eastern Shore:** NCA-compliant waste and vase containers installed
- **Rocky Gap:** Roadways, pathways, and parking enhanced for accessibility
- **Cheltenham:** Shelter doors replaced; perimeter fencing extended
- **Gold Star Family Monument** updated to reflect all five branches of service
- **Korean War Memorial:** Five trees planted to provide shaded pathways

# COA

The Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy (COA) Program proactively connects veterans, service members, military families, caregivers, and survivors with vital benefits, services, and resources offered by federal, state, and local governments, as well as community partners. Through outreach, strategic messaging, and cross-sector collaboration, COA ensures Maryland's military-connected community is informed, supported, and able to access the services they have earned.



15,398

Face to Face or Virtual Contacts



2,000,000+

Newsletters Opened



647

Events Attended



117,727

Social Media Reach

## Women Veterans/Inclusion Program

The Women Veterans Inclusion Program is dedicated to honoring the service of Maryland's women, minority, and underserved veteran populations. It provides education, events, and resources to address their unique needs and ensures access to benefits they've earned through military service.

### 2025 Highlights

**Women's History Month & 6888th Central Postal Battalion Day:** Co-hosted the annual statewide observance honoring the 6888th Central Postal Battalion—the first all-minority Women's Army Corps unit deployed overseas during World War II—and celebrating the historic and ongoing contributions of women veterans.

**Women Veterans Health Summit:** Convened a statewide summit addressing women veterans' unique health and wellness needs and connecting participants to VA and community-based providers.

#### **Incarcerated Women Veterans Initiative:**

Expanded trauma-informed outreach to justice-involved women veterans, supporting identification, coordination with correctional facilities, and reentry connections to benefits and workforce resources.

#### **Women Veterans Recognition Day:**

Co-sponsored a statewide observance recognizing women veteran entrepreneurs and leaders.

#### **Outreach & Digital Engagement:**

Continued targeted outreach and expanded the WVIP newsletter to share timely resources statewide.

# Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

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The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund is a core program of the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families and a registered 501(c)(3) that provides one-time financial assistance to veterans and their families facing urgent financial hardship. The Trust Fund helps families remain housed, keep essential utilities running, and maintain stability and dignity during times of crisis.

Beyond direct financial assistance, the Trust Fund serves as an important connection point to additional resources. Through the application process, staff work closely with veterans and military families to identify additional needs and connect them to benefits, services, and community-based resources. This work is strengthened through collaboration with DVMF's Service & Benefits Program, Maryland Joins Forces partners, and veteran service organizations statewide.

In 2025, the Trust Fund supported more veterans and military families than ever before, **awarding more than \$800,000 in grants** across Maryland. During FY25, the Trust Fund recorded \$760,434.29 in contributions and other income. Continued modernization and expanded partnerships, including with **MDOT/MVA**, strengthened the Fund's reach, sustainability, and ability to respond when financial strain threatens housing, basic needs, or overall stability.

## Military Families | Maryland Joins Forces

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Since its launch in 2023, **Maryland Joins Forces (MJF)**—a DVMF-led initiative—has grown into a statewide public-private partnership supporting Maryland's military-connected community across five core pillars: **employment; food and housing insecurity; education; health and wellness; and volunteer service**. By the end of 2025, MJF reached more than **29,000** individuals and formalized partnerships with **33 organizations**, creating a coordinated network focused on action and impact.

In collaboration with **Joint Base Andrews**, DVMF convened the **Mission Strong Summit**, bringing together state leaders, military leaders, and community partners to strengthen coordination and identify solutions to challenges facing military families statewide. Throughout the year, MJF partners translated collaboration into action through family-focused events, service projects, provided resources, and donation drives supporting military children, veterans experiencing homelessness, and residents of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

During the federal government shutdown, MJF partners also mobilized to collect donations for the Maryland National Guard Food Pantry, helping ensure that service members and their families had access to essential resources during a period of uncertainty.

Together, these efforts reflect Maryland Joins Forces' focus on turning partnership into action—leveraging community, service, and connection to strengthen well-being and deliver tangible, statewide support to Maryland's military-connected community.

# Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"Serving Those Who Served"

## CMS Four-Star Milestone Achievement



**78%**

Wartime Veterans



**278**

Average Daily Census



**\$263K**

Community Giving



**63%**

Occupancy Rate

- 44% ages 70–79
- 15% Female Residents
- 10% Spouses

In 2025, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home achieved a significant turnaround, improving from a one-star to a **four-star overall rating** in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Five-Star Quality Rating System.

This progress places the Home **among the top 25 percent of state veterans homes nationwide** and reflects strengthened leadership, improved operations, and a renewed focus on accountability, safety, and resident outcomes.

A key driver of this improvement was workforce stability, as evidenced by a five-star CMS staffing rating in the most recent assessment. Together, these gains demonstrate a sustained commitment to delivering high-quality, person-centered care for Maryland's veterans.

**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.

# Operational Budget

Program	FY25/26
Service and Benefits	\$2,489,428/\$2,544,252
Cemeteries	\$7,173,621/\$8,015,956
Memorials (budget includes \$177,000 for the War Memorial)	\$453,938/\$458,469
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home	\$57,125,690/\$47,830,643
Sykesville Veterans Home	\$47,881,000/\$0
Executive	\$3,067,884/\$3,409,358
COA (FY25 and FY26 - \$212,000 GF for the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program)	\$669,598/\$804,963
DVMF	\$118,861,159/ \$63,063,641