



# The Maryland VETERAN



## Scholarships for Veterans

### Conroy Memorial Scholarship

The Conroy Scholarship Program provides up to the full cost of tuition and fees based on the University System of Maryland campus with the highest cost of attendance (excluding UMUC and UMB) for qualified veterans and/or their children. For more information contact Linda Asplin at (410) 260-4563 or visit [www.mhec.state.md.us](http://www.mhec.state.md.us).

### Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflict Scholarship

The Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program is designed to provide financial assistance to United States Armed Forces personnel who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, and their sons, daughters or spouses who are current high school seniors, and full-time and part-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students enrolled in an eligible accredited Maryland post secondary institution. For more information, contact Linda Asplin at 410-260-4563 or visit [www.mhec.state.md.us](http://www.mhec.state.md.us)



# MHEC

### Hodson Trust Star Scholarship Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

The Hodson Trust and four Maryland colleges (Hood College, Johns Hopkins University, St. John's College [Annapolis campus] and Washington College) are awarding annual undergraduate and graduate scholarships to eligible veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. Each of the four schools will award up to a total of three scholarships a year beginning with academic year 2007-08 until academic year 2012. The scholarships will meet 100 percent of each participating institution's published annual tuition, room, board, books and mandatory student fees, not otherwise covered by federal, state and outside assistance.

Candidates for the Hodson Trust Scholarship must:

- ✦ Provide proof of deployment of at least 60 days in Afghanistan or Iraq after September 11, 2001. Eligible applicants include veterans who did not meet the 60-day active service period as a result of a service-related injury or condition.
- ✦ Provide proof of Maryland residency at the time of deployment and Maryland residency following return to the United States.
- ✦ Apply for and accept all federal and state need-based grants, all available military educational benefits and any special scholarship programs designed for veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts.

- ✦ Meet all requirements for admission at a participating institution, and maintain full-time enrollment and good academic standing in order to continue the scholarship through graduation. A recipient's individual scholarship term will not extend beyond four years.

**Contact the Office of Admissions at one of the participating institutions to apply for the Hodson Trust Star Scholarship:**

**Hood College**  
(800) 922-1599  
[admissions@hood.edu](mailto:admissions@hood.edu)

**St. John's College**  
(410) 626-2522 or  
(800) 727-9238  
[admissions@sjca.edu](mailto:admissions@sjca.edu)

**Washington College**  
(410) 778-7700  
[adm.off@washcoll.edu](mailto:adm.off@washcoll.edu)

**Johns Hopkins University**  
Krieger School of Arts and Sciences  
Whiting School of Engineering  
(410) 516-8171  
[gotojhu@jhu.edu](mailto:gotojhu@jhu.edu)

Carey Business School  
School of Education  
(410) 872-1230

School of Nursing  
(410) 955-9840

# Governor Martin O'Malley

The citizens of Maryland join me on this Veterans Day in thanking all our veterans for their service to our nation. For more than two centuries, untold numbers of Americans have answered the call to duty.

During our nation's Revolution, 400 Marylanders bought critical time with their blood at the Battle of Brooklyn. Their heroic efforts allowed General George Washington to save his fledgling Army from destruction at the hands of the British. Our nation's history would be different if it were not for their service and sacrifice on that day in August of 1776.

Generation after generation of Marylanders answered the call. They understood the obligation to serve a greater good to ensure the future for generations to come. Our veterans accepted tremendous responsibility as they proudly answered the call to defend freedom.

My father served as part of our nation's greatest generation during World War II. He taught me valuable lessons about

the concept of selfless service. Our World War II veterans did so much and asked for so very little. It was their service that shaped the history of the world by defeating evil on far off battlefields.

Again, we should all take the opportunity to thank our Maryland veterans for their dedicated service to our great nation. We greatly appreciate the fact that they stepped forward along with many other brave men and women to serve for the sake of freedom and for the sake of our future.



*Governor O'Malley with World War II veteran William E. Griggs of Baltimore.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Martin O'Malley".

## A Note from Secretary Adkins

For more than two hundred and thirty years Marylanders have answered the call for service to this nation in uniform. On this Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we acknowledge the service and sacrifices of Maryland's more than 463,000 veterans.

I would especially like to acknowledge our nation's latest generation of veterans as they return home. Let us also not forget those Marylanders who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and let us keep their families in our prayers on this Veterans Day.

We often find that many veterans do not realize that they are veterans. According to the U.S. Code, Title 38, Part 1 Chapter 1 Section 101, the term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable. If you were active duty, other than just for training, you are probably a veteran. You may well be entitled to federal, state or local benefits, including education, home loans, insurance, pensions and compensation for service-related disabilities, as well as benefits for health care, burial for you

and/or surviving family members.

For more information, call 866-793-1577 or email [mdveteransinfo@mdva.state.md.us](mailto:mdveteransinfo@mdva.state.md.us).

Governor O'Malley, Lieutenant Governor Brown and I would like to thank all Maryland veterans and their families for their unselfish service and we ask that all Marylanders take the time on this Veterans Day to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of veterans. I want all veterans and their families to know that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs stands ready to help them with their needs related to their military service.

More information on the services provided by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs may be found at <http://www.mdva.state.md.us>.

Take time to reach out and thank a veteran for their service.



## 41 Cent Purple Heart Stamp Issued

The Postmaster General announced that the U. S. Postal Service will issue the Purple Heart stamp at the First-Class Mail price of 41 cents. "Re-issuing this stamp demonstrates our nation's eternal gratitude to our military service members," said Postmaster General Jack Potter. "It is a lasting tribute to the many brave members of the Armed Forces who have served our country."

This is the third issue of the Purple Heart definitive postage stamp. The Purple Heart stamp was first issued on May 30, 2003, at Mount Vernon, Virginia. The second issuance was on May 26, 2006, at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.



The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the U. S. military who have been wounded in combat or to the next of kin of those killed in action.

The stamp image featured a photograph by Ira Wexler of one of two Purple Hearts awarded to James Loftus Fowler of Alexandria, Virginia. Fowler was a Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Marines and was serving as battalion commander of the Third Battalion, 4th Marines, when he received this Purple Heart in 1968 following action close to the Ben Hai River on the border between North and South Vietnam.

The 41-cent Purple Heart stamp went on sale nationally in August. Please buy and use Purple Heart stamps.

## Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7, 2007

66th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor



## Obtaining Copies of Your DD-214

The National Archives has a website that allows individuals to request a DD-214 online. You may use this system if you are:

- A military veteran, or
- Next of kin of a deceased, former member of the military
- The next of kin can be any of the following: surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother.

The website is: [www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/)

If you would prefer to call the National Archives, they can be reached at:

1-866-272-6272 • TDD lines: For College Park, MD: 301-837-0482

THE  
NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES.GOV

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

James A. Adkins, Secretary  
Wilbert B. Forbes, Deputy Secretary

**Outreach & Advocacy**

Laurie E. Atherholt, Director

The Jeffrey Building  
16 Francis Street - 4th Floor  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Phone: 410-260-3838  
Toll Free: 866-793-1577  
Fax: 410-216-7928

**BALTIMORE SERVICE CENTER  
& ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

**Finance & Personnel**

John R. Kearns, CFO

**Claims Assistance & Benefits**

Paul M. Prozialeck, Director  
Federal Building - Room 1231  
31 Hopkins Plaza  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Phone: 410-230-4444  
Toll Free: 800-446-4926  
Fax: 410-230-4445

**CHARLOTTE HALL  
VETERANS HOME**

Frederick D. Shroyer, Director  
29449 Charlotte Hall Road  
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622  
Phone: 301-884-8171  
Toll Free: 800-522-8387  
Fax: 301-884-8036

**BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

**Maryland Veterans Commission**

Gordon B. Browning, Chair

**Maryland Veterans  
Home Commission**

Robert M. Johnson, Chair

**The War Memorial Commission**

War Memorial Building  
William B. Proctor, Chair

**Washington Cemetery  
Board of Trustees  
(Civil War Cemetery)**

William R. Divelbiss, President

# Veterans Day in Maryland

Sunday, November 11, 2007

Veterans Day is set aside to recognize the brave men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Service performed in defense of our Nation is the highest form of citizenship. The Congress of the United States has designated the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of each year as Veterans Day. As such it has become a significant part of our American heritage, as we recognize the millions of citizens whose military service has protected the American values of freedom and justice for all.

It is fitting and appropriate that we promote the vital role which Marylanders and Americans have historically played in times of war, conflict and peace to faithfully and honorably support freedom and democracy for others. Governor O'Malley and Maryland's citizens honor its distinguished veterans in paying homage to the memory of those who fought to preserve our cherished American way of life.

## Veterans Day Events

Sunday, November 11, 2007

**10:00 AM** Leonardtown Veterans Day Parade, St. Mary's County  
Lt. Governor Anthony Brown scheduled to attend

**10:30 AM** World War II Memorial, Annapolis

**11:00 AM** Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, Prince George's County  
Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, Anne Arundel County  
Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery, Baltimore County  
Korean War Memorial, Canton Water Park, Baltimore  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Middle Branch Park, Baltimore

**1:30 PM** Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery, Dorchester County  
Governor Martin O'Malley scheduled to attend

**2:00 PM** Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery, Allegany County  
War Memorial Building, Baltimore

Monday, November 12, 2007

**10:30 AM** Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, St. Mary's County

## Transition Assistance in Maryland

As all of you know, Maryland has had numerous deployments of the Maryland Army National Guard and Maryland Air National Guard. Over the past year more than 1,250 Army National Guardsmen deployed outside the United States in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. Others are training in preparation for their deployments this year. These brigades are attached to armories in Dundalk, Elkton, Frederick, Towson, White Oak, Annapolis, Easton and Glen Burnie. Air National Guard deployments have included the Border Mission in Arizona, as well as airfields in Iraq.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) teamed up in 2005 to improve coordination of veterans benefits by hiring Transition Assistance Advisors (TAAs) to help ensure a smooth and seamless transition for service members returning from active duty deployments. Mrs. Kerry Gehring is the TAA for the State of Maryland, serving as the statewide point of contact to provide advice to managers, supervisors, service members and their families regarding benefits and entitlements available through VA. You may contact her at [kerry.gehring@us.army.mil](mailto:kerry.gehring@us.army.mil) or 410-974-7400 ext. 235 or by cell at 410-440-6904.

## American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

### Maryland Chapter

On June 4, 1928, twenty-five mothers met in Washington, DC to establish American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The organization was named after the Gold Star that families hung in their windows in honor of the son or daughter who had died as a result of hostilities.

Natural, adoptive or stepmothers, who are citizens or legal residents of the United States, and whose son or daughter has made the supreme sacrifice while in the service of the United States of America Armed Forces, or who died as a result of such service are eligible for membership.

Husbands and children of American Gold Star Mothers may join as Associate Members.

Carol Roddy, the mother of deceased Navy Petty Officer David Roddy, recently reactivated the Maryland chapter of Gold Star Mothers. Currently there are approximately forty members, representing Maryland's fallen heroes from the Vietnam era to the present Global War on Terror. Meetings are scheduled around the State to provide members and prospective members an opportunity to meet and honor their sons and daughters through their service to America's veterans.

**Maryland Gold Star Mothers**  
466 Abbey Circle  
Abingdon, MD 21009  
410-569-0710  
croddydupp@comcast.net

## Blue Star Mothers of Maryland

### Old Line Chapter

The once prominent Blue Star flag that hung in windows in wartime is making a comeback. Also known as a Service Flag, the blue stands for hope and pride. When family members were killed, the blue star was replaced with a gold one.

On October 17, 1943, Congress authorized the flag, and in February 1943, the Secretary of War approved an official design. Display of the Blue Star flags virtually disappeared during the Korean and Vietnam wars, but is returning as America's sons and daughters return from the Global War on Terror.

The mission of the Blue Star Mothers of Maryland Old Line Chapter is to support and advocate for all Maryland citizens who serve or have served in America's Armed Forces; and to provide friendship, loyalty and dedication to mothers who have been brought together by fate in the realization that freedom and democracy rest on their sons and daughters.

**Blue Star Mothers of Maryland**  
Old Line Chapter  
439 Chalfonte Drive  
Catonsville MD 21228  
laxsoc@comcast.net  
marine1ok@yahoo.com  
www.bluestarmothersofmd.org



*Pat Payne, Blue Star Mothers and Carol Roddy, Gold Star Mothers, with Governor O'Malley attending a recent veteran reception at Government House.*

### CEMETERY & MEMORIAL PROGRAMS

Robert L. Hooper III, Director  
1122 Sunrise Beach Road  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
Anne Arundel County  
410-923-6981

#### CHELTENHAM VETERANS CEMETERY

Martin F. Fahey  
Superintendent  
Cheltenham  
Prince George's County  
301-372-6398

#### CROWNSVILLE VETERANS CEMETERY

Christopher T. Piscitelli  
Superintendent  
Crownsville  
Anne Arundel County  
410-987-6320

#### EASTERN SHORE VETERANS CEMETERY

Bruce W. Webster  
Superintendent  
Hurlock  
Dorchester County  
410-943-3420  
Toll Free - 866-497-3684

#### GARRISON FOREST VETERANS CEMETERY

Kenneth McKisset  
Superintendent  
Owings Mills  
Baltimore County  
410-363-6090

#### ROCKY GAP VETERANS CEMETERY

Ronald B. Platt  
Superintendent  
Allegany County  
301-777-2185

#### MEMORIALS

Patrick M. Tracy  
Assistant Director  
Cemetery & Memorial Programs  
Baltimore, MD  
410-354-3550

#### WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING

Douglas W. Henley  
Executive Director  
Baltimore  
410-396-8013

## “The War” America’s WWII Story

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has been pleased to work with Maryland Public Television in support of their special programming to tell America’s WWII story of “The War”. This is a 7-part Ken Burns documentary, which premiered in September and is being rebroadcast each Wednesday from October 3 to November 14, 2007. Free community screenings of this film series, which explored World War II through Americans who lived it, were held across the State, including at St. John’s College in Annapolis.

On Wednesday, September 12th, Governor O’Malley was on hand to greet and honor those Marylanders who served America so courageously. Among the Maryland World War II veterans, who have participated in this MPT project, is Shelton B. Bosley of Catonsville.



Secretary Adkins and Shelton B. Bosley

Maryland continues to honor each generation of heroes as they continue to protect our freedom and liberty. Among the recent Fallen Heroes from Maryland, is U. S. Naval Academy graduate, Marine Major Douglas Zembiec of Annapolis.

He was known as the Lion of Fallujah. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in May. To date, Maryland honors the service of 89 sons and daughters who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Then Marine Capt. Douglas Zembiec, the commanding officer of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, gives orders to his men over a radio prior to leaving their secured compound for a short patrol in Fallujah, Iraq, April 8, 2004. Zembiec was killed in action May 10, 2007. He was 34 years old.

## Troops-to-Teachers

Troops-to-Teachers provides Referral Assistance and Placement services to military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher. The DANTES Troops-to-Teachers office will help applicants identify teacher certification requirements, programs leading to certification and employment opportunities. For further information about the program in Maryland, contact:

**Robert T. Henry, USN (Ret)**

Troops to Teachers Coordinator  
Division of Certification and Accreditation  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore MD 21201  
410-767-8286  
[rhenry@msde.state.md.us](mailto:rhenry@msde.state.md.us)

# Death Benefit to Surviving Spouse or Estate of Maryland Residents Killed in Action

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is awarding up to \$125,000 to the surviving spouse, children, dependent parents or estate of a Maryland resident who is killed in action in Afghanistan or its contiguous airspace, or Iraq or its contiguous waters or airspace. The application process is outlined below:

The beneficiary, or an individual or agency applying on behalf of the beneficiary, must submit a letter of application to:

**John Flynn, Executive Director, Human Resources**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**  
6776 Reisterstown Road – Suite 309  
Baltimore, MD 21215-2341  
410-585-3408

The applicant must submit the following documents along with the letter of application for the death benefit:

1. A copy of the death certificate and report of casualty that provides evidence that the service member was killed in action while serving in Iraq or its contiguous waters or air space, or Afghanistan or its contiguous air space. If the service member is not killed in action but dies from injuries, a statement from the Department of Defense that the service member's death was a direct result of injuries sustained while in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan, must be provided.
2. Name, address and Social Security number of beneficiary, plus as appropriate:
  - Copy of marriage certificate, if the beneficiary is the surviving spouse.
  - Copy of birth certificate(s), if beneficiary is surviving child or children.
  - Documentation to verify dependency for the death benefit, if beneficiary is surviving dependent parent(s), to include a copy of most recent federal income tax form filed by decedent, showing dependency of parent(s), or other documentation to show that parent(s) received more than half of their support from the decedent.
  - If there is no surviving spouse, children or dependent parents, documentation verifying that

an estate has been opened and to verify who is the personal representative of the estate.

### 3. Legal Maryland State Resident

A veteran's legal residence within the State, for the purpose of establishing eligibility for State benefits, shall be established by reasonable and substantial evidence. Such evidence may include:

- An up-to-date voter registration card, in the name of the veteran
- A certified copy of a Maryland income tax report form, filed by the veteran immediately preceding his or her date of death; or
- A certified copy of a notice of tax assessment or tax bill on property located within the State, addressed to the veteran and dated within one year of his or her death.

Additional information may be required due to any unusual or exceptional circumstances or to establish a causal connection between the decedent's job functions and death.

## Representation Pays

Veterans who are represented by accredited service officers on average receive approximately \$7,000 more per year in veteran's disability benefits than their non-represented counterparts. VA data shows that veterans who are represented by accredited organizations on average receive \$11,700, while their non-represented counterparts receive \$4,700 per year.

It pays to seek representation when filing claims for federal VA disability benefits. Forty-four percent (44%) of Maryland veterans who file claims with the VA use accredited representatives. This is the lowest rate in the nation. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Service Program employs nine accredited service officers, located at five different service centers throughout Maryland.

To find the nearest Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer, and speak to an accredited representative, please call **1-800-446-4926 extension 6450**.

*Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs... Proudly Serving Maryland Veterans*



Office of the Secretary ..... 866-793-1577  
Outreach & Advocacy ..... 866-793-1577  
Cemetery & Memorial Programs ..... 410-923-6981  
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home ..... 800-522-8387

**Veterans Service Program & Claims Assistance**

Baltimore ..... 800-446-4926  
Cumberland ..... 301-759-5251  
Frederick ..... 301-694-2155  
Hurlock (Eastern Shore) ..... 866-497-3684  
Landover ..... 301-909-6325

**Read previous issues of The Maryland Veteran**  
**[www.mdva.state.md.us/html/newsletters.html](http://www.mdva.state.md.us/html/newsletters.html)**

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For a complimentary subscription, call 866-793-1577 or email [mdveteransinfo@mdva.state.md.us](mailto:mdveteransinfo@mdva.state.md.us)

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