

WELCOME

August 2, 2023

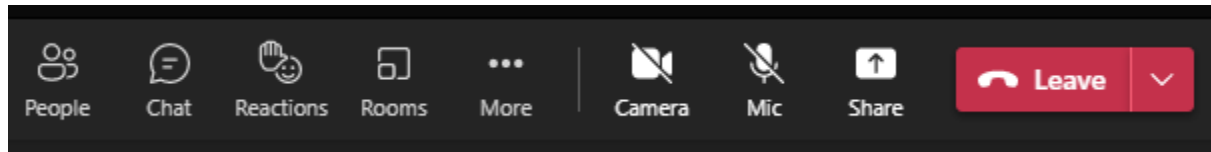
Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services

NCTC Classroom

Bldg. 8-63, Fort Indiantown Gap

Annville, PA 17003

Chat function is used to submit comments or questions



*Please enter your **full name and agency** for attendance purposes



INTRODUCTIONS & OPENING COMMENTS

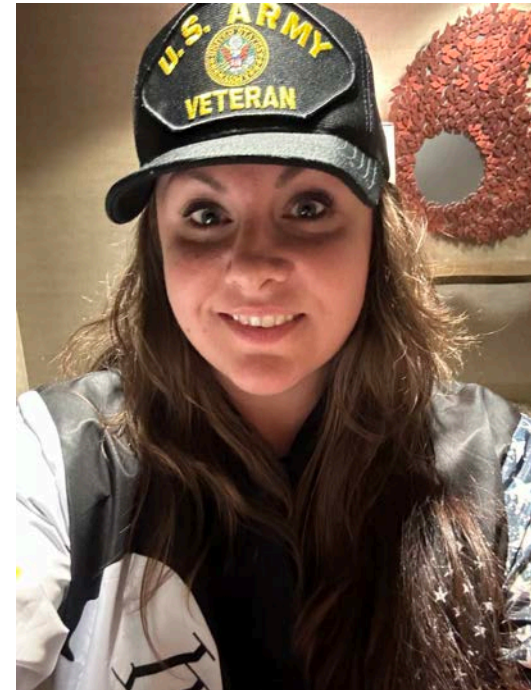
OLD BUSINESS

VETERAN OF THE QUARTER



Ally Murr

- Ally served in the Army and now serves the veteran population as a Veteran Service Officer for The American Legion.
- She is working to obtain a Masters degree in Social Work.
- Ally is a mentor for a Veteran's Treatment Court and uses her own story to empower others to succeed.



GUEST SPEAKER

- **PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION**
Pennsylvania Military Museum
Mr. Tyler Gum, Site Administrator



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY MUSEUM



Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

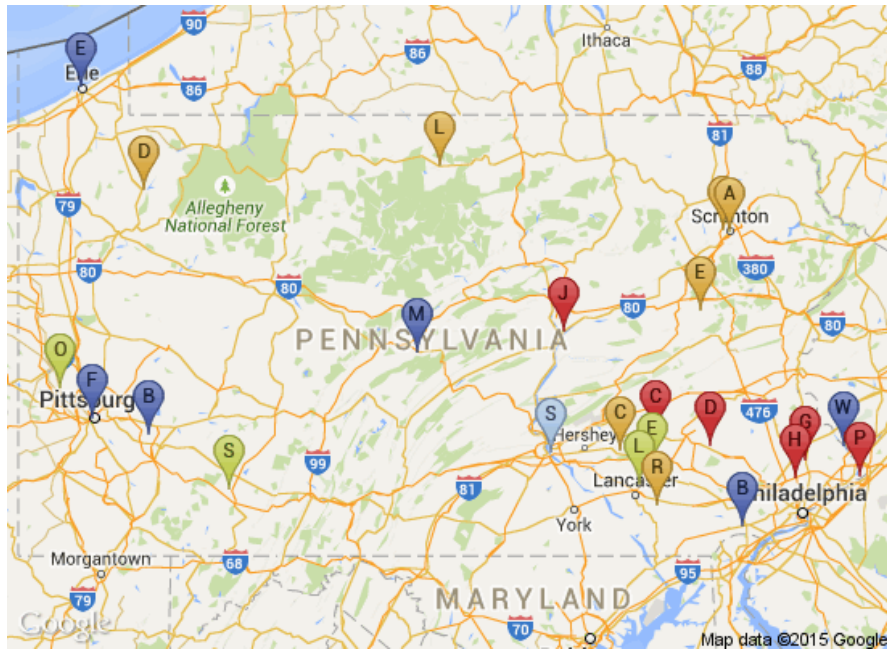
Mission and Resources

- ***Mission:*** The PHMC works in partnership with others to preserve the Commonwealth's natural and cultural heritage as a steward, teacher and advocate for the people of Pennsylvania and the nation.
- ***Resources:*** Bureaus & Departments; properties, teams, and partnerships.



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

- Historic Sites & Museums
- Archives
- Preservation
 - Community
 - Cultural
 - Disaster
 - Grants
 - Markers
 - National Register
 - Project Review



26 Sites

- Military History Trail
 - Historic Homes Trail
 - Industrial Heritage Trail
 - Rural Farm and Village History Trail
 - History Hubs
- Administered, Partnered, Placed
- Associate Groups: more than 13
- Complement size: 157 state employees



Pennsylvania Military Museum

Museum Mission

The Pennsylvania Military Museum preserves and honors Pennsylvania's military history from 1747 to the present, interpreting for citizens and visitors the story of the Commonwealth's "Citizen Soldiers", civilian activities on the home front, and the contributions of Pennsylvania industry to military technology.



Friends of the Pennsylvania Military Museum

(501c3)

... to protect and preserve, for future generations, the legacy of Pennsylvanians who served in the military of the United States, and to support the Pennsylvania Military Museum and the 28th Division Memorial Shrine.

Goals include promoting interest in the military museum, assisting with projects in the museum and on the grounds, providing and facilitating educational programming, and establishing fundraising activities in order to accomplish the above-stated and related purposes

The Museum, currently

- Officially opened, Sunday, May 25, 1969
- Currently five PHMC staff members
- Four buildings
- Approx. 70 acres
- 31 Memorials and Monuments
- 276 years of history in our mission
- Approximately 13,000 items in the collection

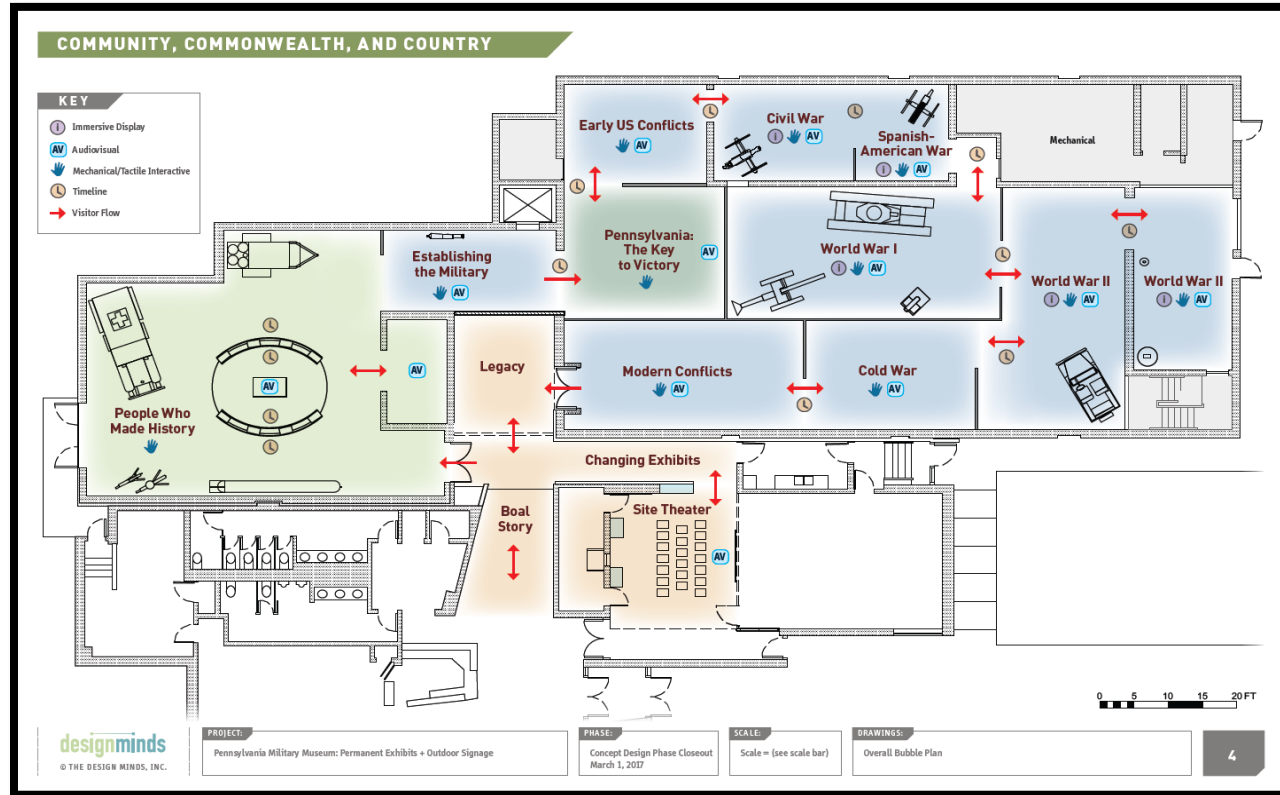


Ed. & Outreach

- Visitors Welcomed: 250,000+
- School Children Welcomed: 2,000+
- Countries Represented: 16
- Economic Impact: \$550,00+
- Volunteer Hours: over 6,000



The Museum, future





KILROY
WAS
HERE

AGING

Ms. Margo Coleman, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Increase direct caregiver awareness on veteran exploitation through training offered to PA professionals
- Increase annual distribution of pension poaching toolkit via listserv
- Continue connections with community and state agencies via education, data share, and quarterly guest speakers
- Re-establish Arts in Residency program offered through PA Council on the Arts in all six veteran long-term care homes

Updates

- 63 partners received Pension Poaching toolkit (compared to 36 last year)
- 3 collaborative efforts; 1 guest speaker
- 3 of 6 Veterans Homes reinstating the Arts in Residency Program; 4th home in progress
- Pennsylvania's Master Plan for Older Adults

AGING



Challenges/Barriers

- Financial share of Arts in residency
- Reaching older adults outside of social media for Pension Poaching Awareness
- Reaching caregivers through social media for Pension Poaching awareness

HOMELESS

Mr. Brendan Auman/Mr. Micah Snead, Co-Chairs

Goals/Initiatives

- Support the creation of a state Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Training/resource sharing on various programs to improve service delivery and available resources for homeless veterans
- Increase the number of veterans participating on the committee who are currently or were formerly experiencing homelessness
- Collaborate with other committees to ensure homeless veterans' needs are being met

Updates

- VISN 4 Housing Goals Update
- Spotlight Speaker: Julian Rubeo – Department of Correction Housing Programs
- Homecoming: Life After Incarceration - [View the Resources](#)

Challenges/Barriers

- Finding safe, accessible, and affordable housing for both rental and ownership
- COVID Response Programs Exhausted/Ending
 - Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance
 - Homeowner Assistance Fund – [June 2023 Guidance from PHFA](#)

HEALTH PROMOTIONS

Ms. Erica Nocho, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Report on, and work to improve, any programs that promote whole health and trauma-informed care for veterans.
- Continue to promote and share resources or information regarding suicide prevention and intervention.
- Empowering behavior change and actions through increased knowledge about the needs of service members, veterans and families.

Updates

- Social media post in June
- Upcoming social media on: National Wellness Month, Women's Equality Day, Social Wellness Month and Higher a Veteran Day
- Exploring more creative social media strategies to generate traffic to websites and media posts
 - Syncing media platforms to attach different audiences
 - Solid analytics when using hashtags
 - Using content that resonates with our audiences

Challenges/Barriers

- Reaching the targeted audience
- Working within guidelines of social media marketing
- Staffing changes put a pause on some media campaign

--SHORT BREAK--

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Crystal Houser, Chair

Goals of PA Apprenticeship and Training Office (ATO)

- Increase the number of Registered Apprenticeship (RA) opportunities in PA
- Expand into non-traditional occupations, serving traditionally underrepresented populations
- Raise Awareness about the benefits of RAs and how to access them
- Advocate for RAs as a premier solution to meet workforce needs
- Provide programs to support and resources needed to align with PA standards and practices.

Updates

- Expansion of Pre-Apprenticeship Division
- 2022-23: first graduating class able to complete a pre-apprenticeship program as a HS graduation option by Act 158: Alternative Pathways to Graduation legislation
- Three funding opportunities in March/April: -DEI, -Nursing, -Broadband
- Awarded \$3.9 million Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) grant through the USDOL
- Building and Supporting a Certified Teacher RA Program in Pennsylvania: NGA seeking proposals for apprenticeship framework creating pathways for certified educators.
- 1,378 active apprentices are identified veterans, out of the 16,702 total.

Challenges/Barriers

- Combating misconceptions/miseducation on Registered Apprenticeships, and reaching audiences

Goals of the Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program

- Assist transitioning service members with meeting necessary requirements for teaching certification
- Provide individualized counseling to select the best pathway based on unique needs, goals, & skills
- Address teacher shortage in K-12 schools that serve low-income families in critical areas

Updates

- TTT is being transferred to the Military-Civilian Transition Office as of October 1, 2023
- Over 10,000 veterans received TTT information, and 45 obtained teaching certification
- Approximately 30 veterans in the enrollment process for certification programs
- Over 350 veterans have expressed interest in PA teaching certifications since September 2022
- Currently working with Mercyhurst University (MU) to reach 9,500 veterans across the country to provide information on PA teaching opportunities, to attract veterans to PA:
 - 50% tuition discount through MU
 - One-year online program
 - Flexible student teaching placement

Challenges/Barriers

- Tuition funding for the TTT participants

Goals of PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

- Assist eligible, disabled veterans to prepare for, enter into, and retain complete integrated employment in a career of choice suited to their interests, strengths, and overall abilities
- Increase referral timeliness from initial contact to receiving services and successful outcomes

Updates

	FFY 2021		FFY 2022		FFY2023 Through 7/18/23	
Number of Individuals Served	41,097		33,093		41,094	
Number of Individuals Opening New Cases	7,980		2,123		14,794	
Number of Veterans (Disability after service) Receiving Services; Number of Individuals and Percentage of total	909	2.21%	641	1.94%	849	2.06%
Number of Veterans (Service-Related Disability); Number of individuals and Percentage of total	12	0.03%	10	0.03%	14	0.03%

Challenges/Barriers

- Awareness of OVR and how to apply via CWDS or calling a local OVR office
- Ability to advocate for needs and request reasonable accommodations to be successful
- Rural transportation resources
- Needing skill and credential attainment to unlock middle income career opportunities
- Understanding how OVR, WF programs & USDVA can collaborate and braid funding

WOMEN VETERANS

Ms. Ally Murr

Goals/Initiatives

- PA Women Veterans Publication Compilation and Release
- SCI Muncy Women Veterans VSU & American Legion VSO Collaboration
- Working to nominate women veterans for the 2024 Women's History Month celebration, hosted by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Women.

Updates

- Date is set to release the Women Veterans Publication for PA in June 2024 for Women Veterans Day.
- Collaborations with Ally Murr (American Legion VSO) & Celeste Bruchlacker (SCI Muncy VSU Unit Manager).

Challenges/Barriers

- Obtaining email addresses for older women veterans.
- VFW and American Legion relationships to come together as a whole and involve one another in events.

JUDICIARY

Mr. Michael Carrington, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Improve outreach efforts to veteran staff within the Department of Corrections (DOC) through collaboration with external agencies
- Expand/enhance programming, workshops, and educational/employment opportunities within the veteran service units (VSUs)
- Increase the amount/availability of veteran-specific trainings and/or educational opportunities for employees/spouses/dependents
- Advocate for the creation/enhancement of veteran treatment courts/tracks
- Educate those that represent veterans in the criminal justice system

Updates

- Veteran services presentation for PA Parole Board and regional hearing examiners.
- SCI Dallas held the DOC's second veteran employee symposium.
- SCI Mercer American Legion Post #110 commencement ceremony.
- Memorial Day ceremonies at SCI facilities.
- Promotion of VSU placement by DMVA and DOC personnel at SCI Smithfield and Huntingdon.
- “Shark Tank” event at SCI Houtzdale.
- DOC leadership met with DS Cook from the Dept. of Agriculture to advance the pending greenhouse MOU.
- The DOC has hired 118 veterans this year, as of 7/15.

Challenges/Barriers

- Early identification for criminal-justice involved veterans: Possibility of identifying them in the criminal complaint
- Nursing home care for hard-to-place (HTP) veterans paroled or approaching their maximum date of sentence
- Training first responders dealing with veterans in crisis
- Sufficient specialized programming and professionals to assist those incarcerated with PTSD and/or TBI
- Technological barriers for utilizing PA VETConnect
- Effective networking between the VSUs

GOOD OF THE ORDER

LEADERSHIP COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **DMVA website: www.dmva.pa.gov**
- **Sign up for the Veterans Registry and DMVA Digest!**
www.register.dmva.pa.gov
- **Veterans Trust Fund**
[Veterans Trust Fund Grant Program \(pa.gov\)](http://www.veterans-trust-fund.pa.gov)
- **Operation Recognition – Honorary High School Diplomas**
[Resources \(pa.gov\)](http://www.operation-recognition.pa.gov)
[1949 Act 14 - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](http://www.1949-act-14-pa-general-assembly.state.pa.us)

NEXT MEETING:

November 1st at 1:00PM
Location TBD