

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY (Cheltenham)

Katharine M. Swartz, *Superintendent*  
 P. O. Box 10  
 11301 Crain Highway  
 Cheltenham, MD 20623 . . . (301) 372-6398

**VETERANS MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS PROGRAM (DP0003, formerly 23.15.00.03)**

FY1996 appropriation . . . . . \$95,732  
 FY1996 authorized positions . . . . . 2  
 Michael D. Olienyk, *Manager* . . (410) 354-3550

## MARYLAND VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Middle Branch Park  
 2825 South Hanover St.  
 Baltimore, MD 21225 . . . . (410) 354-3550

## MARYLAND KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Canton Waterfront Park  
 2903 Boston St.  
 Baltimore, MD 21224 . . . . (410) 354-3550

Origins of the Maryland Veterans Commission trace to 1924, when the Soldiers' Relief Fund Commission formed to administer a State relief fund for disabled veterans of World War I (Chapter 344, Acts of 1924). The Commission became the Veterans Relief Commission in 1929 (Chapter 134, Acts of 1929). It was renamed the Maryland Veterans Commission in 1935 (Chapter 481, Acts of 1935). In 1971, the Commission became part of the Department of Employment and Social Services, renamed the Department of Human Resources in 1975 (Chapters 370 and 617, Acts of 1971). In 1977, the Commission was made an independent agency (Chapter 895, Acts of 1977).

The Commission serves Maryland veterans and their dependents. It works through three programs: Veterans Service, conducted through veterans service centers across the State; Veterans Cemetery, in five counties, and a Civil War cemetery; and Veterans Memorials and Monuments, in Baltimore City. The Commission also assists the World War II Memorial Commission.

The Commission is composed of twenty-five Maryland veterans. Twenty-four are appointed to seven-year terms by the Governor. One serves ex officio. The Governor names the chair and appoints the Director (Code State Government Article, secs. 9-904 through 9-914).

## WASHINGTON CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Samuel E. Pruett, *President*, 1996  
 (410) 333-4428

In 1982, the Washington Cemetery Board of Trustees was transferred from the Department of General Services to the Maryland Veterans Commission (Chapter 269, Acts of 1982). The Board oversees maintenance of Washington Cemetery, Hagerstown, where the Confederate dead of the battles of Antietam and South Mountain are buried. At the Cemetery, 2,468 bodies are interred. Of this number, 346 have been identified.

The Board of Trustees was chartered in 1870 (Chapter 213, Acts of 1870). Originally, it was to have five members: three from Maryland and one each from Virginia and West Virginia. Virginia and West Virginia initially contributed to the cost for funding and maintaining the Cemetery and so were given a place on the Board. In over one hundred years, however, neither Virginia nor West Virginia has appointed a representative. The Board's three Maryland members are appointed to three-year terms by the Governor.

## VETERANS SERVICE PROGRAM

Robert E. Barron, *Manager*  
 (410) 962-4701  
 (410) 333-4429

Veteran benefits include compensation for service-related disabilities, pensions, education, home loans, and insurance, as well as benefits for health care, burial, and surviving family members. Through its Service Program, the Maryland Veterans Commission advises, assists, and represents Maryland veterans, their dependents, and survivors seeking federal, State and local veteran benefits. It helps them develop, prepare, submit, and approve claims for these benefits enumerated by federal, State and local law. To achieve these purposes, veterans service centers operate throughout the State.

Trained in veteran laws and regulations, Veterans Service officers present and prosecute claims before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. They represent claimants by power-of-attorney through the adjudication and appellate processes.

## VETERANS CEMETERY PROGRAM

Richard E. Shatzer, *Manager*  
 (410) 333-4428

In 1973, the Maryland Veterans Commission was authorized to acquire cemetery sites for honorably discharged Maryland veterans and their immediate families (Chapter 504, Acts of 1973). Since State land would be used, funds were authorized in 1974 to develop cemeteries rather than to acquire sites (Chapter 775, Acts of 1974).

Through its Cemetery Program, the Commission operates five cemeteries for veterans and their dependents. The Commission sets eligibility requirements for burial. The cemeteries are located in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Dorchester and Prince George's counties. The Commission also maintains a permanent registry of graves of all who served in the U.S. military or naval forces in time of war and who are buried in Maryland (Code State Government Article, secs. 9-913 through 9-914).