



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

January 2, 2020

Mayor and Council Chambers
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mayor Newton and Members of the Rockville City Council:

The Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) is a non-profit, non-partisan policy and advocacy organization comprised of 16 uniformed services and veterans' organizations representing more than 460,000 current and former servicemembers and veterans, their families and survivors in the State.

A priority goal of the MMC remains establishment of a second veterans' home in our state. On behalf of the Coalition, I write you today in support of this effort.

As a result of the recent city election, it is our understanding that there is collective Council interest in perhaps using a small portion of the former Redgate golf course property as a possible central Maryland site for a much-needed second Veterans Home. We are aware that Federal and State funding is available already for the construction and operation of a second home. All that is needed is 20-25 acres of suitable land for the site.

We are aware that "the devil is in the details," so on this point, the MMC is asking specifically that the Mayor and Council review, during your January retreat, any possible means that can be used to help bring this facility to reality. To have a fully functioning veterans' home in Rockville, and close to the VA's community-based outpatient clinic in Gaithersburg, would be a worthwhile supportive action for the thousands of veterans in the state who might benefit. All the state's 400,000+ veterans would owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the City of Rockville.

The MMC is aware that some efforts of scoping and assessment have already taken place involving likely stakeholders. Discussions that have taken place between members representing the MMC and city elected officials have been encouraging to date.

As an advocate in furtherance of this effort, the MMC stands ready to be of service in whatever manner the Mayor and Council might consider to be most effective and supportive. I can be reached by phone at (301) 758-1171.

Yours in continuing service,

Colonel Robert F. Norton, USA Retired
President

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition



Air Force Sergeants Association



American Military Society



**Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service**



Disabled American Veterans



Distinguished Flying Cross Association



Fleet Reserve Association



Jewish War Veterans of the USA




**Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association**



Military Officers Association of America



Military Order of the Purple Heart



National Association for Black Veterans



Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers



Society of Military Widows



The Retired Enlisted Association



Veterans of Foreign Wars