

Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments

June 23, 2025

MINUTES

The meeting of the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments was held as a virtual meeting via Google Meet. The meeting was chaired by Secretary Rebecca Flora.

Commissioners Present: Kurtz, Butanis, Schiszik, Chase, Davidson, Patterson, Zinny, Mohan, Morrill, Fischer, Franklin, Sec. Flora

MDP Staff: Stacy Montgomery

I. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Rebecca Flora called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. A quorum of Commissioners was recorded as present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Flora called for approval of the minutes for the April 2025 meeting. Commissioner Morrill made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Patterson, that the April 23, 2025 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present who wished to provide comment.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Stacy Montgomery presented the financial report.

FY2023

\$150,000 Capital Budget line item for stripping and rewaxing of all 41 monuments

- Contract awarded to Art Solutions Lab, LLC in the amount of \$184,422.59.
- Phase 1 & 2 complete; Phase 3 will be completed by the end of June 2025

FY2024

\$17,000 general fund item to support conservation of miscellaneous projects, to include:

- M348: Keedysville World War II Monument (\$14,775) - completed November 2023

- Maryland History Day 2024 Special Prizes(\$500) *Excellence in United States Military History, sponsored by the Maryland Military Monuments Commission*
- Sponsorship of 2 more years of MD History Day prizes with increased cost

FY 25

\$17,000 general fund item to support conservation of miscellaneous projects, to include:

- *Group 3 maintenance award made to Wellman Conservation, contract in process (\$14,608.00)*

FY26

\$17,000 general fund item to support conservation of miscellaneous projects (requested)

V. OLD BUSINESS

FY2025 Monument Maintenance

- Stacy Montgomery shared that the contract for the maintenance of the Monument in Group 3 (predominantly Eastern Shore) was awarded to Wellman Conservation, work will begin in the fall.
- Nancy Kurtz shared that the Eastern Shore monuments' maintenance would be the first since the wax removal, focusing on the wax coating

Art Lab Solutions Spring/Summer Cleaning Schedule

- Work in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City and Baltimore County is ongoing through the end of June.

Maryland History Day Prize

Maryland History Day 2025 Award Winners – We had two great award winners:

- The Awards for Excellence in United States Military History, sponsored by the Maryland Military Monuments Commission
Student: Liam Carsia (won prize last year as well)
 Title: Atomic Veterans: The Fight for Rights, Government Responsibility, and Recognition ([Link to Video](#))
 Category: Junior Individual Documentary
 School: Milton M. Somers Middle School
 Teacher: Kristen Barrett

Student: Christopher Hill (also recognized at National History Day!)
 Title: The Fight for The Right of Flight: The Tuskegee Airmen
 Category: Senior Individual Documentary
 School: Oxon Hill High School
 Teacher: Adam Thomas
- Christopher Hill sent the Commission a thank you message (sent via email) and won at National History Day. His project was selected for the Documentary

Showcase at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture!

- Sec. Flora expressed excitement and requested access to the students' submissions and inquired about featuring this on their webpage.

HB133/SB448 To establish a Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers who fought for the Union Army in Maryland

- Stacy reached out to Owen Lourie, the MSA staffer for the Commission, who shared that there was no follow-up to date: The bill that created the commission didn't lay out any additional steps or have funding to implement the recommendations.

M144 Spanish Cannon in Towson

- In a follow-up to the item raised by Commissioner Fischer at the April Meeting. Stacy met Commissioner Fischer at the Cannon after the April meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Election of Vice Chair

- Nominations for Vice Chair (to Vote on in October) – At the April meeting, the Commission determined that they wanted to develop a roster of candidates for Vice Chair of the Commission at this meeting.
- Sec. Flora highlighted the importance of a vice chair due to their own commitments to other commissions and the value of shared leadership.

In-Person October Meeting

- Stacy Montgomery announced that the in-person meeting planned for October will be hosted at the NCO club at the Pikesville Armory.
- Stacy Montgomery mentioned interest in other locations for future meetings and will share more information about the October event, potentially including the armory's redevelopment vision.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elkton Doughboy

- Commissioner Patterson reported on the good condition of the Doughboy monument in Elkton and the award of a planning grant for its long-term conservation.
- Commissioner Morrill expressed that he is still interested in the Memorial Grove at Druid Hill Park

VIII. ADJOURN

Secretary Flora adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm