



## 2022 Women Veterans Virtual Conference

June 8th - Panel Discussion

10:00 am - 12:00pm

June 9th - Conference

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## In Appreciation for HER service



Angela McCullough  
President, PG County  
Women Veterans Center

### Day 1 Panelists

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Cynthia Izuno Macri  
Montgomery County  
Women Veterans Project



Denise Perry  
Harford County  
Veterans Commission



Anneke Vandebroek  
Montgomery County  
Commission on Veterans Affairs



Roberta (Bobby) Lawrence  
Carroll County  
Aging and Disabilities  
Client Services Supervisor



**June 9th**  
**Day 2 Agenda**  
**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

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**10:00 a.m**  
**Welcome/Greetings**

**10:25 am**  
Brennae Brooks, Esq  
Combat Veteran & Veteran Benefits Attorney

**10:55 am**  
Lelia Jackson  
VA Assault & Harrassment Prevention

**11:25 am**  
Michell (GI)Gardner-Inc  
VA Women Veterans-Owned  
Small Business Initiative

**11:55 am**  
Mat Gryskewicz  
Headstrong Community Engagement



## June 9th Day 2 Agenda (cont'd)

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**12:25 pm**

COL Rose Forrest  
MDNG Staff Judge Advocate

**12:55 am**

Marian Moser Jones  
Director of History Ohio State University

**1:25 pm Key Note Speaker**

Ginger Miller  
CEO, WVI Foundation,  
Advisory Board Member Northwest FCU, USO Board  
of Governors (Presidential Appointee)

**1:55pm**

**Closing Remarks**

## Speakers



**Angela McCullough**

**President, PG County Women Veterans Commission**

Master Sergeant Angela McCullough graduated in 1980 from Woodmont High School in Piedmont, South Carolina where her basketball jersey was retired, and she was recognized as a Who's Who student. Upon graduation from high school, she earned a full basketball and volleyball scholarship to Spartanburg Methodist College where she earned a Criminal Justice Degree in 1982. After pursuing a Social Work Degree for 2 years at Erskine College in Due West South Carolina, she decided to start her 23 year-journey with the United States Air Force on November 1, 1984. Sergeant McCullough completed Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in December 1984.

After graduation from the Logistics/ Inventory Management Course at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado in 1985, she was assigned to the 435th Services Squadron, Rhein Main Germany.

Sergeant McCullough is a Distinguished Graduate of the Robins Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. She received her Bachelor of Science, Business Management degree from National Louis University with "Magna Cum Laude" honors in 2007 and her Community College of the Air Force degree in Business Administration/Logistics Management in 2003. Master Sergeant McCullough also earned her Master's Degree from Webster University in Procurement and Acquisition with a certification in Government Contracting.



**Anneke Vandebroek**  
**Montgomery County**  
**Commission on Veterans Affairs**

Dr. Vandebroek is a board certified licensed clinical psychologist, with over 20 years of experience working with military service members in the treatment of PTSD, depression, anxiety disorders, and other behavioral health disorders.

She holds a Doctorate and Masters of Science degree in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Vandebroek is a veteran of the United States Army Medical Service Corps.

She specializes in providing cognitive-behavioral therapy and other evidence based therapies for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, and insomnia. In addition, Dr. Vandebroek has also served as a clinical supervisor, educator, and professor at community colleges, military institutions, and universities. Dr. Vandebroek has presented at symposia for the American Psychological Association and the National Academy of Neuropsychology, and has abstracts and journal articles published in Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, The Clinical Neuropsychologist and Psychological Assessment.



**Cynthia Izuno Macri**  
**VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans**

Dr. Macri served 35 years in the US Navy as a gynecologic oncologist in a variety of academic and executive leadership roles at the National Naval Medical Center, Naval Hospital Jacksonville, FL, Walter Reed Army Medical Center (Washington, DC), the Naval Medical Education and Training Command, and the Uniformed Services University before moving to the Pentagon to serve as Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for Diversity. Upon retirement in 2013, she was retained on active duty for an additional 12 months.

She is the author or co-author of over 20 scientific papers, 3 book chapters, and over 200 invited presentations. Currently she serves on the Board of Directors for the Asian American Inter-Community Service (AICS), on the Executive Committee for the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), and Vice President for Education and Integrative Health for Lift-A-Vet. Dr. Macri also volunteers at the PanAsian Volunteer Health Clinic, serving currently as a lead COVID vaccinator along with over 30 volunteers from the Chinese Culture and Community Center Adult Day Health Care and AICS. In addition, she has been appointed to the volunteer faculty at the George Washington University School of Medicine (Medical Faculty Associates) to provide clinical oversight to the student-run Healing Clinic that serves the local underserved populations.

In December 2017, Dr. Macri joined EagleForce Health, a big data analytics firm, as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer.



**Denise Perry**  
**Harford County Veterans Commission**

Denise Hairston Perry is a U.S. Army veteran. She served 6 years in the military with her final duty station being Yongsan, Korea. She completed her education at the University of Maryland, where she received her Bachelor's degree. Denise worked in the Federal government as an IRS Agent and then as an Auditor for the Department of Veterans Affairs until her retirement. She is currently a member of both the Harford County Veterans and Maryland Veterans Commissions. Denise is married with three children and four grandchildren.



**Roberta (Bobby) Lawrence**  
**Carroll County Aging and Disabilities Supervisor**

Bobby has a background in Human Services and has been with the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities since 2016. She has worked specifically within the Home & Community Based programs and in October of 2020 became the Aging & Disabilities Client Services Supervisor.

She oversees the Maryland Access Point, Home & Community Based Programs and the Veteran Services Program which was developed in 2013 as a need for services to Veterans was noted in the county.





## Guests Speakers



**Brennae Louise Brooks, Esq**  
**Attorney**  
**Combat Veteran & Veteran Benefits Attorney**

Brennae is a combat veteran originally from Memphis, Tennessee. She served in the Air Force for 8 years, including deployments to Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. In 2009, while on a deployment to Afghanistan, her supervisor, who was back in Florida, sent her a poor performance rating. As fate would have it, she met a military paralegal who helped her fight for a higher performance rating using the appropriate rules and regulations. After that experience, she began to research the requirements for law school, and she separated from service after returning from that deployment. However, she went on a civilian deployment to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While there, she took the law school admissions examination (LSAT) and she was accepted into one law school, but rejected by many others, to include the law school in her hometown. She moved to Houston, Texas, in 2011 and graduated in the top 25% of her law school class in 2014. Although she was a disabled Veteran with a “Veterans Preference” for jobs, she was rejected by many employers, to include the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, she applied again, and she was offered a position about a year later. Brennae’s journey gives her insight into the plight Veterans face, and she is deeply committed to serving Veterans. Her experience gives her a unique voice that will inspire people throughout the world.



## Lelia Jackson

### Director, VA Assault & Harrassment Prevention Office

Lelia Jackson is the Director of the VHA Assault and Harassment Prevention Office, aligned under Deputy Secretary, Veterans Health Administration. She has led several successful major VA transformation initiatives and was sought out to lead VHA's strategic efforts to systematically improve the Administration's harassment and sexual assault policies, processes, reporting, and post prevention. Prior to her fellowship, Lelia served as the Director of the Center for Compassionate Care Innovation, where she led VA's efforts to explore emerging treatments and therapies to enhance Veterans' well-being. The Center primarily focuses on cutting-edge therapies related to posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, chronic pain, suicidality, and other difficult to treat conditions. Under Lelia's keen leadership, a subset of the Veteran population now has access to cutting edge medical treatments previously only available outside of the VA. was appointed to this key role in October 2019 after completing a year-long fellowship in the prestigious White House Leadership Development Program. She was among the first from the Department to be selected during the history of the program. Lelia simultaneously served as the Director of the VHA Office of Community Engagement where she was the national representative to nongovernmental organizations seeking to partner with VHA to expand healthcare services to Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Since standing up this office in 2012, Lelia established national strategic public private partnerships and interagency collaborations that have extended the breadth of services VA offers Veterans and their beneficiaries.



**Michelle Gardner-Ince (GI)**

**Director**

**VA Women Veteran-Owned Small Business Initiative**

As the Director of the Women Veteran-Owned Small Business Initiative (WVOSB), she leads the Department's efforts to develop programs that connect and enable Women Veteran entrepreneurs within the VA, federal and commercial marketplace. As the architect of the first program of its kind in the federal government, the program brings together like-minded female Veteran entrepreneurs to position and enable their success and remove obstacles that often stand in the way. The effort is known in the Veteran and small business community as "VetBizLady or VetBizLadies." As its Director, she develops, executes, and communicates the importance of the WVOSB Initiative and its mission to bring partnerships and collaborations into VA to increase access, economic, procurement, and learning opportunities for Woman Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (WVOSBs). Known by most as "G-I," Ms. GardnerInce's focus is to increase cooperation with other Federal agencies, commercial entities, non-profits, and educational institutions to benefit WVOSB success.



## **COL Rose Forrest MDNG Staff Judge Advocate**

COL Rose M. Forrest was appointed by the Adjutant General as the MDNG Staff Judge Advocate effective January 1, 2020. She is the first woman to hold the title of senior legal officer in the MDNG. COL Forrest previously served as the Deputy SJA, Chief of Administrative law, and Law of Land Warfare officer. Prior to becoming a Judge Advocate she commanded HHC, 1297th. Other assignments include Material Management officer, Mortuary Affairs officer, Platoon leader, and legal clerk. She managed the Female Engagement Team program for 2/28th ID in OIF from 2005-2006. COL Forrest is an advocate for women veterans and served as the 2021 Ms. Veteran America 1st Runner Up. She is a mother of three school age children. Mentoring the next generation of women leaders is important to COL Forrest and she has volunteered as a girl scout leader, Girls-on-the-Run coach, and girls lacrosse coach. She is also the chapter advisor to the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority at UMBC. As a demonstration of the strength of a woman, COL Forrest competes as a bodybuilder and power lifter.



**Matt Gyskewicz**  
**Headstrong**  
**Director of Community Engagement**

Matt served honorably in the PA Army National Guard for 6 years including a combat tour to Iraq. He has recently joined Headstrong after 11 years in the nonprofit space. Matt previously worked in the Pittsburgh community at Pittsburgh Mercy managing a number of different programs. One of which, he helped lead the community in coordinating services for veterans and their family in a partnership with the IVMF. Matt grew up in Maryland south of Washington D.C. and in Pittsburgh, PA. He is a graduate of Slippery Rock University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He used his degree and his passion to help those incarcerated, both veteran and civilian populations, to adjust back home with their family. He hopes to continue to advance in leadership roles to help even more veterans and their family. Matt enjoys time and memories with his family including, but not limited to, the beach, travel, and fishing.



## **Marian Moser Jones**

**Associate Professor, Health Services Management and Policy  
Associate Professor, Director of History Ohio State University**

Marian Moser Jones, an Associate Professor in the College of Public Health and History Department, is the author of *The American Red Cross from Clara Barton to the New Deal* (Johns Hopkins, 2013), as well as numerous peer-reviewed articles that place maternal and child health, homelessness, and other topics in historical, ethical, and social context. Jones is completing a book, *Finding New Fronts*, on American nurses who served in World War I and the 1918-19 Influenza pandemic, and who pioneered modern public health nursing. Jones has previously taught at the University of Maryland College Park (2011-21), and at Virginia Commonwealth University (2008-2010).

Jones was a 2010-2011 De Witt Stetten postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health, received her Ph.D. and M.P.H. degrees in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University, and received her A.B. from Harvard College.

## Key Note Speaker



**Ginger Miller**

**CEO, WVI Foundation, Advisory Board Member Northwest FCU,  
USO Board of Governors (Presidential Appointee)**

Ginger Miller is a native New Yorker, and former homeless service-disabled Navy veteran turned White House Champion of Change for Women Veterans and President and CEO of Women Veterans Interactive Inc. After caring for her husband, a disabled veteran who suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder for over a decade and experiencing homelessness with her family, Mrs. Miller vowed to be victorious and worked three jobs and went to school full time to pull her family out of homelessness.

Determined to give back to her fellow veterans, Mrs. Miller formed the nonprofit organization John 14:2, Inc in 2009 which was instrumental in starting the first Prince Georges County Homeless Veteran Stand Down. Through Ginger's advocacy and outreach efforts with John 14:2, Inc, she hosted Veteran Round Tables in Annapolis, Maryland and was appointed to and served as Chairwoman of the Prince George's County Veterans Commission, as a commissioner on the Maryland Commission for Women, as a member of the Maryland Caregivers Coordinating Council and as a member of the Maryland Veterans Resilience Advisory Council.

In 2011, Ginger started Women Veterans Interactive (WVI), a division of John 14:2, Inc. With a mission of meeting women veterans at their points of need through Advocacy, Empowerment, Interaction, Outreach, and Unification, WVI took off and became a leading member-based nonprofit organization for women veterans. Supporting more than 5,000 women veterans since inception, in 2018 WVI became a stand-alone nonprofit organization and with approval from the IRS in 15 days, Women Veterans Interactive, Inc was formed.