

**Howard County and Maryland State Leaders and Friends of Howard County's  
Veteran Service Organizations,**

The Howard County quarterly flag retirement ceremony is scheduled for 11:00am on Saturday July 22, 2023, at VFW Post 7472, 4225 VFW Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043. All are invited to observe this patriotic ceremony rendering final honors to Our Nation's Colors.

Howard County Veteran Service Organization (VSO) members from VFW Post 7472, American Legion Posts 156 and 300, Marine Corps League Detachment 1084, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Students Partnering with Veterans Club will participate in flag preparation activities and in the ceremony. The Colonel Dorsey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Charles Carroll Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and representatives of the Maryland Gold Star Mother's and Maryland Chapter Chesapeake Blue Star Mothers will also be represented at the ceremony.

Prior to the 30-minute ceremony, volunteers will prepare hundreds of frayed and tattered U.S. flags for their respectful retirement. Almost all of the flags were dropped off by Howard County community members at the Alpha Ridge Landfill on Marriottsville Road over the past 3 months.

Howard County's Veteran Service Organizations continue to express their gratitude to Howard County and the Alpha Ridge Landfill Recycling Center for their partnership with the American Legion's Adams, Hanna, Moore Memorial Post 156 and the Boys Scouts of America; the Recycling Center maintains the American Flag depository box at the Alpha Ridge Landfill Recycling Center. For more information on the American Flag depository box and how to properly dispose of unserviceable American Flags, visit <https://hwcg.org/american-flag-disposal-service-at-hoco-alpha-ridge/>

For more information on Howard County's Quarterly VSO Flag Retirement Ceremony, please contact: Marv Stocker, Vice Commander American Legion Post 156, email [mwstocker@icloud.com](mailto:mwstocker@icloud.com) or Greg Jolissaint, Public Affairs Officer, American Legion Post 156, email [pao legion post 156 maryland@yahoo.com](mailto:pao_legion_post_156_maryland@yahoo.com)

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