



Remembering and Honoring America's Heroes"

Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park Testimony for Funding Request

Thank you for the opportunity to present our \$150,000.00 request for funding. For the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park. I speak on behalf of the Veterans and Service men and women that have served our country as well as a multitude of others that never wore a uniform but are part of America's Heritage and story.

Background

MVM presented a proposal to forestated entities for the purchase of 12.9532 acres of land to be added to the adjacent former Glasva Elementary School (now the MVM) to make the land and building fully viable as a museum and to support the events that evolved as the museum grew

The State of Maryland Board of Public Works approved 3) Bond Bills totaling \$520,000 toward the purchase cost, closing costs and appraisals estimated to be \$675,000. Note that The Charles county Commissioners transferred the school building and property valued at 21 million to MVM to provide matching funds.

All was in place for a private donor to pay the final \$150,000. Unfortunately, due to financial difficulties, perhaps partly due to COVID-19, the donor was unable to fund that commitment, this our need for these funds.

Regrettably we find that we must request the State to fund the remaining \$150,000.00 to prevent the loss of the current investment of \$530,000.00 of State funds and Matching local funds totaling over a million dollars. Dollars aside, this would also have a devastating impact on Statewide MVM programs

For your information, MVM has self-funded all other costs, rehabilitation of the building, developed exhibits, provided maintenance, and operating funds. It does not have the ability to raise funds of this magnitude. Covid-19 has limited MVM fund raising ability as functions at the museum are limited, and the \$150,000.00 exceeds our funding capability.

MVM's contributions to Maryland

Many think of the MVM as simply a museum that houses artifacts and that it does not impact on our lives. We have developed a summary of some of the more notable activities at the Museum. As you will see, the MVM has impact on education, community activities, numerous local and statewide groups, tourism, and economic development as well as local pride and prestige. The Museum is a statewide Museum that impacts our surrounding populations.

- The MVM presents Maryland's contribution to our American Heritage from the Revolutionary War to the current Gulf conflict. The museum has treasured memorabilia from Maryland veterans donated from every corner of the State.
- The MVM memorial brick garden eulogizes veterans from not only Maryland, but from veterans from other states who are recognized and honored.
- The MVM, with its beautiful Patriot Hall, has hosted numerous Maryland and National Organizations.
- **Major organizations utilizing MVM facilities include:**
 - National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) Day for Maryland and NABVETS State Regional Conference.
 - The Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary War Route (W3R) National Meeting for 10 states.
 - National Society Daughters of the American Revolution State and Chapter meetings.

- National Society Sons of the American Revolution Chapter meetings.
- Archeological Society of Maryland that included every county in Maryland.
- Disabled American Veterans - DAV regularly holds statewide and regional meetings.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW statewide meetings.
- National Society United States Daughters of 1812 - Maryland Chapter Annual meetings.

- The MVM holds its annual Patriots Day Festival, Veterans Day ceremonies, and Car shows that have attendance from all over Maryland as well as the surrounding states. Patriot Hall is available for the entire community to rent and is free of charge for all veteran organizations.
- The Museum has hosted numerous veteran groups such as Healing Waters, VA Health Clinics and provides advice on VA Services.
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Some of the many statewide activities include:

- The National Park Service has designated the MVM as an Information Center and the Museum appears on maps that direct Marylanders and visitors on the East Coast to the Museum.
- The MVM has a Speakers Bureau that provides speakers throughout the Maryland and surrounding states. This service is opened to the general public.
- MVM has partnered with the W3R for a Maryland Heritage Grant to develop 250 Historical sites throughout the State of Maryland for the 250th Celebration of the American Revolution. This affects most of the the counties in Maryland.

- MVM is working with W3R and the MDOT to develop historical signage and markers throughout the state to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of our Nation's founding. The Museum is working with NPS for federal funding of some signs.
- The MVM is in the process of developing a short animated film on the American Revolution entitled "Be a Patriot". This educational film and activity book will be available to the State of Maryland public schools, and will also be available to all schools on the W3R trail, nine (9) states and the District of Columbia.
- MVM and W3R is working with the Baltimore Public schools to provide exciting programs on the American revolution to disadvantaged Schools.
- MVM is working with National and Statewide local organizations to preserve historic sites and historic buildings. We are working to develop scenic byways on pristine roads to preserve our Maryland culture. This protects the environment, protects historic resources and provides recreation on a statewide basis.
- MVM is researching to develop the contributions of African Americans, the American Indian, Hispanic Americans, as well as other cultural backgrounds throughout history.
- We are developing programs for justice, equality, diversity, and inclusiveness through our missions locally and throughout the state.
- MVM is working at the Federal level for Congressional funding to accomplish infrastructure improvement programs that preserve trails through depressed urban locations in the state.

Thank You We strongly urge you to support our request so that we may continue our programs to make all individuals feel their value and share in the pride of Americans Story. Thank you for your time and interest.

Presented by Lawrence Abell.
President of the Maryland Veterans Museum