



Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

January 8, 2020

The Hon. Bridget Donnell Newton
Mayor of Rockville
Members of the Rockville City Council
111 Maryland Avenue Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mayor Newton and Rockville City Council Members:

It has come to our attention that the City of Rockville is seriously considering a proposal to provide up to twenty-five acres of the former Redgate Golf Course to be used for a veterans home in central Maryland. The organization of which I am Executive Director represents U.S. Public Health Service veterans who reside in Maryland, and we strongly endorse this proposal.

There is currently only one veteran's home in Maryland. It is at near-capacity, even though it is located in Charlotte Hall, MD, which is remote from the concentration of Maryland veterans in the Rockville area.

Most States have homes where those who have served our country in uniform can live a dignified and properly-acknowledged life. Some States have multiple veterans homes, recognizing that our debt to those who put on the uniform are best accommodated in the communities where their families live and their children and grandchildren reside. Given the popularity of the facility at Charlotte Hall, we think it fitting and proper that Maryland build a second veterans home near the center of the Maryland veteran population. That would be Rockville.

Not that your decision will be based on any considerations other than respect for those who served, but Rockville itself will undoubtedly benefit in a financial way from having a veterans home located within its boundaries.

We ask for a favorable decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

Col. James T. Currie, USA (Ret.)
Executive Director