

Monterey County

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sid Williams, Chairperson
1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, SUITE 003
MONTEREY, CA 93940
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Minutes: 03/10/21

Call Meeting to Order: Williams 3:01 pm

Roll Call by Jack Murphy from MVAO, Quorum Established	<u>Voting members present:</u> James Bogan Phil Butler Mary Estrada John Gay Mark Hartunian Gary Kreeger Bob Lockwood Dan Presser Sid Williams Sam Daniels <u>In attendance:</u> Jason Cameron Jack Murphy Jonathan Brown Luis Alejo Yuri Anderson Javier Gomez
Pledge of Allegiance	Led by, Butler
Public Comment	None
Approval of January 13, 2021 Minutes	Motion to accept, Gay Second, Lockwood Ayes, All

Report from the Chair:

Chair Williams:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All enrolled veterans, despite age, can register to get inoculated.• Previously planned 2021 Stand Down event has been canceled due to uncertainty surrounding COVID issues. In lieu, there will be a one-day event on 6/18/21.
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Committee Reports

<p>Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bogan reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-ground burials have yet to begin due to pending inspections. • There are two employment opportunities available.
<p>Veteran of the Year Program Report:</p>	<p>Bogan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/30/21 Deadline for nominations <p>Murphy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination forms can be found on the MVAO website, mvao.org • No submission collected to date
<p>VA Clinic:</p>	<p>Bogan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a new VA Director, Ms. Howard. <p>Williams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For veterans who have a disability rating of 30% or more, travel pay for visiting Palo Alto can be authorized.
<p>Pending State & Federal Report:</p>	<p>Brown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached report
<p>Military & Veterans Affairs Report:</p>	<p>Cameron:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative is being made to capture veterans not enrolled in VAH seeking inoculation to be routed to their local CVSO for assistance. • A strong push is being made to get a fully functioning pharmacy at the Gourley Clinic. • According to CACVSO Monterey County is now home to an estimated 20,674 up from 17,699 in the previous year. • Almost 32% of veterans in the county are accessing their compensation and pension benefits which is about 5% greater than the state average • Over \$110 million was brought into Monterey County in compensation and pension benefits alone last year. • See monthly report attached

Commission Members Comments:

<p>Bogan:</p>	<p>The veteran community, American Legion 28th District, and the DAV have given around 8,000 reusable masks to the agricultural workers of Monterey County and an additional 1,000 reusable masks to their families.</p>
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Adjournment: Williams