



County of Monterey

Military & Veterans Affairs Office



Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) August 26th, 2021, Thursday, at 3:00 p.m.

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order: • Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Jonathan Brown 	<p><u>Committee Members Present:</u></p> <p>United Veterans Council – Mary Estrada United Veterans Council – James Bogan United Veterans Council – Bob Lockwood MVAAC – Dan Presser City of Marina – Wesley Haye City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson City of Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira Veterans Families – Walan Chang</p> <p><u>Ex Officio Members Present:</u></p> <p>State Senate Office – 17th District – Justin Tran State Senate Office – 12th District – Marisa Hernandez State Assembly Office – 29th District – Erica Parker State Assembly office – 30th District – Dominic Dursa U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Christine Brockman U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Grace Moreno VTC – Kurt Schake Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation – Rich Garza Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) – Jack Murphy, Jonathan Brown</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by: Kurt Schake</p>
<p>3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (from May 27, 2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to Approve: Chang • Second: Bogan • Roll Call Vote: Unanimous, Ayes • Motion carries

6. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION

a. Legislation update

<p>i. Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erica Parker – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gave a report on current California legislation.
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b. Affordable Housing

i. VTC: General Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Schake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported on Lightfighter Village, a 71-unit housing complex project for low to extremely low-income veterans, is in the last stages of financing the project through a 12-million-dollar grant. They'll find out if the project is awarded the grant in the next few weeks. If awarded, the plan is to break ground by the of the year.
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c. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

i. Veterans Cemetery Status	None given.
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d. Fundraising Status

i. Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Garza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to recent spikes in COVID, fundraising efforts have mostly been stymied. They are completing their donor mailing list and we'll be sending out mailers soon. • The Foundation is receiving requests to purchase vases. And there has been interest from the community to finance the purchasing of benches for the cemetery. • The Foundation will be hosting an informational table at the Fair's Vet Connect Day on September 2nd.
ii. Donor Wall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Garza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The negotiations with Cal Vet are ongoing, with good progress.

e. Ord Military Community

i. Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Bogan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report that the Retiree Appreciation Day will be at DLI on September 18th, at the Weckerling Center, the guest speaker will be, Lisa Howard, the Director of VA Palo Alto, and for more information call EJ Martin.
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f. VA-DoD Clinic

i. General Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Bogan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clinic is slowly reopening, and the DAV is looking for volunteers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Brockman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a new masking policy for anyone that goes to the clinic, no bandanas, no gators, and no valve masks. If someone needs a proper mask, they are available as you enter the building. • There is a flu clinic scheduled for mid-September.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Moreno 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported VA Palo Alto has monthly Town Hall meetings through Facebook live on the third Thursday of each month. • Answered questions on how to contact patient PACT teams.
ii. Pharmacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that a meeting to present the survey results on the need for a pharmacy at the Gourley Clinic was canceled due to lack of interest in attending by the Deputy Director of VA Palo Alto at the last minute. He plans on packing the presentation and sending it to the Director so their team will at least have visibility on the results.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Bogan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteered to take the presentation with him during one of his standing meetings with the VA Director.

g. Municipalities

i. General Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported the city of Seaside has retained Michael Houlemard to help steward the properties from former Fort Ord now in their city limits. • In Marina, Shea Homes paid a marginal fee not to build 40 workforce homes.
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H. Military & Veterans Affairs Office

i. Monthly Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see attached report. • There is still one open Office Assistant position open.
ii. Vice-Chair Appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Presser was elected Vice-Chair via ballot vote.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Receive communication from Committee members as it pertains to future agenda items

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murphy reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 28th the Presidio MWR is having the Volksmarch starting at 10 am. • On Thursday, September 2nd the Fair is hosting the Vet Connect day and MVAO, the Cemetery Foundation, and VTC will be there with a tabling. • September 18th is the Military Retiree Appreciation Day at the Weckerling Center.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Bogan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like everyone to remember that 9/11 is coming up.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Garza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation received an offer to finance moving the Drill Sergeant and would like to have the topic agenized for further discussion at the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Brown