

Monterey County

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sid Williams, Chairperson
1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, SUITE 003
MONTEREY, CA 93940
TEL: (831) 647-7613
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Call Meeting to Order: Sid Williams

Roll Call by Jack Murphy from MVAO, Quorum Established	<u>Voting members present:</u> Rich Garza Mark Hartunian Gary Kreeger Phillip Butler James Bogan Mary Estrada Bob Lockwood Dan Presser Sid Williams <u>In attendance:</u> Representative from Congressman Panetta's office, Ben Uslar Representative from Senator Laird's office, Justin Tran Representative from Assemblymember Stone's office, Erica Parker 1 st District Supervisor, Luis Alejo Military and Veterans Affairs Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jason Cameron- Jack Murphy- Jonathan Brown
Pledge of Allegiance	Led by, Sid Williams
Public Comment	None
Approval of September 08, 2021 Minutes	Motion to accept, James Bogan Second, Mark Hartunian Ayes, unanimous

Report from the Chair:

Chair Williams Reported:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can purchase the Veteran of the Year ceremony tickets online at the UVC-MC.com, and physical tickets at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office.• The Heroes' Open Golf Tournament to raise funds for the Cemetery Foundation continues to receive a fair amount of
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	donations and is scheduled for Saturday, 10/30/21.
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Committee Reports

<p>Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-chair Bogan reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The location for the memorial wall has been selected. In-ground burial operations are going well. He has scheduled a meeting with the Mayor of Seaside to discuss moving the Drill Sergeant Statue.
<p>Veteran of the Year Program Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-chair Bogan reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Veteran of the Year Awards is Friday, November 5th. During the Veteran of the Year ceremony the Sam Farr award will also be given out. The closing date for nominations is September 29th.
<p>VA Clinic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-chair Bogan reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clinic is requiring masks to enter the building. There is still a need for volunteers. There will be an announcement made by the clinic on when COVID vaccine booster shots will be available. Due to the sensitivity of housing the vaccines, the booster shots will only be available at the Palo Alto facility.
<p>State Legislation Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parker reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The status of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AJR 12 AB 107 AB 496 AB 1314 SB 348 SB 498 SB 614 Please see attached report
<p>Federal Legislation Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uslar reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The status of the Provide Act
<p>Military & Veterans Affairs Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the pharmacy issue. Phil Deppert is longer with Congressman Panetta's staff. Susie Brusa will be the new District Director. There has yet to be an opportunity to meet with Mrs. Bursa to inform her of the data MVAO has collected on the need for a fully functioning pharmacy at the Gourley clinic. Mr. Bogan will be taking a binder of that information with him tomorrow, 9/10,

	<p>when he meets with the VA Director and dropping that off with her for her review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding MVAO moving to the Coastal Building, the rehab is ongoing with a projected move-in some time early next year. He also reminded the Commission there will be a number of veteran serving organizations moving into the building to provide wraparound serves to our veteran community. • Regarding any “community match” for operating funds for the cemetery, it is his understanding that has been omitted from the current California code and the understanding has been supported through meetings with Senator Laird. • Please see attached MVAO monthly report.
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Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Drill Sergeant Statue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Williams reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a proposal to help move the Drill Sergeant statue. Several organizations have expressed interest in having the statue placed at their location. Further discussion about the issue will take place at the next Veterans Issues Advisory Committee and he will report back to MVAAC the results.
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Commission Members Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor Alejo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans to file a new proposal for the Board of Supervisors to sponsor legislation to build a Veteran’s Home in Monterey County next week, the week of 9/13.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that he also sits on the committee for the County Fair and last Thursday, 9/2, they held the Veterans Day at the fair so that veteran’s and their families could enter the Fair for free and the event went well with good attendance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bogan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Retiree Appreciation Day is on September 18th.

Adjournment: Williams

Next Meeting: 11/10/21