

Monterey County

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sid Williams, Chairperson
1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, SUITE 003
MONTEREY, CA 93940
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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 Sam Daniels <u>In attendance:</u> Jason Cameron Jack Murphy Jonathan Brown Luis Alejo Wendy Root-Askew Yuri Anderson Javier Gomez
Pledge of Allegiance	Led by, Estrada
Public Comment	None
Approval of March 10, 2021 Minutes	Motion to accept, Presser Second, Gay Ayes, unanimous

Report from the Chair:

Chair Williams absent in lieu Vice-Chair, Bogan Reported:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With changes being made to the CDC guidance regarding wearing masks, we should continue to listen to those in charge and think of others around us.• Regarding the initiative to have a fully functioning pharmacy at the Gourley clinic, he urged the commission to continue to reach out to their elected officials and provide support where they can.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Day is coming up, look to your local area to attend and support the events where you can. • The Veteran Stand Down is on June 18th. We should all get involved if possible.
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Committee Reports

Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Update	<p>Bogan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In grounds burials are now being held. • There are still two open positions at the cemetery.
Veteran of the Year Program Report:	<p>Bogan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Veteran of the Year nomination deadline is June 30th. • The Sam Farr Award nomination deadline is September 30th.
VA Clinic:	<p>Bogan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clinic will be opening soon and need volunteers. They will need volunteers to drive golf carts and inside the clinic. • The DAV will also need a volunteer van driver. • Those interested in volunteering should contact the Military and Veterans Service Office, or Mr. Bogan.
State Legislation Update:	<p>Brown: Introduced, Marisa Hernandez, from Senator Caballero's office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hernandez's report attached
Federal Legislation Update:	<p>Brown: Introduced, Ben Uslar, from Congressman Panetta's office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Uslar's report attached
Military & Veterans Affairs Report:	<p>Cameron:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reiterated the importance of the SAVES LIVES Act that Mr. Uslar spoke about during his federal legislative update. • He is currently working on a joint partnership between the California Military Department (National Guard), the California Department of Veteran Affairs, and California Veteran Service Offices, to put together a process for discharging guard members so they can attend Cal TAP class' and get in contact with their local county Military and Veteran Affairs Office to receive benefits counseling. • He's been working with the Board of Supervisors to draft a letter of support for a

	<p>pharmacy at the Gourley clinic that was recently approved. And stressed the importance of including the pharmacy issue in the letter that supported having the clinic be a COVID-19 vaccine site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His office is also working on creating a survey to collect data on the need for a pharmacy from the Veteran community. • The Coastal Building of Monterey County, currently partially occupied by Supervisor Askew and her staff, has been identified as a possible site to move the Military and Veterans Affairs offices. The vision is to have a central site for veteran services that would include his office and other veteran organizations to serve a variety of needs for all of Monterey County Veterans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervisor Alejo: Gave his support for the move to better serve the Veteran community. • See the attached monthly Military and Veterans report.
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Commission Members Comments:

Garza:	Reported that the Soledad CDCR wanted to thank the MVA Office for providing a 38-CFR to them.
Hartunian:	Reported the Soledad CDCR “Veteran’s Yard” initiative will have a combined 40 facilities at the north, central, and south facilities. And is very impressed with the program details as he knows them.
Daniels:	Reported May 15 th is Armed Forces Day, and Peace Officer Memorial Day and flags should be flown at half-staff. For Memorial Day, Salinas Post 31 and the city of Salinas will be putting up flags at the Garden of Memory starting at 7 am and taking down the flags at 1600. Those who helped set up and breakdown will be welcomed to a ham dinner at post 31 in appreciation for their help.
Gay:	Report that the VTC got the contract for 1 st mercantile which is the recycling center for Marina and there will be 16 job openings.
Supervisor Alejo:	Encouraged members to come to the county budget hearing on June 2 nd and 3 rd to show support for funding for the annual Stand Down event.

Lockwood:	There will be a BBQ in south county for Memorial Day and they will be putting out about 356 flags at 7 th Day.
Presser	Post 41 will have also be having a BBQ and putting out flags at the cemetery in Monterey for Memorial Day.

New Business:

Supervisor Root-Askew:	Welcomed Military and Veterans Affairs Officer, Jason Cameron, to the community outreach event happening later in the evening of this meeting to inform everyone attending of the services and benefits the MVAO provides.
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Adjournment: Bogan