

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> District 2 - Rich Garza District 4 - Gary Kreeger District 5 - Phillip Butler BoS - James Bogan BoS - Mary Estrada BoS - John Gay BoS -Bob Lockwood BoS -Dan Presser BoS - Sid Williams <u>In attendance:</u> 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 - Jason Cameron - Jack Murphy - Jonathan Brown
Pledge of Allegiance	Led by, Rich Garza
Public Comment	None
Approval of September 08, 2021 Minutes	Motion to accept, Mary Estrada Second, John Gay • Ayes, unanimous

Report from the Chair:

Chair Williams Reported:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Heroes' Open Golf Tournament raised \$20,000 that was donated to the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation.• The Gourley Clinic is providing Moderna booster shots. Appointments can be made at 650-496-2535.
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Committee Reports

<p>Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Garza reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a Veterans Day event at the Cemetery starting at 10:30 am. The Cemetery Foundation is finalizing its donor database. The Foundation has also hired an architect to produce construction drawings to submit to CalVet for the donor wall. Sadly, Mark George, the Manager for the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo, has passed away.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cemetery has hired another Groundskeeper and their potential start date is 11/22.

<p>Veteran of the Year Program Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Williams reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Veteran of the Year banquet was held last Friday, November 5th at Bayonet Black Horse Golf Club. There were approximately 175 people in attendance. Last year's winners were acknowledged due to last year's ceremonies being sparse due to COVID. The winners of the Sam Farr Award were the Marina Foundation and Central Coast Credit Union.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estrada reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately an additional \$1,000 was raised for the UVC emergency fund.

<p>VA Clinic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-chair Bogan reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clinic is still looking for volunteers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the pharmacy issues. Efforts have picked up again to bring awareness to the lack of a pharmacy at the VA clinic with the Congressman's office to new staff as they're brought on.

<p>State Legislation Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brown reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AJR 12 was chaptered. SB 658 was pushed to a 2-year bill.
<p>Federal Legislation Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HR 3402, The Caring for Survivors Act of 2021, has been introduced. This bill would affect Dependency Indemnity Compensation by reducing the current time requirements to qualify by half and increasing the benefit's compensation slightly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Board of Supervisors through the County Legislative Committee has also written a letter of support for the bill as well.
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Military & Veterans Affairs Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The renovations to the Coastal Building are anticipated to start in January. And the Monterey office is planning on moving in February. The County, with strong support from Supervisors Alejo and Root-Askew, is exploring bringing a CalVet Veterans Home to the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor Alejo reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The veterans home has been added to the County's legislative platform for 2022. Meetings on the topic have already been held between his office, MVAO, Senator Caballero's office, Assemblymember Rivas' office, and Senator Laird's office. Additionally, meetings are scheduled with Congressman's Panetta's office and Assemblymember Stone's office. He will be reaching out to Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, and CalVet to meet them as well.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron continued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving the MVAO bimonthly report for September and October, please see the attached.

Unfinished Business:

The Drill Sergeant Statue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Williams reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He's taken the initiative to UVC to have a survey placed on their website to get input from the community as to where they would like to see the statue moved between the new MVAO office at the Coastal Building, VTC, and the Veterans Cemetery at the next UVC meeting.
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New Business:

AB-361 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Williams reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary of AB 361.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Garza motioned to accept the resolution provided. James Bogan, seconded Roll call vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unanimous Ayes Motion carried

Commission Members Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-Chair Bogan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let the Commission know there will be a spaghetti dinner hosted by the VFW after the Veterans Day event at the Cemetery
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervisor Alejo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sent his well wishes to Dan Presser regarding his health and thanked him for his service.• As well as wished all in attendance a good Veterans Day.
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Adjournment: Williams

Next Meeting: 01/08/22