



# County of Monterey

## Military & Veterans Affairs Office



### Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) February 24, 2022, Thursday, at 3:00 p.m.

<p><b>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call to Order: Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby</li> <li>• Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Jonathan Brown</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Committee Members Present:</u></b></p> <p>UVC – Mary Estrada          UVC – Shane Strong          MVAAC – Sid Williams          MVAAC – Vice-chair, Dan Presser          City of Seaside – Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby          City of Marina – Wesley Haye          City of Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira          Veterans Families – Walan Chang</p> <p><b><u>Ex Officio Members Present:</u></b></p> <p>Congressional Office – 20th District – Xochitl Guerrero          State Senate Office – 17<sup>th</sup> District – Justin Tran          State Assembly Office – 29<sup>th</sup> District – Erica Parker          State Assembly office – 30<sup>th</sup> District – Dominic Dursa          Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation – Jim Cullem          Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation – Candy Ingram          Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation – Rich Garza          Military &amp; Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) – Jason Cameron          Military &amp; Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) – Jack Murphy          Military &amp; Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) – Jonathan Brown</p>
<p><b>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b></p>	<p>Led by: Sid Williams</p>
<p><b>3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shane Strong was introduced as the newest appointed member to VIAC representing UVC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (from October 28, 2021, &amp; November 18, 2021)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 27, 2022             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion: Sid Williams</li> <li>• Second: Dan Presser                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roll Call Vote:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UnaAyes                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion carries with noted corrections</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**6. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION**

a. AB 361

<b>i. Consider resolution presented on AB 361</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion: Nat Rojanasathira</li> <li>• Second: Sid Williams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call Vote: Unanimous – Ayes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Motion Carries</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**b. Communication:**

<b>i. Request for Letter of Support for Senate Bill 949</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan Brown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gave a summary of SB 949 and presented a draft letter of support for the Committee to consider. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to support the letter: Rick Johnson</li> <li>• Second: Louise Geotzelt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roll Call Vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unanimous – Ayes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion carries</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>ii. Request for Letter of Support for Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wesley Hays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gave a summary of the William James Arts4Vets program that will be looking to apply for the Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant during the next available grant cycle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to support the letter: Vice-chair Dan Presser</li> <li>• Second: Walan Chang <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roll Call Vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unanimous – Ayes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion carries</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**c. Affordable Housing**

<b>i. VTC – General updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kristen Massey reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently approximately 100 veterans in VTC programs.</li> <li>• VTC continues to work on Light Fighter Village and the EUL which they hope both will break ground in the fourth quarter this year.</li> <li>• They are also working with Nation Finest to get as many of the veterans in their program into VTC.</li> </ul>
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**d. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

<b>i. Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candy Ingram reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCVC has resumed in-ground burials and they are nearly fully staffed.</li> </ul>
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**e. Fundraising Status**

<b>i. General Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich Garza reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation continues to focus on the Donor Wall. Recently they received positive news from Cal-Vet on the proposed plans and they are encouraged their effort is moving in the right direction.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candy Ingram reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The architects working on behalf of the Foundation will be sending her a final response that will be forwarded to Cal-Vet.</li> <li>• The next citizens advisory committee is scheduled for 3/10 at 1:30 pm. At that meeting, they should further discuss the Donor Wall and the Drill Sergeant Statue.</li> </ul>

## f. Ord Military Community

<p><b>i. General Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Louise Geotzelt reported</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Retiree Council had an informal meeting with the new Command Sergeant Major Traylor at which time he asked if they would be willing to fund and coordinate Wreaths Across America placement at the Presidio which has approximately 289 plots. The Retiree Council will discuss the informal request at their next meeting.</li> </ul>
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## g. VA-DoD Clinic

<p><b>i. General Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kintina Edouard reported</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are seeing a downward trend in the Omicron variant of COVID and are continuing to provide vaccine shots both for COVID and the flu.</li> <li>• She is hopeful that mammography services will be provided at the Gourley Clinic in 4 to 6 weeks while they are closely monitoring those services at Palo Alto and in the general community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ii. Pharmacy Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jack Murphy reported</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MVAO continues to have discussions with Congressman Panetta's, D.C.'s, Military Legislative Assistant to push the issue forward. He added that he met with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren at an event she hosted to hear from the veteran community and she seemed to support establishing a pharmacy at the Gourley Clinic as well.</li> </ul>

## h. Municipalities

<p><b>i. General update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nat Rojanasathira, Monterey</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported that the city of Monterey received a request from Jason Cameron at MVAO to support legislation to establish a ninth Veteran Home here in Monterey County by providing a letter of support. That letter will be taken to the next City Council meeting for consideration on March 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rick Johnson, Del Rey Oaks</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported that he has added an article in Del Rey Oaks Newsletter about VIAC and MVAO which has generated communications between their veteran community and himself as Del Rey Oak's representative. It was also noted by Jonathan Brown from MVAO that the article has initiated referrals to his office from veterans seeking to connect with their VA benefits.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wesly Haye, Marina</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported he would like to also have an article in Marina's newsletter, similar to Del Rey Oaks'.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby, Seaside</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported Seaside is looking into the MOU for the Northern Endowment Fund Parcel adjacent to CCCVC as well as the parcel on the same side of the street as the cemetery that was originally parceled off for an ancillary structure in regard to where both the MOU and the parcels stand today and how Seaside can continue to support the veteran community and CCCVC.</li> </ul>

## i. Military & Veterans Affairs Office

<p><b>i. Cal-Vet Veterans Home Proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jason Cameron reported</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MVAO is working heavily with all the municipalities within Monterey County as well as neighboring counties' city councils to support the legislation to establish a ninth Veteran Home, here in Monterey County. He has already received letters of support from San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties.</li> <li>• He recently spoke at a California Association of Veteran Service Officers (CACVSO) Legislative Committee Meeting at which time they voted unanimously to include the issue as a legislative priority this year.</li> <li>• He has also given a presentation to San Benito's Board of Supervisors and will ask Mr. Bogan to deliver a request for support from the national veteran organizations that he will be meeting with next week on his trip to Washington D.C.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ii. Monthly Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jason Cameron Reported</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His office will be closely monitoring the reemergence of the contaminated water supply at Fort Ord while it was still functioning and the resulting illnesses that veterans are experiencing.</li> <li>• MVAO was also asked to and provided a letter of support for AB 1623 and thanked Assemblymember Rivas' office for co-signing on to that bill as well.</li> <li>• The County Budget Committee approved to increase the Stand Down funding by an additional \$50,000 which would take the funding to \$1000,000 if approved at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting.</li> <li>• Please see both the annual and monthly MVAO report attached.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added, that Supervisor Alejo also reached out to him for a letter of support for the Veteran Home from Seaside and that request will be taken to the Seaside City Council meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li> </ul>

**j. Service Recognition**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vice-chair, Dan Presser</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented James Bogan with a trophy for all his years of service to the nation, the veteran community, and to our community as a whole.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoke, letting Mr. Bogan know how grateful we all are for him showing us how to advocate for veteran issues the way he has done for so long, and thanked him for all he has done.</li> </ul>

**7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>None received</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
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**8. ADJOURNMENT: Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby**



## MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

### MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

January 2022

**3**

Outreach Events

**24**

New Contacts



**818**

Phone Calls

**312**

Vet Rep Appointments



**228** Unique Veterans

**470** Claims Actions

**139** Compensation Awards



**13** College  
Fee Waivers

**\$47,694**

**New Disability Compensation Awards**

**\$328,402**

Retroactive Payments

**\$69,499**

Recurring Monthly Payments



**Customer Satisfaction Survey**

**96% Very Satisfied!**

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Serving those who served

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# MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



Monterey County

## 2021 Activity Report

**80**

Outreach Events

**3,852**

New Contacts



**9,387**

Phone Calls



**2,958**

Vet Rep Appointments

**1,745** Unique Veterans

**4,577** Claims Actions



**902** Compensation Awards

**255**

College Fee  
Waivers

**\$1,495,278**

**Disability Compensation Awards**

**\$3,651,910**

Total Retroactive Payments

**\$7,635,552**

Annualized Recurring Monthly Payments



Customer Satisfaction Survey

**89% Satisfied or Better!**

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