

# Monterey County

## MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sid Williams, Chairperson  
 1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, SUITE 003  
 MONTEREY, CA 93940  
 TEL: (831) 647-7613  
 FAX: (831) 647-7618



Meeting: 01/12/2022

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Williams

<p><b>Roll Call by Jack Murphy from MVAO, Quorum Established</b></p>	<p><u>Voting members present:</u>                  District 4 - Gary Kreeger                  District 5 - Phillip Butler                  BoS - James Bogan                  BoS - Mary Estrada                  BoS - John Gay                  BoS -Dan Presser                  BoS - Sid Williams</p> <p><u>Representing County Supervisor</u>                  1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor, Luis Alejo</p> <p><u>In attendance:</u>                  Representative from Congressman Panetta's office, Ben Uslar                  Representative from Assemblymember Rivas' office, Dominic Dursa                  Representative from 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor, Luis Alejo's office: Javier Gomez                  Military and Veterans Affairs Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jason Cameron</li> <li>- Jack Murphy</li> <li>- Jonathan Brown</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pledge of Allegiance</b></p>	<p>Led by, John Gay</p>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 10, 2021                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion by, John Gay</li> <li>○ Second by, Mary Estrada                                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ayes, unanimous</li> <li>▪ Minutes approved</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 8, 2021                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion by, Mary Estrada</li> <li>○ Second by, John Gay                                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ayes, unanimous</li> <li>▪ Minutes approved</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion by, John Gay</li> <li>○ Second by, Dan Presser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ayes, unanimous</li> <li>▪ Minutes approved</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**Report from the Chair:**

<b>Chair Williams Reported:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first planning meeting for the 2022 Veteran Stand Down, scheduled for June, will be Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at VTC at 10 am.</li> </ul>
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**Committee Reports**

<b>Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Bogan reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a Monuments and Memorials meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at VTC to discuss the donor wall and the placement of the Drill Sergeant Statue.</li> </ul>
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<b>Veteran of the Year Program Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Williams reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bayonet Black Horse, where the event is normally held, has had a change of management and the details of the event are in the works.</li> <li>• The same is true for the Heroes' Golf Tournament.</li> </ul>
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<b>State Legislation Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominic Dursa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The State Budget proposal</li> <li>○ A new Assembly Bill by Assemblymember Rivas to eliminate the state tax on military retirement pension.</li> <li>○ The current timelines for legislation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<b>Federal Legislation Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Uslar reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Congressman's office hired a new Military Legislative Assistant, Taylor Fairless.</li> <li>• Relayed that the DC legislation staff is planning for the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act.</li> <li>• And they continue to work on the PROVIDE Act, Vets ETA Act, the Veterans Treatment Court Act, and the Veteran Equal Access Act.</li> </ul>
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<b>VA Clinic:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Bogan reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The clinic is administering booster shots.</li> </ul>
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<b>Military &amp; Veterans Affairs Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cameron reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MVAO has a meeting with the new Military Legislative Assistant for Congressman Panetta, Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup> to continue the discussion on the</li> </ul>
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	<p>potential for adding a fully functioning pharmacy at the MG Gourley Clinic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With support from Supervisors Alejo and Root-Askew to establish a Cal-Vet Veterans Home, the initiative has been added to the County’s legislative priorities.</li><li>• Regarding the Stand Down<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Stand Down events are usually a 3-day event held every other year, on even years.</li><li>○ In 2020 the event was canceled due to COVID-19.</li><li>○ In 2021 there was a one-day event to make up for the canceled 2020 Stand Down.</li><li>○ Due to the make-up event, funding from MVAO supplied by the County is currently half of what it normally is.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Usually, MVAO supplies \$100,000</li><li>▪ \$50,000 was utilized for the 2021 event.</li><li>▪ \$50,000 is currently available for the 2022 event, which is being planned as its normal 3-day event.</li></ul></li><li>○ As a result, MVAO has started the process to get on the Budget Committee to request a one-time additional \$50,000 to be able to bring funding back to \$100,000.</li></ul></li><li>• Regarding the Coastal Office<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ There has been an offer to buy the building from the developer that is developing the area around it.</li><li>○ He has expressed MVAO’s desire to utilize that building for veterans services back to the County Administrative Office, but the process is on-going and he will report more as it develops.</li></ul></li><li>• Regarding Assemblymember Ramos’ bill<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ He has passed along that information to Assemblymembers Stone and Rivas, Senators Laird and Caballero, as well the Board of Supervisors asking for their support. He will follow up with a request for letters of support from those offices</li></ul></li></ul>
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	<p>as well as the California Association of County Veteran’s Service Officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented the MVAO bi-monthly report for November and December, please see attached.</li> </ul>
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**Unfinished Business:**

<p><b>The Drill Sergeant Statue:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Williams reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There has been a survey on the UVC website for approximately a month to gather more information as to where the veteran community would like to see the Statue moved. From that survey, there is currently a tie between VTC and MVAO’s new prospective office, the Coastal Building at 40% each and 20% for CCCVC.</li> <li>At the last UVC meeting the item was discussed and it was decided that they would like to see the Statue moved to CCCVC and it should be brought up at the next Cal-Vet Monuments and Memorials Meeting.</li> <li>He reminded the Committee that at this time no one entity has the authority for a final say on the matter, and opened it up to the committee for a show of hands as to where they would like to see it moved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The count from the voting members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 for CCCVC</li> <li>2 for the Coastal Building</li> <li>1 for VTC</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**New Business:**

<p><b>Election of Officers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jonathan Brown</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opened election by asking for nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dan Presser, nominated Sid Williams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Williams accepts</li> </ul> </li> <li>No other nominations were received</li> </ul> </li> <li>Motion to consider appointing Sid Williams as Chair uncontested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Gay</li> <li>Second, Dan Presser</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Election of Officers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vice-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jonathan Brown</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opened election by asking for nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Williams, nominated John Gay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gay accepts</li> </ul> </li> <li>No other nominations were received</li> </ul> </li> <li>Motion to consider appointing John Gay as Vice-chair uncontested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Bogan</li> <li>Second, Chair Williams</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>AB-361</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Williams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarized the requirements of AB-361 emphasizing the requirement to meet every 30 days.</li> <li>The Commission decided to hold the next meeting to consider AB-361 on 2/3 at 3 pm.</li> </ul>
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**Commission Members Comments:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervisor Alejo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commented that at the next regular meeting he would like to give an update on the status of the Veteran Home.</li> <li>He will be attending The National Association of Counties meeting in Washington D.C. on February 14<sup>th</sup> – 16th</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Bogan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanked Supervisor Alejo for his dedication to the Commission</li> </ul>

**Adjournment:** Williams



## MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

### MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

November - December 2021

**11**

Outreach Events

**402**

New Contacts

**1,136**

Phone Calls



**592**

Vet Rep Appointments



**434** Unique Veterans

**870** Claims Actions

**293** Compensation Awards



**20** College

Fee Waivers

**\$75,201**

**New Disability Compensation Awards**



**\$418,959**

Retroactive Payments

**\$112,076**

Recurring Monthly Payments



**Customer Satisfaction Survey**

**96% Satisfied or Better**

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