

Monterey County

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sid Williams, Chairperson
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Meeting: 03/09/2022

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Williams

<p>Roll Call by Jonathan Brown from MVAO, Quorum Established</p>	<p><u>Voting members present:</u> District 3 – Mark Hartunian District 4 - Gary Kreeger District 5 - Phillip Butler BoS - James Bogan BoS - Mary Estrada BoS - John Gay, Vice-chair BoS -Dan Presser BoS - Sid Williams, Chair</p> <p><u>Representing County Supervisor</u> 1st District Supervisor, Luis Alejo</p> <p><u>In attendance:</u> Representative from Congressman Panetta’s office, Xochitl Guerrero Representative from Senator Laird’s office, Justin Tran Representative from 1st District Supervisor, Luis Alejo’s office: Javier Gomez Military and Veterans Affairs Office, VSO Jason Cameron Military and Veterans Affairs Office, Staff Liaison, Jonathan Brown</p>
<p>Pledge of Allegiance</p>	<p>Led by, Louise Goetzelt</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Approval of the Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 3rd, February 10th, and March 3rd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion by, John Gay ○ Second by, Mary Estrada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes, unanimous ▪ Minutes approved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 12th, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion by, Mary Estrada ○ Second by, John Gay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes, unanimous ▪ Minutes approved

Report from the Chair:

Chair Williams Reported:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The PX, DLI, and Commissary are no longer requiring face masks.
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Committee Reports

Veteran Home Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervisor Alejo reported:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That he has been working closely with MVAO and the County lobbying team to inform the State and Federal legislators about the proposal to establish a 9th Veterans Home in Monterey County.• He and Supervisor Lopez met with key staff members on a recent trip to D.C. that primarily work with Veteran Homes and were given helpful information to go forward with.• He has received letters of support from the following county's Board of Supervisors<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monterey,• San Luis Obispo,• San Benito,• Santa ClaraAnd expects to get support from the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors as well.• He has received letters of support from the following municipalities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pacific Grove• Salinas• Watsonville• King City• Supervisor Alejo suggests that a committee be formed to speak to legislators when needed to show that the veteran community is supportive of bringing a Veteran Home to Monterey County.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jason Cameron reported:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After an initial meeting with Cal-Vet leadership that Supervisor Alejo reached out and coordinated an additional meeting with the Governor's office to make them aware of the need and desire for a Veterans Home in Monterey County.• He also has expressed his concern with Senator Laird about not having a bill introduced by the deadline which led to him meeting one-on-one with the Senator to discuss the issue. That meeting spurred another meeting with Cal-Vet

	leadership and multiple Veteran Service Office representatives scheduled for 3/18.
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Veteran of the Year Program Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-chair John Gay reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That he will be contacting the staff at Bayonet & Black Horse golf course to discuss available dates for the event.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, Sid Williams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminded the Commission that nominations need to be submitted by June 30th. Nominations can be done online at UVC-MC.com or MVAO.org, and anyone who has received the award before cannot receive it again.

State Legislation Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justin Tran 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate Bill 949 Senate Bill 1311 Assembly Bill 1606 Assembly Bill 1623 Assembly Bill 2119 He also provided the update that Rep. Panetta and Rep. Porter have sent a letter to the Director of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to study whether there is evidence that the potentially toxic and contaminated drinking water can be tied to cancer and other diseases.
Federal Legislation Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xochitl reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the US House Committee of Armed Forces is meeting with DoD officials to work on the FY2023 NDAA. Congressman Panetta is working to offer legislation on improving military and veteran health care, housing, and funding for education.

Military and Veterans Affairs Report : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason Cameron reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He had an initial meeting with VA leadership to discuss not having a pharmacy at the Gourley Clinic. As an initial meeting, it was just to set the foundation and further meetings will be scheduled. MVAO will also work with Congressman Panetta’s Military Legislative Assistant to create a survey that will go out to the communities affected by not having a pharmacy at the Gourley Clinic. The CACVSO Winter Virtual Conference is wrapping up today, at which he gave multiple presentations. He thanked Supervisor Alejo and the entire Board of Supervisors for finalizing the \$100,000
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	<p>contribution from the County for this year's Stand Down.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February monthly report attached.
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<p>Central Coast Veteran Cemetery Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Brown reported on behalf of Erica Chaney, Manager at CCVC: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cemetery is fully staffed at this time. A Monuments and Memorials meeting on January 20th discussed the proposed donor wall. The plans were accepted, meaning it was acceptable to be submitted to Cal-Vet's architects for review. That review will be discussed at their next meeting scheduled for 3/10.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason Cameron 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added that Jack Murphy has been in contact with Erica to aid them in bringing in work studies from the local colleges.

VA Clinic Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None given
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New Business:

<p>Request for Letter of Support SB 949:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Brown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the letter of support for SB 949 and asked for a motion to consider. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion by, John Gay Second by, Mary Estrada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayes, unanimous Letter of Support for SB 949 approved
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Commission Member's Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gary Kreeger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanked the Commission for their efforts on AB 1623 and the Veteran Home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor Alejo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanked Jason Cameron for all his efforts on the Veteran Home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, Sid Williams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the Commission that the next two meetings to consider AB 361 will be on 3/31 and 4/28.

Adjournment: Williams



MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

February 2022



10
Outreach Events
187
New Contacts


712
Phone Calls

318
Vet Rep Appointments

241 Unique Veterans
498 Claims Actions
154 Compensation Awards



Homeless Veteran's
Stand Down
Funding
\$100,000

New Disability Compensation Awards
\$318,629
Retroactive Payments
\$56,498
Recurring Monthly Payments



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