



# County of Monterey

## Military & Veterans Affairs Office



### Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) January 26th, 2023, 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 Oglesby</li> <li>• Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Chair Oglesby</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Committee Members Present:</u></b></p> <p>City of Seaside – Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby  MVAAC – Vice-Chair, Dan Presser  UVC – Mary Estrada  UVC – John Gay  UVC – Shane Strong  MVAAC – Sid Williams  City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson  City of Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira  Veterans Families – Walan Chang  Ft. Ord Retiree Council – Louise Goetzelt</p>
<p><b>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b></p>	<p>Led by: Mary Estrada</p>
<p><b>3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William Nannie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented a concern for Veterans without a means of transportation for a trip to Palo Alto VA Medical Center. He attempted to obtain a ride through any organization and was met with difficulties. He wanted to raise this concern to the Committee for awareness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Oglesby asked Adam from the Military and Veterans Affairs Office to investigate the concern and provide an update to the Committee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (From August 25<sup>th</sup>)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion: Louise Goetzelt</li> <li>• Second: Rick Johnson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call: Vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ayes – Unanimous</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Motion Carried</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION**

**a. AB 361**

<p><b>i. Consider the resolution presented on AB 361</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion: Sid Williams</li> <li>• Second: Rick Johnson <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. Affordable Housing**

<p><b>i. VTC – General Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kurt Schake Reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VTC is currently housing 102 Veterans and family members.</li> <li>• Lightfighter Village has a construction start date of April 15<sup>th</sup>. A ceremonial groundbreaking will occur roughly a month later. We will invite everyone. The project should be</li> </ul>
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	<p>completed in December of 2024 with occupancy for 70 Veterans and their families. It is zoned for low and extremely low-income Veterans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The VTC is in final negotiations with the federal and local VA offices for the Enhance Use Lease Project. Currently, we are approved for 60 units of Veteran housing. We are looking to double that to 120 units.</li> <li>• The two projects total to about \$106 million.</li> <li>• Lastly, we have hired Erica Parker who was formerly with Asm. Stone’s Office. She will be starting next week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice-Chair Dan Presser Question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a waiting list for Lightfighter Village been established? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kurt responded: No, the list will be incorporated into the current waitlist VTC has for permanent supportive housing slots. We are looking to expand the number of slots to help more Veterans.</li> <li>▪ Vice-Chair Dan Presser asked if Lightfighter Village will be restricted to Veterans only.</li> <li>▪ Kurt responded that Lightfighter Village will be restricted to Veterans but the Enhance Use Lease site would not. Veterans would have preference at the Enhance Use Lease site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jack Murphy Question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is Lightfighter Village project voucher or set-aside based? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kurt responded that it will be combination. There will be one unit for a manager, 17 units will be project voucher based, rest will largely be HUDVASH Vouchers.</li> <li>▪ Vice-Chair Dan Presser asked if a walkthrough could be completed.</li> <li>▪ Kurt responded that he would like everyone at the groundbreaking. Once the financing and agreements are in place, we can conduct a walkthrough.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**c. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

<b>i. CCCVC Status Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None received</li> </ul>
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**d. Cemetery Foundation**

<p><b>i. General Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Candy Ingram reported</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Donor Wall</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Foundation has provided environmental information and are working to produce a construction support plan to forward to the Army and City of Seaside. With that report the City of Seaside will determine if we need a grading permit.</li><li>• The location of the wall is directly south of the flag circle area.</li><li>• Most of the land has been investigated for unexploded ordinance (UXO) removal.</li><li>• The State Fire Marshall must sign off on the donor wall for safety purposes.</li><li>• The Foundation is working on a detailed transmittal letter for CAL VET showing everything we have done.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Jack Murphy question:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Who replaced Mike Magee?</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Candy responded Christine Odson who is the Cemetery Director at Igo.</li><li>▪ They have not replaced Mike yet.</li><li>▪ Jack stated he would contact Christine to follow up. He stated he will also follow up with the Deputy Director of CAL VET Keith Boylen in a few weeks at the training conference.</li><li>▪ Candy asked Jack to request a complete list from Keith Boylen/CAL VET of what is required for the Donor Wall.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• <b>Vice-Chair Dan Presser praised Candy.</b></li></ul>
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**e. Ord Military Community**

<p><b>i. Active-Duty General Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>CSM Traylor reported</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Storm recovery did not affect the base much. All services are currently open.</li><li>• February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the next Retiree Council meeting. The Retiree Council is focusing on the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD).</li></ul>
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<b>ii. Ft. Ord Retiree Council:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Louise Goetzelt reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates other than the Retiree Council meeting on February 2nd.</li> </ul>
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**f. VA-DoD Clinic**

<b>i. General Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jack Murphy reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Palo Alto VA Medical Center is providing a PACT ACT Open house at the clinic here in Marina. The event will be on January 28th from 9AM to 3PM. The VA will be conducting toxic exposure screenings along with other benefit explanations. The intent is to invite all Veterans who have been previously denied benefits to the clinic as they may qualify under the PACT ACT.</li> <li>• Walan Chang question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you forward a flyer out to the Committee for distribution? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jack Murphy responded: yes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is there any way for a family member to obtain the flu shot and COVID vaccine at the same time? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adam Errahebi stated he would reach out to Kintina and find some clarity.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lisa Howard, the Director of the Palo Alto Healthcare System is retiring on March 31st. They have not identified a new director yet.</li> <li>• Walan Chang comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Veteran Family Advisory Council is seeking Veterans interested in sitting on the hiring Committee for this position.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**g. Municipalities**

<b>i. City of Del Rey Oaks, General Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rick Johnson reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently an opening on the City Council.</li> </ul>
<b>ii. City of Monterey, General Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nat Rojanasathira</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The city of Monterey City Council reviewed an Update on the 2023 city staff work plan and reviewed its vision mission value drivers and strategic priorities and one of those priorities is to support our military installations as significant economic drivers in the region. Nat continued by thanking the Active-Duty entities in the Monterey Area</li> <li>• Our hope is in the near future to complete the inner governmental support agreement, the exit negotiations with the DOD for the</li> </ul>

	<p>services that we provided at the Army base that include public works services as well as other services we're also currently undergoing and finalizing the Monterey Bay military communities to pass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are the lead agency on that regional effort with DOD and this is a county wide effort. So isn't just focus on the city of Monterey, but also gathering feedback from many of the communities in Marina and Seaside all the way down to Camp Roberts, where the city of Monterey provides provide services down there with the U.S. Army Signal Activity. Other efforts we're continuing to play leadership role with the California Defense Communities Alliance in the Monterey Bay Defense Alliance as well, or city manager serves on the Board of Directors for both of those organizations' other updates.</li> <li>• On Monday, you may have seen an article or a segment on KSBW Channel 8 on the local history with Buffalo Soldiers in their presence here on the Monterey Peninsula. The 9th Cavalry of the Buffalo Soldiers arrived in Monterey in 1902, and there were no barracks at that time so roughly 425 men were segregated from the white soldiers and force to camp near what is now Hopkins Marine Station. What if you may not know that the history and the unfair treatment that took place as part of that that history, and one of the cities value drivers is diversity, equity and inclusion. Part of that also is making sure that we tell the story of Monterey's rich history, and all of those who contributed to Monterey's past to inform today's us moving into the future.</li> </ul>
<p><b>iii. City of Marina, General Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wesley Haye</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None received.</li> </ul>
<p><b>iv. City of Seaside, General Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cemetery Foundation has met with the City Manager. We are hoping to keep the momentum going and stay supportive of the foundation.</li> </ul>

**h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office**

<p><b>i. General Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jack Murphy reported</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jack wanted to highlight two legislative actions that will hopefully be set in motion.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assembly Bill 46 which was introduced by Asm. Ramos who is the former Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee. The Bill would provide some form of tax benefit for Military Retirees and Surviving spouses receiving retiree benefits. California is currently the only State that does not provide any tax relief in any form for retirees.</li><li>• The County Board of Supervisors are looking for momentum to build a California Veterans Home here in Monterey County. This is a follow up to the press conference that took place last Fall. I've made a presentation before the County Legislative Committee and all of our elected officials who support the County both at the Local, State, and Federal levels. It was introduced as our office's legislative priority.</li></ul></li><li>• Jack gave MVAO's Annual report, see attached.</li><li>• Jack also mentioned that the Military and Veterans Affairs Office is looking for Fort Ord memorabilia for its heritage room.</li><li>• Jack explained MVAO's Organizational Chart and the current vacancies the office has. See attached.</li><li>• Sid Williams comment:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In reference to the legislative items: The United Veterans Council has a tab on its website titled "What's Happening". There you can find a template letter that you can forward to your representatives.</li><li>• Jack Murphy responded that the Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Commission (MVAAC) provided an action letter to the elected officials for the Vet Home</li></ul></li></ul>
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	<p>Initiative. Jack thanked Sid (Chair of MVAAC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nat Rojanasathira praised Jack and the MVAO Team.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
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**i. Election of Officers**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair Oglesby</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opened nominations for Chair for the ensuing year, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sid Williams nominates Ian Oglesby</li> <li>• No other nominates are received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roll Call Vote:</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Unanimous Ayes – Ian Oglesby is elected Chair for 2023</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair Oglesby</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opened nominations for Vice-chair for the ensuing year, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sid Williams nominates Dan Presser</li> <li>• No other nominates are received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roll Call Vote:</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Unanimous Ayes – Dan Presser is elected Vice-chair for 2023</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair Oglesby</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed elections.</li> </ul>

**6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair Oglesby</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed the potential of putting together different sub-committees for the By-Laws review and other topics.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Louise Goetzelt</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed the similarities between this Committee and the Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Commission. Brought up if it was possible to merge the two entities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sid Williams</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explained why both the Committee and Commission are set up the way they are. He reminded the Committee that the purpose of this entity is to examine issues on old Fort Ord.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vice-Chair Dan Presser</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Legion Post 41 in Monterey is having a Crab Feed on February 18th. Please contact him for tickets.</li> </ul>

**7. ADJOURNMENT: Chair, Ian Oglesby**



# MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

# September 2022



**9**

Outreach Events

**152**

New Contacts



**601**

Phone Calls

**341**

Vet Rep Appointments

**522** Claims Actions



**250** Unique Veterans

**158** Compensation Awards

**15** College  
Fee Waivers  
**\$111,198**

## New Disability Compensation Awards

**\$580,582**

Retroactive Payments

**\$80,207**

Recurring Monthly Payments



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