



County of Monterey

Military & Veterans Affairs Office



Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) July 27th, 2023, Thursday, at 3:00 p.m.

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order: Chair, Oglesby • Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Chair Oglesby 	<p><u>Committee Members Present:</u></p> <p>City of Seaside – Chair, Ian Oglesby MVAAC – Sid Williams UVC – John Gay UVC – Shane Strong City of Marina – Wesley Hays City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson City of Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira Veterans Families – Walan Chang Ft. Ord Retiree Council – Louise Goetzelt</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by: Rick Johnson</p>
<p>3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (From April 27th)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Sid Williams • Second: Rick Johnson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call: Vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes – Unanimous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion Carried

6. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION

a. Affordable Housing

<p>i. VTC – General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Schake reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained housing map, see attached • Explained that the VTC is well ahead of the State average for the Parole Housing Program at 0% recidivism compared to the 70% average. • Lightfighter Village should be occupied by January of 2025.
---	--

b. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

<p>i. CCCVC Status Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam Errahebi reported 	<p>Central Coast Veterans Cemetery: We are working with CAL VET and Department of Transportation on getting a sign placed on Highway 1 N/S. Currently working to schedule a meeting with CAL VET Deputy Secretary of Veteran Services, Keith Boylan.</p>
---	---

c. Cemetery Foundation

<p>i. General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy Ingram reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation is still seeking a list of requirements from CAL VET. • The Appreciation Wall is ADA compliant. The ADA compliance issue was with the Cemetery itself. • Looking to have a meeting with the delegation: Representatives from: Asm. Rivas, Asm. Addis, Sen Laird, and Sen Caballero’s Office.
--	---

d. Ord Military Community

<p>i. Active-Duty General Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSM Traylor reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PX Closure on August 26th. • The Retiree Appreciation Day was a success.
<p>ii. Ft. Ord Retiree Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had around 200 – 250 attendees for Retiree Appreciation Day. • Have a meeting with the National Retiree Council next week. • The Soldier for Life apparel is delayed until the 7th of August. It is available online at Shopmyexchange.com

f. VA-DoD Clinic

<p>i. General Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Moreno has been appointed as the Operations Manager. • Chair Oglesby thanked Kintina for her service on behalf of the Committee. • Veteran suicide at the parking lot of the VA Clinic in Marina. We are working with VA leadership and local elected officials to gather more information and future preventative measures. • Louise Goetzelt: The VA Clinic is taking magazine donations. • Dominic Dursa: Follow up question for the VA. Are they mandatory reporters or is there any process to report any concerns internally if a Veteran shows risk factors? • Walan Chang: Expressed concerns regarding a Veteran being released from the Hospital and attempting to obtain an immediate prescription from one of the local providers. The Veteran was unable to obtain the prescription at the local provider. The Pharmacist referred the Veteran to VA Palo Alto. There is also issues regarding the community pharmacy hours (closed early).
--	---

g. Municipalities

<p>i. City of Del Rey Oaks, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Johnson reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no City Council Meeting this month.
<p>ii. City of Monterey, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat Rojanasathira reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Monterey voted to unanimously support two Bills.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SB 326 The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond act of 2023 and AB 531. If approved, it would allow the construction of 10,000 new Community Behavioral Health beds and housing to provide care for those that have serious mental health or substance abuse disorders. This Bill would allocate \$600 Million towards Veteran Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014. ○ AB 444 would allow for matching funds for the Defense Communities Infrastructure Program. ○ AB 46 would provide an income tax benefit for Military Retirement and Survivors Benefit Plan pay. ● The City Council recently adopted and completed the Compatible Use Study with our partnering Military Agencies. The City of Monterey acted as the lead agency involved. This grant helps identify areas of compatibility between the local jurisdictions and the Military use of Land development. ● We hosted the Defense Leadership Collaborative in June. This meeting focused on identifying areas of collaboration between all of the Armed Forces here in Monterey County. The greatest concern being housing and infrastructure. Other areas being workforce development, energy, affordability, and resilience. ● I will be a guest speaker at the Leadership Monterey County. We will be discussing the value of our Military partners and the Veteran community. ● City Council meeting next week with the Marina Post Water District to explore a partnership to acquire water in support of affordable housing in the City of Monterey. ● We are looking for ways to expand our Skillbridge program.
<p>iii. City of Marina, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wesley Hays reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There have been several issues regarding Salinas Memorial Hospital discharging Veterans without their caretaker’s signature.

	One Marina resident has experienced this issue and will follow up with the Hospital and County Office. This issue has been reported to the VA.
iv. City of Seaside, General Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updated at this time.

h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office

<p>i. General Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack Murphy reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack gave MVAO's Monthly Activity report, see attached. Explained the movement of AB46 and AB684. Our office has sent in stacks of support letters to the Senate Appropriations Committee. We still have time to submit more if you haven't filled one out. Representative Panetta proposed some amendments to the upcoming NDAA. One of which we asked for. Pressuring the Office of General Council to conduct an investigation regarding pharmaceutical services and complaints, specifically the mail order system in the State of California. Representative Panetta is hosting a PACT Act roundtable at our office on Monday July 31st at 10:00am. We are currently staffed at 9 out of 11. We are slowly getting to full manning.
--	--

6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kurt Schake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will offer a tour of Lightfighter Village following our next meeting.
---	--

7. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Oglesby

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

June 2023

**PTSD
AWARENESS**

SUPPORTING THE FIGHT



8

Outreach Events

105

New Contacts



632

Phone Calls

353

Vet Rep Appointments

505 Claims Actions

246 Unique Veterans

179 Compensation Awards



27

College Tuition
Waivers valued at
\$211,005

New Disability Compensation Awards

PACT ACT

\$312,128

Retroactive Payments

\$77,757

Recurring Monthly Payments



Customer Satisfaction Survey

83% Very Satisfied!

www.mvao.org

Serving those who served! (831) 647-7613