

Monterey County

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sid Williams, Chairperson
 1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, SUITE 003
 MONTEREY, CA 93940
 TEL: (831) 647-7613
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Meeting: 09/14/2022

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Williams

<p>Roll Call by Chair Sid William, Quorum Established</p>	<p><u>Voting members present:</u> District 3 – Mark Hartunian District 4 - Gary Kreeger District 5 - Phillip Butler 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 Senator Caballero’s office, Marisa Hernandez Representative from Congressional Office – 20th District, Xochitl Guerrero Representative from 1st District Supervisor’s Office, Javier Gomez Military and Veterans Affairs Office, Staff Liaison, Jack Murphy Military and Veterans Affairs Office, Staff Liaison, Adam Errahebi</p>
<p>Pledge of Allegiance</p>	<p>Led by Chair Williams</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Approval of the Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 13th, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion by Mark Hartunian ○ Second by Vice-Chair, John Gay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes, unanimous
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 9th, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion by Mark Hartunian ○ Second by Vice-Chair, John Gay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes, unanimous
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 7th, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion by Mark Hartunian ○ Second by Vice-Chair, John Gay

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayes, unanimous
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Report from the Chair:

<p>Chair Williams:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminded the Commission that the Heroes Open Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 29th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Heroes Open Golf Tournament is looking for volunteers, players, and donated items for auction. • Reminded the Commission that Veteran of the Year Tickets are still available. Also encouraged members of the Commission to attend if possible.
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Committee Reports

<p>Veteran Home Update,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that he and Jason Cameron (Veteran Service Officer) conducted an in-person meeting with Chair of the California Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator Archuleta in reference to the Veterans Home Project. He understands the need and presented some possible challenges to address moving forward. • We also had a meeting with a Staff Member from Asm. Robert Rivas' Office to discuss the Veterans Home Project. • We met with Congressman Panetta and his Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison in Washington, D.C. to discuss various topics to include: the status of the pharmacy, why the Veteran Health Administration won't provide nexus letters for Veterans, The Veterans Home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor Alejo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that Dawn Addis will likely be the new Assemblymember for the Monterey Peninsula as she is the frontrunner. Stated he and Jason (Veteran Service Officer) had a meeting with her to discuss the Veterans Home Initiative. She would like a follow up meeting once elections are over. She will be a good champion in introducing legislation to move it forward. • A bill must be introduced as a first step to obtaining a Veterans Home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would it be a good idea to encourage her to make the

	<p>Veterans Home a point in her campaign?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supervisor Alejo and Jack Murphy responded that they would mention it to her. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoe Lofgren is also going to be active in the Veteran Community once the Congressional redistricting is in place.
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<p>Veteran of the Year Program Report,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-chair John Gay reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates at this time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Sid Williams: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Veteran of the Year Programs are almost complete. The winners of the Jack Stewart and Sam Farr award will be selected at the end of the month. At that point the programs should be complete.

<p>State Legislation Report,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marisa Hernandez, representing Senator Caballero, reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legislative cycle has adjourned. • She provided the following presentation updated: • SB 949 (Laird) - Veterans: CA Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill will remove obsolete language within the code that was included when the cemetery was first being built. Updates to provisions on oversight, construction, and operation. • Status- Chaptered July 19th, 2022 • SB 1195 (Grove)- Veterans homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill would require the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), when reviewing the best continued use of every home, to assess the need for veterans living at or near a Veterans Home to access care at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility, • and the potential for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to place satellite medical clinics on state veteran home campuses and within a 30-minute drive of a state veteran home campus, • to serve both residents of the veteran homes and nonresident veterans in the
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	<p>communities where state veteran homes are located.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status: Chaptered on August 26th, 2022 • SB 1311 (Eggman) - Veterans: protections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate President Pro Tem Atkins is a Co-Author • This bill would strengthen California’s existing military consumer protection laws by enhancing existing legal and financial protections for service members and their families by, among other things, prohibiting a person from conditioning the receipt of a military discount on the wavier of any right of the recipient under state of federal law and voiding any such waiver. • Status: Pending Governor’s Action • SB 837 (Umberg)- <i>Driver’s licenses: veteran designation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans would no longer be required to pay a fee when requesting the word “veteran” be printed on their driver’s license or state-issued ID. • Status: Pending Governor’s Action • AB 2119 (Flora) - <i>Veterans: Medical Foster Home Pilot Program</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the Medical Foster Home Pilot Program no sooner than June 1, 2024 through the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs. • These medical foster homes would be exempt from certain regulations/licensure and be subject to the jurisdiction of the California State Auditor. • An audit led by the State shall be performed no earlier than Jan 1, 2025 in response to a request by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee • Status: Pending Governor’s Action • Jack Murphy comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 949 is very particular to the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery as it relieves the Cemetery Foundation of funding requirements for the cemetery.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 1195 does relate to our Veterans Home Initiative but does highlight the need to State leadership.
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<p>Federal Legislation Report,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xochitl Guerrero, representing Congressman Panetta, reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently emerging from August recess • We will be moving forward with this years Defense legislation and working on complimentary issues to include housing. • Taylor, the Military Legislative Assistant is working on a few Veteran bills with Jason Cameron’s recommendations. She is also eager to meet on any new legislative concerns. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have been in contact with Taylor and have kept issues such as the VA Clinic Pharmacy on her radar.
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<p>Military and Veterans Affairs Report,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have occupied the new Salinas office at 730 La Guardia. We are very grateful to the Supervisors, CAO’s Office, and DSS Leadership for the funding to rehab that office. • Veteran of the Year tickets are for sale at our Monterey Office. • Monthly Report attached below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Hartunian praised the Military and Veterans Affairs Office. • Dan Presser comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He suggested we put together a cumulative Monthly Activity Report showing how much the office has done. ▪ Jack Murphy responded: we put together an annual report for the end of the year. We typically bring in \$13-14 million each fiscal year to the Veterans of Monterey County. That is with 6 full-time Vet Reps. We could do more if we had more as it would free up additional personnel for more outreach visits.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does that include money taken away due to overpayment? ▪ Jack Murphy responded: No. • Mark Hartunian question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This purpose of this report is to show the amount of disability compensation and retractive payments received this month. ▪ Jack Murphy responded: yes.
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<p>Central Coast Veteran Cemetery Update,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Williams Reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since opening in 2016, the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery has 2022 Veterans with 580 Dependents for a total of 2602 interred. • Fiscal Year 2021: 349 Internments. • Fiscal Year 2022 (with in-ground): 533 Internments. • He explained that there were 5000 niches available in the first phase and we are in good shape for the future. • Open positions: Staff Services Analyst, (2) Part-time Security Guards and (2) Part-time Custodians. • Looking to automate security gate for ease of access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Presser comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Federal Burial Finder is up and running.
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<p>VA Clinic Report,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Williams reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flu shot will be given again this year. We are still trying to figure out if there will be a drive-up option. • Mary Estrada comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have the flu shots but are not giving them out just yet.
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New Business:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
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Commission Member’s Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Presser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VA is having a town hall meeting at 6:00pm and you can call (833) 305-1679 to get on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Estrada question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ is it a COVID town hall or general town hall?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dan presser responded: general.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Butler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praised Dr. John Davis at Dentistry 4 Vets for his care and service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor Alejo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the legislative staff for attending the meeting today. He also stressed the importance of these reports.

Adjournment: Williams

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT July - August 2022

20

Outreach Events

330

New Contacts



1414

Phone Calls

800

Vet Rep
Appointments



1236 Claims Actions

625 Unique Veterans

467 Compensation Awards



132 College

Fee Waivers

\$800,244

New Disability Compensation Awards

\$857,699

Retroactive Payments

\$146,958

Recurring Monthly Payments



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