

# Monterey County

## MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sid Williams, Chairperson  
 1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, SUITE 003  
 MONTEREY, CA 93940  
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Meeting: 11/09/2022

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Williams

<p><b>Roll Call by Chair Sid William, Quorum Established</b></p>	<p><u>Voting members present:</u>                  District 2 – Rich Garza                  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                  BoS – Louise Goetzelt</p> <p><u>Representing County Supervisor</u>                  1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor, Luis Alejo</p> <p><u>In attendance:</u>                  Representative from 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor’s Office, Javier Gomez                  Representative from 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor’s Office, Jasmin Mejia                  Representative from 4th District Supervisor’s Office, Eric Mora                  Military and Veterans Affairs Office, Staff Liaison, Jack Murphy</p>
<p><b>Pledge of Allegiance</b></p>	<p>Led by Phillip Butler</p>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>None</p>

**Report from the Chair:**

<p><b>Chair Williams:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Veteran of the Year Dinner took place since the last meeting. We had 216 attendees to honor the 12 award recipients, 3 businesses, and 2 non-Veteran awardees. We also recognized Officer Alvarado who passed in the line of duty. Emergency fund donations at the dinner garnered roughly \$1,000 for the United Veterans Council Emergency Fund!</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Heroes Open Golf Tournament was held the day after with 115 players in attendance. After expenses, we made \$20,000 which was split between the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation and the United Veterans Council Emergency Fund.</li> <li>• A press rally for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Initiative was held this morning.</li> </ul>
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**Approval of the Minutes:**

<p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 14<sup>th</sup>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion by Vice-Chair, John Gay</li> <li>• Second by Phillip Butler</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ayes, unanimous</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 6<sup>th</sup>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion by Vice-Chair, John Gay</li> <li>• Second by Phillip Butler</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ayes, unanimous</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 3<sup>rd</sup>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion by Vice-Chair, John Gay</li> <li>• Second by Phillip Butler</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ayes, unanimous</li> </ul>

**Committee Reports**

<p><b>Veteran Home Update,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jack Murphy:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The press rally idea was brought forth by Supervisor Alejo in the last MVAAC meeting. The idea was to prompt some form of action going into the next spring legislative session. It will hopefully compel CAL VET to study the need in the State for an additional CAL VET Veteran Home. The closest home to Monterey County being Fresno or Yountville. There is a need within the Veteran community. The Central Coast has over 130,000 Veterans, more than half being over the age of 55. Jason Cameron (VS0) and I have held numerous meetings with CAL VET leadership. They do not see the need for an additional Veterans Home. The demand and lack of beds results in a wait time of 1 to 6 years. Secretary Panetta, Representative Panetta, District 1 &amp; 4 Supervisors spoke at the event.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor Alejo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanked the Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Office, Chair Williams and Commissioners for heading, speaking, and attending the press rally this morning.</li> <li>• We needed to show that local Veteran leaders support this initiative.</li> <li>• Several press outlets covered the event.</li> <li>• I feel this event was a success because we accomplished the goal of elevating this issue to our State and Federal Elected Officials. The future goal being having State legislation introduced this upcoming year.</li> <li>• Supervisor Alejo also thanked Candice King who provided a testimonial of her caring for her Veteran Father during his end-of-life stages.</li> <li>• Dan Presser comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have had several instances in the community of Veterans in need. We need to continue to bring these services home to Monterey County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervisor Alejo responded that we will provide a summary of the media coverage to get the stories out to our Elected Officials.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jack Murphy thanked the Veterans Transition Center maintenance staff for staging the event.</li> <li>• Chair Williams Comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you know any Veteran or family member who has a story of hardship due to not having a care facility nearby. Please contact myself, Jack Murphy, or the Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Office. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervisor Alejo responded that it would be a good idea to have Candice King provide her testimonial in OP-ED format.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>Veteran of the Year Program Report,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice-chair John Gay reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates at this time.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jack Murphy:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Veteran of the Year nominations will come around soon. If you know of someone that should be nominated, please do so!</li> </ul>

<b>State Legislation Report</b>	None
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<b>Federal Legislation Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> <li>• Jack Murphy comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is putting together an information packet about the various Veteran Organizations and needs for Representative Lofgren.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<b>Military and Veterans Affairs Report,</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jack Murphy reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Report attached below.</li> <li>• MC Gives Campaign starts tomorrow. There are a few Veterans Organizations on the list. Most notably, VTC and Dentistry 4 Vets.</li> <li>• Jack expressed his gratitude to Supervisors Alejo and Root-Askew for advocating for the funding of the Coastal Office. We will be moving next week.</li> <li>• The Monterey office will be closed for the duration of the move. Our Salinas and Marina offices will be open. We will also have services available remotely. The Coastal Office will be open on the 21<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• We will be looking for Ft. Ord memorabilia to display in the new office.</li> <li>• We will have multiple Veteran serving non-profits located in the building. We envision the Coastal Office as a Veteran One-Stop location.</li> <li>• Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will you have an open house or tours to view the new building? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jack Murphy responded: yes, we would like to do a ribbon cutting some time in the new year.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Phillip Butler question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are you in the same location as Dentistry 4 Vets? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jack Murphy responded: No, we are located at 2620 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Supervisor Alejo comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would encourage delaying the open house until you are fully furnished. You can also work with the County Communications team to put out a Public Service Announcement to inform the Veteran community of the move.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we planning on having these meetings at the new building? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jack Murphy responded: Yes, once fully furnished.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Vice-Chair, John Gay question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have space on the walls for items? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jack Murphy responded: The walls are blank and freshly painted.</li> <li>▪ John Gay responded that he may have some photos to donate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rich Garza comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We may not require the technology that the VTC J-Deck has at the new place due to the upcoming change to AB-361.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Louise Goetzelt comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new building is located across from where the old Dough Boy Theater was.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>Central Coast Veteran Cemetery Update,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Williams Reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a Veterans Day Event at 10:30am.</li> <li>• There are some open positions at the Cemetery.</li> <li>• The Veterans Day events in the local area are posted on the UVC website. You can also order wreaths from Wreaths Across America on the UVC website. UVC-MC.com. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Estrada comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Marina Foundation is partnering with Wreaths Across America. A purchase through that link will provide \$5 to the Marina Foundation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Louise Goetzelt comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wanted to confirm the Presidio Cemetery is also on the website. Also noted that the Garrison and Retiree Council are working on a future order.</li> <li>▪ Chair Williams and Louise Goetzelt discussed providing wreaths to the Presidio Cemetery.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>VA Clinic Report,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Williams reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID protocols are still in place but are winding down.</li> <li>You can also get the Moderna &amp; Johnson and Johnson COVID Vaccines at the clinic. You can also get flu shots at the clinic on a walk-in basis.</li> </ul>
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**New Business:**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None received</li> </ul>
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**Commission Member's Comments:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Gay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a POW Event at the Salinas Vietnam Memorial on Veterans Day at 11:00am.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Louise Goetzelt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stated that Veterans with cancer who file PACT Act related claims will be prioritized for processing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack Murphy comment that there will still be an increased waiting time due to the number of claims being filed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark Hartunian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanked the Supervisors, Staff, and Commissioners for putting together the Veteran of the Year Award banquet and The Heroes Open Golf Tournament.</li> </ul>

**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



**Customer Satisfaction Survey**  
**95% Very Satisfied!**

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