

# Monterey County

## MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sid Williams, Chairperson  
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MONTEREY, CA 93940  
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**Meeting: 05/10/2023**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Williams

<b>Roll Call by Chair Sid William, Quorum Established</b>	<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> 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 Senator Caballero’s office, Marisa Hernandez Representative from Senator Laird’s office, Justin Tran Representative from Assemblymember Addis’ office, Alexis Garcia-Arrazola Representative from Assemblymember Rivas’ office, Dominic Dursa Military and Veterans Affairs Office, Staff Liaison, Adam Errahebi</p>
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Led by Phil Butler
<b>Public Comment</b>	None

### Report from the Chair:

<b>Chair Williams:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veteran of the Year nominations are due on June 30th. We need more nominations, please go and talk to your organization or Supervisor.</li><li>• The Sam Farr and Jack Stewart Awards are also due in September. These awards are for</li></ul>
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	<p>non-Veterans or Businesses who are supportive of Veterans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Heroes Open will be on October 28th. We are looking for donations for the auction.</li> <li>• The United Veterans Council office may be moving to the Military and Veterans Affairs Office some time in the near future.</li> <li>• VNA is looking for Veterans to volunteer to sit and interact with Veterans in hospice care. If you or someone you know wants to volunteer, please contact VNA Central Coast. The point of contact is Quinn at (831) 241-2954.</li> <li>• The Retiree Appreciation Day is on July 15th at the Stillwell Community Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dan Presser question:</li> <li>• Who is in charge of the guest speakers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adam Errahebi replied, the Retirement Services Officer, Edward Martin.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </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>• March 8th, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion by Dan Presser</li> <li>• Second by Phil Butler</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ayes, unanimous</li> </ul>
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**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>• Asked Dominic Dursa the outlook for Hazel Hawkins Hospital (a potential site for the Veterans Home if shut down). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominic responded: The hospital has gone through some financial issues in the recent year. They have gone through several cost savings measures to keep operations going. Many rural hospitals are going through the same thing. We can talk more offline as far as it being a potential site for a Veterans home.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervisor Alejo:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have been working on legislation with State elected officials. Unfortunately, we have not been able to have a State Representative introduce legislation for the Veterans Home yet. We are hoping to have one introduced in the future.</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>Nothing to add, covered in the Chair’s comments.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>State Legislation Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative from Asm. Rivas’ office, Dominic Dursa reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AB 46, introduced by Assemblymember Ramos related to the taxation of pensions of veterans in California. The bill has significant co-authors, some 30 assembly members from a bipartisan coalition have signed on, as well as several Senators. The deadline for it to come out of Committee is the 19th. Please get any Letters of Support in as soon as you can. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dan Presser question:</li> <li>Is there a good shot that this passes with the current budget outlook? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dominic responded that there are significantly more co-authors than in previous years. I can check with Asm. Ramos’ office to see if they have any updates.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Jack explained AB 684 which is a bill that would provide state funds to the Veterans Service Offices across California to have a dedicated Veteran Services Representative to Active-Duty Military Installations. It is currently in Committee.</li> <li>The Governor’s budget revision should be coming out on Friday.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>State Legislation Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative from Sen. Lairds’ office, Justin Tran reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As Supervisor Alejo stated, the Budget revision is coming out on Friday.</li> <li>The State Senate released a budget plan called “Protect our Progress Budget Plan” on April 26th.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>State Legislation Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative from Asm. Addis' office, Alexis Garcia-Arrazola reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asm. Addis re-introduced AB 444, The Military Defense Infrastructure Bill. The bill would create a way for the State to pull down Federal dollars to benefit the California Military communities by investing in infrastructure around State Military bases. This would include transportation, schools, hospitals, police, and emergency response. This bill is supported by the Monterey Bay Defense Alliance. This bill passed out of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.</li> <li>Asm. Addis was also an Aye vote on AB 531, 1386.</li> <li>AB 531 is the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2024 which, if passed, would allow California voters to decide whether to allocate \$600 million in bonds to provide affordable housing to Veterans.</li> <li>AB 1386 would increase the income level threshold for housing voucher eligibility under the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Program.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Federal Legislation Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack Murphy reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are continuing to have conversations with Congressman Panetta's Office in reference to the ongoing issue of a lack of a pharmacy at the VA Clinic. We are hoping to have items added to the NDAA to have the Inspector General look into the issue of the Pharmacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dan Presser comment:</li> <li>We need to press the pharmacy issue because many Veterans have had issues with prescriptions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>Military and Veterans Affairs Report,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack Murphy reported:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack explained MVAO's Fiscal Year to Date report, see attached:</li> <li>Jack explained MVAO's hiring of Nancy Hood as Veteran Services Representative. We are currently backfilling her Office Assistant position.</li> <li>Jack explained that MVAO is facing a \$203,000 budget cut in the future and would appreciate any support from the Community before the budget vote in June.</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>Eric Chaney is still on leave.</li> <li>The Cemetery just hired a technician, Kharen Berg.</li> <li>The cemetery is down personnel. If the phone is not picked up, leave them a message and they will call you back.</li> <li>The Memorial Day Cemetery is on May 26th at 10:00AM.</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>The volunteer program is starting back up.</li> <li>Jack Murphy stated that the clinic hired five new staff members for the healthcare delivery team.</li> <li>Jack Murphy stated that the VA is looking at starting a Home Healthcare program in the near future.</li> </ul>
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**New Business:**

None	
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**Commission Member's Comments:**

Vice-Chair, John Gay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorial Day event at the Vietnam Veterans Cemetery in Salinas at 11:00am.</li> </ul>
Jack Murphy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A representative from the Governor's Office may be sitting in on the County of Monterey Veterans Treatment Court in the future.</li> </ul>
Lois Flint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laguna Seca is having an event this weekend with reduced pricing for Children, Mother's, and Veterans.</li> </ul>

**Adjournment:** Chair Williams

# MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



## Monterey County Activity Report

FY 22-23 – YTD (Jul 22 – Feb 23)

Occupied

**2**

New Office Spaces  
to Better Serve  
Veterans



**5,637**

Phone Calls



**4,104**

Vet Rep Appointments

**4,007** Claims Actions

**2,037** Unique Veterans

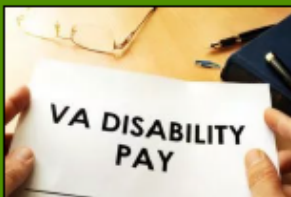
**1,328** Compensation Awards



**159**

College Fee  
Waivers Granted  
**\$1.2 million**

## Disability Compensation Awards



**\$3,347,015**

Retroactive Payments

**\$6,228,904**

Recurring Monthly Payments



**\$270,000** in Grants and Contracts

**\$220,438** in State Subvention



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Serving those who served

(831) 647-7613