The Honorable Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
and Honorable Council Members
City of Tucson
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726

Subject: Veterans Affairs Committee 2014 Annual Report

In 2014, the Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC) pursued its function to provide a common forum to member organizations for discussion and coordination of activities. Each meeting participating organizations including the American Legion, Association of Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Korean War Veterans Association, the Military Officers Association of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Tucson Jewish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Tucson Airport Authority (Airport Military Lounge), Arizona Department of Veterans Services, the Veterans Administration Hospital, Arizona Department of Economic Security Employment Services, the Tucson Veterans Cemetery Group, the American Red Cross, and the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association, had a chance to distribute information and report on upcoming events, programs and projects.

The Committee's activities rely on the contributions of its member organizations and the generosity of local businesses and citizens. The VAC sponsored or had members participate in several Tucson 2014 events:

- Paul Marsh was instrumental in securing land for a Veterans cemetery in Pima County.
- The Four Chaplains Ceremony honors the four military chaplains of different religious faiths who gave up their lifejackets to save others when the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was torpedoed and sunk during World War II. A permanent plaque is hung at the Veterans Park honoring the chaplains.
- The Veterans Day Parade was held November 11, 2014 and sponsored by American Legion Post 7.
- Operation Exodus (sponsored by the VAC) took place on December 19-20, 2014 (Push) and January 1-3, 2015 (Pull) at Tucson International Airport. This is an annual event designed to make the trip of our young soldiers from Ft. Huachuca to their home at Christmastime more comfortable by providing healthy snacks, refreshments and other essentials to ease their journey. For many of the troops, it is their last stateside leave before possible deployment. Local students have included thank you notes in each goody pack. Committee members and volunteers provided conversation and thanks for the soldiers' service.

The VAC did not hold meetings in June, July and August of 2014.

Presentations during the 2014 Committee sessions were made by:

January 8, 2014	Chaplain John Zinck presented the overview for the Four Chaplains Ceremony.
March 12, 2014	Bruce Hamilton gave a presentation on Stand Down for Veterans.
April 9, 2014	Ms. Shawna Lee gave presentation on the Open Meeting Law for the City of Tucson.
September 10, 2014	Mr. Ken Johnson was remembered with a moment of silence along with remembrance of the 13th anniversary of September 11th. A presentation by Felix Salaz and Lizette Eckman on the Veterans' Day Parade was made.
November 12, 2014	We participated in the Tucson Veterans Day Parade.
December 10, 2014	We once again did the Operation Exodus at Tucson International Airport for the troops leaving Fort Huachuaca.

The Veterans Affairs Committee appreciates the Mayor, Council and City Clerk support.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Torres
Chairman, Veterans Affairs Committee