



Veterans' Affairs Committee  
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## Veterans' Affairs Committee MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson, on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, at 7:15 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda St., Tucson, Arizona.

### 1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum

#### Members Present:

Dr. Lester Potts  
Joan Shadwick  
J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza  
Rose Anderson  
Larry Byrd  
Herbert Rogers  
Aaron Possien  
C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson  
Paul R. Hetrick  
E. Wendell Hague

#### Representing:

American Legion Post #36  
AZ Department of Veterans Services  
DVA S. AZ. VA Health Care System  
Esperanza En Escalante  
Esperanza En Escalante  
Spanish Trail Chapter NCOA  
The Order of the Silver Rose  
Veteran's Employment & Training  
Vietnam Veterans of America, CH. 106  
VFW Post #549

#### Members Absent:

Donald Alff  
Bernard McCaffery  
William Burks  
Murray Handler  
William Stein

#### Representing:

American Legion Post #7  
American Legion Post #73  
DAV Cactus Chapter #2  
Tucson Jewish War Veterans  
DAV Auxiliary Cactus #2

#### Others Present:

Norman Ross  
Ann Ross

Korean War Veterans' Association

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joan Shadwick.

### 3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Dr. Lester Potts.

**4. Introduction of Guests**

Guests Norman and Ann Ross were introduced. Norman Ross was scheduled to be considered as a new member representing the Korean War Veterans Association.

**5. Approval of New Members**

It was moved, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Bernard McCaffery, Donald Alf, William Burks, Murray Handler, and William Stein absent/excused) to approve Norman Ross as the representative of the Korean War Veterans Association to the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

**6. Chairman's Report on Current Events**

Chair C.M. Stevens reported on a 60 Minutes piece regarding charges to be levied on a Marine, which he considered unfair and premature, as no charges had been filed yet. Also discussed was a World War II article seen in the paper, and that facts regarding the Korean Conflict and the efforts by American Veterans continue to be unknown. Dr. Lester Potts commented on another article, "Share the Honor". It was concluded that the Veterans' Affairs Committee helped to recognize American Veterans' valiant and heroic efforts in past and present military conflicts whether or not they had been covered by the press.

**7. Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2007**

It was moved, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Bernard McCaffery, Donald Alf, William Burks, Murray Handler, and William Stein absent/excused) to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2007 meeting as presented.

**8. Recruitment of Organizations**

Committee members discussed the recruitment of the American Legion Post 125 in the western Tucson area and the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment 2. It was moved, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Bernard McCaffery, Donald Alf, William Burks, Murray Handler, and William Stein absent/excused) to contact those two organizations.

**9. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action**

**a. Airport Military Lounge**

The Committee discussed concerns over the lack of military support given to the Airport Military Lounge recently. Dr. Lester Potts said a group of military personnel had to call a number posted on the door and wait for transportation because no one was on site to co-ordinate for them. The last point of contact the committee had for the lounge was an Army Private, and they agreed she had little authority to coordinate the support needed. It was moved, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Bernard McCaffery, Donald Alf, William Burks, Murray Handler, and William Stein absent/excused) to contact the Ft. Huachuca 111<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade to request a new point of contact and ascertain their interest in continued support.

**b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**

Joan Shadwick reported the Governor's Office approved \$600,000 in clear support to the importance of Arizona Veterans, to fund hiring more individuals needed to provide Department of Veterans' Services. She said Casa Grande and Safford were scheduled to get new hires as well as other needed areas. She asked the committee members to help put the word out to their service organizations.

**c. V A Hospital**

Pepe Mendoza provided handouts on activities at the Veterans' Administration Medical Center. He informed the committee of upcoming events, including the October 31, 2007 event recognizing Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in the Middle East. Mr. Mendoza said some people continue in the misconception that the Tucson facility is the Regional Office for the Veterans' Administration, but the Regional Office is actually in Phoenix. The committee acknowledged the services of the Tucson facility and Pepe himself for continuing to provide service and support above and beyond the norm.

**d. Arizona Veterans' Employment Services**

Chair C.M. Stevens reported on employment services and support for local veterans including an upcoming Stand Down, which is a time for rest and relaxation for all veterans, especially the homeless. It will be held in conjunction with various Veterans' Service Organizations on the weekend of October 19 through 21, 2007 at the Army Reserve Facility at 1750 E. Silverlake Road. The event would provide information on available services and a chance to get cleaned up, fed, clothed, and enjoy camaraderie and support from numerous community and Veterans' Service Organizations. Veterans must be free of liquor, weapons, and other unsuitable detractions to participate.

**e. Financial Report**

Treasurer Wendall Hague presented the financial report. It was moved, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Bernard McCaffery, Donald Alf, William Burks, Murray Handler, and William Stein absent/excused) to approve the report with a correction to a \$100.00 donation made to the committee by the American Legion Post #59 that had been erroneously listed as from Post #102.

**10. Future Agenda Items**

- Stand-Down and Nam-Jam Events
- Veterans' Day Parade
- Operation Exodus

**11. Salute to Colors**

The Salute to Colors was led by Aaron Possien of the Order of the Silver Rose.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.