Veterans' Affairs
Committee

The Honorable Mayor Robert Walkup
And Honorable Council Members
City of Tucson
P. O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726

Subject: Veterans' Affairs Committee 2010 Annual Report

In 2010, 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 Association of Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Korean War Veterans' Association, the Military Officers Association of America, 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 and the Tucson Veterans Cemetery Group, 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 2010 events:

- The Four Chaplains Ceremony held in February honored the four military chaplains of different religious faiths and denominations who gave their lives to save others when the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was torpedoed and sunk during World War II.
- The Veterans Patient Programs Annual Golf Tournament, held in early June, was hosted by the American Legion Post 36. Proceeds benefited patient programs at the Tucson Veterans Administration Health Care System Campus that were not funded by other means.
- The Korean War Commemoration held in June to acknowledge the sixtieth anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. The Tucson Korean community participation exceeded expectations.
- The Veterans Day Parade was held November 11 and sponsored by the American Legion Post 7. The VAC participated in the honoring of all veterans by providing a committee car and inviting Vice Mayor Shirley Scott to ride along in support.
- Operation Exodus sponsored by the VAC, held the weekend before the Christmas holiday, was an event designed to make the trip of young soldiers on their way home at Christmastime more comfortable by providing healthly snacks, refreshments, and other essentials to ease their journey. For many of the troops, some

expected to have late flights and long layovers, it would be their last stateside leave before being sent to Iraq, Afghanistan or other military installations overseas. Committee members and volunteers provided conversation and thanks for the soldiers' service.

As a special project for 2010, the VAC commissioned a bronze plaque created to honor the Four Chaplains. Dignity Memorial donated the plaque to the Committee. The plaque was permanently mounted in Veterans' Memorial Park in Tucson on February 3, 2011, the 68th Anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.A.T. Dorchester.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Ross
Chairman, Tucson Veterans' Affairs Committee