

540A

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FROM: Department of Veterans' Services SUBMITTAL DATE: 1/30/2003



SUBJECT: Annual Report (2002) of the Veterans' Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the annual report of the Veterans' Advisory Committee

BACKGROUND: This annual report by a County advisory committee is filed per Section 14 of County Resolution #77-300

[Handwritten Signature]
WILLIAM H. DENSMORE, Director

FINANCIAL DATA:			
CURRENT YEAR COST	\$ 0	ANNUAL COST	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET:	YES/ NO/
		BUDGET ADJUSTMENT:	YES/ NO/ FOR FY: 02/03

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

APPROVE

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

Lisa Brandt

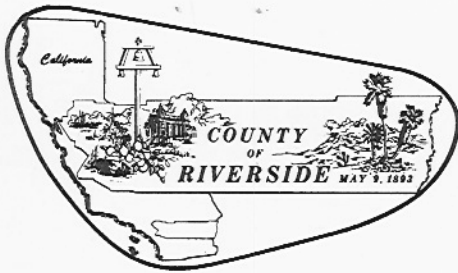
County Executive Officer Signature

Department Recommendation: Policy Policy
Per Executive Office: Consent Consent

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist.

AGENDA NO.



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES
WILLIAM H. DENSMORE, DIRECTOR

MAIN OFFICE:
1153A SPRUCE STREET
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92507-2428
TELEPHONE: (909) 955-6050
FAX: (909) 955-6061

BRANCH OFFICE:
880 N. STATE STREET, ROOM B-4
HEMET, CA 92543
TELEPHONE: (909) 766-2566
FAX: (909) 766-2567

BRANCH OFFICE:
82-675 HIGHWAY 111, ROOM 120
INDIO, CALIFORNIA 92201
TELEPHONE: (760) 863-8266
FAX: (760) 863-8478

January 30, 2003

The Honorable John Tavaglione, Chairman
Riverside County Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Supervisor Tavaglione:

This report covers the activities of the Riverside County Veterans' Advisory Committee (VAC) for the 2002 calendar year, and is submitted in compliance with Section 14 of County Resolution #77-300, Committee Reports.

BACKGROUND

The VAC was established by County Resolution #79-214 (superseded by Resolution #2001-322) to:

- 1.) keep the Board of Supervisors informed of problems affecting veterans and of appropriate action to resolve such problems
- 2.) help unify veterans' groups
- 3.) serve as support for the Riverside National Cemetery
- 4.) assist in the orderly return of veterans to civilian life
- 5.) advise and assist the County Veterans' Service Officer
- 6.) act as liaison between veterans and county government
- 7.) keep the public aware of the problems and needs of veterans.

2002 MEETINGS

Except for recessing during the months of July and August, the VAC held regular monthly meetings during 2002. A Steering Committee met during July and August to plan the VAC's meeting dates and locations as well as review and update its activities and projects. The VAC meets at locations throughout the county to enhance the committee's visibility and exposure to the veteran community and to encourage public attendance and input. All VAC meetings are open to the public and time is allotted for announcements and public comment in addition to discussion of agenda items. Unless otherwise noted, all of the following regular meetings began at 7:00 p.m.:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 8	American Legion Post 79, Riverside (Fairmount Park)
February 5	Riverside National Cemetery
March 7*	VPW Post 2987, Blythe

April 2	American Legion Post 519, Palm Springs
May 7	VFW Post 9223, Arlington
June 4	Riverside National Cemetery
September 3	VFW Post 10267, Glen Avon
October 1	American Legion Post 418, Bordwell Park, Riverside
November 5	DAV Chapter 28, Riverside
December 3	Riverside National Cemetery

* Meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

2002 MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

Appointed

Cynthia Gaffey (At Large) - 2-26-02
 Cynthia Gaffey (District V) - 6-18-02
 Tom Swann (At Large) - 10-8-02

Reappointed

Zack Earp (District I) - 6-25-02
 Alice Chandler (At Large) - 7-30-02
 Jerry Beckett (At Large) - 7-30-02
 John Matthews (At Large) - 7-30-02

Resignations

Steve Clute (District V) - 2-14-02
 Jim MacDonald (At Large) - 6-30-02

The attached roster represents the VAC's current membership. A Form 11 was submitted January 23, 2003, recommending a candidate (Jack Cullari) to fill the last at large vacancy.

2002 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

In accordance with the mission of the VAC as stated in County Resolution #2001-322, the VAC either sponsored, supported, or actively participated in the following projects and activities during 2002:

1. The committee continued hosting its popular Legislative Breakfast series. The Breakfasts bring local legislators, veterans, and other interested public together to exchange concerns and ideas. 2002 guests of honor were:

February 22: Assemblyman Russ Bogh
 April 11: Supervisor Tom Mullen
 May 10: State Senator Jim Battin
 June 14: Secretary Bruce Thiesen Calif. Department of Veterans' Affairs
 July 12: Riverside Councilmember Laura Pearson
 October 11: Assemblyman Dennis Hollingsworth
 December 13: Supervisor John Tavaglione.

2. A VAC subcommittee consisting of Zack Earp, Dutch Dettinger, and Jack Smith continued

to work with Riverside County Facilities Management on an upgraded Veterans' Monument to be installed near the new County Administrative Center's Annex. Project completion and dedication are tentatively scheduled for late Spring 2003.

3. With the Department of Veterans' Services, the VAC co-hosted a Veterans' Benefits Workshop in Riverside on April 26.
4. Received and discussed monthly updates of pending legislation of interest to veterans. Voted to monitor and support the following legislation:
 - SB-1248 - making the Pledge of Allegiance mandatory in public schools
 - AB-1798 - protecting recorded military documents such as DD-214's
 - HR-5250 - linking the VA healthcare budget to automatic triggers.
5. Conducted the 3rd Annual David Goldware Friend of the Veteran competition, and held an award ceremony for the 2003 recipient - Lee Millett Jr. - and finalists at the Board of Supervisor's October 8th meeting.
6. Assisted the County Veteran Service Officer in distributing the results of the first statewide Veterans' Needs Survey, conducted by the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers.
7. Appointed a summer Steering Committee to make recommendations regarding 2002-03 meeting locations and projects. The committee met during July and August. The committee's report was adopted at the VAC's September meeting and is attached for reference.
8. Conducted an on-site tour of the California Veterans' Home in Chula Vista on August 1st.
9. Supported the 2nd Annual Concert For Heroes on July 5th at the Riverside National Cemetery.
10. Supported the Veterans' Oral History Project, a joint effort between the Department of Veterans' Services, the Riverside Public Library, and the March Field Museum.
11. Pledged support of Mr. Dettinger's efforts to have a Hemet-area school named after a Medal of Honor recipient with ties to Riverside County.
12. Appeared before the March Reuse Joint Powers Commission in support of the application by US Vets for a facility to treat homeless veterans.

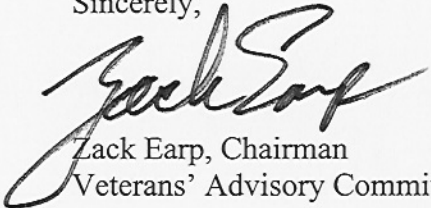
SUMMARY

The Veterans' Advisory Committee looks forward to continuing to serve the Board of Supervisors and the veterans of Riverside County during calendar year 2003. Specifically, the committee intends to continue its efforts to unify and inform Riverside County veterans, to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas relating to veterans, and to support projects of value to veterans as a whole and the County's veterans in particular.

On behalf of the entire committee, I wish to thank the Board for its continuing support of the VAC and veterans' issues and projects. I also wish to thank the Board for its continued support

of the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The members and I look forward to working closely with the Board and the County Veterans' Services Officer during 2003. Board members are of course always welcome at any VAC meeting or activity. Please call on us if we may assist you in any way.

Sincerely,



Zack Earp, Chairman
Veterans' Advisory Committee

Attachments: Current VAC Roster
Steering Committee Report dated 8-21-02

c.c. Members, Board of Supervisors

Larry Parrish, CEO

Clerk to the Board

Members, Veterans' Advisory Committee