

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

514A



**FROM:** Department of Veterans' Services

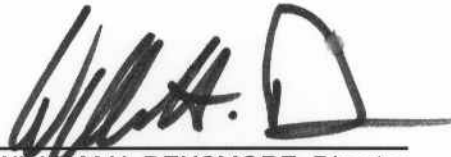
**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
02-17-04

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report (2003) 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

Departmental Concurrence


  
WILLIAM H. DENSMORE, Director

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year: 03-04

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**

**County Executive Office Signature** 

- Dep't Recomm.:  Consent  Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:**

**District:** ALL

**Agenda Number:**

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
OFFICE EXECUTIVE  
RECEIVED  
JAN 19 2004 10 41:11:02  
RECEIVED VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2.13



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

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February 24, 2004

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

Dear Supervisor Wilson:

This report covers the activities of the Riverside County Veterans' Advisory Committee (VAC) for the 2003 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The VAC was established by County Resolution #79-214 (superseded by Resolution #2001-322) to 1.)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, and 7.) keep the public aware of the problems and needs of veterans.

## 2003 MEETINGS

Except for recessing during the months of July and August, the VAC held regular monthly meetings during 2003. A Steering Committee met during July and August to plan the VAC's meeting dates and locations for the 2003-04 year 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 on every agenda for announcements and public comments. Unless otherwise noted, all of the following regular meetings began at 7:00 p.m.:

Date

Location

January 7

American Legion Post 519, Palm Springs

April 11: Assemblyman John Benoit (R-64)  
May 30: Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia (R-80)  
August 8: Marion Ashley, Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
September 26: Judge Vic Miceli, chairman, ReGreen Evergreen Committee  
November 14: Stephen Jorgensen, Director, Riverside National Cemetery

2. The VAC continued to work with Riverside County Facilities Management and Department of Veterans' Services on a new and upgraded Veterans' Monument to be installed at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Lemon near the County Administrative Center. Monument Dedication is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

3. With the Department of Veterans' Services, the VAC co-hosted a Veterans' Benefits Workshop on September 25<sup>th</sup> in Palm Springs.

4. Monitored and discussed the following legislation:

HR-251 – Concurrent receipt

AB 781 – School Superintendents authorized to issue HS diplomas to veterans

AB 1179 – Securing D-214s

AB 189 – Exempt sales of foods from taxes for fund-raising veteran service organizations

HR1742/SB 1349 – Expands entitlement for Cal Vet loans

HR 2296 (Calvert) – POW/MIA National Monument

HR 3477 (Calvert) – Minting Medal of Honor commemorative coins

AB 207 – Vandalizing veterans' memorials

5. Conducted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual David Goldware Friend of the Veteran competition, and held an awards ceremony for the 2003 recipient – Mayor Jim Ayres of the City of San Jacinto – and other finalists at the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

6. Appointed a summer Steering Committee to make recommendations regarding 20003-04 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.

7. Supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Concert For Heroes by the Riverside Philharmonic Orchestra on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Riverside National Cemetery.

8. Supported the Veterans' Oral History Project, a joint effort between the Department of Veterans' Services, the Riverside Public Library, and the March Field Museum. Recruited interviewer and interviewees.

9. Mr. Dettinger and the Staff Advisor appeared before the Hemet Unified School District's School Board on April 15<sup>th</sup> in an unsuccessful attempt to have a new middle school named after Colonel Millett.

10. Sent a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Jim Ayres of the City of San Jacinto thanking him for his efforts in bringing the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall to the area and hosting the appropriate ceremonies.

11. Testified before Assemblywoman Parra's subcommittee on the CDVA's efforts to close the skilled nursing portion of the California Veterans' Home at Barstow.
12. Appeared before the March reuse Joint Powers Commission on December 18th in support of the application by US Vets for permission to operate a facility to treat homeless veterans.
13. With the Cemetery Support Committee, hosted a "going away" evening at March Field Museum on November 15<sup>th</sup> for Steve Jorgensen, who retired as the RNC Director.
14. Conducted an election of officers at the June meeting. Tom Henry (District IV Rep) was elected chairman, and George Epperson (At-Large) was elected vice chairman.

## SUMMARY

The Veterans' Advisory Committee looks forward to continuing to serve the Board of Supervisors and the veterans of Riverside County during the calendar year 2004. 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 2004. Board members are of course always welcome at any VAC meeting or activity. Please call on me and my fellow committee members if we may assist you in any way.

Sincerely,



Colonel Tom Henry, US Army (Retired)  
Chairman, Veterans' Advisory Committee

Attachments: Current VAC Roster  
Steering Committee Report dated 8-12-03

c.c. Members, Board of Supervisors

Larry Parrish, CEO

Clerk of the Board

Members, Veterans' Advisory Committee

## VAC MEMBERS

### District I Appointee

K.R. "Zack" Earp  
5327 Sierra Vista Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92505-3111  
(909) 352-1278

John Matthews  
7068 Vista del Verde  
Riverside, CA 92509-6443  
(909) 682-8276

### District II Appointee

Bob Craig  
5001 Castle Pine Court  
Riverside, CA 92509

Jack Cullari  
1021 Lynwood Avenue  
Hemet, CA 92543  
(909) 765-9350

### District III Appointee

Dutch Dettinger  
2972 Dogwood Way  
Hemet, CA 92545-7720  
(909) 652-6628

Tom Swann  
39360 Peterson Road, Sp. 100  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270-3098

### District IV Appointee/ Chairman

Tom Henry  
2380 Tamarisk  
Palm Springs, CA 92262-5966  
(760) 323-0211

### Chairman, Cemetery Support Committee

Paul Adkins  
P.O. Box 1094  
Bloomington, CA 92316  
(909) 337-6939

### District V Appointee

Cynthia Gaffey  
24840 Redcliff Court  
Moreno Valley, CA 92557  
(909) 242-7485

### At-Large Appointees

Alice B. Chandler  
10310 N. Lynn Circle, Unit A  
Mira Loma, CA 91752-1317  
(909) 360-6060

George Epperson  
2369 Oak Crest Drive  
Riverside, CA 92506-3449  
(909) 682-2579

Col. Lewis Millett, US Army (Retired)  
P.O. Box 1752  
Idyllwild, CA 92549-1752  
(909) 659-2888