

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

117 A



FROM: Department of Veterans' Services

SUBMITTAL DATE:
March 14, 2006

SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Veterans' Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the 2005 annual report from the Veterans' Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND: Submitted per Section 14 of County Resolution #77-300, "Committee Reports."

Departmental Concurrence

William H. Densmore, Staff Advisor

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:	05/06

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

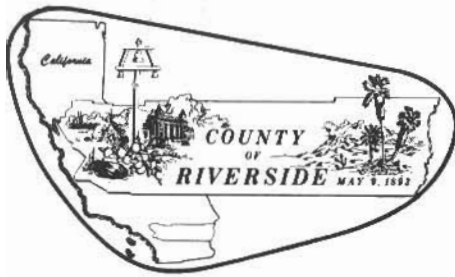
Dept's Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District:

Agenda Number:

2 . 10



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

MAIN OFFICE:
1153A SPRUCE STREET
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92507-2428
TELEPHONE: (951) 955-6050
FAX: (951) 955-6061
TTY: (951) 955-3098
TOLL FREE: 1-800-481-2101

BRANCH OFFICE:
880 N. STATE STREET, ROOM B-4
HEMET, CA 92543
TELEPHONE: (951) 766-2566
FAX: (951) 766-2567
TTY: (951) 955-3098
TOLL FREE: 1-800-481-2101

BRANCH OFFICE:
82-675 HIGHWAY 111, ROOM 120
INDIO, CALIFORNIA 92201
TELEPHONE: (760) 863-8266
FAX: (760) 863-8478
TTY: (951) 955-3098
TOLL FREE: 1-800-481-2101

February 3, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Buster:

This report covers the activities of the Riverside County Veterans' Advisory Committee (VAC) for the 2005 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The VAC was established by County Resolution #79-214 (superseded by Resolution #2001-322) to 1.)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 actions 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.

2005 MEETINGS

Except for recessing during the months of July and August, the VAC held regular monthly meetings during 2005. A Steering Committee met during July and August to plan the VAC's meeting dates and locations for the 2005-06 year as well as to 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 during every meeting for announcements and public comment. Unless otherwise noted, all of the following regular meetings began at 7:00 p.m.:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 4	American Legion Post 500, Mira Loma
February 1	American Legion Post 519, Palm Springs
March 3*	VFW Post 2987, Blythe
April 5	American Legion Post 574, Moreno Valley
May 3	VFW Post 4089, Temecula
June 7	Riverside County Workforce Development Center, Riverside
September 6	Riverside National Cemetery
October 4	American Legion Post 739, Indio
November 1	Riverside National Cemetery
December 6	Riverside National Cemetery

* Meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Average guest attendance at VAC meetings: 6 (high = 17, low = 2)

Average VAC member attendance at regular committee meetings: 68% (high = 83%, low = 38%)

2005 MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

Appointed

Don Pechous (District III) – July 26 (term to end 6-30-07)

Mike McKelroy (District I) – December 16 (term to end 6-30-06)

Reappointed

Alice Chandler (District II) – June 21 (new term to end 6-30-09)

Cynthia Gaffey (District V) – July 26 (new term to end 6-30-07)

Tom Henry (District IV) – July 26 (new term to end 6-30-07)

George Epperson (At Large) – (extension of term to 6-30-07 *pending*)

Resignations/Retirements

Shayne Meder (At Large) – November 6

Terry Huff (District I) – August 16 (date of death)

The attached roster represents the VAC's current membership. The committee is currently recruiting to fill the At-Large vacancy created with Ms. Meder's resignation.

2005 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

In accordance with the VAC's mission statement as defined in County Resolution #2001-322, the VAC either sponsored, supported, or actively participated in the following projects and activities during 2005:

1. Led by Alice Chandler, the committee continued hosting its popular Legislative Breakfast series. The Breakfasts bring local elected officials, veterans, community leaders and other interested residents together to exchange concerns and ideas. In 2005, guests-of-honor were:

January 14: State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny (D-40)
February 11: Wally Rice, Riverside County District V Legislative Assistant
June 10: Jeff Stone, Riverside County Supervisor, District III
October 14: Assemblyman Bill Emmerson (R-63)
December 9: State Senator Bob Dutton (R-31)

2. Supported the Homeless Veterans' Care Faire held at the National Guard Armory in Riverside on March 30th. Several VAC members volunteered at the event. An estimated 225 homeless persons, of whom approximately 60% were veterans, received services during the day-long event.

3. Received information about the Riverside Humane Society's Herdina Project which helps senior citizens with the various costs of animal keeping, and disseminated this information to the veteran community.

4. Received several updates regarding the successful AMVETS Express transportation service from the Coachella Valley to the Loma Linda VA Medical Center.

5. Conducted the 7th Annual David Goldware Friend of the Veteran competition, and held an awards ceremony for the 2005 recipients – Buck Galbraith and Martin Luther King High School – during the October 18th meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

6. Appointed a summer Steering Committee to make recommendations regarding 2005-06 meeting locations and projects. The committee met during July and August. The committee's report was adopted at the VAC's September meeting.

7. Supported the 5th Annual Concert For Heroes performed by the Riverside Philharmonic Orchestra on July 3rd at the Riverside National Cemetery.

8. Continued to support the Veterans' Oral History Project, a joint effort between the Department of Veterans' Services, the Riverside Public Library, and the March Field Museum. Alice Chandler became involved to the point of becoming a trained Oral History Project interviewer.

9. Participated in a field trip to the March Field Museum on February 11th.

10. Alice Chandler, the VAC's District II Representative, put together a Veterans' Benefits Expo at Country Village on April 7th.

11. With the VAC's support and input, Tom Henry and the Staff Advisor presented to Supervisor Wilson a draft proposal for a pilot project in Blythe to have the VA honor prescriptions written by local, non-VA physicians. The plan is to have Congresswoman Bono draft enabling legislation to establish the pilot project which will benefit all veterans living in remote areas. It is hoped that the project will offset the lack of a Blythe-area CBOC or Blythe-area VA-contract physicians.

12. Attended the very moving September 16th dedication ceremony for the National POW/MIA Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery. The Cemetery Support Committee did an outstanding job.

13. Conducted an election of officers at the June meeting. Daryl James (At Large member) was elected chairman, and Cynthia Gaffey (District V representative) was elected vice chairman.

14. Member Alice Chandler was selected as the Grand Marshall for the Country Village July 4th Parade, and member Don Krampe was selected Grand Marshall for the Murrieta Veterans' Day Parade.

15. In November the VAC began a very useful discussion regarding member participation in committee projects, attendance and VAC policies and procedures. The chairman appointed a subcommittee to make recommendations regarding all aspects of how the VAC conducts meetings and projects.

SUMMARY

The Veterans' Advisory Committee looks forward to continuing to serve the Board of Supervisors and the veterans of Riverside County during calendar year 2006. 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 continued support of the VAC, its support for veterans' issues and projects in general, and for its continued support of the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The other members and I look forward to working closely with the Board and the County Veterans' Services Officer during 2006. 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,



Daryl James
Chairman, Veterans' Advisory Committee

Attachments: Current VAC Roster

c.c. Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors

Larry Parrish, CEO

Clerk of the Board

Members, Veterans' Advisory Committee