

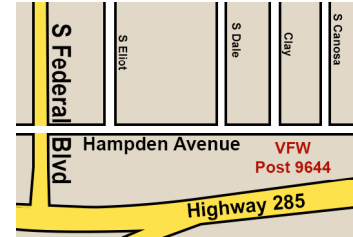


**UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**14 March, 2017
SPECIAL MEETING
09:00**

UNITEDVETERANSCOMMITTEE.COM

Meetings at VFW Post 9644
2680 W Hampden Ave
Englewood, CO 80110-1906
303-789-9733



1. Call to order – United Veterans Committee - UVC President — Frank McCurdy
2. Invocation and Moment of Silence for Pow's and Mia's — 1st VP —Jim Craig
3. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Dennis Orr
4. Welcome – first-time attendees and visitors —Natalie Tabor and Terry Hughes
5. Guest Speakers

1. Aaron Termain — Director, Veterans Community Living Centers — There are five centers across the State of Colorado which take long-term veterans, families and Gold Star families. He spoke about expansion plans and range of costs to stay at facilities. The five facilities were listed on a handout given to meeting attendees.

2. Terry Hughes — CU Denver, National Learning Center. Spoke about “10 things we've learned about job-seeking veterans” all listed on a handout. Talked about how veterans looking for jobs don't know how to relate to the civilian sector when presenting themselves. Bernie Rogoff — Presented a plaque to Lisa Fallon for her support and monetary contribution to UVC. Lisa is a real estate agent in the Denver area.

6. Roll Call and report— Membership Chair Gary Force — 6 new members were introduced and 3 were approved for UVC membership.
7. Secretary Report — Lori Derby — Minutes from last meeting in February were prepared by Karen Hone. The minutes were posted, and they were passed.
8. Treasurer Report — Bernie Rogoff — Reported on the Treasury and spoke about the Banquet being held on April 9, 2017.

UVC COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. State Legislative Committee — Dick Young, Chair & David Ortiz, Legislative Liaison. Dick Young spoke about “Bills in the mill,” and Bill 11681 which talks about veteran courts and helping vets rehabilitate. Dave Ortiz spoke on Bills, including HB1004, a Bill for credit at civilian universities. The next legislative meeting is on March 21. March 28th the Federal legislature meets. On April 18, there will be a meeting at the VFW, Yale & I25. Bill Hanna spoke on the State legislative committee.

10. Federal Legislative Committee — Steve Rylant — Verified Dates
11. UVC Banquet — Karen Hone — 300 attendees, so far, for UVC banquet. Recognized partners, Gold and Silver. Encouraged everyone to contact her if they are taking ads or sponsorships in the banquet program. Silent auction — Several donations have been made. Asked Committee members to help get donations or, to donate a gift card.
12. Membership Report — Gary Force — Has forms for updating records and encouraged members to update their information.
13. Banquet Speaker — Acting Deputy VA Sec. Scott Blackburn
14. Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs — Robbie — No report.
15. Area Responsible — Shelly, Phil — No report.
16. UVC Foundation — Steve Rylant — No report
17. Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs — Robbie — No report.
18. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs — Ben Mestas — No report.

19 VSOs, ASSOCIATES AND AFFILIATES

- a. Project Sanctuary — Geneva Moore, COO — The second Annual Operation Project Sanctuary (O.P.S.) Gala will be held on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.
- b. Healing Warriors Program — Shelly Poland — Co-Founder — In 2016, 2,668 sessions were held at Ft. Collins clinic. This doesn't include hundreds of sessions at the VFW Post One, Yellow Ribbon Events, and others.
- c. Colorado Senior Lobby — Bob Epstein — Reminder: Senior Day at the Capital, March 15, 2017.

20. SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

- a. Congresswoman — Diane Degette — Advocate, Mathew Mangesha — Co-sponsored H.. 299, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017. Said anyone could contact their office with issues or concerns.
- b. Congressman — Ed Perlmutter — Kathryn Wirkeel, Constituent Services Representative — Very successful teletown hall was held on March 13, 2017. There were over 150 attendees at the Senior Resource Fair. Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony. Originally, only one ceremony was scheduled for March 24 but now, there are seven additional ceremonies scheduled.
- c. Sen. Michael Bennet — Constituent Advocate, Alisha Andrews
 - i. Bennet introduced legislation to increase contractor oversight and require greater transparency and accountability in VA contracts.
 - ii. Introduced a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Choice Program.

iii. Bennet and 7 other Senators went letter to Sec. Shulkin of the VA regarding mental health care for OTH disorders.

d. Sen. Cory Gardner — Regional Director, Andrew Durkley

i. Gave legislative update. Spoke about Senator Gardner's efforts in the Pacific.

e. Congressman — Mike Coffman — Ben Stein, Chief of Staff

i. H.R. 918 Veteran Access to Mental Health Care Bill — meeting held on March 29. Quick passage of the Bill is hoped for.

21. State Veterans CLC Administration — Aaron Termain

22. State Veterans CLC Commission

23. VISN 19, VA Regional Office, VA Cemetery, ECHCH

Sally Handfelder — Project Eagle is 90 percent complete. There is an issue with a hiring freeze.

VA Cemetery — Joe Turnback, Director — 327 internments in February, 2017 — 189 cremations, 138 caskets.

National Cemetery Administration (VA) — Steve Best, Executive Director — Due Diligence almost complete for acquiring additional property for Ft. Logan National Cemetery. Once completed negotiations can begin. Request for proposals for construction of Pikes Peak National Cemetery (Colorado Springs,) which should be out next month.

24. Old Business — None

25. New Business — None

26. UVC President's Comments and Announcements — Banquet / SELL TICKETS

27. Benediction — Jim Craig

27. Adjourn — Next meeting date — April 11, 2017 / **April 5, VAMC tour**