

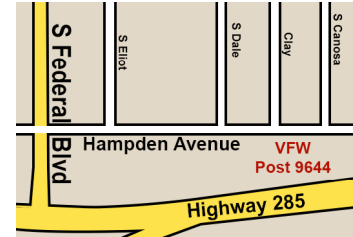


UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE MINUTES

12 September, 2017
GENERAL 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 – 1st Vice President — Jim Craig
2. Invocation and Moment of Silence for Pow's and Mia's — Phil Andreski
3. Pledge of Allegiance – 2nd Vice President — Leanne Wheeler
4. Welcome – six first-time attendees and visitors
5. Guest Speaker — Sallie Hauser-Hansfelder

Sallie presented on ECHCS construction status. Training is needed for several staff and those being hired. The Center will be open for patients in July. Patients from the old hospital have to be moved to the new facility. Disabled veterans are concerned about moving around the campus and there is a team working out the details.

TAG of Colorado, Major General Michael Loh, Director of Military and Veterans' Affairs. There is an underground missile brigade to defend U.S. island territory, Guam against ICBM. The Colorado National Guard is on deck.

During 9/11 there was an air defense alert over U.S. and it is maintained today. Russia has modernized the collection of space data. There is a civil support team and a National Guard reaction force for civil unrest.

During Hurricane Harvey, a medical component was sent and supplies were airlifted. During Irma a communications unit was sent which, cost \$450,000.

6. Roll Call and report— Membership Chair Gary Force — We welcomed one new member.
7. Secretary Report — Lori Derby — Minutes from the June were posted on the UVC website, and they were passed.
8. Treasurer Report — Bernie Rogoff — After paying the hotel deposit for the April, 2018 Banquet, \$18,722 remains in the UVC treasury. NAVS sent UVC \$630.13 and Dick Young donated \$1,000. The UVC needs donations.

UVC COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. State Legislative Committee — Dick Young
10. UVC Banquet — Karen Hone — No report — Next banquet will be held on April 8th, 2018.

11. Membership report — Gary Force
12. Area reps — Shelly — CSU, new stadium opening. Military Appreciation Day. A new clinic is opening and will be part of the Cheyenne VA.
13. Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs — Robby — Meeting of Colorado Springs Board. Noted a vacancy on that Board.
14. Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs — Ben Mestas — Stand-downs are scheduled. Veterans Trust Fund was awarded a grant.

VSOs, ASSOCIATES AND AFFILIATES — No report

15. State Veterans CLC Administration — Aaron Termain — Not present, no report
16. State Veterans CLC Commission — Karen Kowalski — Vice Chair — No report.

SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

- a. Sen. Michael Bennet — Constituent Advocate, Alisha Andrews
 - i. In August Bennet backed a Bill to strengthen care for COMPUTER veterans. VA Choice and Quality Employment Act will find \$2.1 billion in emergency funding for the Choice Program and measures to build VA capacity to better provide care to vets.
 - ii. Last month Bennet wrote a letter to the VA Secretary regarding the Denver Post article on Denver wait times. Last week, Bennet, along with 7 other senators wrote a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee urging the DATE OF DEATH to investigate and clean up chemicals that have contaminated drinking water sources across the nation, much like those in Widefield, Security and Fountain, Colorado.
 - iii. Academy nominations applications will be closing October 2nd. If anyone has any questions on this, please feel free to contact Alisha Andrews at 303-455-7600.
- b. Rep. Jared Polis — District Advocate — Stuart Feinhor
 - i. Polis had a very successful August recess with several town halls and a few veterans-related events. Met with student vets at CU and met with Director Houser-Hanfelder and others for an update on replacement and to discuss the report on appointments and Congressman Polis' letter to Secretary Shulkin. All were very pleased with that.
 - ii. On September 29th, attending launch of a new national security technology accelerator at CU Boulder. This is a link between the DATE OF DEATH, CU students and faculty, and CO start-UPS and technical sectors. It's the only program of its kind in Colorado.
 - iii. Academy application process is ramping up for October 1st deadline. There have been 17 applicants, to date. The VA has awarded \$188 million in grant funding to help homeless vets.
- c. Rep. Mike Coffman — Constituent Advocate — Bert Potwin

- i. Spoke about casework issues with VA Disability pay debt.
 - ii. U.S Service Academy nominations deadline is October 6, 2017 for applications to Rep. Coffman.
- d. Rep. Ed Perlmutter — Constituent Services Representative — Kathryn Wilkins
 - i. Completed final Vietnam Commander ceremonies on August 17. Held a total of 8 ceremonies presenting almost 800 pins.
 - ii. Tuition Fair — September 16th at Westminster High School.
- e. Rep. Cory Gardner — Staff Assistant — Tim Cullen
 - i. Provided legislative and congressional update on domestic and foreign policy. Also, information on ongoing conversations between Senator Gardner and VA Secretary.
- 17. VISN 19, VA Regional Office, VA Cemetery, ECHCH — Sallie Houser-Hanfelder — There are access issues. September is Suicide Prevention Month. “Be There” campaign. Chief of Healthcare Media — VHA office of Community Care — Glenn Johnson — Retail immunization program. Free flu shots from Walgreens.
- 18. Joe Turnbach — Director, Ft. Logan National Cemetery — 395 interments. 118 caskets, 277 cremation. Elections are ongoing regarding headstone and turf renovation.
- 19. Steven P. Best — Executive Director — National Cemetery Administration (VA) — Close to finalizing all due diligence activities for land acquisition to expand Ft. Logan National Cemetery. Finalizing reviews of construction bids for Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs. Anticipating construction to begin Fall 2017, with first internments to begin approximately one year from start of construction.
- 20. Old Business — No old Business.
- 21. New Business — No new business.
- 22. UVC President’s Comments and Announcements — this year revise by-laws. There will be a commander BBQ for leadership of VSOs.
- 23. Benediction — UVC 2nd Vice President — Leanne Wheeler
- 24. Adjourn — Next meeting date — October 10, 2017