

The United Veterans Council of San Diego (UVC)
“2007 VETERANS ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR”

An Ad-hoc Alliance of Veteran's Organizations
"The Voice of the San Diego Veteran's Community"

www.sduvc.org

Minutes
May 24nd 2008
Midway Memorial Day Meeting

Call to order by the Chairman at 9:30 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance – Lt. Col. Tom Richards USMC (Ret.)

Invocation—Ron Ritter (USN Ret.), Eagles' Wings

Introductions:

Current Veteran of the Year-- NP

Previous Veterans of the Year--NP

Previous Chairpersons of the United Veterans' Council — Joe Brunner (USN Ret.),
John Darcy, Will Hays

General Introductions: (75 members and visitors in attendance.)

Chair comments:

- Chairman will write letter to President in support of passing 21st Century GI Bill.

Guest Speakers:

Congressperson Susan Davis, 53rd Congressional District:

- Military spouse, supporter of veteran rights
- Honor entire military family on Memorial Day
- Cal Vet program available for current troops. President will sign bill.
- Serves on Armed Services Committee in US Congress.
- GI Bill for 21st Century: Working compromise with House and Senate versions.

San Diego Mayor, Jerry Sanders:

- “My job is easy!” (Ha Ha)
- Needs to improve working with Veterans groups.
- Will send liaison to UVC
- Veterans Parade
 - It is a shame that more San Diegans don't attend the parade. City will help to market the parade..
 - City will work with veterans to get corporations to provide funding for the parade.
- Mayor Sanders will have his new human resources manager work with veterans to revise the current veterans employment policy.
- City will develop a veterans internship program.

John Culea, Communications Director, Supervisor Bill Horn:

- May 6 Supervisors approved paid internship veteran program for open county jobs, presented by Supervisor Bill Horn.
- Cut down on learning curve
- Interns are not guaranteed jobs; but, will be trained for jobs that are open.

Auday Arabo, 78th District Candidate:

- Christian Iraqi (San Diego has largest Chaldean Christian community in U.S.)
- Family came to US in 1979
- Prosecutor for SD Office.
- Reason for running: Gratitude to America and its opportunities.
- Various municipal agencies have supported him

Stephen Whitburn, City Council Candidate, District 3:

- Top priority of city should be quality of life for its citizens.
- Concern for year round facilities for homeless vets.
- Addressed concern for various issues concerning quality of life for veterans.
- Endorsed by Bob Filner.

Approval of the Minutes of April: Corrections: 24 May, not March 24.

Treasurer's Report— Joe Brunner, MCPO USN Ret.: Submitted

- City does not honor its veterans, veterans honor their veterans.
- Service charges on savings account, despite prior agreement. (\$1000 deposit required.) Done. – Now have 3 years of free checking and savings.)
- Balance of May24,2008: \$4,063.39

Chairman's Comments:

United Veterans Council Initiatives

- To improve the channels of communications, both internal to the UVC and externally to the community and its leaders in order to disseminate information relative to veteran's issues, veterans, and their families.
- To improve climate for transitioning service men and women by helping to facilitate their transition to full and meaningful employment.
- To inform veterans, family members and all County citizens about the symptoms of and treatment opportunities for victims of PTSD.
- To encourage more veterans of all ages and military affiliations to join, support and participate in veterans' service organizations.
- To mobilize veterans and to coordinate their efforts in support of veterans' issues
- To hear elected representatives regarding their support of veteran issues.
- State Assembly Veterans Recognition Luncheon on May 7
 - Co-VOY Bobby Price, Assemblywoman Mary Salas
 - State legislative Chair, Steve Arends, Assemblywoman Shirley Horton
- Encouraged that Mayor Sanders attended and is concerned about veterans.
- Bobby Price and Steve Arends (SDUVC members) as Assembly District veterans of the year.

- Commends Surfing in Vietnam film.
- Gov. has appointed Jane Bergman head of CA Veterans Home, Chula Vista.
- Met with State legislature: “Don’t play politics with Veteran issues.”

1st Vice Chairman's Comments: Alan Milliefsky

- Limited funds to put on parade.
- City requires vets to pay for their own parade.
- Better advertising of fair.

2nd Vice Chairman's Comments—Betty Nimits

- Quantico, VA Museum is a wonderful experience.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- 1) Steve Campbell: Army 223rd B’day will be Anchors Club June 14.
- 2) Darcy Pavich: Stand Down: Creating package of veterans’ resources for volunteers. Send your resource info to Darcy.
- 3) June 14 Flag Day/ Veterans Day: Bill Paxton Sgt. Major, Marines –Volunteers send email
- 4) Kyle Green: Vets for Vets: Peer support for veterans and workshops: New association.
- 5) Ivo Moreno, Student Veteran Association. Vets Rock the Casbah, Mission Valley. Joined with WTOT.
- 6) Larry Lasky: First American Military: new non-profit, purpose is to help vets buy homes.
- 7) Bob Filner Rep.: Vote!
- 8) Stu Hedley: CA convention for Pearl Harbor Survivors, about 50 attended.
- 9) Tori Baird, HirePatriots.com: one day and full time jobs for troops and vets. Need volunteers for Military Job Fairs
- 10) Michael Crimmins, Vietnam Vet: Running for Susan Davis seat in Congress. Take America back from “Hate America” crowd: www.Crimminsforcongress.com
- 11) Shawn Bean, Assembly Saldano’s Office: Non-profit tax seminar, July 7, at USD.
- 12) Ken Robinson, Love our Troops: To help fallen troops and their families.
- 13) Bob Zimmerman WTOT: Purpose is to recruit OIF OEF Veterans

for SDUVC, VFW, American Legion, etc.

14) Clint Steed: Navy Fleet Family and Support Center: Resources available.

Secretary' Comments – Please give or send Mark Baird, Secretary, your fliers, summaries and reports that you want included in the Minutes. E-mail: mark@hirepatriots.com

REPORTS (We respectfully request that reports be limited to **three minutes** each minutes each unless previously coordinated with Chairperson):

Legislative:

- John Smith, U.S. House of Representatives Bills:
Support GI Bill of Rights.
Thank you VA.
- Denise Sanchez, US Senate Bills: NA
- Steve Arends, California State Senate Bill: See attachment.

UVC Communications Committee:

Bob: We send out 50 communications per week.

UVC Employment Committee: NA

UVC Combat Stress/PTSD Mentoring Committee: ACVOW:

Spiritual Wounds of War: Miramar: 7 steps to help.

Outreach program at Camp Pendleton on Thursday to address marital conflict.

UVC VSO Membership Recruitment Committee: NA

Student Veterans Organization: Ivo Morales.

Student Veterans of America will meet in DC on June 13. Need funding for trip.

Veteran Museum and Memorial Center: Will Hays:

Current Vietnam Memorial at Museum, reading of KIAs.

Volunteer to help welcome returning troops, call Navy League.

VA Health Care System: Gary

We need collaboration: Contact Michael.Kilmer@va.gov

New El Centro Health Clinic in June, 2008.

Track 65 high risk suicide patients.

Initiating more robotic services.

Need bigger building and more space.

Hospital is retrofitted for earthquakes.
Night time services available.

VA Regional Office: Tanya

National Call Center is working 1800-827-1000 - 7am to 7pm
Mission Valley facility expanding.

VA National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans: Kirk

Great service on Monday, Memorial Day: Attend!

One VA Committee: John Smith

50 new employees for claims handling.
Paper work signed for annex. Breaking ground December 8.
June 18 next meeting.
Tremendous money boost for CA Vets.

Naval Medical Center San Diego

California State Veterans Home, Chula Vista: Jane Bergman

3 new homes under construction to open in April 2009.

Cal Vet Board Representative:

Chula Vista Veterans Home Meeting, Friday, June 13 at 9AM. Topics of discussion:

Healthcare: Veterans Employment: Veterans Homelessness: Communications with Veterans: VA Enrollment & VA Registration: Cal Vet Home & Farm Loans: County Veterans Service Office:

VVSD: Darcy Pavits

Memorial bricks in courtyard, still available.
June 6 Golf tournament.
Stand Down starts in June.

SD County Veterans Advisory Council: Terry Jensen

Cities of San Diego sent Veterans hiring policies.

SDUV Association (Veterans Day Parade)

Mt. Soledad Memorial Association: Bob

May 19 license received, ready to begin construction.
Jerry Coleman honored on Monday, Memorial Day.
Many events occurring at site.

Midway Museum:

Legacy Week recording memories of veterans throughout week.
Stennis is in port.

Kitty Hawk is coming to SD.

Old Business:

Use funds to put plaque on Mt Soledad Memorial Moved, discussed and seconded. Cost: \$1k -1.5k. Committee formed. Motion withdrawn. New motion made and moved that funds come from members and not from funds from UVC. Passed.

Adjourn Meeting: 11:25AM

The next meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County will be on **Saturday, JUNE 28th 2008 at 9:30 A.M.** in the lower hall of the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, 2115 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101-4792.

EVENTS FLIERS RECEIVED:

- 1)Vets Rock the Kasbah, VFW Post 3787, Mission Valley, May 27, 6PM.
- 2) 15% discount for veterans; 50% in uniform: Chevy's Restaurants.
- 3) Eagles Wings: Bereavement support: eglewing@pacbell.net/ 619-234-9464: Ron Witter