

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](http://www.sduvc.org)

**Minutes**  
**26 July 2008**

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

**Patriotic Moment** – Tom Richards read essay about US flag.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Stu Hedley

**Invocation**: Chaplain Babs Mears

**Introductions**

- Veteran of the Year-- NA
- Past Veterans of the Year—John Smith
- Previous Chairpersons of the United Veterans' Council— Retired General Bob Cardenas

**Guest Speakers:**

- Dr. Beatrice Golomb – Gulf War Syndrome – NA
- **Albert Renteria**— CEO SWVBRC: Veterans Economic Task Force: Is Transition program working? (TAP). Are all of our Transition resources working? 25% of homeless are veterans. How can we track veterans' employment? Cisco and Starbucks and other companies are participating in training. Emphasis is on technology and the veterans of tomorrow. – Reach and educate troops before they transition. – Threat to military: They want retention. The US is trying to interface all military branches in sharing transition information. Communication must be improved.
- Encourage and educate veteran business owners about receiving government contracts: 3% must go to veteran owned businesses.

**Approval of the Minutes** of 28 June 2008 – Accepted by motion and approval.

**Chairman's Comments**

- May be absent from August meeting due to Annual Reunion of the Legion of Valor: August 20-24 obligation.
- Mission, Vision

**Chairman's Discussion**: Employment: Seamless transition. VA should be pro-active. Veterans should have jobs.

- Notice about registering with VA should be sent on Notice of Earnings sent to all vets.
- Larger the database of veterans, the bigger the chance of abuse.
- PROMISE: Gov't program: Can track anyone.
- GI Bill is a conjunction for transitioning troops and employment.
- Chaplains Conference at Washington DC: Contact local Congressmen.
- Norfolk , VA, Minority Officers Meeting: Educate officers on how to be retained and other employment options.
- Homeless veterans: Actually, probably only 10% are homeless. (John Smith)

**CDVA** when they do their mail out DD214: Should utilize to make better use of it for tracking veterans.-- Need more emphasis on Veteran services.

Bring vets to SDUVC meetings when they need help, so that they can be introduced to people who can help them.

California should do public relations campaign to help veterans to get employment.

Veterans Journal: Will dedicate 30% of publication for employment issues for veterans.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe Brunner: Excused

**1st Vice Chairman Comments:** Alan Millefsky

**2nd Vice Chairman Comments:** Betty Nimits

**GOOD OF THE ORDER** (Maximum of 2 Minutes Each) (Correspondence for Good of the Order)

- Thank Clint Steed for excellent job on SDUVC.org
- Military Retiree Almanac: Free at SDUVC meetings.
- Quality of Life Foundation: Family members and care givers of wounded vets, please fill out survey. See Clint Steed, webmaster SDUVC.
- VFW fed 3,000 Marines returning from combat tours.
- Studio Diner (4705 Ruffin Rd. SD) has fundraiser for Marine Corps League on August 3.
- Joe Foss Speakers Bureau: Volunteer to speak to schools and organizations about your military experiences and the importance of veterans.
- John Finn, 99 yrs old, Medal of Honor recipient, honored at ceremony.

- Veterans Journal: Send fliers to them. Send PR and articles: "Dan DeMarco" <dan@veteransjournal.net>
- Saturday, Aug.2 11 AM: Military Kids Party at Miramar.
- Post 3787 Party for SVO
- 35% -40% of veterans are not registered to vote and 60% of our current military.
- \$300 available to disabled vets who have not filed IRS tax report.
- Agent Orange Equity Act to cover all veterans affected. Congressman Filner representative.

## **REPORTS**

**Eagles Wings** – Will Hays- For those who have recently lost a loved one.

**Legislative:** Steve Arends – Please see attachment to Minutes.

**U.S. House of Representatives Bills:**--John Smith  
House on vacation  
78 page GI Bill passed.

**U.S. Senate Bills:** —21<sup>st</sup> Century GI Bill passed.

**Student Veterans Committee** – Peter-- Get veterans at SD State to come together for State football games. October 25 event at SDUC.

### **Veterans Museum and Memorial Center – Will Hays**

No Bathrooms

September: Personal stories of Philippine veterans

Veteran of the Year: Designate your veteran of the year, corporations.

November 7, Scottish Rites center Ceremony; Veteran of the year.

### **VA Health Care System –**

Veteran's due to 5 years of free medical service.

PTSD victims are often in denial. Family members are best barometers.

Sleep disorders: Lots of napping.

Off base stipends must be increased for military families living off base.

Only 20% of veterans in SD County come to VA for health care.

National Disabled Veteran Sports Event September 28 – October 3.

VA networking with other state VA to make sure every vet is cared for.

99.3% of patients in SD get appointments in 30 days or less.

**2008 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic:** September 28 – October 3, 2008, San Diego Marriot and Marina hotel.

**VA Regional Office – Ginny**

Thanks 400 volunteers for Stand Down. They took 91 new claims at event.  
94.3 days to process claims

**VA National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans**

New construction is being completed.  
Bring organization commemorative ideas to Foundation for approval before raising funds for your monument. -- General Cardenas

**California State Veterans Home, Chula Vista – Jane**

All is well.

**CALVET Board Representative – No report.**

**County Veteran's Service Office – 900 million dollar bond, Prop 12,**  
for veteran home loans: **Vote for it!**

**Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) —** We had a great **Stand Down** event, special thanks to VA and Chaplain Services and Lions Club. Many politicians attended. Goal is to get veterans to return to a productive life. – John Smith

**San Diego County Veterans Advisory Council – John Weaver**  
August 14 meeting at Museum for volunteers for Parade committee.

**San Diego United Veterans Association (Veterans Day Parade)**

**Mt. Soledad Memorial Association –** Signed agreement with Dept of Navy. Repairs are being made. Plaques are for living too. Veterans day November 8, 2pm will be the celebration at Mt Soledad. Jimmy Stewart and his family will be honored.

**OLD BUSINESS:** (Tabled from previous meeting) (Correspondence for Old Business)

- SDUVC Plaque on Mt Soledad. Bill Paxton

- Reminder- The September meeting will be conducted in National City in conjunction with at the Chula Vista Veterans Health & Resource Fair – 27 September, 9:30 am in National City, MLK Convention Center

**NEW BUSINESS:** (Correspondence for New Business)

**Final Comments:**

- If your veterans' organization is conducting an event, please consider submitting an announcement to us so we can send it out to the UVC membership list and also put it on the events page of the UVC web site, which is <http://www.sduvc.org>.
- Please recruit your friends to the UVC. If they can't attend, ask them to send a message to the Secretary to get their names on the e-mail roster so they receive minutes and updates. Please **bring a friend to UVC next meeting**.
- When you attend the next meeting of your respective organizations, please pass the word about the UVC and the business that was conducted here today.

**Adjourn Meeting**

The next meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County will be on **Saturday, 23 August 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.