



# CITY OF LAS CRUCES

## VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

September 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lawrence "Sam" Bothern, DAV #10 - Chair  
James (JR) Turner, VFW 10124 - Vice-Chair  
J. Perry Ashby, American Legion #10  
Beverly Drum, UMW of Southwest  
Victor Eres, USMC  
Luke Rosendo Keith, VFW 3242  
Fred Madrid, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chap. 431  
Brian Morrow, Member at Large  
Brandon Robinson, Member at Large  
Christine Sautter, MOAA

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces #80  
Jason Ferguson, MOPH  
Hector Sanchez, Member at Large

### STAFF PRESENT:

Charles Tucker, CLC Inspector General  
Amber Dominguez, CLC Administration

### OTHERS:

Dan Lucero  
Lester Palmer  
Dolores Archuleta  
Bill Hawkins  
Montevis Price  
Len Hampton

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bothern called the meeting to order.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

A quorum was determined to be present.

1 **3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

2  
3 Motion to accept the agenda made by Victor Eres; seconded by Brian Morrow.  
4 Motion passed unanimously.  
5

6 **4. VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES - August 26, 2025**

7  
8 Victor Eres stated he failed to mention that the August 22nd, Honor Guard  
9 competition, they won first place in small team, first place in medium team, and  
10 first place in the large team. Also grateful that the Mayor came by and had a brief  
11 photo op.  
12

13 Christine Sauter stated she was at that meeting.

14 Page 1, line 29, Bruce Bonson, should be Bruce Fonnest. And also page 2, line  
15 16 same correction.

16 Page 2, line 5, Veterans Court Treatment Program, should be Veterans Treatment  
17 Court Program.

18 Christine Sauter mentioned also there was nothing about the proposal for Veteran  
19 of the Year committee that was formed. Luke Keith and Fred Madrid volunteered  
20 for that group.

21 Page 4, #9, Luke Kieth, should be Luke Keith.  
22

23 Motion to accept the minutes with amendments made by Brian Morrow; seconded  
24 by Victor Eres. Motion passed unanimously.  
25

26 **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

27  
28 Dolores Archuleta, chairperson at the veterans memorial wall. Approximately  
29 three months ago she submitted the names of those who still need to go on the  
30 wall and she has not heard anything about it. She also recommends what Larry  
31 Nichols recommended, a covering for the wall. The damage on the wall is from  
32 the sun. If they put a cover they will not have to worry about it every year. The  
33 wall was dedicated on 11/11/05. The titles are missing on parts of the wall and  
34 needs to be repaired. Dolores Archuleta stated capital outlay funding that is used  
35 and that what was used for parking at the Veterans Memorial Park. That is also  
36 where money can come from for the damage done on the wall. The City Council  
37 makes that decision.  
38

39 Bill Hawkins of the Veterans parade. They should be putting out an order of march  
40 by the end of this week. Staging will be at 9:00. Parade kicks off at 11:00. They  
41 would like for veterans group to get there before 9:00, mainly vehicles. The theme  
42 is Honoring America's Future Leaders and focusing on the JROTC instructors from  
43 the local high schools. They currently have 45 participants, which is about  
44 average. They had the poster competition. And hope to get posters produced and  
45 distributed by October 1st. If anyone is interested in being in the parade they can  
46 contact anybody on the committee on the website [lcvetday.org](http://lcvetday.org), or e-mail him at

1 wchawkins1962@gmail.com, or text him at (575) 621-7002. They have all of the  
2 ROTC's that have committed, have almost all of the veterans groups, and have a  
3 tentative commitment from all of the bands including 44th Army band, high school  
4 bands are contingent on football playoffs. He is associated with Mayfield as he  
5 coaches wrestling, and the ROTC is doing a fundraiser of selling MREs.  
6

7 Len Hampton, VFW. He would like to remind all of a golf tournament on October  
8 4th. The proceeds will support the upcoming standdown. The standdown is  
9 scheduled for October 24th at VFW post 10124 on Valley Drive. They would like  
10 to see a foursome from this organization. He mentioned every golf course in town  
11 is having a tournament that day. The tournament is at Red Hawk Golf Club, 11:30  
12 registration, 1:00 shotgun start.  
13

14 Montevis Price, Department of Veteran Affairs. He has no updates. He will try to  
15 get someone at the next meeting to give update on the new building, etc. The  
16 Veterans Treatment Court, he said is a different process now as they have a new  
17 director.  
18

## 19 **6. AGENDA ITEMS TO DISCUSS**

- 20 ○ Special Forces Request to add bricks with names near their monument

21  
22 Chair Bothern states this has been discussed with the Park. Would like to add  
23 bricks with the names of special forces people next to their monument. They  
24 would like to have the board's approval to do that. Only about 18 or 20 bricks.  
25 Placement has not been decided.  
26

27  
28 Motion to approve the placement of the bricks made by Luke Keith; seconded  
29 by Brian Morrow. Motion passed unanimously.  
30

- 31 ○ Update on the new Garrison Flag

32  
33 JR Turner stated the next fly day is November 11th. The last date was the 19th  
34 and got rained out that morning, so the flag was not flown. He will start to  
35 compile the dates for next year, and that will be available next meeting.  
36

## 37 **7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

38 **Luke Rosendo Keith - VFW 3242** - Nothing to report.  
39

40  
41 **Fred Madrid - Vietnam Veterans of America** - They have two food drives, first at  
42 Save-Mart on October 5th from 8:00 to 2:00. The second one is at Rinconada,  
43 Walmart on October 21st from 7:00 to 2:00.  
44

45 **Victor Eres - USMC** - From August 27th to September 23rd, the Honor Guard  
46 provided seven funeral services for fallen veterans. Also participated in three

1 special events this month; September 11th veterans workshop at St. Genevieve's  
2 parish hall; had a small photo operation with the Mayor and Honor Guard; also  
3 honored at one of the City Council meetings on September 15th. They will be  
4 sending a contingent to greet the veterans returning from the Honor Flight on  
5 August 27th at 1800. The Marine Corps League does accept veterans from other  
6 branches of service.

7  
8 **Christine Sautter - MOAA** - Nothing to report. Did thank DAV Chapter 10, Jerry  
9 Hernandez and his crew for putting on a very good veteran service event.

10  
11 **J. Perry Ashby - American Legion #10** - In support of the parade they have been  
12 working with an elementary school teaching them flag etiquette and proper  
13 disposal of flags. And have bought T-shirts for them and they will march in the  
14 parade behind their float. Working to get a Garrison, or post flag and hoping the  
15 City is going to come through. The American Legion was going to just buy one,  
16 but someone spoke with the City and was told they will handle that. One of their  
17 past commanders was elected state commander of the American Legion for New  
18 Mexico. There is a proclamation to support the Honor Flight in Las Cruces 100%  
19 and all other posts across the nation should be supporting the Honor Flight. There  
20 is a member on the Board that is on this Honor Flight leaving 3:00 a.m. on  
21 Thursday and coming back Saturday. For veterans needing help with homes, they  
22 found a person, Raul Sanchez, and he is the department supervisor at Home  
23 Depot. He participates already with putting up ramps at homes. Home Depot pays  
24 for all the cost for all the materials. If you know a veteran that needs help, needs  
25 something done at home. Raul Sanchez (575) 644-7874.

26  
27 **Brandon Robinson - Member at Large** - Nothing to report.

28  
29 **Brian Morrow - Member at Large** - This will be his 4th trip for the Honor Flight.  
30 Supported the veterans food drive last weekend. They do need help with  
31 Rinconada as that Walmart is quite large, with two entrances. The next Memorial  
32 Day Meeting for next year is following November, after the VAB meeting. There  
33 was a casket ceremony and a wreath laying ceremony. He is going with burritos  
34 this year as he got a quote from Weck's, \$395, for serving about 100 burritos.

35  
36 **Beverly Drum - UMW of Southwest** - There was a very successful Show and  
37 Shine Car Show at Mesilla Valley Mall this month with a total of 40 entrants, 30  
38 cars and 10 motorcycles. She thanked the participants, and particularly Brian  
39 Morrow, and all the helpers. Also Race Across America here in Las Cruces, \$17  
40 each, they are accepting any amounts donated. Donations due by Friday,  
41 November 21st.

42  
43 **JR Turner - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10124** - The next flag date for the  
44 Garrison Flag at Veterans Park is on November 11th.

1           **Lawrence "Sam" Bothern - Disabled American Veterans (DAV) #10** - Very  
2 successful operation at St. Genevieve's last month, helped several people with  
3 claims. Their annual fundraiser is coming up with Golden Corral, Tuesday prior to  
4 Veterans Day and going through Veterans Day.  
5

6           Len Hampton, VFW. Asked about the Wreaths Across America, and if Beverly  
7 Drum's organization UMW of Southwest would be laying the wreaths or people  
8 purchasing the wreaths. Beverly Drum stated they need volunteers to help place  
9 the wreaths. The wreaths are picked up at Ft. Bliss and brought to Las Cruces.  
10 And also need help to retrieve the wreaths afterwards too. He was asked to  
11 contact Karen Woods specifically  
12

13 **8. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

14  
15           Charles Tucker stated Mr. Ashby is correct about the Garrison Flag, and it has  
16 been ordered. He will let JR Turner know as soon as it arrives. The real Garrison  
17 Flag, 20 x 38. He stated a couple of years ago something was done for state VA  
18 reps registering veterans for the tax benefit for their homes. He asked if that was  
19 still in effect in January. The answer is yes. On the burritos for Memorial Day, he  
20 is going to talk with the Mayor because there was some reason he wanted to keep  
21 the hot dog sales going. Charles will talk with the Mayor for more information. The  
22 capital outlay funds mentioned by Ms. Archuleta. He asked how that was brought  
23 forward last time. He needs to know how much money is needed. Chair Bothern  
24 stated there were several months of planning on the park upgrades, and then the  
25 liaison took those to the City Council and presented it along with Parks people.  
26

27 **9. ADJOURNMENT 09:42)**

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29           Motion to adjourn made by Brian Morrow; seconded by Perry Ashby. Motion  
30 passed.  
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Chairperson