



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

October 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lawrence "Sam" Bothern, DAV #10 - Chair
James (JR) Turner, VFW 10124 - Vice-Chair
Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces #80
James 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
Christine Sautter, MOAA

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brandon Robinson, Member at Large

STAFF PRESENT:

Charles Tucker, CLC Inspector General
Annette Granado, CLC Administration

OTHERS:

Bill Hawkins
Hector Sanchez
Dan Lucero
Len Hampton
Jeffrey Eckman
Christopher Cogswell

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bothern called the meeting to order. A quorum was determined to be present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

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

3
4 **4. VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES - September 23, 2025**

5
6 Motion to accept the minutes made by Beverly Drum; seconded by Perry Ashby.
7 Motion passed unanimously.

8
9 **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

10
11 Bill Hawkins, Veterans Parade, stated they are at 61 entries for the parade. None
12 of the coordinating instructions have changed. Have everyone there no later than
13 9:00 to start setting up, particularly the veterans groups as they are first. He does
14 need, typically veterans groups have two vehicles and a trailer, and that is the
15 average space, if there is more than two vehicles and a trailer, please let him know.
16 They have selected and announced the poster contest winner, Serenity Madrid
17 from Mesa Middle School. At the last City Council meeting the grand marshals
18 were recognized who are ROTC instructors for the high schools.

19
20 Hector Sanchez stated he will be sure the board is informed on activities that at
21 NMSU. The next event is Military Veterans Appreciation Week for the 10th year.
22 They hope their ROTC will part of the Veterans Day Parade. Have an appreciation
23 kickoff game. November 10th the student veterans organization will promote the
24 organization and they help veterans and are part of the community. Tuesday,
25 November 11th their office will be open to the community. They do provide job
26 placement. Provide food security if needed. They have a Green Zone Program
27 where they inform the staff and faculty of the issues of the veterans in the
28 classroom. On November 12th they will have their Veterans Day celebration.
29 Talked about Aggie Memorial Tower which is NMSU memorial to fallen veterans.
30 November 13th will have their picnic and try to bring vendors from outside the
31 community. Friday, November 14th will have faculty and staff veterans banquet.
32 The government shut down has not affected people that were receiving benefits
33 prior to the shutdown. The shutdown has hurt customer service, no 800 numbers
34 work.

35
36 Dan Lucero, DAV #38, thanked Board Members Morrow and Turner. Their class
37 of '65 from Las Cruces High School had the reunion last month. They raised the
38 Garrison Flag, and service flags. The ROTC also attended. He thanked everyone
39 for the ceremony. It did turn out nice. For DAV #38 they are having a fundraiser
40 this week at the Golden Corral, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. They are
41 having various speakers come in at their monthly meeting. They had someone
42 from Senator Lujan's office.

43
44 Len Hampton stated on the veterans standdown recently held. This was their
45 fourth year putting on the standdown. They engaged 60 veterans, nine female,
46 two at risk of homelessness, 39 identified as disabled. Participants were from all

1 service organizations. 24 cold war, 15 Vietnam, 10 OIF/OEF and WGOT, and six
2 Gulf War. Areas for improvement were limited clothing supplies, parking issues,
3 wayfinding. Some asked for greater vendor visibility, particularly employment and
4 communication services.

5
6 Mr. Chavez asked for an update from Montevis Price on the CBOC being built on
7 Avenida de Mesilla. Also asked how the new VA hospital is going. He thanked
8 Hector Sanchez.

9
10 Jeffrey Eckman of the Marine Corps League #478. They are happy to do the best
11 they can for the community. Many of their members are getting older and they are
12 not able to participate in many of the events they have done in the past.

13
14 Kristopher Cogswell with American Job Center. He has been trying to find
15 mortgage and foreclosure assistance to help the veterans. Doña Ana county is
16 the only county in New Mexico that does not deal with mortgage or foreclosure for
17 veterans. With the government shutdown their office provides unemployment
18 assistance. The state is waiving the job application fee for people dealing with
19 furloughs. For unemployment you have to job searches throughout the week and
20 come in and present that, but the individual is affected by the government
21 shutdown, the state has chosen to waive that.

22
23 Melanie Goodman with office of Senator Ben Ray Lujan. She introduced her new
24 co-worker who will be taking over veterans issues and military affairs, Victor
25 Vasquez. Victor Vasquez stated he is an 18 year veteran for the Navy and director
26 for national cemeteries in New Mexico. They are in the academy nominations
27 process with the senator's office and are going to be holding interviews November
28 8th, for the young folks, 62 applicants. The interviews are for going into the Air
29 Force Academy and done virtually. They are still looking for a panelist to help
30 interview. Christine Sautter, Luke Keith, and Fred Madrid offered their services.

31
32 **6. AGENDA ITEMS TO DISCUSS**

- 33
34 ○ Vote to cancel December meeting

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36 Motion to cancel the December meeting made by Victor Eres; seconded by
37 Beverly Drum. Motion passed unanimously.

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39 **7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

40
41 **Victor Eres - USMC** - From September 23 to October 28 the Honor Guard did
42 funeral honors for 14 fallen veterans. Color Guard also participated in two, one for
43 the Honor Flight arrival on September 27th, and LCHS class of '65 ceremony on
44 November 11th. They will be having their annual Marine Corps Ball at Hotel
45 Encanto November 8th. They only have a small window to do the sword detail
46 rehearsal for the 250th birthday celebration at Hotel Encanto, therefore unable to

1 participate in this year's veterans parade. There are limited amount of tickets for
2 the ball, but call Stan Dyer (575-496-5265). Tickets are \$50 each.

3
4 **Fred Madrid - Vietnam Veterans of America** - Two attended the Texas State
5 Council meeting in El Paso September 29-30, October 1-5. He went to state for
6 New Mexico Council, October 21-26 in Washington, DC. The service for George
7 Baird will be on November 3rd, at 10:00 at VA cemetery at Ft. Bliss. They will have
8 small get together at VFW 3242 at 6:00. In Deming, the 250th celebration will be
9 November 10th, from 1800-2200. VVA chapter will be at White Sands Missile
10 Range November 19, 11:00-4:00, and giving \$40 gift certificate to active duties
11 and non-perishable foods.

12
13 **Luke Rosendo Keith - VFW 3242** - They donated \$150 to Reach Across America.
14 Also donated \$100 to the Veterans Home for their Trunk or Treat on October 31st.
15 Last Friday mandatory state training for all VFWs, and that helped provide more
16 tools to help support veterans. They will be attending the Veterans Day Parade.

17
18 **James Perry Ashby - American Legion #10** - They are going to have
19 hamburgers and hot dogs for folks after the parade at 1185 E. Madrid.

20
21 **Daniel Ansbach - Special Forces #80** - Nothing to report.

22
23 **Christine Sautter - MOAA** - They are changing their meetings, still third
24 Wednesday but having lunch at Sunset Grill instead of dinner. They are
25 participating in the parade with the Farm and Ranch buggy.

26
27 **Brian Morrow - Member at Large** - Mission 20 was a success. He will be going
28 on the fifth trip next April. The food drive on Rinconada was a success, usually
29 about 9,000 lbs. of food. The standdown was good. Maybe a chaplain at the
30 standdown. The first meeting for the Memorial Day event is going to be next
31 month, following the VAB meeting. He received an invoice from the Las Cruces
32 Bulletin. Apparently they were to have two days advertisement but due to an error
33 it didn't and so it was run free full page. He will let people know how that comes
34 out.

35
36 **Beverly Drum - UMW of Southwest** - Race Across America Las Cruces. The
37 wreath lying will be Saturday, December 13th. The donations are due by Friday,
38 November 21. There is a code on the flyer that the donation goes into the bank.
39 Questions, contact Karen Woods at (575-639-1265). Most wreaths will be laid at
40 Hillcrest Cemetery on Picacho. The annual bingo will be held Saturday, December
41 6th at the American Legion on Madrid, sponsored by UMW of Southwest. Doors
42 open at 11:00 and games start at 1:00. Tickets are \$35. Payout is \$3,000 of all
43 games. No one under the age of 12 is permitted. Door prizes also.

44
45 **James Turner - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10124** - Schedules for next
46 years' Garrison flag were handed out. There is still a flag date on November 11th

1 this year, and December 7th for Pearl Harbor Day. He has been doing the Garrison
2 Flag responsibility for over 15 years, and wonders if someone would help to
3 transition to take custody of the flag. Brian Morrow is interested.
4

5 **Lawrence "Sam" Bothern - Disabled American Veterans (DAV) #10** - They are
6 doing fundraise at Golden Corral. Veterans day is the free meal which will be
7 Tuesday evening.
8

9 **8. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

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11 Charles Tucker read an e-mail he received. A gentleman named John Hinkle, Jr.
12 A semper fi and Americans Fund Housing and Security Program. They are offering
13 financial assistance with entry into new housing, currently homeless, in need of
14 first month's rent and/or deposit or eviction prevention, notice of eviction, pay or
15 quit notice is required to be eligible. Also to assist with past evictions, debts, on a
16 case-by-case basis. The past debit would be a barrier to new housing. The
17 veteran must have a minimum of 100 days on active duty and a DD214, no felony
18 convictions, not a sex offender, no dishonorable discharge. Another path for
19 veterans who need help. He will send this e-mail to all board members.
20

21 ○ Garrison Flag Update
22

23 The flag is here. The flagpole is capable of holding that flag. The old flag will
24 be properly disposed of. Also mentioned cutting back some of the trees close
25 to the flagpole. Charles Tucker will discuss this with Parks and Rec. Also
26 remove the lanyard (hook) that is on the pole that keeps catching.
27

28 ○ Ordinance Update
29

30 Charles Tucker stated the ordinance is bouncing between legal and the city
31 clerk. He wants this board will be able to look it over before it goes to City
32 Council.
33

34 **9. ADJOURNMENT (10:00)**
35

36 Motion to adjourn made by Brian Morrow; seconded by Luke Keith. Motion
37 passed.
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Chairperson