

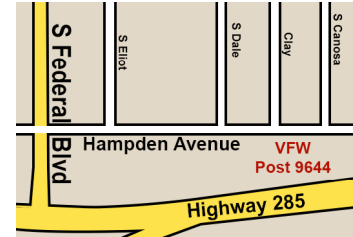


UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE MINUTES

10 January 2017
SPECIAL 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 – UVC President – Frank McCurdy
2. Invocation and Moment of Silence for Pow's and Mia's — 1st VP Jim Craig
3. Pledge of Allegiance – UVC Past President Steve Rylant
4. Welcome – first-time attendees and visitors
5. Guest Speaker — **John Adams**, The Retired Enlisted Association National President
TREA, The Retired Enlisted Association was started in 1963 in Colorado Springs.

There are chapters throughout the United States, including Puerto Rico. TREA has numerous affiliates: Memorial Foundation, which assists veterans and their families and, The Senior Citizens League that lobbies for all seniors; along with ESGR and AFA. TREA is the founder of the veteran assistance holiday gift cards.

TREA replaces NAVS — Enlisted members transferred to TREA and officer members transferred to MOAA.

Ralph Bothello — Recognized C.D. Rice's contribution to UVC.

6. UVC officer changes — Dick Young and Jim Craig — Open 2nd Vice President
Dick Young will replace Jay Bobick as Legislative Committee Liaison
7. Roll Call and report— Membership Chair Gary Force

There were three new applicants and membership voted on and approved a new member, Northstar Commercial Partners. Northstar is responsible for starting a project to support vets and they serve vets in many aspects. They are committed to the cause of supporting vets. Northstar is looking for help on housing and asked for support from UVC.

8. Secretary Report — Lori Derby — Minutes from December, 2016 were posted on the UVC website, and they were passed.
9. Treasurer Report — Bernie Rogoff — \$8,428.79 in the treasury — check received from Colfax and Sable for \$1,000.00

10. UVC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. David Ortiz— Legislative Committee — David is working on income tax exemptions for the military. He also spoke about several Bills that pertain to VSO and veterans. A

Handout noting general and specific legislative goals was given to each member in attendance.

- b. Steve Rylant — Federal Legislative Liaison — Spoke about general and specific legislative goals. There are 19 specific goals and 15 general goals. The goals are posted on the UVC website under the “Federal Legislative” tab.
 - i. Awards ceremony will be held on January 18, 2017, 9a.m., VFW hall at Yale and I-25. Need name and a brief description of person who will be receiving an award.
 - c. Jay Bobick — Believes in term limits and December was the last month Jay will be on the legislative committee. He is being replaced by Dick Young. Jay mentioned that there are 100 legislators in the senate — 35 in the Senate and 65 in the House. There is a unit that supports vets in the Colorado legislature and, he asked for volunteers to go to legislative meetings for better vet representation. The next legislative meeting will be on January 27, 2017, 7:45a.m., West Wing of Capitol. The session will inform legislators on what they can do for vets.
 - d. Dick Young — New legislative Committee liaison — Said politics are all personal and Democrats and Republicans agree on veteran issues.
 - e. Marvin Meyers — At the last legislative session, Sue Ryden submitted a study for the remaining 10 acres of land at Fitzsimmons. A 50-page report was submitted and it will go to the legislature. The report mentions a Bill to build a new facility for homeless veterans. The Department of Human Services submitted an RFP to build facilities.
 - f. Sue Ryden — Announced that she is retiring from the legislature. She thanked Marvin, Jay, Sally, Bernie and Erin. She also mentioned that the Bill to build and complete the homeless project is a “Bill” not a “Study.”
 - g. UVC Banquet — Karen Hone — Five tables have been reserved and 10 groups are considering table reservations.
 - i. Asked for people to contact her if they are taking ads or sponsorships in the banquet program.
 - ii. Silent auction — Several donations have been made and Honor Bell donated a Broncos picture. Asked Committee members to help get donations or, to donate a gift card.
11. Membership Report — Gary Force — Has forms for updating records and encouraged members to update their information.
12. Student and Young Veterans VSOs Liaison — Members were asked to keep an eye on Bills for vets.
13. UVC Foundation — Steve Rylant — No report

14. Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs — Robbie — No report.
15. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs — Representative not in attendance.
16. **VSOs, ASSOCIATES AND AFFILIATES — No announcements.**
17. **SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS**
 - h. Rep. Scott Tipton — District Director, Brian McCain
 - i. Congressman Tipton has made vets a top priority this Congress. Contact Tipton's office with any questions, concerns or comments.
 - i. Sen. Michael Bennet — Constituent Advocate, Alisha Andrews
 - i. Alisha invited VSO to meet with staff to voice any legislative concerns. Interns are being accepted for the Spring and Fall and, a request was made to contact Bennett's office if anyone knows of interested students.
 - ii. Announced that Deputy Chief of Staff, Sarah Hughes, is no longer with Bennett's office. Her replacement is Julia Levy Duvall as State Director. Rosemary Rodriguez will stay with Bennett's office as a senior advisor.
 - j. Rep. Jared Polis — District Advocate — Stuart Feinhor
 - i. Thanked Joe Turnbach for helping a constituent and her family to ensure a proper military-style burial for a WWII veterans, at a private cemetery in California. Arrangements were made within less that 24 hours.
 - ii. There is a new Congress. There wasn't much to report but, they continue to advocate for and support veterans issues, both, in the District and D.C..
Bill HR 27 passed the House and this helps improve VA employee accountability.
 - ii. Bill HR 27 passed. Identifies and tracks biological implants in VA medical facilities. They would like to meet with VSO reps in CD2. Please contact Alisha at Bennett's office.
 - k. Rep. Mike Coffman — Constituent Advocate — Bert Potwin
 - i. Reminder: Seeking proposed name for new VA Hospital.
 - ii. VA Golden Age Games are being held in Biloxi, Mississippi, May 7 – 11, 2017. Email, www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov.
 - l. Rep. Ed Perlmutter — Constituent Services Representative — Kathryn Wilkin
 - i. Gov. In Grocery — January 29, 2017 — Vitamin Cottage, Golden.
 - ii. Medal ceremony for 100-year-old WWII veteran. Bronze Star recipient, February 24 — Location to be determined.
 - iii. VHP new project — 50th anniversary Vietnam Veterans Commemorative event and story corps. Three or four Vietnam veterans will be interviewed.
18. **VSOs, ASSOCIATES AND AFFILIATES — No announcements**

19. VISN 19, no announcements

VA Regional Office, VA Cemetery, ECHCS, State CLCs

i. Dan Warvi — Public Affairs Officer — VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System — Same-day access. Primary care reorganization. Direct scheduling for auditory. EWL reduction from 7000K to 61. Primary co-pay.

20. VA Cemetery — Kevin S. Johnson, Assistant Director — Cemetery had 334 internments in December, 2016 — 150 caskets and 184 cremations. Thanks to the community for attending the service of a veteran who didn't have family members. Over 200 attendees recognized this vet.

21. Old Business — none

22. New Business — none

23. UVC President's Comments and Announcements

24. Adjourn — Next meeting date — February 14, 2017.