

**MINUTES
of the
SECOND MEETING
of the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**July 12-13, 2021
Student Union Building, Room 321
New Mexico Highlands University
Las Vegas**

The second meeting of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by Representative Harry Garcia, co-chair, on July 12, 2021 at 10:15 a.m. at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) in Las Vegas.

Present

Rep. Harry Garcia, Co-Chair
Sen. Harold Pope, Co-Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna (7/12)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Absent

Advisory Members

Rep. Rachel A. Black
Rep. Randal S. Crowder
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson (7/13)
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Michael Padilla (7/12)
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert

Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. G. Andrés Romero

Guest Legislator

Rep. Ambrose Castellano

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Jeret Fleetwood, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Nancy Martinez, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, July 12

Welcome and Introductions (10:15 a.m.)

Representative Garcia thanked NMHU for hosting the committee and asked committee members, staff and members of the audience to introduce themselves.

Veterans' Services Department (VSD) Veteran Service Officers (10:30 a.m.)

Larry Campos, director, Field Services Division, VSD, introduced Bryan Osterhage, deputy secretary, VSD. Mr. Osterhage gave a presentation on veteran service officers. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20071221%20Item%201%20VSO.pdf>.

NMHU Veterans' Services (12:06 p.m.)

Dr. Roxanne Gonzales-Walker, provost and vice president for academic affairs, NMHU, gave a presentation on veterans' services at NMHU. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20071221%20Item%202%20NMHU%20Veterans'%20Services.pdf>.

Veterans' Court Initiative/New Mexico Serves Initiative (2:02 p.m.)

Major Dorothy Seaton, United States Army (retired), gave a presentation on the Veteran's Court Initiative. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20071221%20Item%204%20Veterans'%20Court%20Initiative.pdf>.

Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Project (2:38 p.m.)

Jerry Martinez, Chapter 996, Vietnam Veterans of America, introduced Jake Lopez, president, Chapter 996, Vietnam Veterans of America. Mr. Lopez said that he appointed Mr. Martinez as lead on the project. Mr. Martinez gave committee members a brief history of how

the project materialized and the efforts made toward completion of the project. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20071221%20Item%203%20Memorial%20Wall%20Project.pdf>.

Tuesday, July 13

New Mexico Veterans Integration Center (VIC) (9:39 a.m.)

Bobby Ehrig, chief executive officer, VIC, gave a presentation regarding the VIC and its efforts to help the veteran community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.