



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, June 4, 2025  
Scottsdale Community Design Studio  
7506 E. Indian School Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Chair Justin Layman, Vice Chair Mark Ashley, Commission Members Stephen Casares, Steven Jackson, Patrick Mazzarella, Pete Palmer, Donna Tew

**STAFF:** Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chair Layman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**3. Discussion and possible action to approve May 7, 2025 commission meeting minutes**

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 7, 2025, VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER JACKSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS CASARES, JACKSON, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

#### **4. Discussion and possible action related to community veterans' events and activities**

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, gave an update on the annual Memorial Day event. He said that complements were received about having Veterans Commission members read the names on the Memorial for the Fallen. Approximately 200 people attended the event.

Mr. Corsette said that he and Chair Layman have been involved in preliminary discussions with Joan Fudalla about the possibility of hosting an event for POW/MIA Day, which is September 19th. He noted that Ms. Fudalla indicated that she would be able to provide content Scottsdale citizens who are missing in action or prisoners of war. Mr. Corsette mentioned that Frank Lambert mentioned that he has several members of his platoon that are still missing and some of his colleagues are planning a trip to participate in efforts to look for remains of those men.

Discussion ensued about including POWs on the Memorial for the Fallen. Mr. Corsette mentioned one Vietnam veteran who was declared dead in 1979, because he was considered POW or MIA until that time. It is his understanding that including criteria for MIA and POWs within the memorial was not considered. It was noted that the Department of Defense has an office dedicated to MIA. Chair Layman said that there are no documented MIA later than the Vietnam Era. He suggested that stories about Scottsdale residents who were captured and released and their homecomings be highlighted and those people be honored in some way.

Mr. Corsette noted that efforts are still being made to find a company that is willing to chisel additional names into the memorial. Companies are hesitant to do the work for fear of damaging the memorial. He hopes to have two names added before Memorial Day 2026.

Mr. Corsette noted that he and Chair Layman are working with Scottsdale Arts to find ways to honor veterans during Canal Convergence in November. Ideas include including the Scottsdale Salutes reception as part of the event; bringing in military-related music on Veterans Day; and holding another writing contest for SUSD students; hosting a veterans writing workshop and poetry contest; and bringing in work created by veteran artists. Commissioners were invited to forward any ideas they have to Mr. Corsette and Chair Layman.

Commissioner Palmer announced that the Army's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration will be hosted at ASU on June 14, 2025. He suggested those who wish to attend register in advance.

#### **5. Discussion, updates and possible recommendations regarding the Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan**

There was no discussion regarding the VAC work plan.

#### **6. Commissioner reports, staff updates and suggestions for future agenda items**

Mr. Corsette announced that City Council is inviting Commissions to present highlights from the past year during a City Council meeting. They have provided a set format of five slides and are asking that the Chair or Vice Chair of the Commission give the presentation. The Veterans Advisory Commission is tentatively scheduled for the July 2nd meeting, which begins at 5:00 p.m.

Future meetings could include:

- Update from Government Relations Director
  - Impacts of federal budget cuts on the local VA
  - State legislation

Mr. Corsette indicated that he will make sure an invitation is sent to Senator Schweikert's office, inviting a representative to speak about the state budget.

Updates regarding the POW/MIA event in September will be provided to Commissioners over the summer break.

The Next meeting is Wednesday September 3, 2025

## **7. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER PALMER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS CASARES, JACKSON, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

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