



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Justin Layman; Vice-Chair Mark Ashley; Commissioners Stephen Casares, Marcy Kostewa, Christie Slegers, and Donna Tew

ABSENT: Commissioner Steven Jackson

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director
Holly Peralta, Public Affairs Manager

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Layman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Welcome new commissioners

Chair Layman welcomed new Commissioners Marcy Kostewa and Christie Slegers to the Commission.

Commissioners Kostewa and Slegers introduced themselves, talking about their background and experiences, the veterans organizations they are involved with, and the reasons for their interest in being on the Veterans Advisory Commission.

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their background.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve October 8, 2025 commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER TEW MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 8, 2025 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS CASARES, KOSTEWA, SLEGRS, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Discussion and possible action related to community veterans' events and activities

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, said that the Bently Scottsdale Polo Championships is scheduled at WestWorld on November 8th and 9th. Two Scottsdale Salutes Honorees will throw the first ball for the Army vs. Navy polo match, which starts at 12:00 p.m. on the 8th. He noted that a few complementary passes are still available if any of the Commissioners are interested in attending.

Mr. Corsette said that the annual Veterans' Day event is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, 2025, starting at 10:30 a.m. on the Civic Center Memorial Lawn, next to the Memorial for the Fallen. Commissioners in attendance will be asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The Scottsdale Unified School District essay contest winner, who received a \$500 prize, has been invited to present her winning submission following the Mayor's presentation. The Coast Guard Band is not able to perform this year, and efforts are being made to coordinate with an alternate band to perform during the event. The American Legion Post 44 will provide the color guard.

Joan Fudalla will give a presentation "Remembering World War II: Scottsdale's Military Bases, Homefront, and Veterans 80 Years Later" on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the free event.

The Scottsdale Salutes reception will be held in the Canal Convergence VIP reception area on Thursday, November 13, 2025, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Corsette reminded the Commissioners that they are welcome to participate in the Parada del Sol on January 31st.

Chair Layman mentioned that the Veteran Community Series will follow tonight's meeting. The topic for the evening is Imprints of Honor. Next month the topic will be mental health and resilience.

6. Discussion, updates, and possible recommendations regarding the Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan

Chair Layman gave an overview of the Veterans Advisory Commission's work plan for the benefit of the new Commissioners. He explained the process for submitting agenda items and topics for discussion.

7. Commissioner reports, staff updates and suggestions for future agenda items

Mr. Corsette announced that he is retiring from the City and this will be his last meeting. Holly Peralta, Public Affairs Manager, will assume duties of staff liaison until a permanent Communication Director has been chosen.

Chair Layman thanked Mr. Corsette for his service to the community. He noted that in May of 2025 Mr. Corsette was honored with the Veterans Hall of Fame Copper Star Bucky O'Neill Award for exceptional service.

8. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER TEW MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER CASARES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS CASARES, KOSTEWA, SLEGGERS, 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 5:14 p.m.

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