



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

September 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Morrow, Member at Large - Vice-Chair
Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces #80
James Perry Ashby, American Legion #10
Lawrence "Sam" Bothern, MOAA
Jeffrey Eakman, USMC
Len Hampton, Member at Large
Fred Madrid, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chap. 431
James (JR) Turner, VFW 10124
James Bentley, MOPH

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Luke Rosendo Keith, VFW 3242 - Chair
Brandon Robinson, Member at Large
Adrian Vesth-Nelson, Member at Large
Thomas Chapin, DAV 38

STAFF PRESENT:

Charles Tucker, CLC Inspector General
Amber Dominguez, Administration

OTHERS:

Dan Lucero
Bill Hawkins
Mr. Chavez
Andres Rivera
Dawn Armstrong

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Morrow called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. ROLL CALL

A quorum was noted to be present.

1
2 **4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**
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4 Motion to accept the agenda made by Len Hampton; seconded by Sam
5 Bothern. Motion passed unanimously.
6

7 **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
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9 Dan Lucero, DAV 38, has several events. Tomorrow the DAV veteran officers will
10 hold a seminar at the Farm and Ranch Museum, a benefits seminar from 9:00-
11 10:00 and claims assistance from 10:00-2:00. DAV 10 are going to hold a similar
12 event on October 1st. The standdown fliers are on the back table. There was
13 important legislation, H.R. 9237, the Take Care of American's Veterans Act. It
14 proposes quite a few positive things for veterans, and also to downgrade other
15 service related disabilities, which was not favorable. The national DAV have asked
16 local DAVs to contact their state representatives in the House and ask to amend
17 the bill or to drop that section of deleting some of the benefits in order to pay for
18 the other things in the bill. H.R. 9237 did not pass and has been postponed. There
19 was an announcement on the VA website earlier this year that the VA moved to
20 speed delivery of survivor benefits. Hopefully, this will be helpful for survivors of a
21 fallen veteran. The New Mexico Department of Veteran Services are announcing
22 a program about Veterans Talking to Veterans.
23

24 Bill Hawkins, Veterans Parade Committee, stated the parade is progressing well.
25 There are about 73 different groups and individuals participating. Normally they
26 have had about 60, so many more this year already and are anticipating more.
27 They are presently taking nominations for Grand Marshall. The deadline is
28 October 1st. They typically do a Grand Marshall one per branch of service. Please
29 forward any and all recommendations. He did provide the board with a list that he
30 currently has. The posters have been handed out. The parade starts staging at
31 9:00 but asking veterans groups to be there earlier as that does help.
32

33 Jeffrey Eakman handed out awards to Marine Corps members who participated in
34 Albuquerque on August 28th, the awards were for Honor Guard, small, medium,
35 and large groups. Their group does all branches of service.
36

37 Mr. Chavez asked about the update with the county about getting the 2k. He stated
38 apparently there was information sent to the city manager and apparently there is
39 going to be something worked to resolve that. He believes that it will be on the
40 County Commissioners agenda on October 12th for approval. County
41 Commissioner meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:00
42 a.m. He recommends someone be there at that meeting in appreciation if this
43 does go through. Also he says the county seems to want to help doing things with
44 the city. He asked about an update on the CBOC. He questioned security for the
45 CBOC at the new location of Avenida de Mesilla.
46

1 Tommy Black, stated he is here to put together a vet fest for Las Cruces. He works
2 hand-to-hand with veterans every day. His biggest concern is there are problems
3 with the VSO center on Solano. He seemed to have gotten excuses, to the point
4 of complaining his center was sending people there to get help with what they are
5 supposed to do. And he has spoken to people to try and rectify the situation. They
6 have veterans that come back over to their VA to fuss at them about the people
7 not doing the job at the NM DVS on Solano. He has worked with others and things
8 went well. But this VSO center he went to on Solano he walked out embarrassed
9 as the people in there seemed to not care about veterans. There are many elderly
10 veterans that have trouble navigating through the veteran world of disabilities, etc.
11 He stated something needs to be done with the center on Solano. He has spoken
12 to Rob Miller in Santa Fe. If there were further issues they could contact Rob
13 again. The contact in Santa Fe was Rob Miller 505-383-2400. Rob is the field
14 manager for the VSO. Jeffrey Eakman asked if there was information on when the
15 CBOC was opening. Tommy Black stated the beginning of November or end of
16 October. His understanding is that ophthalmology, radiology, hearing, and limited
17 pharmacy. Team one, two, and three remain at Del Rey. Team four, five, and six
18 are going to the new CBOC. Parking was mentioned but Tommy Black does not
19 have that information. Dan Lucero stated the head of Department of Veterans
20 Services is a retired one-star, Mr. Herrera. Mr. Herrera is always interested in
21 improving his organization.
22

23 Andres Rivera, Marine Corps League, Detachment 478, has also heard the horror
24 stories. He had a good experience with the service and got 100% disability within
25 six months. A board member asked why he was not at 100% when he retired in
26 2000. He was good as he was until he got sick, which is when he went to apply.
27

28 Dawn Armstrong, Home Based Primary Care. For those concerned about the
29 CBOC and veterans trying to get to the CBOC, they are the team that goes out to
30 the veterans. Their program with medical foster home program is the largest in
31 the nation. El Paso VA covers 30 homes for veterans and there are about three
32 veterans in each home. She also runs a Vet to Vet program which is a
33 collaboration off the eastern Colorado program. That is where veterans come
34 together in a virtual space every Friday for the last two years at 11:00. If the
35 veteran does not have technology, the VA provides through the CDCE iPads for
36 them to be able to log onto this space to be able to have that conversation with
37 veterans. This online meeting has been run since May 2024. There are about 12-
38 15 participants. The eastern Colorado meeting has moved into more of a face-to-
39 face. She would like to have this information listed for veterans to reach out to her
40 and she can help facilitate the initial entrance to the meeting. Perry Ashby stated
41 some veterans would not be able to do an iPad, some trouble communicating, and
42 also what is really available for help. Dawn stated she is in the background of that
43 meeting. And she will be willing to help anyone to join that meeting. She
44 introduced Joy, the rec therapist that just started with them. Joy Ferguson stated
45 she is a recreation therapist with the El Paso VA and serves Las Cruces and El

Paso in the medical foster home program, and also the home based primary care veterans that are in their homes.

Dan Lucero stated in January or February at the VAB Chief of Center Engagement, Mr. Amin Henriquez was here and gave a complete overview of the new clinic on Avenida de Mesilla and the services to be provided.

5. VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES – August 25, 2026

Motion to accept the minutes made by Sam Bothern; seconded by Perry Ashby. Motion passed unanimously.

7. AGENDA ITEMS TO DISCUSS - None

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Len Hampton - Member at Large - He is glad to be back from California. The standdown is coming up and working with the VFW on Valley Drive and other community partners. The standdown on October 16th will start at 7:30-12:00 at VFW post 10124 on Valley. On the back table there is a list of items needed for donation to the standdown. He mentioned at the last meeting that there was a request for returned plaque monies. Perry Ashby stated the American Legion would like to have the donated money for the plaques returned. Len mentioned after the meeting that can be accommodated.

Jeffrey Eakman - USMC - Since the last meeting, their organization has done nine funerals. They also won small, medium, and large up in Albuquerque on August 28th. There will be an article in the Bulletin in the future on the event as well as more history on what is done for the funeral details.

Fred Madrid - Vietnam Veterans of America - They have two food drives and one event. The first food drive is on Valley Drive at Save Mart on October 4th 8:00-2:00. The second food drive will be a Sonoma Ranch Walmart October 18th 7:00-2:00. From October 7-11th he will be attending the DC state council president meeting in Washington, DC.

Daniel Ansbach - Special Forces #80 - Nothing to report.

James Bentley - Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) - Nothing to report.

James Perry Ashby - American Legion #10 - Once again he plays double duty, he is on the Honor Flight board of directors. There will be flight going out this week on 24th and return on the 26th about 6:30 here in Las Cruces at Memorial Medical Center. Upon return they are hoping for a big homecoming. There will be 32 veterans on the Honor Flight, and 22 guardians attending also. The American

1 Legion Ladies are having breakfast the third Saturday of the month, Post 10 on
2 Madrid.

3
4 **Lawrence "Sam" Bothern - MOAA** - Nothing to report.

5
6 **Brian Morrow - Member at Large** - He asked about the standdown time and
7 location. Len Hampton stated the standdown will be October 16th, breakfast will
8 be served at 0730. Brian stated they had one ceremony that was cancelled, the
9 POW/MIA Day. They did the ceremony but were not able to put up the flag due to
10 weather. The food drive at Sonoma Ranch collected about 300-500 lbs. of food.
11 He made new flag schedules and new meeting schedules for next year. He
12 mentioned only two more meeting this year, October and November, but will take
13 a vote on whether to have a meeting in December. He will be leaving for
14 Washington Wednesday/Thursday. This will be his sixth trip up. He thanked Perry
15 Ashby and all they do. He needs to get with Parks and Recreation, at the bottom
16 of the flagpole it is starting to crack. Next flag day is November 11th, Veterans
17 Day.

18
19 **James Turner - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10124** - He is planning on
20 getting in touch with his old office. He has been retired for a while from Department
21 of Veterans Services office. He does know the people personally there. He has
22 heard some good and some bad things. He will see what he can do.

23 24 **9. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

25
26 Charles Tucker stated he wanted to address the communications he had with Mr.
27 Lopez at the county. He had e-mailed the city manager, Ikani, and asked for more
28 information on the plates which was provided. Further information was requested,
29 as in replacing three plates, the last plate on WWII, the last plate on the Korean
30 War, and the last plate on the Vietnam War, and the names on those current plates
31 will be transferred to the new plates. The new plates are being forged for those
32 three wars, and then the first Gulf War, the Global War on Terrorism, and Persian
33 Gulf. So five total plates are to be forged. The county wants to give \$2,000.
34 Charles offered to speak at the BOCC (Board of County Commissioners) and that
35 was welcomed, but not sure when that will happen. The money cannot be
36 allocated without going to the BOCC first. This \$2,000 hope to hold in the 501(c)(3)
37 until needed. Right now the first three plates they are awaiting color prints from
38 the foundry to know what the plates will look like and be sure names are spelled
39 correctly. The last plate that was done for the Global War on Terrorism with a
40 leather look on the background, this is the same foundry, beautiful plates. He is
41 seeing more veteran signs around the city. He suspects they need mental health.
42 He asked if the VA has a facility for mental health veterans. He suggested getting
43 cards from the VA to pass out to these veterans that are out holding signs.

44
45 He was handed a letter to read into the record. Jesse Olivar's letter read, "In the
46 matters I have been left involving myself, my two unions, NALC and APW, Office

1 of Workers Compensation, EEOC, and the supreme court, I now ask that cases
2 be reopened given the latest Epstein list files, pdfs, audiovisual, and text
3 messages. T

4
5 he Epstein files reveal the phrase 'Hit by a truck' 32 times, so far. It mentions my
6 name once, so far. The clerk of the supreme court tossed dignity and respect on
7 insurrection day, J6 as it is now called. My claim the powers that be will forsake
8 me and take my little money. Here we are.

9
10 The extras are many, here are few: Best Buy iPhone repair triples the price.
11 Ashley Furniture doubles the price. Home loan interest L.I.B.O.R., Credit cards
12 interest, USPS delay my hiring. Instead of CSRS I was given FERS. Four years
13 of everyday commute. I was fired, after being disrespected. Then the racist city
14 of Elk Grove, California took turns detaining me. My every movement tracked by
15 Nielson Rating then cable the companies. Xfinity raises my bill every month.

16
17 My home was swatted, visited by the CDC and FBI, Cal Expo law enforcement
18 refuse my complaint, family cars and home vandalized. Mayor Steve Ly exposes
19 CIA hands visa to his family illegally. There is an open hit on Mayor Ly's father.
20 At the city council meeting Mayor Ly purposely announces my name wrong. It was
21 phonetically sounded out. Officer pulls guns on me, and fellow Officer Kersing
22 detained me. Officer McCue gives me a ticket for taking my dog to the vet. I've
23 been to court three times. She never showed. The city of Elk Grove gives McCue
24 accolades. This year the city gave itself accolades for paying livability.com.

25
26 The powers that be decided that I would fall from heaven after prayers for help. It
27 is hard to be me. Many have tried, all have failed due to the corruption of evil
28 beings. Born on October 7th, gave rise to have me as a marker for research and
29 development during civil rights after the 1960's to this present day. My spiritual
30 guide led me to Yerba Buena. Heavy is the head that wears the crown, the king
31 is given gift of audiovisual documentation specialist by US Department of Defense,
32 US Air Force. This is where intense research and development by the joint efforts
33 of the United States and Israel forces.

34
35 The war on the saints scientific studies described by Arnold Mandell, Mandell
36 connects ancient Jewish mystical concepts with contemporary neuroscientific
37 understanding of brain function, Hemispheric lateralization in neurotransmitter
38 systems. The text explores altered states of consciousness, personal
39 transformation, and integration of rational thought with spiritual experience. The
40 new world joined oligarchs, Jews, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses have forsaken
41 me. The social experiment over. Jessie Olivar, United States Air Force Sergeant."

42
43 Charles Tucker was doing some research the past week and somebody asked
44 about the bricks at Veterans Park. Following the dedication of the Memorial Wall
45 in November 2005, many of the county's 18,000 veterans found themselves not
46 listed due to having enlisted in the armed forces outside of Doña Ana County. One

1 way to honor all veterans regardless of where they enlisted is to construct a brick
2 veterans Walk of Honor, which is a popular custom across the country.
3 Personalized 4 x 8 brick pavers may be purchased for \$35 each. Bricks may honor
4 a veteran such as a father, mother, sister, brother, aunt, or uncle, or a grandfather
5 or grandmother. Bricks also may recognize a military unit, a battle, or campaign,
6 a veteran's organization, or a branch of service. He has received calls about the
7 wall, but there are people that do not qualify because they did not enlist here or
8 this was not their home of record. This is a way for them to be recognized here. There
9 is a flier that can be acquired by the Parks and Rec office on Hadley to apply for a
10 brick. J.R. Turner stated he has a brick on the Walk of Honor.

11
12 Also during yesterday's City Council meeting the Mayor brought up the veterans
13 homecoming for this week with the Honor Flight. Let's get as many as possible to
14 show up at 5:30 at Memorial Medical Center. The fire truck is there with the giant
15 Garrison Flag.

16
17 He had his VA appointment last month and they did an eye exam. This was
18 through tele-health program. It was mentioned hearing aids are done there also.

19
20 The cost for the five plates was \$3,875 and that was covered by the city. They
21 have been paid for. And already sent to the foundry. The Vietnam Vet plaque is
22 totally full and there is no more room. The plate will have a total of six names on
23 it. If there are more Vietnam Vets the wall will have to be expanded or something
24 will have to be done. Vice-Chair Morrow asked about the current Iranian
25 War/Conflict. Charles Tucker stated it will be added after the Global War on
26 Terrorism ended. Also there is no Grenada section or a Panama section for just
27 cause either. Sam Bothern stated with no congressional authorization, Iran is not
28 a war.

29
30 Mr. Chavez requested having a ceremony for the veterans on the plates. Charles
31 Tucker stated that is the goal. Once they know when the plates are in and
32 mounted, then they will let everyone know, families, etc. Hopefully do a ceremony
33 with the Mayor etc. as this is a big deal.

34
35 **10. ADJOURNMENT (10:20)**

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37 Motion to adjourn made by Sam Bothern; seconded by Len Hampton. Motion
38 passed.

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44 _____
Chairperson