

Meeting Minutes

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Work Session

August 12, 2025 | 12 p.m.
Chandler Museum – Saguaro Room
300 S. Chandler Village Dr., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Levinson at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair Shane Levinson
Vice Chair Michael Simon
Commissioner Mary Baker
Commissioner Robert Dalpe
Commissioner Jacob Dort
Commissioner Carol Farabee
Commissioner Shane Levinson
Commissioner LaShay Marks

Staff Attendance

Corey Povar, Staff Liaison
Tawn Kao, Deputy City Attorney
Luke Cerré, Recording Secretary
John Sefton, Community Services Director
Beth Chepelsky, Organizational Development
Sr. Program Manager

Absent

None

Discussion

1. Strategic planning and development of the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission's objectives: Advise, Educate, Collaborate & Coordinate, Acknowledge & Honor

Event Planning

Military Appreciation Breakfast – Friday, November 7, 2025

- Budget: \$1,500
- Comm. Marks will research food pricing
- Commissioners would prefer to serve food themselves

Veterans Day – Sunday, November 9, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

- Tie in Commission's theme: *"Honor the Veteran, Celebrate the Service"*
- Keynote: 5–8 minutes; suggested speaker: John Scott, Director, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
- Incorporate Honor Wall (if ready)
- Coordinate with Valley of the Sun, JROTC, and other groups

Ruck 5K/10K – Saturday, February 14, 2026 (tentative)

- Location: Veterans Oasis Park
- Partner: Ruck for Freedom
- Volunteer opportunity - hydration stations, course marshals
 - Military and Veterans Affairs Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
 - Eagle Scouts, Young Marines, VFW volunteers, JROTC, Civil Air Patrol

Military Bound – Wednesday, April 29, 2026 (tentative)

- Budget: \$2,500
- Venue suggestions: Chandler Center for the Arts, City Hall Courtyard, schools
- Seating: recruits in wings, families in center, alphabetical process
- Media coverage & VIP invitations by January
- Request that recruiters bring branch banners for photos
- Catering: Floridino's (successful last year); order more desserts
 - If venue has reception area, stage there
 - Ask MC to announce at end of program

Honor Wall Logistics

- Updated direction from Council Quality of Life Subcommittee; concept and process under review
- Form NG22 is the National Guard equivalent of DD214
- Honorable and General discharges acceptable; Bad Conduct and Dishonorable unacceptable
- Connect with southeast valley cities and Gila River Indian Community

Guest Speaker Suggestions

- VFW Posts (Sept)
- Ruck for Freedom (Oct)
- Veterans Affinity (Oct)
- Veterans Hall of Fame (Nov)
- Department of Veterans' Services
- Guitars 4 Vets
- AZ Vets Fly Fishing

- Jewish War Veterans
- Soldier's Best Friend
- Mesa Vet Center

Other Items

- Tabling at external events
- Develop "You're Invited" collateral or add to existing brochure
- Add brochure to other City brochure banks – City Hall, Police stations, Museum, Tumbleweed, Libraries, Fire stations, and Senior Center
- Commissioner polo shirts with names and logo
- Apply to have a Navy ship named after Chandler
- "Hometown Heroes" flags for July 4 celebrations

Calendar

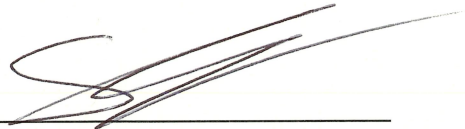
The next regular meeting will be held on September 9, 2025 in the Chandler City Council Chambers, 88 E. Chicago Street.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



Luke Cerré, Secretary



Shane Levinson, Chair