

Meeting Minutes

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting

October 14, 2025 | 5 p.m.
Council Chambers Conference Room
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Levinson at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

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

Staff Attendance

Corey Povar, Staff Liaison
Tawn Kao, Deputy City Attorney
Brintley Spencer, Legal Extern
Luke Cerré, Recording Secretary

Absent

None

Unscheduled Public Appearances

- **Brintley Spencer** – Ms. Spencer introduced herself to the Commission.
- **Benjamin Truong** – Dr. Truong introduced himself to the Commission.

Consent Agenda

1. September Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes

Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of the September 9, 2025 regular meeting.

Comm. Dalpe motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Comm. Dort. Motion carried 7-0.

Action Agenda

2. Veterans Resource Brochure Updates

Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission to approve the updated Veterans Resource Brochure.

Mr. Cerré advised that updates included adding Comm. Baker's name, as well as updating Mayor and Council's information. Mr. Povar advised that another change was suggested for a future update: replacing the Dept. of Veterans Affairs seal with a listing of the Commission's events.

Comm. Baker motioned to approve the updated brochure; seconded by Vice Chair Simon. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion

3. Objectives

Discussion regarding the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission's objectives: Advise, Educate, Collaborate & Coordinate, Acknowledge & Honor

No updates.

4. Military Appreciation Breakfast

Discussion and possible action regarding supporting the Senior Center's annual Military Appreciation Breakfast, to be held Friday, November 7, 2025.

Mr. Povar advised that IHOP would cater, with an estimated 160 servings. He also advised that the Senior Center had acquired electric chafing dishes.

5. Veterans Day

Discussion and possible action regarding the Veterans Day event, to be held Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Povar advised that Hamilton High School's JROTC was confirmed and would be presenting all branches' colors. Chair Levinson advised that Pastor Feyereisen would give the invocation and benediction, and that he should have confirmation on a singer shortly. There was discussion regarding playing the Armed Forces Medley and posting of a Facebook event.

6. Military Bound

Discussion and possible action regarding dates and venue for the 2026 Military Bound event

Date conflict - April 20, 2026 conflicts with the recently approved City Council schedule

Mr. Cerré advised that there was a conflict between the original date, 4/20/2026, and the Council meeting schedule. He advised that the Center for the Arts had Saturday, 4/18/2026 available, and there was a consensus to move forward with that date.

Color guard - JROTC and/or Chandler Police Honor Guard

There was consensus to ask the Police Department's Honor Guard to assist with the event.

Pipes & Drums - Alternative to Chandler Fire (no longer active)

Mr. Povar advised that the Fire Department's Pipes & Drums had disbanded for the foreseeable future, and would be unable to assist with this year's events. Comm. Dalpe suggested that the Mesa Caledonian Pipe Band might be able to assist, and advised that he would contact them.

Further discussion

Chair Levinson advised that it would be best to start contacting recruiters in January. Mr. Povar advised that he was inquiring about additional funding for the Commission.

7. History Spot

Discussion and possible action regarding updates to the Chandler Museum's History Spot, a veterans display located in the breezeway between ChopShop and Saba's Western Wear. There was discussion about the possibility of updating the History Spot. Mr. Povar advised that he would ask museum staff about attending a future commission meeting.

8. Ship Naming

Discussion and possible action regarding applying to have a Navy ship named after Chandler.

Comm. Dort advised that two prior Navy ships have sailed under the USS Chandler, both named for Rear Admiral Theodore E. Chandler. As the name is currently vacant, he suggested that there is an opportunity to give it new meaning by connecting the Navy's proud traditions with Chandler's identity as a community of veterans, innovators, and patriots. Discussion ensued regarding next steps. Mr. Povar advised that he would work with Ms. Kao to get input from Mayor and Council.

9. Honor Wall Applications

Discussion and possible action regarding procedures and parameters for processing applications received for recognition at the Field of Honor.

Mr. Povar advised that 25 applications were received before the installation cutoff for Veterans Day, and 23 confirmed their proofs in time for engraving. There was discussion regarding the process, with a consensus that the Commission would only need to review applications that were out of the ordinary.

Briefing

10. Treasury Report – Luke Cerré, Commission Secretary

Mr. Cerré advised that projected expenses were close to the full budget, particularly due to the need to purchase additional challenge coins this year.

Member Comments/Announcements

11. Announcements regarding any external events

Comm. Dalpe advised that there were many veterans events occurring across the valley in the next three weeks. He also advised that it would be beneficial to start encouraging submissions to the Veterans Hall of Fame, and that he would be willing to teach a class.

Calendar

12. The next regular meeting will be held on November 4, 2025 at the Chandler Community Center, Room 101, 125 E. Commonwealth Ave.

13. **Military Appreciation Breakfast** – Friday, November 7, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

Chandler Senior Center, 202 E Boston St, Chandler, AZ 85225

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

Veterans Oasis Park, 4050 E Chandler Heights Rd, Chandler, AZ 85249

Ruck 5K/10K – TBD

Veterans Oasis Park, 4050 E Chandler Heights Rd, Chandler, AZ 85249

Military Bound – April, 2026

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.