

Meeting Minutes

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting

January 13, 2026 | 5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers Conference Room
88 E. Chicago Street, Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Levinson at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

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

Staff Attendance

Corey Povar, Staff Liaison
Tawn Kao, Deputy City Attorney
Luke Cerré, Recording Secretary
Julie San Miguel, Recording Secretary

Consent Agenda

1. November Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes

Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of the November 4, 2025, regular meeting.

Comm. Dalpe motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Comm. Dort. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Action Agenda

2. Election of Chair for the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Comm. Dalpe nominated Vice Chair Simon to serve as Chair.

Comm. Dalpe motioned for Vice Chair Simon to serve as Chair of the Military and Veteran Affairs Commission; seconded by Comm. Baker. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

7. Veterans Day

Debrief regarding the Veterans Day event, held on November 9, 2025

The commission discussed the Veterans Day event and the unveiling of the Veterans Honor Wall.

Mr. Povar mentioned the 2026 Veterans Day event could be an opportunity to do something special as it's the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. He advised for the 250th anniversary, the city has a 27-flag display that will travel to multiple locations throughout the year, with its final appearance being the Veterans Day event. Mr. Povar stated the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) may potentially be part of the 2026 event and he will be handling the lighting as Mickey Ohland, who controlled the lighting in the past, will retire in February.

Mr. Povar presented an update on the Veterans Honor Wall. He stated that the city has received submissions and is planning the next engraving installation for Memorial Day. He further advised marketing team will be doing another push to get the word out in the hopes of receiving more submissions. The commission discussed how often the submissions will be reviewed and engraved. Vice Chair Dort recommended the names be read aloud at the next unveiling.

8. Military Bound

Discussion and possible action regarding the Military Bound event.

1. Begin contacting recruiters

Comm. Levinson advised he will begin reaching out to recruiters for information. Comm. Dalpe suggested going through the recruiter location who has offices for all the branches of the armed forces. Vice Chair Dort advised the Navy recruiter is the same as last year. Comm. Levinson advised that he had an Army contact who contacted the other branches but is now stationed out of state. He asked if VIPs should be invited, such as State Representatives. Mr. Povar advised that Mayor and Council would be invited and asked if the recruiters could provide backdrops for photo opportunities. He advised the recruiters are welcome to be active partners and set up tables at the event. Mr. Povar reminded the commission the event will be held at Hamilton High School and to start thinking of a keynote speaker.

9. Military Bound 2027 Availability

Discuss potential dates for the 2027 event, as reservations for April 2027 will be available in February 2026.

Mr. Povar advised the commission that staff wishes to reserve the Chandler Center for the Arts for the 2027 Military Bound event and asked the commission for potential dates. Discussions were held by the commission, and they agreed on dates between the last week in April and first week in May. First preference was given to April 28, with April 21 and May 1 as alternatives.

13. Treasury Report – Luke Cerré, Commission Secretary

Mr. Cerré advised there were no changes to report.

Member Comments/Announcements

14. Announcements regarding any external events

Comm. Dalpe advised of several veteran events occurring in the upcoming coming weeks, including a women veteran resource event in Tempe on January 24, 2026; a veteran business networking event on January 26, 2026; and the Buckeye Air Fair taking place March 13–15.

Mr. Povar advised that the Community Services Department is in the process of planning events in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, tentative events include a patriotic pickleball event and a swim lap challenge.

Calendar

15. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting will be held on February 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago Street.

16. Ruck 5K/10K – TBD

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

Military Bound – May 2, 2026

Hamilton High School Auditorium, 3700 S Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85248

Information Items

17. Residents are encouraged to take the Annual Budget Survey at

www.surveymonkey.com/r/LSD5LMT

18. Introduction of Julie San Miguel, new Commission Secretary

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.



Julie San Miguel, Secretary

Michael Simon, Chair