

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Regular Meeting

September 8, 2026 | 5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers Conference Room
88 E. Chicago Street, Chandler, AZ



Commission Members

Chair Michael Simon
Vice Chair Jacob Dort
Commissioner Robert Dalpe
Commissioner Shane Levinson
Commissioner Carol Farabee

Pursuant to Resolution No. 4464 of the City of Chandler and to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission and to the general public that the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission will hold a REGULAR MEETING open to the public on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at City Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago Street, Chandler, AZ. One or more Commissioners may be attending by telephone.

Persons with disabilities may request a reasonable modification or communication aids and services by contacting the City Clerk's office at (480) 782-2181(711 via AZRS). Please make requests in advance as it affords the City time to accommodate the request.

Agendas are available in the Office of the City Clerk, 175 S. Arizona Avenue.

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda - September 8, 2026

Call to Order/Roll Call

Unscheduled Public Appearances

Members of the audience may address any item not on the agenda. State Statute prohibits the Board or Commission from discussing an item that is not on the agenda, but the Board or Commission does listen to your concerns and has staff follow up on any questions you raise.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda may be enacted by one motion and one vote. If a discussion is required by members of the Board or Commission, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and determination will be made if the item will be considered separately.

1. **June 9, 2026 Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes**
Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of the June 9, 2026 regular meeting.
2. **August 11, 2026 Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Work Session Minutes**
Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of the August 11, 2026 work session.

Discussion

3. **Military and Veteran Affairs Commission Objectives**
Discussion regarding the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission's objectives: Advise, Educate, Collaborate & Coordinate, Acknowledge & Honor
4. **Salute to Service 5K**
Discussion and possible action regarding the Veterans 5K Trail Run at Veterans Oasis Park on Sunday, October 25, 2026.
5. **Veterans Day Event 2026**
Discussion and possible action regarding planning the Military and Veteran Affairs Commission Veterans Day Event 2026 at Veterans Oasis Park on Sunday, November 8, 2026.

6. **Military Appreciation Breakfast 2026**
Discussion and possible action regarding planning the Military and Veteran Affairs Commission Military Appreciation Breakfast 2026 at Chandler Senior Center on Friday, November 13, 2026.

Information Items

7. **Treasury Report**
Informational review of the Treasury Report

Member Comments/Announcements

8. Announcements regarding any external events

Calendar

9. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago Street, Chandler AZ.
10. **Salute to Service 5K**
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 25, 2026
Veterans Oasis Park
4050 E. Chandler Heights Road
Chandler, AZ 85249
11. **Veterans Day Event**
Veterans Oasis Park
4050 E. Chandler Heights Road
Chandler, AZ 85249
12. **Military Appreciation Breakfast**
Friday, November 13, 2026
Chandler Senior Center
202 E. Boston Street
Chandler, AZ 85225
13. **Military Bound 2027**
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 21, 2027
Bogle Theater, Chandler Center for the Arts
250 N. Arizona Avenue
Chandler, AZ 85225

14. **Parade of Lights**
6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 5, 2026
Downtown Chandler

Adjourn



Military and Veterans Affairs Community Services Memo No.

Date: 09/08/2026
To: Military and Veterans Affairs Commission
From: Julie San Miguel, Management Assistant
Subject: **June 9, 2026 Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes**

Proposed Motion:

Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of the June 9, 2026 regular meeting.

Attachments

June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting

June 9, 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 Simon at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Vice Chair Jacob Dort
Commissioner Robert Dalpe
Commissioner Shane Levinson (Remote)
Commissioner Carol Farabee (Remote)

Staff Attendance

Corey Povar, Staff Liason
Tawn Kao, Deputy City Attorney
Julie San Miguel, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Chair Michael Simon - Excused
Commissioner Mary Baker Excused
Commissioner Alexanco Simon – Unexcused

Unscheduled Public Appearances

Members of the audience may address any item not on the agenda. State Statute prohibits the Board or Commission from discussing an item that is not on the agenda, but the Board or Commission does listen to your concerns and has staff follow up on any questions you raise.

Consent Agenda

1. May 12, 2026 Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes

Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of the May 12, 2026 Regular Meeting.

COMMISSIONER DALPHE moved to approve the consent agenda; seconded by COMMISSIONER LEVINSON. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Discussion

2. Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Objectives

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

No updates were provided at this time.

3. Military and Veteran Affairs Commission Work Session 2026

Discussion and possible action regarding planning the Military and Veteran Affairs Commission Work Session on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room, Chandler Museum, 300 S. Chandler Village, Chandler, AZ, 85226.

COREY POVAR, STAFF LIAISON reported that preparations for the August 11, 2026, Work Session at the Chandler Museum are complete, with lunch arrangements still pending.

The Commission agreed that Chair Simon would select and coordinate the meal.

Staff noted that approximately \$300.00 has been budgeted for lunch and will follow up with Chair Simon regarding the order.

4. Salute to Service 5K Trail Run

Discussion and possible action regarding the Veterans 5K Trail Run at Veterans Oasis Park on Sunday, October 25, 2026.

COREY POVAR, STAFF LIAISON provided an update on planning efforts for the Salute to Service 5K Trail Run scheduled for October 25, 2026, at Veterans Oasis Park. He reported that a cross-departmental planning subcommittee had met twice and medals have been ordered. The event will serve as a fundraiser to support the ongoing maintenance and operations of the Veterans Memorial and Honor Wall.

Commissioners discussed inviting military recruiters, the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, and other military-related organizations to host informational or interactive booths.

Staff requested that Commission members assist with staffing a water station during the event and help identify military organizations interested in participating.

5. Naming of a United States Naval Vessel

Discussion and possible action regarding research and outreach efforts regarding the naming of a United States Naval Vessel.

COREY POVAR, STAFF LIAISON reported efforts to secure letters of support for the naming of a future United States naval vessel after Chandler were ongoing and the City's Government Relations Office is pursuing support from elected officials. Once governmental support letters are secured, a small task force may be formed to seek additional letters from private-sector businesses located in Chandler.

6. Honor Wall Update

Discussion and possible action regarding the status of the Honor Wall engravings.

COREY POVAR, STAFF LIAISON reported that the next Honor Wall engraving panel would be removed on June 22, 2026, for etching and reinstalled the week of June 26. A total of 32 new veteran names will be added. He further reported that sufficient funds remain available for future engravings and memorial maintenance. He stated that improvements, including cleaning and refreshing the memorial turf area before Veterans Day, are planned.

COMMISSIONER DALPE shared that representatives from Congressman Stanton's office had expressed interest in participating in the Veterans Day event.

Briefing

7. Treasury Report

Informational review of the Treasury Report.

JULIE SAN MIGUEL, RECORDING SECRETARY reported that the Commission's available balance was \$1,098, including Council amendment funding. Staff noted that approximately \$1,400 had recently been spent on medals for the Salute to Service 5K. Remaining funds will be used for the August Work Session lunch and Commission promotional items before the end of the fiscal year.

Member Comments/Announcements

8. Announcements regarding any external events

Commissioners shared information regarding upcoming veterans-related events and activities.

COMMISSIONER DALPHE announced that Glendale would be holding a veterans recognition event in October and noted that Chandler may eventually consider holding Honor Wall recognition events more than once per year.

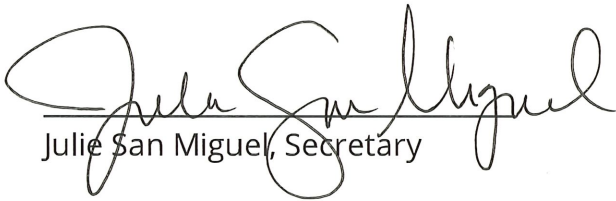
COREY POVAR, STAFF LIAISON announced Military Bound 2027 event has been scheduled for April 21, 2027, at the Chandler Center for the Arts and encouraged Commissioners to share the date with military recruiting partners

Calendar

9. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Work Session will be held Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room, Chandler Museum, 300 S. Chandler Village Drive, Chandler AZ 85226.
10. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago Street, Chandler, AZ 85225.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.



Julie San Miguel, Secretary

Michael Simon, Chair



Military and Veterans Affairs Community Services Memo No.

Date: 09/08/2026
To: Military and Veterans Affairs Commission
From: Julie San Miguel, Management Assistant
Subject: **August 11, 2026 Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Work Session Minutes**

Proposed Motion:

Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of the August 11, 2026 work session.

Attachments

August 11, 2026 Work Session Minutes

Meeting Minutes

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Work Session

August 11, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.
Saguaro Room, Chandler Museum
300 S. Chandler Village Dr., Chandler AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Simon at 12:11 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Michael Simon
Vice Chair Jacob Dort
Commissioner Robert Dalpe
Commissioner Shane Levinson
Commissioner Carol Farabee

Staff Attendance

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

Discussion

1. Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Objectives

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

Commission Goals / Annual Report / Other Items

- Review Commission goals throughout the year: Advise, Educate, Collaborate & Coordinate, Acknowledge & Honor
- Identify gaps in veteran services that may warrant recommendations to Mayor and Council
- Review and expand veteran resources available on the City website and informational materials
- Explore joint meetings or collaboration with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and Council on Aging
- Develop an annual report with photo year book highlighting Commission activities, participation, accomplishments, and community impact
- Include year-to-year comparisons when available

- Staff explore using available City AI tools and prior meeting minutes to help compile the report for John Sefton Jr or Ryan Peters to present as annual report
- Refresh existing event planning calendar/checklist
- Provide work session information to incoming Commissioners after appointment
- Consider photography notice on marketing materials for Military Bound and Veterans Day events

Military Bound 2026 – Event Review – Saturday, May 2, 2026, Hamilton High School

- Morning event time was a change from the traditional evening format
- Significant no-show rate due to prom and other weekend events; evening weekday format preferred for future events
- Overall program and speakers received positive feedback
- Recruit staging and lineup did not work as smoothly as planned
- Recruiters should participate in an advance walkthrough/dry run for future events
- Certificate organization created delays due to additions, no-shows, and changes in recruit order
- Challenge coins were presented to each recruit on stage
- Red Robin donated gift cards for recruits

Military Bound 2027 – Wednesday, April 21, 2027, Chandler Center for the Arts

- Return to evening event format; approximately 6:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Dalpe will contact Gilbert regarding possible participation
- Begin recruiter outreach earlier in the planning process
- Commissioner Levinson will begin contacting military recruiters
- Maintain regular recruiter communication leading up to the event
- Conduct recruiter walkthrough/dry run before the event
- Continue to give challenge coins for participating recruits
- Commissioner Dalpe will follow up regarding Red Robin gift cards
- Present empty certificate folders during ceremony; provide certificates to recruiters for distribution afterward
- Review opportunities to improve recruit staging and lineup process

Salute to Service 5K – Sunday, October 25, 2026, Veterans Oasis Park

- Registration capped at approximately 200 participants
- Two laps around Veterans Oasis Park equal approximately 3.2 miles; participants may complete one lap if preferred
- Registration proceeds will support maintenance and improvements at the Veterans Memorial
- Clearly state how proceeds will be used in marketing materials
- Invite military branches/recruiters to participate in post-run activity area
- Commissioners to assist with military branch outreach
- Commissioners attending may assist with water stations and event support

- Kona Ice planned for participants
- Consider additional giveaway/activity items through Recreation or Library
- Continue marketing and registration outreach

Veterans Day – Sunday, November 8, 2026, Veterans Oasis Park

- Keynote: Tom Eisiminger, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, West Point graduate, Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame inductee
- Conduct event walkthrough/dry run before event
- Confirm sound, seating, flag placement, and program logistics
- Include recognition of Veterans Honor Wall honorees
- Add Honor Wall names to event program
- Ask Honor Wall honorees in attendance to stand and be recognized
- Promote Honor Wall applications during event
- Distribute special 250th anniversary challenge coins to veterans
- Consider announcement regarding photography at event or on marketing materials

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast – Friday, November 13, 2026, Senior Center

- Commission will continue supporting the Veterans Appreciation Breakfast in partnership with the Senior Center
- Commissioners value the opportunity to personally serve and interact with veterans
- Catering feedback: provide more meat protein and fewer eggs. Bacon and sausage were popular; significant amount of eggs remained
- Consider a small, branded giveaway for veterans attending the event
- Approximately 120 items would be needed based on event capacity
- Commission discussed providing an item at each seat rather than a larger raffle item
- Maintain Commission's supporting role and avoid expanding the scope of involvement beyond the existing partnership

Parade of Lights – Saturday, December 5, 2026, Downtown Chandler

- Community Services/MVAC entry application has been submitted
- Prospective new commissioner offered use of Vietnam-era military Jeep
- Display Military and Veterans Affairs Commission banner on vehicle
- Corey will coordinate with Vanessa/Marketing on banner
- Possible lights and patriotic decorations
- Determine which Commissioners are available to participate
- Finalize vehicle and participant logistics as event approaches
- Explore whether additional military vehicles may be permitted

Veterans Honor Wall

- Continuing outreach for Honor Wall submissions
- Commissioner Dalpe will contact notable local veterans, including Medal of Honor recipients

- Consider special designation for Medal of Honor recipients on the Honor Wall
- Add Honor Wall recognition to Veterans Day program

Naming of a Naval Vessel

- Continue exploring effort to have a future Navy vessel named for Chandler
- Develop letters of support and identify community/government partners

Calendar

2. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Work Session will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago Street, Chandler, AZ 85225.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.



Julie San Miguel, Secretary

Michael Simon, Chair