

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**April 15, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:17 AM**

**2. Chairman's Statement**

Committee Chairman John Smith called the to order with the reading of the Open Public Meeting Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notices of this meeting will be posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards, published on the website for the Borough of Bergenfield and the website for the Veterans Advisory Committee and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk

**3. Roll Call**

<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Edgar Garcia, Member	X		
Thomas Lang, Member			X
Marc Pascual, Council Liaison	X		
Richard Morf, Member	X		
Dina Moore, Member		X	
Willie Moree Jr, Member			X
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin	X		
Fred Sahlberg, Member			X
Wilfred Selby, Member		X	
Joseph Sokol, Member		X	
John Smith, Chairman	X		
Benjamin Whaley, Member	X		
Amos White, Member	X		
Warren Williams, Secretary	X		

**4. Flag Salute**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Committee Member Warren Williams

**5. Invocation (Chaplin)**

Invocation given by Committee Chaplin Dr. Samuel Paul

## **6. Agenda Changes (Additions/Deletion or Revisions)**

Addition – New Business: VFW Buddy Poppy Sales

Addition – New Committee Member Appointment (Yvonne Aponte)

Deletion – Presentation: Farwell of Councilman Rafael Marte from Committee

Addition – Correspondence: Letter by County Veterans Services Office, Memorial Day Flags

## **7. Approval of Minutes (March 2023)**

**Motion Offered** by Committee Member Richard Morf and **Second** by Committee Member Benjamin Whaley, to approve minutes for March 18, 2023, Regular Committee Meeting minutes to be and published on the website for the Veterans Advisory Committee. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

## **8. Treasury Report (April 2023)**

The current balance of funds available is 2,086.63. There were no donations and no other expenses or billing transactions during this reporting period of March 18, 2023 – April 15, 2023. **Motion Offered** by Committee Member Richard Morf and **Second** by Committee Member Amos White, to approve the committee's treasury report for the period of March 18, 2023 through April 15, 2023. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

## **9. Presentation/ Correspondence**

### **A. Presentation:**

1. Welcome Councilman Marc Pascual as Committee Liaison

### **B. Correspondence:**

1. Letter by County Veterans Services Office, Memorial Day Flags

The Memorial Day Flag distribution will be held Tuesday April 25, 2023 through Thursday April 27, 2023, between the hours of 12:30PM to 4:00PM, at the Bergen County Administration Building, Hackensack NJ, loading dock on Kansas Ave.

## **10. Unfinished Business**

A. Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Presentation (Update)

B. 2023 Grand Marshal Biographical Summary (Peter Mathews) Update

C. 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade (Update)

## **11. New Business**

A. VFW Buddy Poppy Sales.

The VFW Post 6467 and Auxiliary Buddy Sales at 7/11 Store on North Washington Ave and Dunkin Donuts at South Washington Ave., between May 26 -28, 2023.

B. Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall

The Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will be coming the Bergenfield. The scheduled dates are from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>. This project will be hosted by the Bergenfield School District, which Dr. Tully, Superintendent of Bergenfield Schools.

C. New Committee Member Nomination (Yvonne Aponte)

Committee Chairman John Smith recommends and nominates Yvonne Aponte to serve as a member of Veterans Advisory Committee. **Motion Offered** by Committee Member Warren Williams and **Second** by Committee Member Benjamin Whaley, to approve Ms. Yvonne Aponte as a new member to the Veterans Committee. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

## **12. Good of the Order**

A. Veterans Service Assistance (Update)

B. PACT ACT Enrollment Event – East Orange VA Medical Center, March 29, 2023

C. Vietnam War Veteran Lapel Pin Presentation (April 22, 2023 at 2PM)

D. PACT ACT Enrollment Events – Bergenfield (Update) The plan is to reach out to the neighboring municipalities in getting veterans assistance with their VA Benefits claims and toxic exposures screening.

### 13. Verbal Communications

Committee Members Warren Williams informed committee of the arrival of the remains of Sgt David Solinas who was killed in a training accident and will be brought back home to Oradell on Sunday April 16th. The police escort of Sgt Solinas casket will take place at approximately 3pm from Lake Ave to Soldier Hill Rd, on Kinderkamack in Oradell. He will be held at the Basralian Funeral Home at Kinderkamack and Soldier Hill Rd. If you would like to show your support, you can gather on Kinderkamack for the procession. Parking in the municipal lot behind the town hall or by the train station would be best. Do not try to park on Kinderkamack.

The wake will be the following Friday, April 21st from 2 - 9pm at Our Lady of Mercy in Park Ridge. The funeral mass will be on Saturday April 22 at 11am at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Committee Member Warren Williams, recommend to Councilman Marc Pascual that a Moment of Silence be give in honoring Sgt David Solinas at the Mayor and Council Meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 14. Legislative Bills Update

#### A. NJ Legislative Bills

1. (S522/S1451 & A888/A1649) Letter Campaign to Elected Leaders
2. (S3492 & A4923) Upgrade Paramus and Menlo Park Homes wards

#### B. Congressional Bills

1. (HR1139) Governing Unaccredited Reps Defrauding VA Benefits Act

**HR-1139:** Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act or the GUARD VA Benefits Act. This bill imposes fines on individuals for soliciting, contracting for, charging, or receiving any unauthorized fee or compensation with respect to the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of any claim for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. The attempted commission of such offenses is also punishable by fine. Update: Bill pending vote by both the House of Representatives and the US Senate

2. (S344) Receive DOD Retirement pay and VA Disability Compensation without offset.

**S-344:** This bill allows a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement pay, without reduction, concurrent with disability compensation. Update: Bill pending vote by both the House of Representatives and the US Senate

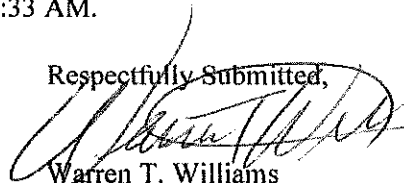
### 15. Closing Benediction

Benediction given by Committee Chaplin Dr. Samuel Paul

### 16. Adjournment

**Motion Offered** by Committee Member Benjamin Whaley and **Second** by Committee Member Richard Morf to adjourn the meeting. The next schedule committee meeting will be on Saturday, May 20th, 2023, time-10:00AM, at the VFW Post. There being no further business to come before the Veterans Committee. This meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Warren T. Williams  
Sgt Major (Retired), USA  
Committee Secretary