

Arlington County Military and Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC) Meeting #2

Major General James Jackson, U.S. Army, Retired, MVAC Chairman
Arlington County Government Offices
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 311
Arlington, VA 22201

Notes from Wednesday, October 12, 2016 (submitted by interim Executive Secretary, Jim Pebley)

The meeting was convened by MVAC Chairman, Major General James Jackson, U.S. Army, Retired at the scheduled time. Deputy County Manager James Schwartz attended as the County Manager's representative. Both welcomed the attendees and provided a recap of the mission of the MVAC and activities since the last meeting. A copy of the agenda is provided below.

1. **Welcome and Review of Meeting Minutes**
2. **Vietnam War Commemoration**
3. **World War I and World War II Commemoration**
4. **2017 Work Plan**
5. **Other Issues/Open Discussion**
6. **Meeting Wrap-Up/Regular Meeting Dates**

A list of attendees is appended at the end of this summary.

After completion of opening remarks, Chairman Jackson provided a summary of activities regarding the Viet Nam War Commemoration.

A discussion regarding the December 8th World War II commemoration followed, noting that an event would take place on that date in Richmond, Virginia. [Note to attendees this is where I came in to the meeting – I recall there was more decided – any suggested inputs are welcome!] The feasibility of providing bus transportation to the event was considered. A review of the support for this commemoration will be discussed at the November MVAC meeting.

The members in attendance discussed a work plan for the 2017 calendar year as well as some near-term activities. The following summarizes the actions agreed upon:

- A County webpage would be developed to provide information about the mission of and provide the charter for the MVAC. [Ed. note: a county webpage for MVAC can now be viewed online at <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/military-veterans-affairs-committee/>]
- The County webpage, as discussed should include meeting announcements, summaries of meetings held, and provide a calendar of upcoming events of mutual interest to the County and the public as well as military personnel serving in Arlington, retired service members and veterans of the military residing or working in Arlington.
- There was a discussion about how to reach out to Arlington Public Schools (APS) to connect MVAC's constituency with APS students through visits and letters.
- The Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) representative discussed new security guidance being implemented at Arlington Cemetery and the adjacent Fort Meyer properties. Bicyclists will no longer be permitted to transit through the cemetery for security reasons.
- Jim Pebley, the USS ARLINGTON Community Alliance representative provided an update about Arlington's namesake ship activities including the Alliance's Fire Station Five co-host

picnic on September 9th, the recent change of command (new CO is Captain Pat Hannifin) and that the ship is currently in overhaul (drydocked). Pebley discussed the Alliance's intention to seek establishment of an annual Fleet-Week for crewmen visiting Arlington, as well as the ship hosting an Arlington visitors day in Norfolk after she completes overhaul.

- A listing of potential 2016-17 calendar events included [Ed. Note – I added a couple] :
 - November 11th – Veterans Day 2016 – ceremony hosted by American Legion Post 139
 - December 8th – World War II Commemoration event – Richmond
 - March-April Annual Civic Federation Banquet (MVAC table?)
 - April – Month of Military Children
 - Mid-Spring - Arlington Visitors Day in Norfolk at the USS ARLINGTON (tentative)
 - May 29th – Memorial Day 2017
 - May 20th – Armed Forces Day 2017 (tentatively include a Fleet Week activity?)
 - September 9th – Annual 9-11 Responders Memorial 5K Race
 - November 11, Veteran's Day 2017

Selection of Vice Chairs. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair noted that he wished to begin a regular schedule of monthly meetings and also suggested that the group needed a Vice Chairman to ensure continuity of efforts. Two members volunteered to serve and the group agreed to have two Vice Chairs. Col Joe Simonelli (ANC) and Michael Rau (VFW 3150) both agreed to serve. The Chairman is considering a general division of responsibilities where Col Simonelli would serve to monitor active duty and County-DoD facilities items and Michael Rau would provide liaison responsibilities for veterans and military retiree issues. Jim Pebley (USS ARLINGTON Community Alliance) agreed to serve as interim Executive Secretary duties (iES) (meeting notes, drafting agendas and meeting coordination) until such time as a long term ES could be appointed.

October MVAC meeting attendees:

MG James Jackson, U.S. Army, Retired - MVAC Chairman

Mr. James Schwartz, Deputy County Manager

COL Joe Simonelli, U.S. Army, Arlington National Cemetery

Mr. Guy Swan, Association of the U.S. Army

Lynne Porfiri, Arlington County Manager's Office, Acting Chief of Staff

Deputy Chief of Police Andy Penn, Arlington County Police Department Representative

Ms. Brenda Wilks, Arlington Public Schools Representative

Mr. Michael Rau, John Lyon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3150 Representative

CDR Jim Pebley, U.S. Navy, Retired – USS ARLINGTON Community Alliance Representative

Submitted by the Chairman, Arlington County Military Affairs Committee,

_____ Date _____

MG James Jackson, U.S. Army, Retired