




San Mateo County Veterans Commission

Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors

April 10, 2018




A photograph of several veterans in uniform standing in a line, holding various flags. From left to right, there are several smaller, colorful flags, a large red flag with a circular emblem, and a large American flag. The veterans are silhouetted against a clear blue sky. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text.

Mission

The mission of the Veterans Commission is to promote programs and policies that address the unmet needs of veterans in San Mateo County



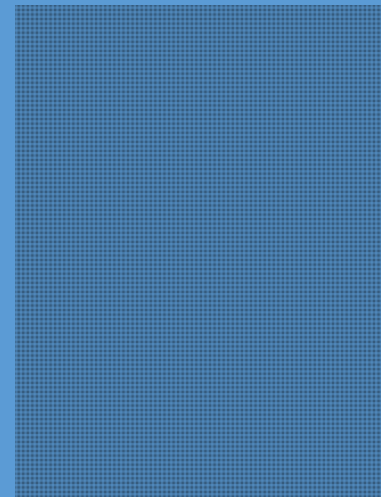
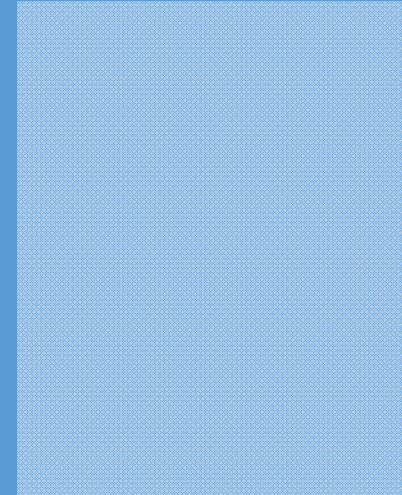
Commission Duties

- Advise and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding veterans related issues
 - Provide a public forum for input from the veterans community to identify unmet needs
 - Work with existing veterans' advocacy and service organizations to help coordinate care and benefits
 - Act as an advocate for veterans on policies, procedures, legislation and programs affecting veterans and their families
- 



2017 Priorities

- Veteran Access to Benefits and Services
- Housing and Homelessness
- New Commissioners





Access to Benefits and Services

- Hosted Second Annual Veteran of the Year Luncheon
- Supported County Veterans Stand Down in May
- Partnered with PenTV to produce *Thank You for Your Service, Now What*
- Promoted County's Veteran ID Card
- Provided public forum at Commission meetings for government and non-government partners providing veterans services





Housing and Homelessness

- Actively worked with Human Services Agency and other agencies to find homes and shelter for homeless vets and those in need
 - At year end counted 63 homeless veterans with only 17 unsheltered
- Actively monitored and supported several apartment development projects:
 - Willow Commons, Menlo Park
 - Bay Meadows Bridge Apartments, San Mateo
 - Gateway Project, Millbrae
 - Colma Veterans Village, Colma
 - Republic Properties Corp. Project, Redwood City

Housing and Homelessness

- Actively worked with the Central Peninsula Church on tenant-based voucher program to expand number of participating landlords
- Actively supported program to use donated RV vehicles to house homeless veterans
- Assisted a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout Project in providing 168 backpacks for homeless veterans and veterans in need



Commissioners

- Three Commissioners resigned for personal reasons
- Appointed three new alternates and promoted two original alternates and one new alternate to full voting Commissioners





2018 Priorities and Programs

- Host Third Annual Veteran of the Year Luncheon (11/8)
- Develop a marketing and communications plan using social media to increase veteran awareness of benefits and services
- Actively support the Human Services Agency's Women Veterans Summit (5/16)
- Continue Housing and Homelessness efforts

Recommendations

- Provide financial support for the marketing and PR social media plan – specific amount to be determined by planning committee
- Consider funding a program to provide mentoring services to veterans transitioning from active service, unemployed veterans seeing employment, veterans seeking career advice or other life issues.
 - Full-time person to run program
 - Volunteers to serve as mentors
 - Mentoring Committee to define program and budget

