

**Minutes from the Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee Meeting
Public Session
October 30, 2014**

The Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee (VWCAC) is a federal advisory committee within the Department of Defense (DoD) operating pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the Government in Sunshine Act of 1976, and other relevant federal regulations. The VWCAC meets three times a year and held its first public session on October 30, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 PM in the main ballroom of the Spates Community Club, 214 McNair Road, Ft Myer, Virginia.

VWCAC Members

Ridge, Tom (Chairman)
Alvarez, Everette
Bucha, Paul
Anderegg, Dick
Clark, Don
Schultz, Roger LTG, USA (Ret)
Hull, Jim VADM, USCG (Ret)
Johnson, Jerome
Early, Jeanette

DoD Sponsor

Rhodes, Michael (Director of Administration, DoD)

VWCAC Supporting Staff

Kicklighter, Claude (Director, Vietnam War Commemoration)
Franklin, Mark (Designated Federal Officer)
McWhorter, Tony (Vietnam War Commemoration)
Hardy, Devon (Vietnam War Commemoration)
Williams, Richard (Vietnam War Commemoration)
Schilz, Yvonne (Vietnam War Commemoration)
Ramos, Jose (Vietnam War Commemoration)

Public Session Attendees

5 members of the public attended the session.

PUBLIC SESSION

At 1:00 PM, Mark Franklin, DFO, opened the public sessions, made administrative comments and explained the procedures for conducting the meeting. The Chairman, Mr. Tom Ridge, made opening remarks and introduced Mrs. Jeanette Early, the newest member to the Advisory Committee.

Staff Presentations

Members from the Vietnam War Commemoration presented the Advisory Committee the following updates and briefings:

- A review of the legislation, Congressional objectives, and current phase of the program, presented by Mr. Mark Franklin
- Interagency Advisory Group Update, presented by Mr. Tony McWhorter
- Pentagon Corridor Project Update, presented by Mr. Richard Williams
- Joint Meeting of Congress Update, presented by Ms. Devon Hardy

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- Commemorative Partner Update, presented by Ms. Yonne Schilz
- Upcoming Major Events Update, presented by Mr. Joe Ramos

Deliberation of Advisory Group Recommendations

1. The Advisory Committee commended the Commemoration staff efforts to engage Speaker of the House staff to coordinate and develop a Congressional Ceremony in 2015. The Advisory Committee recommended that we allow ample time (6 – 7 months) to plan and prepare for this very significant ceremony. The Advisory Committee deliberated on how they can assist us in getting greater Congressional support for the Commemoration Program and will assist in making contact with the relevant Congressmen and Congresswomen.

2. Advisory Committee member Paul Bucha cautioned against engaging so-called veteran identification companies, of which there are about 10 to 15, who say they will verify a veteran's military record but in fact are gathering data on the veteran and selling it.

3. Mr. Bucha also recommended that we assist the Gold Star Mothers in getting greater support from Capitol Hill to attend their annual event, and that we build a strong bond with the Gold Star Mothers as this should be part of our legacy.

4. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Commemoration develop a strategic communication plan. Specifically, the Chairman explained that the strategic communication plan should synchronize our message with the multiple veterans' organizations who have their own internal communications (newsletters, websites, blogs) and coordinate that activity on a consistent basis over the next two or three years to highlight what we're doing.

5. Advisory Committee member Mr. Dick Anderegg recommended that the Advisory Committee select a Vice-Chairman to chair these meetings in the absence of the Chairman. All committee members agreed and will discuss at the next meeting.

6. The Chairman proposed the Advisory Committee convene the next meeting sometime in late January or early February and look to provide teleconference capability for those members who cannot make the meeting.

A copy of the Advisory Committee's briefing and these minutes may be found at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/vietnam-war-advisory-committee/>

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ridge adjourned the VWCAC October 30, 2014 public session at 2:30 PM.

I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Tom Ridge
Chairman
Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee