



Veterans Transition Center of Monterey County

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FORA Board of Directors
920 Second Ave, Suite A
Marina, CA 93933

March 11, 2020

Subject: VIAC Request for Support

Dear FORA Board,

On behalf of the VTC Board, staff, and residents, I am writing to show our full support of the letter from the FORA VIAC, which will be discussed at the March 12th meeting. The VIAC has requested financial assistance to the veteran community as you disburse assets.

With the FORA sunset, Monterey County will become the provider for many services to our Veteran community. A funded position within the county Military and Veteran Affairs Office (MVAO) would provide timely information and guidance for that focus. The current MVAO office does not have the staff or budget to take on these tasks. Your financial support would assist the county to provide vital services and information.

This action from FORA will provide tremendous, focused support for those who have served our nation and now reside in Monterey County. We ask that you honor our Veterans by providing these funds.

Sincerely,



Tom Griffin
VTC Board Chair

FORA Board of Directors
920 Second Ave, Suite A
Marina, CA 93933

March 1, 2020

Subject: VIAC Request for Support

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to support the letter from the FORA Veterans Issues Advisory Committee (VIAC) in your correspondence for today's meeting. The VIAC has requested your consideration of and support for providing financial assistance to the veteran community as you make your decisions about the disbursement of assets and liabilities upon your sunset.

The VIAC was formed to assist you with information from the veteran community for consideration in your deliberations and decisions for projects and policies on historic Ft. Ord. At the same time, we received support for our concerns from FORA leadership to help us decide where to put our efforts and how best to proceed when veteran issues came before you or your individual member's jurisdictions. This guidance was and continues to be critical to our deliberations and decisions.

Our concern is related to our dwindling membership. Most of the current active members of the veteran community are aging and, like most other civic organizations, new and younger members are hard to find. As our number shrink our heft before legislative and regulatory agencies also diminishes. We need to focus our efforts where they will do the most good. The County will become the regional nexus to provide many services to our citizens when the issues are larger than just one city. A position in the county Military and Veteran Affairs Office could provide timely information and guidance for that focus. In that this would be a new responsibility, that office is not currently staffed nor budgeted to take on the task. Your support could assist the County in the short term to provide the service while working to establish the personnel and funding required for the long-term effort.

Please give this request serious consideration. We are not asking

for a hand out but rather a hand up for providing a long-term solution to what will become a long-term problem. A positive decision on your part will go a long way to providing regional support for those who have provided global protection for our cities, counties, states and our nation. Surely this is not too much to ask.

Sincerely,

Sid Williams
Marina

FORA
Board of Directors
920 Second Ave., Suite A
Marina, CA 93933

February 28, 2020

Subject: Veterans Issues Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter serves as a report from the VIAC and a request for action by the Board. As we work our way through the disposition of assets and liabilities for the sunset of FORA the VIAC wants to make you aware of the importance of the VIAC over the several years since its formation. During FORA's existence there have been many issues concerning veteran affairs on historic Ft. Ord. Some examples are the long sought and finally accomplished California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC), the General William Gourley VA/DOD medical clinic and the Veterans Transition Center (VTC). Throughout these and other projects FORA has provided technical support and guidance to all parties ensuring successful completion of these important issues.

Foremost in assisting and accomplishing these projects was the assignment of a staff member to specifically monitor, report and advise both the Board and the veteran community about opportunities and pitfalls along the way. These functions have been largely exercised through the VIAC. While it may seem that there is no longer a need for the VIAC that is not the case. For example, the CCCVC is a phased project. It will be nearly 100 years before it is complete, the VA/DOD clinic continues to struggle with hiring of staff due to the high cost of living in this area and the VTC is involved in projects that will more than double its capacity. In all of these examples there will be a need to monitor legislative and regulatory agencies locally, statewide and federal, to ensure prompt action as necessary to guarantee the long-term success of the efforts to provide for those who passed through historic Ft. Ord and other federal and state facilities in the region.

The VIAC therefore considers it prudent to provide a replacement mechanism for its functions and staffing. Given the broad nature of the jurisdictions surrounding and having control over use and preservation of historic Ft. Ord it seems appropriate Monterey County to house that responsibility. The necessary functions could be accomplished under the auspices of the County Military and Veterans Affairs Office. The concern is that this office is not currently staffed for this new responsibility. They have neither the space nor the personnel required. The space is something the veteran community may be able to assist with but the person is a different

consideration. Therefore, the VIAC is requesting that the FORA Board consider and allocate funds to the County of Monterey to defray the cost of this person. Sufficient moneys should be provided to cover a few years of contract service to allow the county to evaluate and prepare for the long-term operation of this function.

Given the myriad issues you are considering during these last few months, the VIAC stands ready to assist the Board in any way you see fit to help you continue to care for and support the veteran community during this critical period.

Sincerely,

Ian Oglesby
Chair

FORA Board of Directors
920 Second Ave, Suite A
Marina, CA 93933

March 5, 2020

Subject: VIAC Request for Support

Ladies and Gentlemen:

MORH #549 and our 85 members are sending this letter to show our support the letter from the FORA Veterans Issues Advisory Committee (VIAC) in your correspondence for the March 12 meeting. The VIAC has requested your consideration of and support for providing financial assistance to the veteran community as you make your decisions about the disbursement of assets and liabilities upon your sunset.

The VIAC was formed to assist you with information from the veteran community for consideration in your deliberations and decisions for projects and policies on historic Ft. Ord. At the same time, we received support for our concerns from FORA leadership to help us decide where to put our efforts and how best to proceed when veteran issues came before you or your individual member's jurisdictions. This guidance was and continues to be critical to our deliberations and decisions.

Our concern is related to our dwindling membership. Most of the current active members of the veteran community are aging and, like most other civic organizations, new and younger members are hard to find. As our number shrink our heft before legislative and regulatory agencies also diminishes. We need to focus our efforts where they will do the most good. The County will become the regional nexus to provide many services to our citizens when the issues are larger than just one city. A position in the county Military and Veteran Affairs Office could provide timely information and guidance for that focus. In that this would be a new responsibility, that office is not currently staffed nor budgeted to take on the task. Your support could assist the County in the short term to provide the service while working to establish the personnel and funding required for the long-term effort.

Please give this request serious consideration. We are not asking for a hand out but rather a hand up for providing a long-term solution to what will become a long-term problem. A positive decision on your part will go a long way to providing regional support for those who have provided global protection for our cities, counties, states and our nation. Surely this is not too much to ask.

Sincerely,

Name
Position


SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

The Retired Enlisted Association
Chapter 55, Marina California
PO Box 52
Marina, CA 93933

March 11, 2020


On behalf of 275 members of TREA Chapter 55, and 14,760 former enlisted members I respectfully request that the Veterans Information Advisory Committee (VIAC), Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) be continued with the replacement organization at the sunset date for FORA in June 2020.

The VIAC Committee has provided sage informative advice to the FORA Board regarding Veterans Services/Programs on Historic Fort Ord depicting positive affects for the Veterans Community population (18,000 to 21,000 Veterans and their family members estimated between 45,000 to 52,500.).

Those Veterans Services/Programs include: VA/DOD Healthcare at the VA Outpatient Clinic, California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, The Veterans Transition Center for Homeless Veterans/families. With planned ancillary projects.

Federal VA, County Veterans Services assistance to include: Transportation to and from VA Health Care facilities, Veterans Court legal services programs, State Veterans Outreach Services, DAV local Rides program for County Veterans. And an effective Liaison program with local Active Duty Military and Reserve units that have effectively enhanced those services and programs which have collaborated to effect meaningful successes.

Your approval of this action will depict your continued commitment to respect our Veterans Community with dignity and respect. Indeed, it shall be your legacy!


Jack Stewart, President
TREA Chapter 55, Marina CA