

**UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)**

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



**UVC**  
**P.O. Box 31261**  
**Aurora, CO 80041-1261**

**Minutes**

**(10 March 2009)**

**MEETINGS AT VFW POST 9644**  
**0900 hours**  
**2680 W Hampden Ave**  
**Englewood, CO 80110-1906**  
**303-789-9733**

West of Sante Fe on highway 285. First traffic light, turn right (Brady Court) and follow curving road to top of hill. VFW Post on left OR Turn North on Federal, and then right on Hampden and VFW Post will be on your right.

**NEW WEB ADDRESS:**

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>

**Email:** [uvcorg@comcast.net](mailto:uvcorg@comcast.net)

1. CALL TO ORDER 0902 hrs
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
3. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA's.
4. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
  - First Time Attendees/Visitors
    - Rich Mahan, VFW Post 12009 (Conifer) Commander
    - Mary Markey, VARO, New Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager
5. ROLL CALL – quorum present
6. REPORTS:
  - a) Secretary – minutes approved as corrected. Corrected minutes will be posted to website
  - b) Treasurer – Report accepted. Donations received from Women Marines, MOAA, AFA.
7. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
  - American Legion - Frank McCurdy –**
    - Reminded us that Boys State is coming up this summer, and the oratorical contest
    - Announced that the Leadership conference is coming April 24-25, and their National Commander will be visiting.
    - Ralph Bozella – Reported on American Legion National Legislative Conference in Washington DC 1-4 March 2009
      - a. Three teams of Legionnaires met with the Colorado Congressional Delegation to discuss the VAMC @ Fitzsimmons, VA budget and advanced appropriations, and other veterans' interests
      - b. Provided update on his meeting with Secretary Shinseki.
      - c. Ralph also encouraged our newly elected Congressional delegates to establish their own Veterans Advisory Councils and to send representation to UVC meetings
  - National Guard Assoc –** Dewey Hicks distributed a flyer to announce their annual conference on April 24-26 at the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort & Spa. Military Retirees and Veteran organizations are invited. Contact Deb Wray, 720-250-1566 or [www.ngaco.org](http://www.ngaco.org)
  - VWIN –** Edmee J Hills announced that with their success in getting an office for veterans' survivors, they are working a new initiative – the renovation and relocation of the Vietnam War "in Memory Plaque". Currently the 36"x24" plaque is flush to the ground at the foot of the "Three Soldiers" statue where visitors step on it, pigeons disgrace it, and litter obscures it. The National Park Commission and the American Battle Monuments Commission advised congressional legislation was required and VWIN found support from Reps Perlmutter and Salazar. Vietnam vets 100% disabled but who did not die on active duty cannot get their names on the wall. This is their memorial.
  - VFW –** Warren Tellgren reported that
    - The meeting room was moved because of a burned out lighting ballast
    - The midwinter conference in Louisville KY proposed priority goals.
    - The National Legislative will meet in Washington D.C. April 4-8
    - The Department Council on Security will meet March 28-29

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**Colorado Sr. Lobby** – Bob Epstein reported that CSL supports SB 056 regarding the Trinidad State Nursing Home, and that we can track the stimulus package at [www.coloradogov/recovery](http://www.coloradogov/recovery)

### 8. UVC COMMITTEES

- Legislative Committee – Nate Gorman provided an update on State Legislative happenings, and pending legislation of interest to veterans, and the Trinidad State Nursing Home (not a veterans nursing home). Ralph Bozella provided additional detail on Trinidad Comments from several other members regarding Trinidad, state budget, veterans trust fund, pending medcare cuts, and domestic abuse. Also provided update on state legislative resolution supporting new VA hospital
- Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher provided update on reservations status
- Membership Committee – Pres Jay Bobick advised that George is working on several new members

### 9. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – George Thomas

- reported that they will meet today @ 1:00 at the American Legion on Lowry. Reiterated “one stop shopping” bill and reminded us it was one of the goals of their strategic plan. The plan will be reviewed at this afternoon’s meeting.
- CBVA will meet on May 13 in Grand Junction. VSOs are invited to that meeting.

### 10. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION – Brad Honl reported that

- SB09-056 on Trinidad did pass senate appropriations
- Proposed medicare cuts will severely impact care provided.
- Norovirus has caused cuts in admissions to Fitzsimmons, with resulting impacts on revenue, and therefore ability to provide care, but census is rebuilding.
- Homelake census is good, with a strong medicare census. DOM renovation continues, and the state started their survey but has delayed finalization.
- Florence will complete \$6 million construction in May, and their survey is due after April.

### 11. FITZSIMMONS ADVISORY BOARD – Ken Melcher invited attendance at their meetings.

### 12. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – Nancy Schwalm, Pinon Management addressed impacts of proposed state 4.3% budget cuts, and the reduced “matching” funds that result, further aggravating revenue streams. Pinon is proactive in improving management of the nursing homes.

### 13. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

Senator Udall’s Office –

Senator Bennett’s Office – Bennie Milliner addressed impacts of the Stimulus Bill Recovery & Reinvestment Act

- \$3.7 billion DOD wide for hospitals & ambulatory care
- Other General Construction:
  - Army - \$420 million
  - Navy & USMC - \$350 million
  - USAF - \$280 million
- Guard & Reserve Funding
  - Army NG - \$140 Million
  - Air NG - \$70 million
  - Army Reserve - \$100 million
  - Navy Reserve - \$30 million
  - AF Reserve - \$60 million
- VA
  - \$950 million for medical facilities
  - \$50 million for monument and memorial repairs.

Congressional Dist. 1 – DeGette –

Congressional Dist. 2 – Polis –

Congressional Dist. 3 – Salazar –

Congressional Dist. 4 – Markey –

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Congressional Dist. 5– Lamborn – Dale Anderson reported that Cong Lamborn reintroduced a National Cemetery Bill for Southern Colorado. Expected to pass in the House. Needs strong support to pass in the Senate.

Congressional Dist. 6– Coffman – Myron Spanier reported that Cong Coffman

- Co-Sponsored HRes 64 (2009 – Year of the Military Family) to recognize the contributions made by serciemembers' families
- Co-Sponsored w/ Rep Salazar HRes 666 (Military Valor Roll Honor Act) to create a public data base for MOH recipients, or any other medals authorized by congress.
- Has been appointed to a special panel and has joined several caucuses of interest to vets.

Congressional Dist. 7– Perlmutter –

### 14. VISN 19, VARO, VA National Cemetery NCA, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, Fort Logan

1.) VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales distributed flyers on My Health Vet webpage ([www.myhealthvet.va.gov](http://www.myhealthvet.va.gov)) and reported that

- a. Rural Health proposals are due on Friday, and VISN 19 is submitting more than 10 proposals with heavy emphasis on telemedicine.
- b. VISN 19 is looking to expand their care site locations
- c. Ft Collins CBOC re-opened Friday, Mar 6.
- d. The Denver replacement hospital decision is sitting on Sect'y Shinseki's desk.

(Note: the "go ahead" decision was announced on March 18<sup>th</sup>)

2.) VARO – Kathy Malin introduced Mary Markey, the new Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager and reported that the Stimulus package provides \$150 million to VBA to be spent by 9/30/2010 on temporary employees.

3.) Ft. Logan – O'Neal Hughes reported 286 interments and 154 cremations in February. Also reported that AVC has had two preparatory meetings to plan memorial Day observance on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

4.) ECHCS – Lynette Roff thanked UVC for our support and reported

- that ECHCS was working with DOD to do surgeries @ Ft Carson and the USAFA for patients in Southern Colorado, and was hoping to have a long term agreement with DOD to permanently do surgeries @ DOD facilities
- pending negotiations to obtain "DaVinci" robot to do prostate surgery at the Colorado Springs
- Meeting w/ new Cong Staffers
- A proposal for rural health care in Silda.
- Christina White will be leaving for Washington DC. Keith Harmon will replace her and another hire is being advertised.
- Addressed efforts to speed up Veterans payment processing May 31 will kick off a new joint DOD /VA pilot Disability Evaluation System (DES).
- Design for POB at Fitz will be going to Washington this week. Design is flexible to accommodate whatever decision Sec Shinseki makes.
- Patricia Thatcher will be joining ECHCS in midmonth to be the Prosthetics chief.
- VA Docs have been published in JAMA. Lynette will provide the article on acute coronary syndrome and the use of medications for electronic distribution.
- Reminded us of the coming Wheelchair Games.

### 15. DMVA / DVA –

- Les Kennedy addressed Veterans Trust Fund Grants and need for organizations to get in their grant requests NLT 1 April, 2009. Details available at [www.dmva.state.co.us](http://www.dmva.state.co.us) with examples of what the grants support. Direct questions to Les at 720-25-1521
- Bill Conroy reminded everyone about the check-off on state tax forms for Veterans cemeteries. Jay mentioned work in

### 16. OLD BUSINESS - None

### 17. NEW BUSINESS: - None

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18. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS –

- VARO 5 – Elaine Buehler announced that March 29-April 3 Colorado will host the 23<sup>d</sup> National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. Nearly 500 disabled veterans will participate in skiing, sled hockey, scuba, rock climbing, and more. Main venue is the Silvertree Hotel & Conference Center in Snowmass Village, near Aspen.
- Jay Bobick reported on a Mar19th 12:00-1:30 at event sponsored by CVA. Agenda will include discussion of the VA Diversion program to keep PTSD and TBI vets out of the criminal justice system.
- Ralph Bozella stated that Cong Markey is looking for contact info on IAVA and requested input

19. ADJOURN 1050 hrs.

20. Next Meeting: April 14, 2009

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC (March 26, 2009)**

*James C. Bobick, UVC President, 303-699-1575*

*George Dale Thomas, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 303-751-8252*

*Ralph Bozella, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; 303-776-3890*

*Warren Tellgren, Immediate Past Commander, 303-912-4927*

*Michael N. Shapiro, Secretary, 303-619-2276*

*Glenn Kataoka, Treasurer, 303-795-4343*

*Marvin Meyers, Legislative Committee Chairman, 303-694-9022;*

*Nathan M. Gorman, Legislative Liaison, 303-221-2231.*

*Larry Carrol, Judge Advocate 303-794-2894*

*Budget Committee – Ken Melcher, 303-341-9170*

*Nominating Committee – Warren Tellgren, Immediate Past Commander, 303-912-4927*

*Awards Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher, 303-341-9170*

*Membership Committee – George Palmateer, 303-279-7593*

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