

## UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



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

### Minutes

(12 February 2008)

**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 0900
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
3. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA's.
4. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
  - First Time Attendees
    1. Mark Gallegos – American GI Forum
    2. Jeanette DeHerrera – US Small Business administration
    3. Gary Rogers - Douglas County VSO
    4. Mike Miller – Korean War Vets
  - Special Speakers
    1. Judith Williams spoke about Liberty Day
    2. Suzanne Hammer announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Colorado Veteran's Appreciation Day Breakfast, sponsored by the Southeast Denver Rotary Club ([www.dserotary.org](http://www.dserotary.org)) on Saturday, Mar 29, 2008, 9-11 am @ Wings over the Rockies Museum, and distributed flyers. RSVP to Ron Chase at 303-770-1181 or [RotaryVet@q.com](mailto:RotaryVet@q.com) by Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>.
5. ROLL CALL – quorum present
6. REPORTS:
  - a) Secretary – minutes approved as published
  - b) Treasurer – Report accepted
7. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
  - Women Marines** - Paula Sarlls announced their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> and invited attendance. She also announced the Aurora Veteran's Affairs Commission 2008 Forum on Mar 13, 6pm at the Aurora Municipal Center, Alameda Ave at Chambers Blvd, invited participation and distributed a flyer. Finally she reminded us that the Colorado Freedom Memorial needs donations. Go to [cmfi.org](http://cmfi.org).
  - VWIN** – Edmee Hills announced that on June 28, 2008 Colorado will become the first state in the Union to observe Veterans' Widows/Widowers Day and reported that on March 17, 2008 in the Capitol Rotunda, Speaker Romanoff will introduce Governor Ritter to issue the Proclamation thereof. UVC is invited to attend the ceremony.
  - Colorado Veterans Monument Foundation**- Tim Drago invited everyone to the monument rededication reception at the Colorado History Museum, 1300 Broadway, Denver at 7pm on Saturday Feb 23, and distributed a flyer.
  - Sons of the American Legion** – Randall Emeterio presented a \$500 donation to the UVC from the SAL detachment of Colorado.
  - US Dept of Labor** – Michael Moody of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs informed us of a new regulation 41CFR60-300, addressing employment of Veterans for Federal contracts.
  - Douglas County office of Veteran's Affairs** – Henry Bohne updated us on SSG Matthew Keil and provided a contact point [krebello@homesforourtroops.org](mailto:krebello@homesforourtroops.org) for those who want to followup on Home building for Disabled Vets.

## UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

A non-profit coalition of 50 chartered service organizations representing over 465,000 veterans and family members in Colorado

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

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>

**VFW** – Warren Telgren reported that he would be going to Washington DC March 2-4 for the annual VFW National Legislative Conference to meet with all 9 Colorado congressional delegates regarding 2008 VFW National priority legislative and security goals and to assure that promises made are promises kept.

**American Legion** – Jim Gillis reported that their Jan 25-27 was successful and well attended. They passed and set up a phone/e-mail network to notify Legionnaires of pending veterans legislations. Large attendance showed support for Vets and for passage of pro-veteran legislation.

**US Dept of Labor** – Thresa Arney, invited everyone to the Veterans Employment and Training Service Open House on Feb 21 from 1:30-3:30 pm at 633 17<sup>th</sup> St Suite 700, Denver.

**Associated Veterans of Colorado** – Warren Telgren discussed the upcoming Fort Logan Memorial day service.

**Colorado Senior Lobby** – Bob Epstein reminded us that Senior Day at the Capitol is Feb 27 and commented on efforts to extend the Homestead act for seniors to carry their eligibility when they downsize to a smaller dwelling.

### 8. UVC COMMITTEES

- Legislative Committee – Marvin Meyers announced that Military Appreciation Day at the Capitol would be on Feb 13, and that the bill to restore the \$2.3 million to the Veterans Trust fund has been amended by Rep. Doug Bruce to include an additional \$600, 000 for interest on the "borrowed" funds.
- Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher announced status of ads received and reminding everyone to get their reservations in, encouraged more participation as a fund raiser for UVC.
- Membership Committee – George Palmateer updated us on Membership status.

9. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – George Thomas reported that the Strategic Plan is done and copies are available – one per organization. The State board will meet on 2/13 after the Military Appreciation Day activities, and the March meeting will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> at DMVA headquarters on Revere St.

10. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION – Ralph Bozella reported that for the January meeting, led by Chairman Bill Sinclair, all SVNH were in Denver for a meeting, and so had the opportunity to attend the Commission meeting. Each gave a brief presentation on their operation. Chmn Sinclair decided that the Commission needed to meet more often than quarterly and has set up monthly meetings. Attendees invited to the next meeting on Feb 27, (:30 am at DHS.

### 11. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION –

- Brad Honl reported that the VA survey of Fitzsimmons is scheduled April 14-18 and that Fitzsimmons is again looking for a Director of Nursing. Pinon Mgt will assist during the transition to support Nursing operations.
- Jeff Jerebker, Pinon Management, provided a brief overview of the state's Nursing Homes and pointed out that Fitzsimmons competes with 100m other Denver area nursing homes and is handicapped by having to compete through the state's hiring system, which is takes more time.
- Ken Melcher advised that the next Fitzsimmons Nursing Home Advisory Board meeting would be on Feb 22 at 2pm, and further advised that Fitzsimmons has hired someone to set up and operate a pharmacy.

### 12. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

Senator Allard's Office – no report

Senator Salazar's Office – Bennie Milliner reported that the mileage reimbursement for VA

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

**A non-profit coalition of 50 chartered service organizations representing over 465,000 veterans and family members in Colorado**

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

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>

medical travel has increased

Congressional Dist. 1 – DeGette – no report

Congressional Dist. 2 – Udall – no report

Congressional Dist. 3 – Salazar – no report

Congressional Dist. 4 – Musgrave – no report

Congressional Dist. 5 – Lamborn – Dale Anderson reported that planning is in place for a successor cemetery for Fort Logan.

Congressional Dist. 6 – Tancredo – Terry Van Keuren reported that

- A new job verification program in Arizona has illegals leaving in droves. A Sonora delegation has complained to Arizona legislature that the returning illegals are overburdening their schools and other infrastructure.
- President of Mexico is in the US lobbying for his citizens in the US.
- Tancredo efforts barred illegals from receiving “stimulus” dollars. and reminded everyone that “Academy Day” is March 30, 1-4 pm @ county bldg in Castle Rock

Congressional Dist. 7 – Perlmutter – Bill Holen reported that the TBI Epilepsy Bill will be heard in March, and that the Oral History Project will begin in March.

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

1.) VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales shared Secretary Peake’s schedule in our area in the weeks leading up to his speaking at our banquet in April, and reported on enhancements to VA benefits:

- Combat Veteran eligibility extended to 5 years
- Time frame for dental benefits extended
- Mileage benefit increased for 11 to 28 cents
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline established 1-800-273-talk (8255) available 24/7.
- All facilities have internet sites. Ex: [www.denver.va.gov](http://www.denver.va.gov), (same for Grand Junction, Cheyenne)
- New Transition Assistance program on Web [www.turbotap.org](http://www.turbotap.org) for vets (DOD/DOL/VA)

### 2.) VARO –

- Kay Collins reported that claims processing time is improving each month. Over 8500 disability claims pending now. Bd of Vet Appeals hearing section will visit Denver in April to hold between 80-90 hearings.
- Kathy Malin - reported that Colorado is working claims faster than the National average. Veterans Service center staffing has increased from 132 to 174, with new employees now having 6 months of experience they are becoming very productive.

3.) Ft. Logan – Joe Turnbach reported 329 internments in January.

### 4.) ECHCS – Lynette Roff

- Announced the Salute to Hospitalized Veterans on Feb 11-16
- Reported a new look on the updated website [www.denver.va.gov](http://www.denver.va.gov)
- VA/DOD Planning Commission is looking at opportunities in Southern CO
- New programs include Blind Rehab Outpatient Service (BROS), expanded women’s health, leasing space for low vision and polytrauma – hope to open in June after remodeling.
- CBOC moved from Fitzsimmons to Aurora – new address 13701 E. Mississippi.

### 14. DMVA / DVA

- Robbie Robinson reminded everyone about check-offs on the tax refunds for vets assistance
- Bill Conroy introduced his new deputy director

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

**A non-profit coalition of 50 chartered service organizations representing over 465,000 veterans and family members in Colorado**

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

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>

15. OLD BUSINESS – Ken Melcher reported on the “welcome Home” @ Buckley on Feb 10 the 140<sup>th</sup> and other returnees
16. NEW BUSINESS: Chuck Terry from the the Co Div Vet Affairs introduced Brad Edwards (edwardsexplorations.com) who spoke on behalf of the forgotten troopers at Milk Creek.
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS – Jay Bobick announced the Blue water navy Vietnam Veterans as our newest member organization, bringing our voting number to 50.
18. ADJOURN 1045 hours.
19. Next Meeting March 11. 2008

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC 7 March 2008**

*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*

*Daniel Tauriello, Treasurer, 303 343 7507*

*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*

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

**A non-profit coalition of 50 chartered service organizations representing over 465,000 veterans and family members in Colorado**