

(Draft – Awaiting Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE
VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**
Tuesday, November 29, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Sen. Karen Mayne
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Dr. Steven Allen
Mr. Zachary Barrus
Ms. Jackie L. Chamberlain
Mr. Tim M. Cosgrove
Mr. Bart Davis
Mr. Tage I. Flint
Mr. George Gutzmer
Mr. Gary Harter
Mr. Dennis Howland
Mr. Frank Maughan
Mr. Paul Patrick
Mr. Jon Pierpont

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Major General Jefferson S. Burton
Dr. Blair K. Carruth
Mr. Brian Garrett
Mr. Greg Rowley
Mr. Terry D. Schow

Staff Present:

Mr. Gregg A. Girvan, Policy Analyst
Ms. Esther Chelsea-McCarty, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.leg.utah.gov.

1. Commission Business

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. and excused Sen. Knudson, Mr. Carruth, and Mr. Schow. He also welcomed Brigadier General Kenneth Gammon who was in attendance for Major General Burton.

MOTION: Mr. Maughan moved to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Funeral Riders

Mr. Larry Wiley, Patriot Guard Riders, distributed and reviewed "Funeral Escort Talking Points" and explained that the Patriot Guard Riders is a federally registered nonprofit organization that ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring fallen military heroes, first responders, and honorably discharged veterans by providing services to grieving families, including a motorcycle escort from the funeral home or church to the cemetery. Mr. Wiley stated that the Utah Patriot Guard Riders are seeking commission support for legislation that will address safety concerns regarding funeral processions in Utah.

Ms. Chelsea-McCarty noted that Utah does not currently have a statute that allows escorts of a funeral procession to stop traffic so that the funeral procession may continue uninterrupted.

Mr. Greg Childs, Utah Patriot Guard, spoke in support of the proposed legislation.

Mr. Wiley participated in commission discussion during which Rep. Ray asked staff to open a bill file in his name to address the issue.

3. Review of Commission Bills

Mr. Girvan presented commission members with a follow-up summary of legislation from the 2016 General Session.

4. Draft Bill, "Veterans Tuition Gap Program Act Amendments"

Sen. Luz Escamilla reviewed the provisions of draft legislation "Veterans Tuition Gap Program Act Amendments" (2017FL-637/004), which was distributed in the mailing packet, and asked for commission support of the bill.

MOTION: Mr. Harter moved that the commission recommend draft legislation "Veterans Tuition Gap Program Act Amendments." The motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Business/Adjourn

Mr. Al Bingham, finance trainer, distributed "Accurate Credit Scores versus Guesstimated Credit Scores" and participated in a commission discussion regarding veterans' credit issues.

Mr. Dennis Howland, commission member, asked for commission support for a one-time appropriation to provide a replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Layton, Utah.

The next commission meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: Mr. Maughan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne and Rep. Peterson were absent for the vote.

Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.