



A G E N D A

ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 14, 2025

2:00 PM

www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory

Location:

Norman P. Murray Community Center
24932 Veterans Way
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

****In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify the Orange County Community Service office 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 480-6450****

The Orange County Veterans Advisory Council shall not hold a meeting unless the number of members participating constitutes a quorum of the Council.

This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. Except as provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda. Members of the public who wish to speak on an item(s) may complete a Speaker Request Form(s) identifying the items prior to the beginning of the meeting. To speak on a matter not appearing on the agenda, but under the jurisdiction of this Advisory Council, you may do so during Public Comments. Council members may not discuss or take action on issues raised during public comment unless the issue is listed in this agenda. Speaker request forms must be completed prior to the beginning of the meeting, the reading of the individual agenda items and/or the beginning of Public Comments. When addressing the Council, it is requested that you state your name and place of residence for the record prior to providing your comments. Address the Council as a whole through the Chair. Comments to individual Members or staff are not permitted. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes.

Materials/handouts can be accessed up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting by visiting www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory or calling (714) 480-6555.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Steven Vargas
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL: OC Community Services Representative
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
At this time, members of the public may address the Council regarding any items within the subject jurisdiction, provided that no action is taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. (Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless the Chair pre-identifies a different time at the start of meeting for all public speakers).
5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair, Steven Vargas
6. SENATE BILLS UPDATE: Nick Berardino, President, VALOR
7. ACTION ITEMS:
 - i. OCVAC Support of AB571
Recommendation: Review and approve Chair to sign support letter on AB571 (as supported by OC BOS) on behalf of OCVAC.
 - ii. OCVAC Support of SB55
Recommendation: Review and approve Chair to sign support letter on SB55 (as supported by OC BOS) on behalf of OCVAC.
 - iii. Election of Vice Chairperson
Recommendation: Accept nominations from the floor and conduct election for the following OCVAC position: Vice Chairperson for a term of (1) year ending 12/31/2025.
8. OCVSO UPDATE: Eric Ensley, Veterans Service Officer
9. CALVET LINC UPDATE: Ben Gales, Local Interagency Network Coordinator
10. OC4VETS UPDATE: Elana E. Randol, Orange County Health Care Agency, Service Chief
11. COMMITTEES:
 - i. Communications Standing Committee Report: Council Member, Robert McDonald
 - ii. Events/Outreach Standing Committee Report: Council Member, Michael Radigan
 - iii. Veterans' Pets Ad Hoc Committee Report: Council Member, Stephanie Wade

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

At this time, members of this Advisory Council may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters within the subject jurisdiction, provided that NO action be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

13. ADJOURNMENT:**Next Meeting:**

June 11, 2025

2:00 PM Location – TBD

“Have We Helped A Veteran Today?”

DISCLAIMER: No member of the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council (OCVAC) shall sign a letter or make a statement purported to represent the position of OCVAC as a body. Letters or verbal statements of support or opposition on any issue shall only be made or signed by the Chair of OCVAC and shall be submitted to the Council for pre-approval. The policy of the Board of Supervisors does not allow OCVAC or its Chair to sign a letter of position on any matters pertaining to legislation. OCVAC members may write personal letters or speak as individuals stating personal positions but may not do so as representing the position or opinion of OCVAC or the County of Orange.

[Your Organization's Letterhead]

[Date]

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember, 65th District
1021 O Street, Suite 4210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 571 – California Environmental Quality Act: Exemption for Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery

Dear Assemblymember Quirk-Silva:

On behalf of **[Your Organization]**, I am writing to express our strong support for your bill, AB 571, which will exempt the Southern California Veterans Cemetery at Gypsum Canyon from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. This exemption is critical to ensuring that Orange County veterans and their families receive the long-overdue, dignified final resting place they deserve.

Orange County is home to more than 100,000 veterans who have honorably served, yet it remains the largest county in California without a dedicated veterans cemetery. Over the past decade, the State of California, the County of Orange, all 34 Orange County cities, and over 150 veterans organizations—represented by the Veterans Alliance of Orange County—have come together in support of this project. Additionally, the County of Orange has dedicated 200 acres of public land and \$20 million in funding, with an additional \$30 million secured through state support, demonstrating broad commitment to making this cemetery a reality.

AB 571 will ensure that construction can proceed expeditiously, honoring our state's commitment to its veterans. We urge the Legislature to advance this bill to remove the final obstacles to the establishment of the Southern California Veterans Cemetery at Gypsum Canyon. Orange County veterans and their families deserve a dedicated and respectful burial place, honoring their sacrifice to the nation and serving as a space to commemorate their service and memory.

For these reasons, **[Organization]** strongly supports AB 571. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to seeing this long-awaited project come to fruition.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization]

[Your Organization's Letterhead]

[Date]

RE: Support for SB 55 – State Parks Gold Star Free Day Use

Dear Senator Umberg:

The Orange County Veterans Advisory Council extends its strong support for SB 55.

We are especially proud to support this legislation. Gold Star families have made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. This legislation will allow them the ability to enter the State Parks without cost.

We are grateful to you Senator Umberg for introducing this important legislation and your diligent efforts to ensure its passage.

Once again thank you for your effort and it is our privilege to be listed as SUPPORT for SB 55.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization]

From: Erik Duane CWO4 USMC (ret)

To: Orange County Veterans Advisory Council

SUBJ: Acceptance of Nomination

Members of the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council,

I am writing to formally accept any nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council should you wish to nominate me once again.

As you are aware, I was previously asked to resign from my former position on the Council. However, I have since been re-appointed to the Council by the current District 1 Supervisor. With this renewed opportunity to serve, I would like to continue my contributions as Vice Chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' and 'D' followed by a horizontal line. To the right of the signature is the date '06/05/2025' written in the same blue ink.

Erik Duane