



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service



*Napa County Veterans Commission*

**Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

November 2019



Missing from the photograph: Commissioner Karpuk, Commissioner Riordan and Commissioner Shupe

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**Executive Summary**

The Napa County Veterans' Commission was established pursuant to Napa County Resolution Number 2018-16. The Resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 30, 2018.

The Commission has 9 members who serve four year terms, are representatives from the community at large, and who fulfill any of the following categories: they are local Veterans, local family members of Veterans, and members of local organizations serving the needs of Veterans but with the ultimate goal of having the majority of the commissioners serving be Veterans.

The Napa County Veterans' Commission serves as an advocate for Veterans and their families by increasing awareness of the issues facing Veterans in Napa County and by influencing public policy through regular reports to the Board of Supervisors. The Commission is charged with educating and raising the awareness of the public, County staff and the County Board of Supervisors regarding issues affecting Veterans and their families, including, but not limited to Veterans' physical and mental health, transportation, benefits, and ways to generally improve the lives of Veterans.

In order to achieve its general purpose, the Commission, among other things:

- a. Studies, investigates and researches Veterans' matters in Napa County and surrounding counties so that services to Veterans can be coordinated and maximized;
- b. Reviews annually the status of Veterans' benefits and services;
- c. Submits recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding programs, plans, goals, policy, and procedures dealing with Veterans' services;
- d. Submits annually a strategic plan outlining focus areas for the subsequent year; and
- e. Assists where needed in Veterans' observance days during the year.

### Commission Meetings

The Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Silver Lupine Room at 650 Imperial Way Napa from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Veterans and the general public are invited to attend, and their input is encouraged and valued.

The Commission also has its regularly scheduled meetings in each supervisorial district.

District 1 September 2019  
District 4 August 2020

District 2 February 2020  
District 5 October 2020

District 3 May 2020

### Veterans Commission Membership

NAME	TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE	CATEGORY
Frank Lucier, Chair	2022	Transportation	Local Organization
Bernie Narvaez, Vice Chair	2022	Physical & Mental Health	Marine Veteran
Rose Sheehan, Secretary	2022	Jobs & Benefits	Local Family Member
Mark Riordan	2020	Transportation	Marine Veteran
Jonny Karpuk	2022	Transportation	Army Veteran
Bill O'Byrne	2020	Jobs & Benefits	Navy Veteran
Joel Levitt	2020	Jobs & Benefits	Army Veteran
Jim Shupe	2020	Physical & Mental Health	Navy Veteran
Tom Sabo	2022	Physical & Mental Health	Navy Veteran

### Commission's Purpose

Our purpose is to serve as an advocate for Veterans and their families by increasing awareness of the issues facing Veterans in Napa County and by influencing public policy through regular reports to the Board of Supervisors. The Commission shall educate and raise awareness of the public, county staff and the County Board of Supervisors regarding issues affecting Veterans and their families, and ways to generally improve the lives of Veterans.

## **Commission's Vision**

Our vision for Napa County is a community in which Veterans are identified, respected and celebrated. Veterans are aware of their benefits and opportunities and health services are readily available. The voice of Veterans is active, solicited and heard.

## **Presentations before the Commission 2018-2019**

- Brown Act
- History of the Napa County Veterans Coalition
- Overview of Veterans Service Office
- Women Veterans issues
- Yountville Veterans Home Position Paper
- History of VA benefits
- Veterans Resource Center
- Ceremonial Burial Committee
- "Transforming the Yountville Veterans Home" Little Hoover Report #240
- "Future of the Veterans Home Yountville", Stakeholders Input Forum
- Volunteer Firefighting opportunities for Veterans
- California VA Report 2018-112, "Leases at the Yountville Veterans Home"
- Presentation on potential VA Mental Health position in Napa County
- Veterans "Banners in the Park" program
- Reports from Congressman Thompson's Veterans Advisory Committee
- Strategic partnerships between the VA and HHSA
- Napa County Veterans hiring policy
- Veterans Home Association, LLC
- Sonoma County free bus rides for Veterans
- VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)
- VA and Housing by Habitat for Humanity partnership
- MOU between Napa County HHSA and the VA on Veterans mental health
- Letter to Board of Supervisors asking for support for a CBOC in Napa County
- Input into the County Legislative Platform
- Uber and Veteran's mental and physical health transportation
- Veterans "Banners in the Park" program
- Napa County Veterans Military Leave program
- San Francisco VA mental health clinician operations in Napa County

## **Commission Major Accomplishments**

- Election of officers and terms of Commissioner established
- Standing Committee membership, time, dates and location of meeting established
- Mission and Vision Statements revised
- Template for agendas and minute developed
- “Banners in the Park” program continues
- “Banners in the Park” event for Veterans families
- Establish and Ad Hoc committee to develop a comprehensive list of Napa war dead, list of Napa War dead completed
- Changes to Commission official website to reflect new Mission and Vision statements
- Standing Committees goals for 2018-2019 establish
- Develop and submit for approval new Commission Bylaws
- New Commission Bylaws approved by Board of Supervisors and posted on website
- Develop process for the recommendation on new Commissioners for approval
- Approve new Commissioners and recommend to the Board of Supervisors
- Review, and suggest changes to the Napa County Veteran’s hiring policy
- Approve having Commission meeting in each Supervisorial District once a year to get Veterans and community input
- Develop and approve Strategic Plan for 2020-2021
- Establish a Commission Facebook page
- Establish an Ad Hoc committee to work on a Napa County Veterans Discount program
- Work with San Francisco Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System to get Veterans mental health services in Napa County
- Work with County elected officials to provide free Vine bus rides for Veterans
- Work with UBER to develop a pilot program for Veterans Transportation to medical appointments
- Representative attends Congressman Thompson’s Veteran’s Advisory Committee meetings
- As suggested by Congressman Thompson’s staff, develop and approve a resolution to support the establishment of a CBOC in Napa County
- As suggested by Congressman’s Thompson’s staff, request the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution supporting the establishment of a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Napa County
- Provide input to the County Legislative Platform recommending the Board should support the establishment of a CBOC in Napa County

## Veterans Commission Strategic Plan 2020-2021

### Recommendation

Director of Health and Human Services requests the Board receive a Presentation from the Chair of the Napa County Veterans' Commission on the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan.

### Executive Summary

On January 30, 2018, the Napa County Board of Supervisors ("Board") adopted a resolution creating the Napa County Veterans' Commission ("Commission"). The bylaws of the Commission require that it submit annually a strategic plan outlining focus areas for the subsequent year.

### Fiscal Impact

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

### Environmental Impact

Environmental Determination: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### Background and Discussion

The Napa County Veterans' Commission (Commission) Strategic Plan for 2020-2021 includes the following goals:

#### 1. Health of Veterans and their families

- Work towards the establishment of a Veterans Administration (VA) Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Napa County to provide physical and mental health services for Veterans
- Work towards securing transportation for Veterans to VA medical facilities and other medical facilities within and outside of Napa County
- Work towards having local medical professionals include the following question in their intake form: "Have you served in the military?" to help in data collection for Veteran's issues
- Work toward establishing a support group for the families of Veterans in Napa County
- Work toward supporting the transitioning of the Yountville Veterans Home as detailed in the State of California's Little Hoover Commission Report #240  
<https://lhc.ca.gov/sites/lhc.ca.gov/files/Reports/240/Report240.pdf>
- Review current State and Federal pending legislation and make recommendations to the County Legislative Platform

#### 2. Veterans Recognition

- Since the Commission has compiled a list of Napa War dead from WWI to the present, work toward establishing a monument to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their Country

#### 3. Input from Veterans

- Send the Commission's monthly Commission and standing committee meeting agendas and minutes to all Veteran's groups in the County
- Periodically hold a meeting in each Supervisor's district to solicit needs from Veterans and their families

*We request the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution supporting the establishment of a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Napa County*

**Attachment #1 Commission CBOC Resolution**

**RESOLUTION NO. 01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE NAPA COUNTY VETERANS COMMISSION  
SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CBOC IN NAPA COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, according to the last census, there are approximately 11,000 United States Armed Services veterans currently reside in Napa County; and

**WHEREAS**, these veterans have selflessly left the safety and comfort of their homes to maintain the freedom and protect the ideals of the United States; and

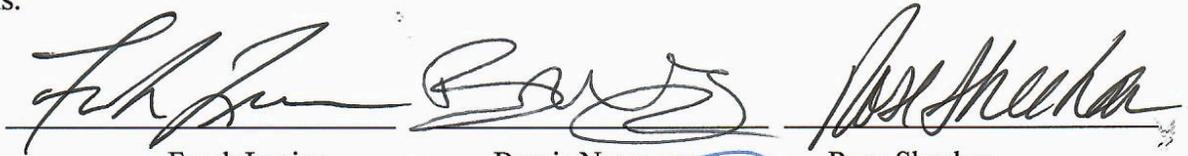
**WHEREAS**, on September 26, 2017, the Napa County Board of Supervisors directed that a Napa County Veterans' Commission be created to identify shortfalls in services provided to veterans and their families in Napa County and finding solutions to these shortfalls; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonoma, Solano, Humboldt, Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Francisco and San Mateo counties have a Veterans Administration (VA) medical facility for their veterans; and

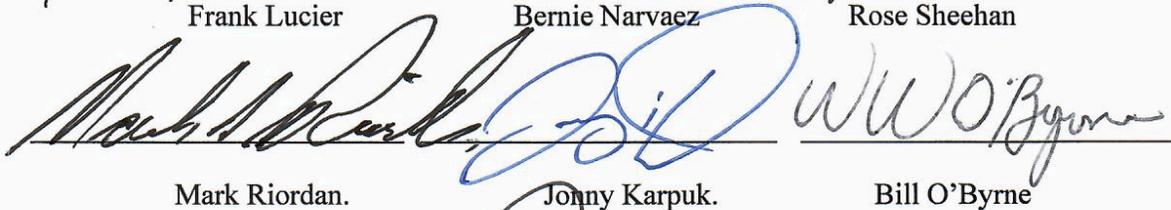
**WHEREAS**, the Napa County Veterans' Commission has researched and determined that there are no Veterans Administration health care facilities in Napa County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Napa County Veterans' Commission has determined that there is a need for a VA mental and physical health care facility in Napa County;

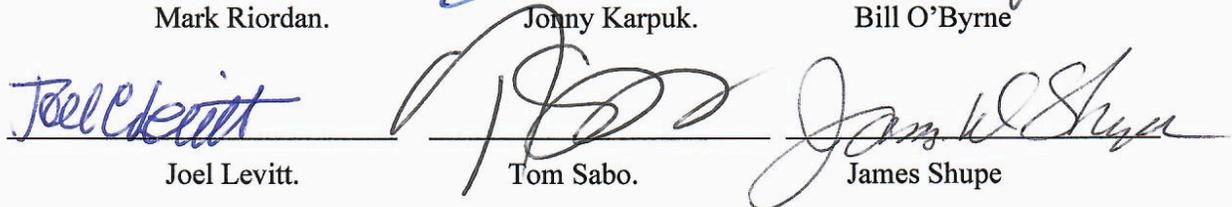
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Napa County Veterans Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors support establishing a Veterans Administration Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Napa County to serve the mental and physical needs of our veterans.



Frank Lucier                      Bernie Narvaez                      Rose Sheehan



Mark Riordan.                      Jonny Karpuk.                      Bill O'Byrne



Joel Levitt.                      Tom Sabo.                      James Shupe

## Attachment #2 CBOC Support Letter

October 23, 2019

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Napa County Board of Supervisors:

According to the 2000 census, Napa County is home to approximately 11,000 Veterans. The latest statistics from the Veterans Administration (VA) show approximately 7,500 Veterans living in the County.

The Napa County Veterans Commission seeks your support to address a critical need that exists within our Veteran community. Napa County currently has no specific mental or physical health care facility for our Veterans.

The issue came to our attention during community outreach when two Navy mothers attended our monthly meeting to ask what types of VA mental health services were available in Napa for their sons returning from their service to our Country.

We had no answer.

The VA offers accessible Mental and Physical Health services to Veterans nationally through local facilities known as Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC). Napa County is the only county of our surrounding counties that does not have a CBOC.

Many Veterans in Napa County rely on personal transportation to attend their appointments. Many postpone treatment or are never treated due to the distances to a CBOC or VA facility where they would receive the very specific care to which they require and are entitled to.

Veterans who are not part of the VA system are more vulnerable to depression and suicide if untreated. According to the "VA National Suicide Data Report 2005–2015, ([https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/Suicide-Prevention-Data.asp](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/Suicide-Prevention-Data.asp)):

- Suicide rates increased for both Veterans and non-Veterans, underscoring the fact that suicide is a national public health concern that affects people everywhere.
- The suicide rate increased faster among Veterans who had *not* recently used VA health care than among those who had.

The Napa County Veterans Commission has identified this current lack of access to VA mental and physical health care as the most critical need facing our Napa County Veterans.

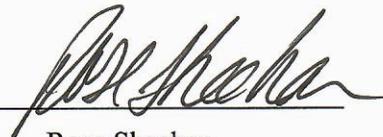
We ask that you assist the Commission in this effort by requesting our Federal and State officials to support a CBOC in Napa County to resolve this current critical need in Veterans services. We thank you for your time and the honor to continue serving the Board and the Veterans of Napa County.

Sincerely,

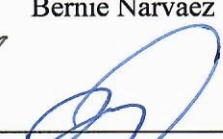
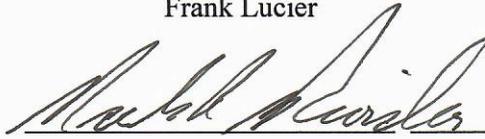


Frank Lucier

Bernie Narvaez

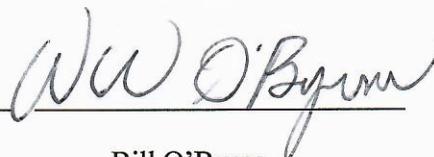


Rose Sheehan

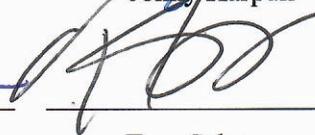
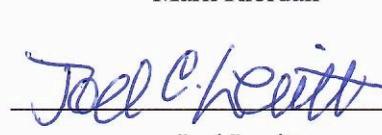


Mark Riordan

Jonny Karpuk

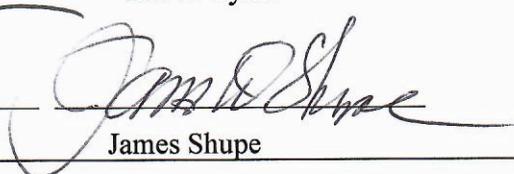


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