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.
To achieve our 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
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. unless otherwise noted in the posted agenda. 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, if possible due to health concerns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District 1</th>
<th>February 2022</th>
<th>District 2</th>
<th>June 2022</th>
<th>District 4</th>
<th>February 2023</th>
<th>District 5</th>
<th>June 2023</th>
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**Veterans Commission Membership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TERM ENDING</th>
<th>COMMITTEE</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frank Lucier, Chair</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Education and Awareness of Veterans Issues</td>
<td>Local Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernie Narvaez, Vice Chair</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Education and Awareness of Veterans Issues</td>
<td>Marine Veteran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Harbison III, Secretary</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Veterans Access to Physical and Mental Health</td>
<td>Navy Veteran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Riordan</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Veterans Access to Physical and Mental Health</td>
<td>Marine Veteran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonny Karpuk</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Education and Awareness of Veterans Issues</td>
<td>Army Veteran</td>
</tr>
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<td>Joel Levitt</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Veterans Access to Physical and Mental Health</td>
<td>Army Veteran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Sheehan</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Government and Community Services</td>
<td>Local Family Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Sabo</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Government and Community Services</td>
<td>Navy Veteran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Shupe</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Government and Community Services</td>
<td>Navy Veteran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 is a community in which Veterans are visible, respected and honored in Napa County. It is critical that those who have served our Country are aware of the benefits and opportunities available to them at the local, state, and national levels. By connecting them to these resources we can support Veterans in the workforce and our community, and ensure that their voices are active, solicited and heard.

Commission’s Mission
The Commission shall promote awareness of Veterans issues by providing education to, seeking consistent engagement and promotion of mutual interaction with the Board of Supervisors, community leaders and service providers to protect and improve the lives of Veterans and their families.

Commission’s Goals
- Increase government and community services and staffing to support local Veterans and their families
- Increase Veterans access to physical and mental health
- Educate and raise awareness of Veterans issues

Commission’s Core Values
Honor & Respect for Veterans and Families
- We focus on issues important to Veterans and their families and listen to their concerns
- We put Veterans and families first in our decision-making
- We inform and educate community to promote awareness of veterans and families

Commitment and Dedication
- We hold ourselves accountable for the achievement of Commission goals
- We devote time and energy to the Commission
- We represent the Commission in the community

Collaboration
- We share information and resources for the betterment of the Veteran community
- We work together to achieve Commission goals
- We work in cooperation with each other, community and Veterans and their families

Integrity
- We act in the best interest of the entire Veteran community
- We readily assume responsibility for our actions as Commissioners
- We communicate openly and honestly with each other and the community
- We maintain the highest ethical standards

Inclusion
- We embrace the principles of diversity and inclusion
- We welcome involvement of all Veteran-focused groups and individuals
- We strive to serve the entire Veteran community
Commission Major Accomplishments

- Worked with the San Francisco VA to acquire a full-time mental health clinician for Napa County
- Established a Commission Ad Hoc committee to develop a Strategic Plan for 2022 - 2023
- Develop Standing Committee goals and objectives for 2022 – 2023
- Standing Committee’s name change in the bylaws to reflect the new goals and objectives as outline in the Strategic Plan and submitted for approval to the Board
- Commission Mission and Vision Statements revised and posted on the Commission website
- Commission Core Values Statement developed and posted on the Commission website
- Develop and approve Strategic Plan for 2021-2022 and posted it on the Commission website
- Comprehensive list of Napa war dead developed and work on building a memorial started
- Develop wording for the memorial to include those impacted during war that eventually resulted their deaths
- Developed a script to present to the City and Town Councils to inform them about the war dead memorial
- Advocate for additional funding for an additional position at the Veterans Service Office
- Attempted to establish a liaison to the Allied Council at the Veterans Home
- Establish a liaison with the Advisory Board on Alcohol& Drugs program, the Housing Commission, and the Suicide Prevention Council
- Military “Banners in the Park” program continued
- Developed input for the County’s Federal and State Legislative and Regulatory Platform
- Reviewed the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVOS) Legislative reports
- Sent a signed letter of thanks to the President and Board of Trustees at Napa Valley College for their efforts to honor Veterans Day (copy included)
- Continue working with UBER to develop a pilot program for Veterans Transportation to medical appointments
- Commission representative attended Congressman Thompson’s Veterans Advisory Committee meetings
- Established liaisons with the Mental Health Board and the Commission on Aging
- Presentation from Operation with Love from Home
- Presentation from V.E.T.S. Mobile Dental Unit
- Presentation from California Telephone Access Program (CTAP)
- Presentation from the Wooden Boats for Veterans organization
Veterans Commission Strategic Plan 2022-2023

Recommendation
Director of Health and Human Services requests the Board receive a Presentation from the Chair of the Napa County Veterans' Commission on the 2022-2023 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
To work more effectively and foster the commitment, dedication, active participation, and inclusion of all commissioners, the Napa County Veterans’ Commission has changed the names of the Standing Committees in its bylaws and assigned the committees the following goals for the Strategic Plan in 2022-2023:

1. Government and Community Services Standing Committee
   Goal to increase government and community services and staffing to support local Veterans and their families by achieving the following objectives:
   • Establish a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Napa County
   • Review current State and Federal pending legislation and make recommendations to the Board
   • Support the Napa County Veterans Service Office (VSO)
   • Develop a Veterans Discount program for local merchants in Napa County
   • Work with the VSO and the Veterans Administration to establish a support group for families of Veterans

2. Veterans Access to Physical and Mental Health Standing Committee
   Goal is to increase Veterans’ access to physical and mental health by achieving the following objectives:
   • Securing transportation to VA and other medical facilities for Veterans
   • Supporting VA mental health efforts in Napa County by actively engaging in recruitment of Veterans and the publicizing of services available
   • Continues and enhanced support for the Yountville Veterans Home
   • Establishing a free bus rides programs for Veterans similar to that in Sonoma and Solano Counties

3. Education and Awareness of Veteran’s Issues Standing Committee
   Goal is to educate and raise awareness of Veterans issues by achieving the following objectives:
   • Establish a memorial to Napa County war dead
   • Send agendas and minutes of Commission meetings to local Veterans groups
   • Hold meetings in each Supervisorial district to solicit input from Veterans
   • Invite speakers from the stakeholders list to meetings
   • Attend stakeholders meeting to share Veteran’s information
To President Ronald Kraft and the Napa Valley College Board of Trustees:

We of the Veterans Commission of Napa County wish to applaud and thank Napa Valley College for your commitment to honor Veterans Day on the traditional 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

The statement of “Veterans Day” is personally special, like no other day, for those who have served our country.

As a people, we have almost forgotten Veteran’s Day did not evolve from a victory. Rather, it is the result of an Armistice that administratively pausing the stalemated hostilities of an indescribable War that continued to smolder until it again burst into flames.

Today we have America’s longest war in Afghanistan remitting suddenly, punctuated into our minds and hearts, engendering complex and painful emotions in many of those who serve(d) there or elsewhere.

We expect this event will reverberate for an unpredictable time and with unpredictable consequences for us all.

Thankfully, Predictability and Traditions offer an opportunity of healing.

The individual commissioners of Napa County Veterans Commission sincerely thank you for your kind choice to honor the Predictability and Tradition of this Holiday.

Joseph Harbison III, Secretary of the Veterans Commission