



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES
Miami-Dade Military Affairs Board**

Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp.
8000 NW 21 Street
Doral, FL 33122

April 26, 2016
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

Judy Marsh, Commission Reporter
(305) 375-1967



Clerk's Summary and Official Minutes
Military Affairs Board
April 26, 2016

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on April 26, 2016, at 6:45 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building, 8000 N.W. 21 Street, Doral, Florida 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz; Dr. Anthony Atwood; Mr. David Blake; Mr. Mark Blumstein; Town of Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert; Mr. Charles Johnson; Mr. Sergei Michael Kowalchik; Mr. Eduardo Lombard; Mr. Phil Lyons; Mr. Joseph Martory; Ms. Donna Masson; Mr. Jorge Sibila; and Mr. Keith Vail Whitbeck.

The following voting Board members were absent: Mr. Alex Acosta; Mr. Mario Alvarez; Mr. Thomas Davis; Mr. Manuel Gonzalez; and Mr. Kevin Humes.

The following non-voting Board members were present: Captain Peter Vach; and Ms. Leandra Padron.

The following non-voting Board members were absent: Colonel Elwin Rozyskie; Gunnery Sergeant Jeremiah Scott; Colonel Lisa Garcia; Captain Benjamin Davis; Lt. Colonel Son Vo; Ms. Glorianne Amor; Mr. Ed Haynes; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; Ms. Debbie Zimmerman; Ms. Leandra McCommas; Ms. Joanna Sandstrom; Mr. Paul Russo; and Officer Victor Milian.

The following staff members were present: Mr. Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; and Deputy Clerk Judy Marsh.

In addition to the above, the following guests were present: Mr. Freddie Ambrose; and Mr. Juan Jimenez.

❖ **Welcome**

Chairman Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. He welcomed MAB members and guests to tonight's (4/26) meeting.

❖ **Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance**

Town of Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert led the MAB in a moment of prayer followed by Mr. Joseph Martory who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

❖ Comments or Presentations from the Public

Mr. Freddie Ambrose, Cutler Bay resident, commented on his 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Thinking of You Services, Inc. that sends free care packages to troops overseas. He noted supplies were ready to be sent and requested the names and addresses of service personnel overseas.

Mr. Juan Jimenez reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was considering lifting its loan limit from \$417,000 to unlimited; thus making higher loan amounts obtainable to those military members who could afford it. He noted he recently closed over six VA loans and asked the MAB to relay that information. Mr. Jimenez also noted he was informing new, incoming realtors to Gold Coast that VA loans were available and closed faster than Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans.

In response to Chairman Diaz' inquiry, Mr. Jimenez said the VA loan pertained to the primary home.

Captain Peter Vach, US Military Entrance Processing Station, advised that he visited Miami Dade College's West Campus to observe its Career Exploration Program and introduced Dr. Chantelle MacPhee, Chair, Miami Dade College, West Campus.

Dr. MacPhee said the West Campus was open despite media reports regarding the garage, which was expected to be completed in early November 2016. She noted the Campus consisted of approximately 5,000 students; was seeking accreditation to have its own degree programs across the eight campuses; and would be a full-fledged campus. Dr. MacPhee commented on her efforts, as the Academic Chair, to acquire space for veteran and military students; and noted a special workshop called Edge4Vets, would be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, to assist veterans with transitioning their military skills to civilian skills. She also noted human resources representatives of partnering companies would be present to hire veterans. Dr. MacPhee advised the Center for Military and Veteran Student Success was opened from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., five days per week and she invited the MAB members to visit the Center.

Dr. MacPhee said, as the Academic Chair, she would provide assistance to any military students or military connected students wishing to register at the Campus; that she was offering free resume services; that the Campus provided a textbook loan service; and in approximately three weeks, classes would be offered on the base to assist the coast guard members.

Chairman Diaz closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

❖ Board Member Roundtable

Mr. Mark Blumstein, representing County Commission District 4, advised that this would likely be his last meeting as a voting member. He noted he anticipated being being qualified for public office in May 2016, and the County's ordinance required an effective resignation. Mr. Blumstein assured the MAB that every effort would be made to proceed with the Veterans Court upon his election to the Court.

Dr. Anthony Atwood, representing County Commission District 9; and the Miami Military Museum and Memorial, commented on the Military Museum project. He said work would resume once the change orders relating to the project were addressed. Dr. Atwood noted the MAB would be apprised months in advance of the project opening.

Concerning the request by Mr. Freddie Ambrose, Dr. Atwood advised the National Guard deployed over 500 individuals from Fort Lauderdale last week and representatives of the Military Museum were in attendance. He noted he would be at the St. Francis Barracks on Thursday, and offered to relay Mr. Ambrose's request for names and addresses of service personnel overseas. Dr. Atwood noted he would speak to Mr. Ambrose after the meeting regarding his request.

Mr. Joe Martory, representing County Commission District 6, said he wanted to discuss the need for burial guard details later in the meeting, under New Business.

Lt. Colonel Jorge Sibila, U.S. Marine Corps, retired; practicing attorney, noted the Veterans Court was making progress in all directions. He advised that a Memorial Day tribute would be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. at the Dade County Courthouse, 73 West Flagler Street. Lt. Colonel Sibila said the Marines had been participating in this event for years; and he commended the organizers of this event.

Lt. Colonel Connie Alge, Deputy Mission Support Group Commander, Homestead Air Reserve Base, said an F-35 site basing visit would be held on May 9, through May 13, 2016. She noted the base was one of four reserve bases that were being considered for basing of the F-35 that would occur in 2023. Lt Colonel Alge also noted the base's Unit Training Assembly was scheduled for May 13, 14 and 15, 2016.

Mr. Charles Johnson, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and Retired Lt. Colonel, Army Reserves, Judge Advocate General; advised that a Memorial Day Observance Ceremony would be held on Monday, May 30, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at the Woodlawn Park Cemetery on Eighth Street. He noted the singing Miamians would be performing, and General Kevin Liams would be the speaker. Mr. Johnson also advised that his tenure as Chair of the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee would end on July 1, 2016; and he would be replaced by Colonel Steve Williamson, who retired from the U.S. Southern Command.

Mr. Phil Lyons, Chamber South Military Affairs Committee (MAC), advised that on May 7, 2016, a veterans group would be hosting a shooting range event at the Homestead Air Reserve Base. He noted this free event would be opened to military personnel and veterans. Mr. Lyons said he would provide Mr. Gustavo Cruz with invitations. He also commented on the Chamber's involvement with building a memorial wall on the south side of the Base to honor the 120 people who perished through training accidents or combat in the Caribbean or South America. Mr. Lyons said \$44,000 was needed and the community newspaper ran an article on the proposed wall. He noted to date, \$11,000 was raised.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Lyons to provide Mr. Cruz with information on the wall specification. He indicated there may be an entity that may wish to donate the granite.

Captain Peter Vach, representing Lt. Commander Valerie A. Boyd, Commander of the Miami Military Entrance Processing Station, advised that Commander Boyd would be switching command with incoming Coast Guard Lt. Commander Justin Berman (phonetic). He noted he would introduce Commander Berman to the MAB members. Captain Vach also advised that one month after, his replacement would be arriving; and one month after his replacement arrived, he would be retiring.

Mr. David Blake, representing County Commission District 2, said the Executive Director of the Wounded Warriors of South Florida, wanted to discuss their program needs with the MAB. He noted he forwarded information to Mr. Cruz, and suggested inviting the Executive Director to the MAB's next board meeting.

Mr. Cruz noted the Wounded Warriors of South Florida was a new organization.

Chairman Diaz asked that the Executive Director of the Wounded Warriors of South Florida, be invited to the MAB meeting.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard, representing County Commission District 11, referred to a website regarding the Young Marines 5K Walk/Run, to be held on May 7, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. He reminded the MAB members of the monthly Military Family Appreciation Dinner hosted by West Kendall Baptist; and noted he was invited as one of many veterans, as a guest speaker at John A. Ferguson High School on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium. He noted this was organized by Mr. William Hardison, a teacher at John Ferguson; and Navy veteran.

Lt. Colonel Dave Olson, United States Southern Command, mentioned that a 5K run would be held on June 10, 2016 at 6:30 a.m.

Mr. Cruz requested Lt. Colonel Olson to provide him with a flyer regarding this event.

Mr. Sergei Michael Kowalchik said the Naval Academy Alumni Association would be holding a fundraiser on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 4:30 p.m., at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club. He noted this would include "all-you-can eat" fresh, Chesapeake Bay crabs; the cost was \$75.00, only 75 slots were available; and participants must sign up and pay online by Monday.

Mr. Kowalchik said this fundraiser would provide support to public, charter and private teachers and their projects involved with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math initiative. He noted he would forward information regarding this event to Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Kowalchik advised the American Legion Chapter would be hosting a Memorial Day event on May 30, 2016, at Key Biscayne on the Village Green at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Donna Masson, Military Miami-Dade, congratulated Miami Dade College on its West Campus facility. She noted Military Miami-Dade would be presenting a program entitled "Doing Business with the Military" on Friday, May 20, 2016, at the Airport Hilton. Ms. Masson said Chairman Diaz would be attending, and she requested the MAB members to encourage small business owners to attend.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck, representing County Commission District 3; and the Air Force Association, commented on the Fourth of July event to be held at the Seaman's Club at PortMiami. He noted it was anticipated that 1,000 individuals would attend; and he requested suggestions from the MAB regarding funding for this event.

Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert, Town of Miami Lakes, representing County Commission District 13, said there was no new business to report.

Ms. Leandra Padron, representing U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, said it was an honor to be in attendance.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez reminded the MAB members that July 1, 2016 was the deadline for filing financial disclosure forms. He noted each voting member should have been notified by the Clerk's office of the deadline. Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez advised that failure to file would result in the members' removal from the MAB.

Mr. Cruz said it was not the amount of money, but the members' income source.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz said Mr. Paul Russo, Director, Miami Veteran's Administration (VA) Healthcare System, signed the application for the Veterans Court Program. Concerning the Homestead Clinic expansion, Mr. Cruz advised a minor lease was approved, depending on funding approval. He noted all expansions, capital projects, and leases were on hold pending VA Commission report due in June on the future of the VA. Mr. Cruz said that depending on the outcome in June, it appeared the Homestead Clinic

was moving forward. He advised the Vietnam Veterans' 50th Year Commemoration had initial celebrations at the Veterans' clinics; and service pins were available at the main Veterans Hospital through Mr. Russo's office for Vietnam Veterans; and additional programs would be held in the future.

Chairman Diaz added that Director Russo had been really busy and the VAs had been undergoing a metamorphosis.

Mr. Kowalchik commented on the picnic held at Bill Baggs Park for the men in the VA nursing home. He noted hamburgers were donated by Burger King; and the Fire Rescue provided sodas. Mr. Kowalchik said the picnic was held once in the Spring and once in the Fall.

Chairman Diaz reported on his recent trip to Asia on behalf of Miami-Dade County. He noted he spent two weeks in Asia; three cities in mainland China (Shanghai, Hangzhou and Guangzhou); and then proceeded to Taiwan. Chairman Diaz said the intent was to meet with the major companies that wanted to invest in the United States; and many investors in Miami-Dade County were seeking to attract more investors to Miami-Dade County. He noted his main goal was to seek opportunities for a direct flight from Asia to Miami-Dade County, and representatives from the Beacon Council; and the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau also accompanied him on this trip. Chairman Diaz said the top three companies in China were interested, along with Taiwan. He noted if a direct flight was achieved, Miami-Dade County would be solidified as the global gateway of this hemisphere, which would result in more jobs to the community. Chairman Diaz also noted he met the Mayor of the new Taiwan City who was impressed with Miami-Dade County.

Chairman Diaz commented on the successful operation of Qatar airlines with flights from Miami to Qatar; and noted Miami-Dade County must take care of its citizens.

Old Business

➤ Veterans Court Update. Delegation in Buffalo, NY

Mr. Gustavo Cruz stated that Officer Victor Milian, Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) Liaison; along with Judge Marisa Tinkler Mendez, Director of the Criminal Division; Ms. Joanna Sandstrom, Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office; and a representative from the Public Defender's Office; were in Buffalo, New York, for one week to observe the daily operations of the Buffalo Veterans Court. He noted this was the first Veterans Court in the country. Mr. Cruz said he asked Officer Milian to concentrate on the MAB's questions regarding the Court's mentors; and Officer Milian would provide a report at the next MAB meeting.

Chairman Diaz advised that a letter was prepared which indicated the MAB's dedication and efforts regarding creation of the Veterans Court. He noted he met with Judge Nushin Sayfie prior to his trip to Asia, and she specified that the MAB was the Court Liaison who was working on this project. Chairman Diaz commended Officer Milian's dedication and his representation of the MAB in Buffalo, New York. He noted he believed that nothing was more important than being a part of the Veterans Court; and he commended Mr. Cruz and the MAB members involved with the Court's mentorship.

Mr. Cruz advised that a request was made for matching funds for the Veterans Court; and the MAB would be providing \$75,000 over a three-year period from its Trust Fund. He noted the three years were critical in order to get the program off the ground. Mr. Cruz said this request came after the emergency meeting that was held in the Commissioner's office; and matching funds had to be provided in order to maintain the grant. He explained the grant was being provided by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Veterans Court.

In response to Vice Mayor Daubert's inquiry regarding the DOJ grant and the MAB's matching funds, Mr. Cruz said the monies would be placed in a fund that would be managed by the Eleventh District Court.

Vice Mayor Daubert said he wanted to ensure that the DOJ grant and the MAB's funds would be placed in a budget line item that was specifically for the Veterans Court; and not be placed in the Eleventh District Court's general funds.

Mr. Jorge Sibila observed the MAB's contribution was insignificant compared to the amount the MAB was receiving.

Chairman Diaz assured Mayor Daubert that the funds would be placed in a line item.

It was moved by Mr. Jorge Sibila that the MAB approve the allocation of \$75,000 from its Trust Fund to the Veterans Court for the next three years. This motion was seconded by Dr. Anthony Atwood and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 13-0 (Mr. Alex Acosta, Mr. Mario Alvarez, Mr. Thomas Davis, Mr. Manuel Gonzalez and Mr. Ken Humes were absent).

Chairman Diaz noted the Veterans Court had been the MAB's most important project, and the MAB had accomplished its mission. He noted the remainder was the Court's responsibility. Chairman Diaz said Miami-Dade County had a special design, and the Eleventh Judicial Circuit wanted the Veterans Court to address the needs of Miami-Dade County's service individuals.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez advised the letter stated that the MAB's funds would be used only for the purposes authorized by the federal grant.

In response to a question from Mr. Sergei Michael Kowalchik, as to whether the media would be informed regarding the Veterans Court, Chairman Diaz noted once it was ready, it would be broadcasted. He thanked the MAB members for their hard work on the Veterans Court.

➤ **Veterans Concert**

Chairman Diaz advised the cutoff date for the Veterans Concert was not met and he cancelled the concert. He mentioned that he may be contacting some MAB members to join him in attending the Miami Beach Commission meeting tomorrow (4/27), to discuss plans relating to an event to be held in Miami Beach.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez advised that in order to address the Sunshine requirement, notice should be provided that the MAB members would be attending the meeting.

Chairman Diaz requested notice be given that members of the MAB would be attending the Miami Beach Commission meeting, tomorrow (4/27) at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Diaz mentioned that some Miami Beach commissioners were dissatisfied with the situation that occurred with the recent Floatopia event held on the Beach, and wanted to cancel the event scheduled for Memorial Day, 2017. He commented on the importance of Memorial Day, and indicated that he would address this issue with the Commission. Chairman Diaz said the 2017 Memorial Day event would be the number one event in the nation; and the MAB would be in integral part of that event. He advised the Veterans Concert would be held on that day with the same Hispanic recognition. Chairman Diaz noted he went to Washington and received a favorable response from our Senators, especially Senator Marco Rubio.

Dr. Anthony Atwood observed that when military groups conducted aviation, these were not performances, but aerial demonstrations regarding air, sea and land operations.

➤ **USCG Air Station Miami Open House**

Mr. Cruz reported that he attended a Coast Guard Air Station Miami Open House on Friday, April 22, 2016, in Opa locka. He noted the event was mostly geared for children, and over 5,000 children from public and private schools were in attendance. Mr. Cruz said he spoke with Captain Lutes, the Commanding Officer, who expressed his desire to work with the MAB in the future about making one of the hangars available for a Thanksgiving event at the Air Station.

➤ **Young Marines 5K Walk/Run**

Mr. Cruz advised the Young Marines would be holding their first annual 5K Walk/Run to honor Bruce Carter, Medal of Honor recipient. He noted Bruce Carter's mother Georgie Carter, would be in attendance.

➤ **Homestead Air Show**

Mr. Cruz said County staff needed to meet with representatives of Homestead Air Reserve Base to discuss providing financial support for the Homestead Air Show. He noted he looked forward to coordinating coordinating this meeting with Lt. Colonel Connie Alge.

Lt. Colonel Alge noted she would report tonight's conversation to Colonel David Garfield to determine whether his office could schedule a meeting.

Lt. Colonel Alge said the Homestead Air Show was scheduled for Saturday November 5, 2016; and Sunday, November 6, 2016. She noted Air Force Thunderbirds and Army Golden Knights would be performing, as well as some other acts.

Chairman Diaz asked Lt. Colonel Alge to advise Colonel Garfield that a time constraint existed with including funding in the MAB's budget.

➤ **Navy Days at Port Everglades**

Mr. Cruz announced that Navy Days would be held May 1 through May 8, 2016, at Port Everglades; however, tickets for this year's event were sold out. He noted tickets were usually available on April 1, and suggested that MAB members who were unable to obtain tickets this year; obtain their tickets on April 1st.

❖ **New Business**

Mr. Cruz said he wanted Mr. Joseph Martory to speak about the burial guard detail, as there were instances in which an unexpected death of a veteran occurred, and the family was trying to obtain a burial guard detail within a 48-hour timeframe.

Mr. Martory explained that the National Guard had provided the guard detail in the past; however, due to their frequent deployment to the Gulf War, it created a problem. He noted he needed contact information from the United States Southern Command (Southcom). Mr. Martory pointed out that Homestead Air Reserve Base provided notification; and in the past, the Cuban American Veteran Association had provided a detail. He said an available guard detail, with at least two individuals, was needed in Miami-Dade County that could be called upon within short notice.

Town of Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert mentioned that one of the local American Legion post had an honor guard with a bugler; and noted he would speak to the Commander of Post 144 at Miami Lakes.

Chairman Diaz recommended the MAB look at suggestions. He indicated that Southcom was willing to provide assistance.

Mr. Martory said the Post Office, by law, would provide an American flag once a DD 214 form, or a Certificate of Honorable Discharge was submitted. He noted the post office at NW 72nd Avenue and 25th Street should have flags available, if not, he had one at home which was available.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Cruz to contact the Post Master of the main Post Office to ensure they had flags available; and if they were none, the MAB would provide them.

Vice Mayor Daubert said his Post Commander advised that Post 98 in Coral Gables had an honor guard; and Post 154 in Marathon. He noted the Town of Miami Lakes was working on having its own honor guard; and it was possible the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post had burial detail.

Following Mr. Daubert's comments that the uniform for members of Post 98 American Legion consisted of black pants and a white shirt; Mr. Martory noted that uniform would be sufficient for the guard detail.

Mr. Lombard noted two of the veterans in the Marine Corps League of Post 98 were not physically readily available.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Cruz to obtain suggestions from the MAB members; and to purchase the American flags for the burial detail, if necessary. He asked the members to relay information through Mr. Cruz due to Sunshine issues. Chairman Diaz said this was extremely important, and the MAB needed to ensure flags were available; and if possible, request people from other areas.

Mr. Kowalchik advised the American Legion Post conducted memorial services for any of its members whose family requested it. He noted this was done by active duty personnel; however, it was important to provide an active copy of the DD 214 form. Mr. Kowalchik said he could obtain the names of active duty personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

➤ **Memorial Day 2016**

Chairman Diaz recapped the events scheduled for Memorial Day 2016; which included an event at Key Biscayne on the Village Green at 9:00 a.m.; the Memorial Day observance at 11:00 a.m. at the Woodlawn Park Cemetery on 32nd Avenue and SW 8th

Street; and a Memorial Day tribute to be held on May 24, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. at the Dade County Courthouse.

Mr. Kowalchik said he would confirm the time for the Key Biscayne event.

Chairman Diaz commented on the improvements made to the Woodlawn Park Cemetery; and noted he believed it showed the real meaning of Memorial Day.

Chairman Diaz asked Dr. Anthony Atwood to prepare an article in memory of the soldiers who died in a train accident on their way to Key West during the 1935 hurricane; and who were buried in a massive grave. He noted the media needed to be aware of this incident.

Mr. Martory said the day before the Memorial Day Ceremony, 3,000 American flags were placed on each grave by the Veterans service organizations, along with volunteers and Boy Scouts. He requested assistance from volunteers in removing the flags the day after the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Chairman Diaz suggested Mr. Martory contact members of the Coast Guard; Southcom; and Homestead, and the MAB members.

➤ **Veterans Day 2016**

Chairman Diaz requested a list of events relating to Veterans Day 2016. He said this was one of the MAB's goals; and North Miami Beach, North Miami, Homestead, and University of Miami would be doing events. Chairman Diaz noted he wanted the MAB to participate in all events.

➤ **Approval of Minutes of April Special Meeting**

It was moved by Town of Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert that the MAB meeting minutes for March 29, 2016, and April 4, 2016 be approved. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jorge Sibila and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 13-0 (Mr. Alex Acosta, Mr. Mario Alvarez, Mr. Thomas Davis, Mr. Manuel Gonzalez and Mr. Kevin Humes were absent).

Approval of 2014/2015 Sunset Review for MAB

Mr. Cruz explained that he had to submit a report to the County Commission every two years regarding the MAB's accomplishments and its membership. He noted he needed a motion to submit the report to the County Commission.

It was moved by Mr. Eduardo Lombard that the MAB's Sunset Review report be submitted to the County Commission. This motion was seconded by Town of Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of

13-0 (Mr. Alex Acosta, Mr. Mario Alvarez, Mr. Thomas Davis, Mr. Manuel Gonzalez and Mr. Kevin Humes were absent).

Non-Agenda Item

Chairman Diaz advised that one thousand MAB coins were ordered; ten would be given to each MAB member; and additional coins would be ordered if needed.

In response to Chairman Diaz' inquiry regarding the beanies, Mr. Cruz said he had to obtain quotes.

Chairman Diaz said Mr. Cruz had suggested, and he concurred, that the MAB create its own Military Board uniform with a shirt and cap and, if necessary, would conduct its own honor guard.

Town of Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Daubert suggested a blue, pin stripe on the logo.

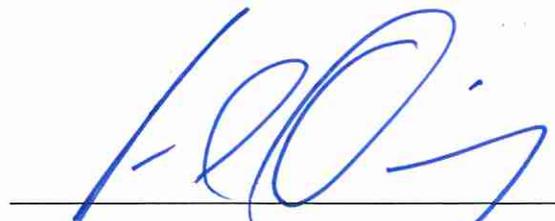
Chairman Diaz said the MAB would obtain designs for approval, as he wished to proceed with this as soon as possible; and he believed it would make the MAB appear more official. Chairman Diaz noted individuals could participate on the MAB as volunteers; however, they would not be official voting members.

Mr. Cruz distributed five MAB coins to each member and asked that they sign for receipt of the coins. He noted five were distributed to accommodate the members who were present; however, additional coins were available.

In response to Mr. David Blake's inquiry regarding the purpose of the coins and to whom they should be given, Chairman Diaz said it was the MAB member's decision; and he did not believe there should be any restrictions as to who members wanted to recognize with the coins.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the MAB meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



Military Affairs Board
April 26, 2016

Prepared by: Judy Marsh

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	04/26/2016		Meeting Agenda
2	04/26/2016		Edge4Vets Jobs Prep Workshop Series
3	04/26/2016		Fallen Warriors Memorial Project
4	04/26/2016		Sunset Review Questionnaire
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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, April 26th, 2016
6:30 PM

FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL BUILDING
8000 NW 21ST STREET
3511 N.W. 91st Avenue
Doral, FL 33122
AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ Comments or presentations from the public
- ❖ Board Member Roundtable

- ❖ Old Business
 - Veterans Court update. Delegation in Buffalo, NY
 - Veterans Concert

 - USCG Air Station Miami Open House

 - Young Marines 5K Walk/Run

 - Homestead Air Show

➤ **Navy Days at Port Everglades**

❖ **New Business**

➤ **Memorial Day 2016**

➤ **Veterans Day 2016**

❖ **Approval of Minutes of April Special Meeting**

❖ **Approval of allocation to Veterans Court for the next three years**

❖ **Approval of the 2014/2015 Sunset Review for MAB**

❖ **Discussion items for the next agenda**

❖ **Adjournment**

Cutler Bay

APRIL 12 - 25, 2016

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See What's New!
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Cutler Bay
COMMUNITY NEWS

Town joins with Woman's Club to co-host Medicare workshop

BY GARY ALAN RUSE

The Town of Cutler Bay's Communities for a Lifetime Committee (CFAL) partnered with the Cutler Ridge Woman's Club to co-host an informational workshop to help residents who have questions about Medicare and Medicaid. The event took place on Tuesday, Mar. 22, at Town Hall.

Sylvia Gaddis of NEPRO (pronounced key-pro) gave a presentation on the topic. NEPRO is a Beneficiary and Family Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization that operates in 33 states, including Florida, and the District of Columbia. NEPRO's staff is available to assist Medicare beneficiaries who have questions about whether they are ready for discharge from a hospital; whether a healthcare service, such as home health, should end, or whether they have a complaint about the quality of medical services received.

More than 25 people participated in the workshop and were able to learn how to navigate the Medicare and Medicaid



Sylvia Gaddis of NEPRO discusses information about Medicare and Medicaid.

**Vote for solar
Aug. 30 to lower
energy costs**

BY GRANT MILLER

Publisher

Let's face it, South Florida is a great place to live. They don't call it the Sunshine State for nothing, and more than a million people visited Florida last year in large part due to the lure of the sun.



More and more, countries around the world and states around this great nation are harnessing the power of the sun for energy. The U.S. ranks behind Germany, China, Japan and Italy but is getting into the game.

Solar power capacity in the U.S. has increased 20-fold since 2008 and the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) says solar energy is set to grow by more than 30 percent during the next year.

In The Solar Energy Industries' Association's (SEIA) most recent Solar Means Business study, the adoption of solar by U.S. businesses grew by 183 percent with companies like Walmart, Kohl's, Costco, Apple and Ikea leading the way.

This growth is largely due to the rapidly declining cost of solar. In 20 states, solar is at grid parity with traditional power sources. Oxford University's recent study found annual price declines of 10 percent will continue into the next decade. They estimate solar will supply 20 percent of global energy needs by 2027.

This is really good news because solar is

See SOLAR, page 4

SOCSSOUTH project to raise funds to create Fallen Warriors Memorial

BY JESSE SCHECKNER

Special Operations Command South (SOCSSOUTH) is sponsoring a project to raise funds for the construction of the Fallen Warriors Memorial, a national monument to honor those killed in action or training since the activation of the 8th Special Forces Group (Airborne) on Apr. 1, 1963.

There currently is no memorial recognizing the 120 Special Operations Forces (SOF) members who died in the line of duty in the U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) of Central and South America and the Caribbean. This fundraising effort, led by retired Army Special Forces (Green Beret) Lt. Col. Patrick

Lenaghan, seeks to rectify that oversight.

"Over the years we've lost quite a few people," said Lenaghan, deputy director of operations at SOCSOUTH. "Many have given their lives to uphold democracy in this AOR, but the American public is largely unaware of these quiet professionals and the vital role they play and have played in the defense and protection of the sovereignty of our allies in the region."

The publicly funded project will unfold in two phases at Homestead Air Reserve Base, where SOCSOUTH is located.

Phase I, which is now halfway to reaching its estimated \$45,000 cost, will see a self-supporting wall in front of SOCSOUTH headquarters affixed with panels listing the

See MEMORIAL, page 4

See MEDICARE, page 4

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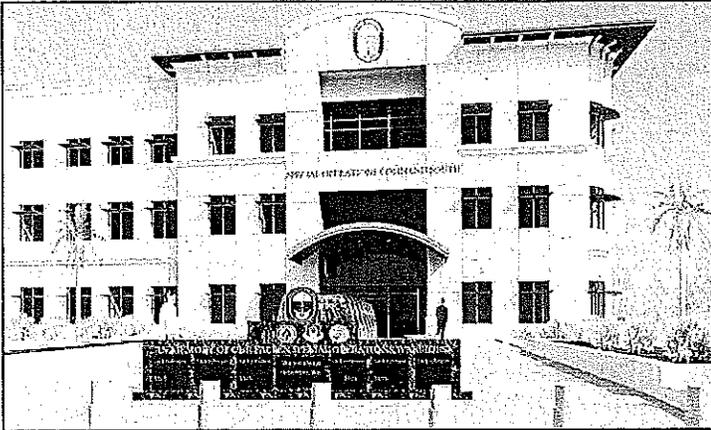
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MEMORIAL, from page 1



In this rendering of the Fallen Warriors Memorial, four self-supporting stones commemorating the four major combat operations undertaken by Special Operations Command South will be placed in front of the flagpole next to a reflection pool.

names of the 120 memorialized SOF members. Freestanding illuminated stones commemorating those killed in action during the AOR's four major combat operations — the Salvadoran War (El Salvador, 1979-92), Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada, 1983), Operation Just Cause (Republic of Panama, 1989-90) and Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti, 1994-95) — also will be constructed in the vicinity of the American flag.

Phase II will unfold gradually as funds are raised after Phase I is completed. The memorial will be beautified during this phase, increasing its depth, width and height by adding black granite encompassing the wall. The total cost of this phase is still under bid.

"This is a sponsored but not supported endeavor," Lenaghan said. "The command is behind the idea but cannot support it financially. In order to build the memorial, it has to be built completely with funding from the private sector, but our hope is that it will become a national monument of sorts."

All funds are being accepted through Special Operations of South Florida Inc., a non-profit organization created specifically for the memorial. Large donors have the option to be honored as well on an adjacent donors' plaque.

"Special Operations Command South is responsible for Department of Defense activities including counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics and counter trans-national organized crime in Latin America, so there's an affinity there," he said. "It's our community and it's our comrades — friends of ours that we've known over the years who have operated in Central and South America very quietly, professionally and without much fanfare. They gave their lives in the defense of democracy, but nobody knows it. I think it's time we had some kind of memorial for them."

You can send donations to: Special Operations of South Florida Inc. PO Box 902213, Homestead, FL 33091-2213. For more information visit <www.fallenwarriorsmemorial-specops.com>.

MEDICARE, from page 1

process. Informational brochures were distributed, and Gaddis answered attendees' questions about their Medicare benefits. She also explained the process of filing a quality of care complaint and the review procedure it goes through before resolution.

Cutler Bay Councilmember Sue Ellen Loyzelle, who serves as CFAL's Town Council Liaison, said she was happy with the turnout and the presentation.

"I was very pleased to see our CFAL committee and the Cutler Ridge Woman's Club come together to educate our community on important topics related to quality senior care," Loyzelle said. "Oftentimes people don't know where to turn when they need assistance or guidance. KEPRO is one of those resources that our commu-

nity needs to be aware of. I was very pleased with Sylvia's presentation and learned so much."

Dolores Dimitriou of the Cutler Ridge Woman's Club appreciated the workshop.

"We received good information from Sylvia Gaddis of KEPRO about the new Medicare emphasis on patient care as an evaluation of nursing homes," Dimitriou said. "I was able to give this resource to a friend. This is the kind of programming those seniors in Cutler Bay need."

Information about KEPRO's free services for Medicare beneficiaries can be found at <www.keproqio.org>. For information regarding upcoming workshops and meetings sponsored by the town, visit <www.cutlerbay-fl.gov> or call 305-234-4262.

SOLAR, from page 1

creating jobs. According to SEIA, solar jobs added workers at a rate nearly 20 times faster than the overall economy.

I'm happy to report the Florida Legislature just opened the door to an incremental step forward when a bill by State Sen. Jeff Brandes, (R) St. Petersburg, and State Reps. Ray Rodrigues, (R) Fort Myers, and Lori Berman, (D) Boynton Beach, passed unanimously in both chambers. Miami-Dade's own State Rep. Jose Felix Diaz gets some credit as well as chair of the Regulatory Affairs Committee.

The state legislature put a measure on the Aug. 30 First Primary ballot to a tax abatement (reduction) on solar. This is important because it will lower the cost of energy, making it more affordable for families and businesses to access solar power.

Florida's energy policies generally have been unfriendly to solar, favoring traditional centralized power plants rather than solar at utility scale or on your rooftop but now you will have a chance to vote to lower energy costs and reduce taxes on solar equipment. Make sure you are plugged in. Traditionally, primary elections see a lower voter turnout so keep an eye out for this important vote.

We can put more people to work and keep our precious energy dollars working locally in our communities while we protect our natural resources and environment. With solar, we save water. With solar, we reduce the harmful emissions that add to problems like sea level rise. Communities like Miami Beach are investing as much as \$400 million on pumps to contend with increasing sea levels. And with solar, we lock in prices for power.

It's the ultimate win, win. Let's take advantage of the God-given resource that makes where we live the envy of so many and use it to power our lives. Vote for Solar on Aug. 30.

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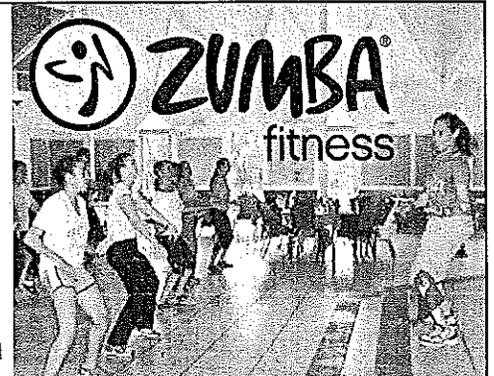


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*Exhibit
MAB-4-26-16*

**SUNSET REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARDS
2016**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name of Board reporting: Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board
2. Indicate number of board members, terms of office, and number of vacancies:
Number of Board Members: 33
Terms of Office: 1
Number of Vacancies: 4
3. Identify number of meetings and members' attendance (Attach records reflecting activity from **Jan. 1, 2014** through **December 31, 2015**):
Number of Meetings: 20
Number of Meetings with a Quorum: 11
Attendance Records: See Attachment #1
4. What is the source of your funding? _General funds for administrative needs.
Sponsor and donations fund all of the Board's signature events.
5. Date of Board Creation: Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board was created on May 17, 2012.
6. Attach a copy of the ordinance creating the Board (Please include all subsequent amendments).
See Attachment #2
7. Include the Board's Mission Statement or state its purpose:
The mission of the Military Affairs Board is to provide the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners with recommendations in regards to the military and veterans. The Military Affairs Board's focus will be concentrated on issues concerning the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard Reserves. The Military Affairs Board will maintain a strong relationship with the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Red Cross and any other entity that interacts with the military and veterans in Miami-Dade County. The Military Affairs Board will serve as an advocate for active duty, reserve, retired, disabled and deceased military personnel in Miami-Dade County.
8. Attach the Board's standard operating procedures, if any. Not Applicable
9. Attach a copy of the Board's By-Laws, if any.
See Attachment #3
10. Attach a copy of the Board minutes approving the Sunset Review Questionnaire, **including a vote of the membership**.
See Attachment #4

II. EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Is the Board serving the purpose for which it was created? (Please provide detailed information) _Yes. The Military Affairs Board though in its infancy has created an awareness for the military and veterans in Miami-Dade County. The Military Affairs Board is identifying and developing programs to address the needs of both the veteran and the military in our community.

Exhibit

¹ MAB-4-26-16

2. Is the Board serving current community needs? (Please provide detailed information)
Yes. The Military Affairs Board has been instrumental in addressing the community needs by establishing several committees within the Board to address specific and complex needs.
3. What are the Board's major accomplishments?
 - a. Last 24 months the Military Affairs Board organized with community partners the Veteran Court program. This program coordinates efforts from the justice system, VA Hospital medical/psychological staff and volunteers that together will bring positive results to the program.
 - b. Participated in annual Memorial Day festivities throughout the community.
 - c. Coordinated and participated in various community events for Veterans Day celebrations.
 - d. Attended multiple conferences on the need of Public, Private, Partnerships with military bases and the surrounding communities in order better sustain the missions of the bases.
4. Is there any other board, either public or private, which would better serve the function of this board?
No
5. Should the ordinance creating the Board be amended to better enable the Board to serve the purpose for which it was created? (If "Yes", attach proposed changes)
No
6. Should the Board's membership requirements be modified?
No
7. What is the operating cost of the Board, both direct and indirect? (Report on FY 2012 and FY 2013)
\$58,500/\$6,500
8. Describe the Board's performance measures developed to determine its own effectiveness in achieving its stated goals.
Meeting on a monthly basis. Networking with various veteran and military organizations in order to unite all aspects of the Military Community. Identify and monitor the needs and interest of the Military Community in order to improve their quality of life. Collaborating with other advisory boards in the department by hosting programs together to enhance inter-group relations. Empowering veterans in addressing and finding solutions to community concerns. Establishing a direct line of communication between the Military Affairs Board and the Board of County Commissioners, County administrators, community organizations and the citizens of Miami-Dade County. Establishing events and activities that address the topics of interest to the Military Community. Promoting, attracting and soliciting military activities in Miami-Dade County in order to generate further community support for the Armed Services.