



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

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

April 10, 2013
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Division Chief
Clerk of the Board Division

Alan Eisenberg, Commission Reporter
(305) 375-2510



CLERKS SUMMARY OF MEETING AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD
April 10, 2013

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on April 10, 2013 at 5:50 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp., 8000 NW 21 Street, Miami, FL 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Mario Alvarez; Anthony Atwood; David Blake; Raydel Cornelio; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Thomas Davis; Diana Gonzalez; Manuel Gonzalez; Chief Master Sergeant Cameron Kirksey; Joseph Martory; Jorge Sibila; Colonel Lee Walters / Mignon (Scottie) Moore; and Keith Whitbeck.

The following voting Board members were absent: Mark Blumstein Antonio Colmenares; Eddy Fonseca, Jr.; Kevin Humes, Captain Mark Jackson; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; and Don Slesnick II.

The following non-voting Board members were present: Joanna Sandstrom; Shane Suzuki for "Paul Russo"; and Ed Haynes for "U.S. Congresswoman Frederica Wilson".

The following Staff members were present: Jeve Clayton, MAB Interim Director; Assistant County Attorney Gerald Sanchez; Gloria Garces, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz' Office; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

The following guests were also present: Carla Crook; Eric Geressy; Sue Giorgi; Wilfredo Fleites; Theresa Light; Liam McGivern; Rosio Vegas.

1. Welcome

Chairman Diaz apologized for his arriving late due to being detained at the Special Board of County Commissioners Meeting. He proceeded to welcome Board Members and guests to tonight's Military Affairs Board meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Timothy Daubert led the Military Affairs Board (MAB) in a moment of prayer followed the Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Joseph Martory.

3. Introductions

Chairman Diaz proceeded to ask Military Affairs Board (MAB) members to introduce themselves and to share any pertinent information about their organizations and current programs of interest.

Mr. Shane Suzuki noted the opening of the Emergency Department at the Miami Veterans Administration Healthcare System and that the Operating Suite was scheduled to open this summer, followed by the Liver Kidney Transplant Center shortly thereafter. He also noted that the VA2K would be held on May 15th to raise awareness for homeless veterans.

Ms. Mignon (Scottie) Moore announced the Gold Star Mothers Recognition on May 20, 2013. She noted a request from a member of the National Guard with Stage 4 cancer to attend a Miami Heat game to see his hero, Lebron James.

Chairman Diaz noted that he would follow-up on this request.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez announced that Doing Business with the Military in partnership with American Express would be held on May 31, 2013 at Miami-Dade College. She noted the event would inform local businesses how to conduct business with military installations and government agencies. Ms. Gonzalez said a session would be offered to assist veterans, returning military and military spouses seeking employment. She noted the Miami Dade Defense Alliance and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce would present the program Women in Combat at the Coral Gables Museum on April 17, 2013. Ms. Gonzalez also announced that a free concert for veterans and active military presented by the Miami-Dade College, Kendall Campus and the Civic Chorale of Greater Miami would be held at the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center on April 21, 2013. She said the Defense Communities 2013 National Summit would be held June 12 – 14 in Washington, D.C. with opportunities to meet with Congressional delegations.

Mr. Thomas Davis informed Board members that the Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) would meet on April 17, 2013.

Councilman Timothy Daubert announced the opening of the Town of Miami Lakes Town Hall on April 23, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Anthony Atwood noted that 700 people received food distributions on April 6, 2013 through an event hosted by the South Florida Military Museum and Veterans Memorial, Florida's 118th District and Farm Share. He announced that the Military Museum would hold a panel exposition featuring the Miami Medical Team at the Southwest Regional Library on April 11, 2013.

Mr. Joseph Martory informed Board members that United States (U.S.) Congress House Resolution 258 which "makes it a crime for a person to profit by misrepresenting his or her military service or eligibility for military awards or decorations" had 90 cosponsors and was returned to the Judiciary Committee. He noted the Stolen Valor Act of 2013 was recently reported favorably out of the Judiciary Committee and was now awaiting action by leadership to bring the bill to the House floor.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck announced that Miami International Airport had spent over \$129,000 to renovate and furnish the military lounge and the grand opening was tentatively scheduled for May 17th.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez noted the Miami-Dade Aviation Department and Miami-Dade Police Department provided Explosive Ordinance Detection training to the Haitian National Police at the Port of Prince Airport in cooperation with Southcom and recommendations from the Haitian Ports and Border Security Conferences. He said additional State Department funding was available to provide similar training throughout the Caribbean.

Mr. Jorge Sibila announced that the Cuban Pilots Association Brigade 2506 Annual Ceremony in memory of the pilots and mechanics of the Brigade that died in combat during the Bay of Pigs Invasion would be held at the monument at the Kendall-Tamiami Airport on April 14, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

4. Old Business

- **Veterans Court**

Chairman Diaz asked Ms. Joanna Sandstrom to provide an update on the Veterans Court at the next Board meeting.

Councilman Daubert mentioned that the Public Defender was supportive of the Veterans Court.

Chairman Diaz cautioned that it might be premature to obtain the Public Defender's involvement before the program was fully crafted by the State Attorney for Miami-Dade County. He noted the implementation of the mentoring program also needed to be completed.

Mr. Jorge Sibila commented that he hoped the Veterans Court would assist veterans receive assistance in a timely manner and that the Public Defender's involvement could help expedite this process.

Chairman Diaz noted he had also discussed the framework of the Veterans Court with the Public Defender and that he would be a necessary component to the program.

Ms. Sandstrom explained that there were only five veterans in Miami-Dade County jails according to Dr. Giovanna Delgado, Miami Veterans Administration Healthcare System. She said she did not believe this was an accurate figure, probably because the Corrections Department was not asking whether individuals were veterans upon intake or not asking the right questions. Ms. Sandstrom noted Dr. Delgado would follow-up with the Corrections Department to determine whether veterans' information was being collected on the intake forms.

Chairman Diaz said he would request Mr. Timothy Ryan, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Director to provide a status report. He noted the arresting agency was responsible to indicate whether the subject was a veteran on the arrest form. Chairman Diaz said he would meet with the Sheriffs Council, consisting of all arresting agencies within the County, including federal and State agencies to ensure arrest forms contained a uniform stamp rather than to create additional forms.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez noted everyone arrested in this County was processed through the Corrections Department and suggested that appropriate legislation be created that would require data be maintained on all veterans.

Chairman Diaz responded that legislation was not necessary and that he would meet with Mayor Gimenez, Corrections Director Ryan, and the County's legal department since this information should be readily available. He commented that the purpose of requesting information was to protect men and women coming back from military service with adjustment issues. Chairman Diaz noted the Public Defender was a strong advocate of military issues.

5. New Business

- **Miami-Dade County Cemetery**

Chairman Diaz noted that the ashes of homeless veterans were placed at the Miami-Dade County Cemetery (Cemetery). He commented that the Military Affairs Board (MAB) should consider taking ownership of maintenance issues at the Cemetery after he found a torn United States flag there. Chairman Diaz said the Medical Examiner's Office was providing as much assistance as they could; however, he would request additional assistance from Mayor Gimenez' office to make improvements to the Cemetery.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez inquired whether an infrastructure plan existed that identified needed Cemetery improvements. She offered to assist the (MAB) submit a grant application to the State of Florida's Infrastructure Grant Program to address needed improvements at the Cemetery.

Chairman Diaz said a systematic maintenance plan was needed.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck commented that previous work was performed at the Cemetery and perhaps MAB members could conduct a site visit to assess its current condition.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Whitbeck and Ms. Gonzalez to visit the Cemetery to see what was required and to report back on needed maintenance concerns.

Ms. Gonzalez suggested that County staff with capital improvements experience participated in this review.

Chairman Diaz said the Cemetery was a very solemn, quiet place.

Ms. Gonzalez noted the Cemetery was the original Potters Field established at least 60 years ago by the County and other County facilities were built around it.

Mr. Anthony Atwood commented that there was a fresh water spring adjacent to the Cemetery.

Chairman Diaz suggested that the history of the site be compiled.

Chairman Diaz confirmed that the MAB agreed to adopt, to improve and to find ways to maintain the Cemetery. He noted a previous discussion by the MAB to find a place to bury veterans who had no one else to rely upon.

Ms. Gonzalez noted the Request for Proposal for the grant would be available in June and would need to be submitted by mid-July.

Mr. Daubert suggested that a representative from the Medical Examiner provide assistance as well.

- **Veteran's Day Parade**

Chairman Diaz announced that the Veteran's Day Parade (Parade) would be held on November 9, 2013. He said he met with Mr. Bob Levy and decided that this date would not conflict with any other events planned in the community. Chairman Diaz noted this was a one-time event honoring the men and women who served this country in the Vietnam War, and was not intended to be about the politics of a war.

Chairman Diaz distributed an article to be submitted to local media entitled "Welcome Home – A Real Welcome for Our Vietnam Veterans" which explained the background of this event. He said his goal was for a ticker tape parade to be held through downtown Miami ending at Bayfront Park with a concert featuring named artists in the amphitheatre. Chairman Diaz noted that the event should gain national attention; that Comcast had agreed to participate; and that appointments with the Military Channel and the History Channel have been scheduled. He noted the commitment of Miami-Dade County, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, former U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen, Miami-Dade County Public School Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, and other members of the national and state legislative delegations. Chairman Diaz said he would be meeting with City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado upon his return from out of the country. He noted Town of Cutler Bay Mayor Ed MacDougall would promote the event through the League of Cities and he anticipated participation from all 35 municipalities. Councilman Timothy Daubert noted he would communicate with Mayor MacDougall and would announce the Parade at the upcoming League of Cities meeting to be held on April 11, 2013.

Chairman Diaz commented that it was not the intention to make money on the event; however, donations were needed and he encouraged MAB members to solicit organizational support.

Mr. Thomas Davis noted that flyovers have been forbidden; however, requests could be submitted and all military units could have more access to funding in October.

Chairman Diaz noted the County had aircraft that could be used.

Ms. Mignon (Scottie) Moore noted the possibility of another Continued Resolution Authority (CRA) for the next fiscal year and normally only programs that previously received funding would continue to be funded.

Chairman Diaz commented that the flyover could be considered as a training operation.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck inquired whether entertainment was considered and suggested the Lieutenant Dan Band and the Joe Montaine Band.

Chairman Diaz noted the plan was to secure entertainment from the Vietnam War era. He said that Tim McGraw often appeared at no cost at events to support the military and was the type of entertainment he was looking for, even though not from that era. Chairman Diaz also mentioned reaching out to actor Gary Sinise.

Chairman Diaz commented that Bob Levy suggested that the Bay of Pigs Veterans also served in the Vietnam War era and needed to be recognized because they were trained, put into position and left alone by the United States.

Chairman Diaz assigned Mr. Raydel Cornelio to coordinate the Veterans Day Parade and to hold meetings to obtain input from all MAB members. He said that it was the responsibility of each member to keep their organizations informed and to provide progress report updates at each meeting.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez suggested having the Vietnam Wall at Bayfront Park.

Mr. Whitbeck commented that he personally knew Mr. Jack Jacobs from NBC who was the guest speaker when the Vietnam Wall was last in Miami.

Chairman Diaz noted that Medal of Honor recipients and all veterans would be encouraged to participate, even though the event targeted the Vietnam War era.

- **Memorial Day Events**

Mr. Anthony Atwood noted a Memorial Day Celebration would be held on May 27, 2013 at Woodlawn Cemetery in cooperation with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee at 11:00 a.m. He said that three families of Medal of Honor recipients lived in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Atwood noted that over 3,000 veterans were buried at Woodlawn Cemetery alone.

Mr. Atwood expressed his desire to place flags around Woodlawn Cemetery; noting that there was no coordinated countywide effort to do this at all cemeteries, including Potters Field. He said the South Florida Military Museum and Veterans Memorial could provide the flags and the Boy Scouts and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) could place them around the cemeteries.

Chairman Diaz asked Councilman Daubert to make an announcement of the Memorial Day Celebration at the upcoming League of Cities meeting. He also noted emails of the event would be distributed to the MAB distribution list.

Mr. Mario Alvarez mentioned that a speakers list and the request for a color guard could be requested through Southcom.

Colonel Lee Walters clarified that the speakers list would be available in a couple of weeks; that formal requests were submitted online; that there was only one color guard; and that the scheduling was on a first come first served basis.

Chairman Diaz asked Ms. Gloria Garces to ensure that he prepares a memorandum about the celebration and sends it to the cities within Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Ed Haynes commented that Congresswoman Frederica Wilson sponsored an event last year on Armed Forces Day honoring 200 veterans, noting that she would do this again on May 18, 2013. He said the names of veterans were submitted to the Congressional Record to be memorialized in the Library of Congress.

Chairman Diaz noted he believed that 66,000 veterans lived in this community.

- **South Florida Military Museum and Veterans Memorial**

Chairman Diaz noted he would contact State House Representatives and Senators to lobby for the requested funding for the new Military Museum while in Tallahassee.

6. Presentations

- **Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.**

Mr. Liam McGivern, Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., 3000 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 500, Miami, FL 33137 appeared before the Military Affairs Board (MAB). He explained that Legal Services was a non-profit law firm providing legal assistance to low income residents in Miami-Dade County. Mr. McGivern said Legal Services had a specialized veteran's project representing veterans in proceedings before the Department of Veterans Affairs; eviction defense; and homelessness issues.

Mr. McGivern explained that the County offered a Patriot Pass which provided veterans with free transportation; however, the eligibility and registration requirements made it difficult for veterans to obtain the Pass. He noted veterans must provide their Military

Discharge Records Form DD214; their Internal Revenue Service income documentation; and a valid State of Florida Identification Card. Mr. McGivern said these requirements presented a burden upon low income veterans, many who were homeless and struggling with mental health and addiction issues.

Mr. McGivern noted a veteran could qualify for Veterans Administration (VA) benefits but not for the Patriot Pass, thus preventing them from attending doctors' appointments due to the lack of transportation. He said that providing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) income documentation was an obstacle to low income and unemployed veterans; however, they could easily provide a letter from a Veterans Administration Social Worker or proof they resided in a homeless shelter. The documentation required for a Florida Identification Card such as a birth certificate could take months to obtain, noting that VA photo identification could be an alternative, noted Mr. McGivern.

Mr. Shane Suzuki clarified that a discharge with honorable conditions was related to a medical condition. He said it meant a soldier completed his/her job but did not complete their contract and although it qualified for VA medical benefits, it did not qualify for the Patriot Pass.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez inquired whether these requirements were issued by the Federal Transportation Administration or were they locally imposed, creating unintended consequences.

Mr. McGivern responded that some of the requirements were contained in the County Ordinance that created the Patriot Pass and others were created by the Transit Department.

Chairman Diaz noted that he and Commissioner Souto initiated this legislation to create the Patriot Pass in recognition of honorably discharged veterans. He said that the Military Affairs Board would follow-up on the Patriot Pass concerns brought to the Board's attention as well as any benefits or issues relating to Miami-Dade County veterans or anything else requiring federal lobbying efforts and asked Mr. Shane Suzuki to lead this effort.

Mr. Thomas Davis said a dishonorable discharge was a hindrance to obtaining employment and inquired whether Legal Services offered assistance in getting dishonorable discharges upgraded.

Mr. McGivern responded that upgrading discharges was his specialty and he would accept referrals.

- **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**

Ms. Theresa Light, International Air Transport Association (IATA) Training Division, 703 Waterford Way, Suite 600, Miami, FL 33126 was joined by her colleague Ms. Rosio Vegas. She said IATA provided training for all segments of the airline industry, noting

that the air cargo industry was rapidly growing and that the framework for a veterans training program was being developed. Ms. Light noted the program targeted veterans with transferable skills from active duty who were interested in integrating into the civilian workforce with employment in the aviation industry.

Ms. Light said the program was being discussed with the U.S. Department of Labor; the curriculum was currently being developed; and was scheduled to be launched in the fall 2013. She noted that scholarships would be available and efforts were underway to become an Endorsed Trainer with the Veterans Administration.

Chairman Diaz informed Ms. Light that the Military Affairs Board members would review the information provided on the program, noting that a Board resolution was needed to endorse the program and that this request could be accommodated at a subsequent meeting.

- **Miami Dade College, Veterans Office**

Ms. Sue Giorgi, Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus, noted over 1,800 veterans currently attended the College who has self-identified themselves as veterans. She invited Military Affairs Board members to a free concert entitled "Voices for Veterans A Concert of Thanks to the U.S. Military" featuring the Campus' Community Choir and the Civic Chorale of Greater Miami on April 21, 2013, 4:00 p.m. at the South Miami Cultural Arts Center. Ms Giorgi proceeded to describe the community events, sports activities, festivals and educational programs offered by the College. She noted the College was able to arrange the waiver of electric bills for veterans each August since benefits were not provided during periods when classes were not held. Ms. Giorgi said she was eager for veterans to participate in College functions and to provide free tickets to various functions.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez noted the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance was hosting an event at the College and that the College's Veterans Office was invited to speak at that event. She also noted a community resource and discount directory was available for military personnel and families on the internet and asked Ms. Gonzalez to provide information about the College to be included on that website.

Mr. Mario Alvarez suggested that information also be included on the Military Advisory Board's website.

Ms. Giorgi said military veterans were overwhelmed by college and universities bureaucracy. She noted the Single Stop program and the New Student Center at the College were reaching out to make personal connections and the process more comfortable.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck said he recently met with representatives from each Campus of Miami Dade College and was impressed with their desire and ability to help veterans. He

proceeded to inquire why a veteran should choose Miami-Dade College over another institution.

Ms. Giorgi responded that Miami-Dade College was the largest community college in the Country with 182,000 students and eight campuses. She said the College was small, hands-on, personable, provided special program options for veterans, and good at what it does.

7. Sub-Committee Reports

• Employment and Housing Committee

Ms. Diana Gonzalez noted background information regarding housing needs was obtained from the Homestead Air Reserve Base and the U.S. Southern Command. She said that between 100 and 125 single and family units were needed. Ms. Gonzalez noted a broader forum was needed from federal officials to address other programs throughout the County. She said additional information would be needed on the square footage requirements for both the property and the housing unit. Ms. Gonzalez noted the Miami-Dade County Public School Board needed to participate in this discussion to determine whether proposed housing would be within close proximity to schools or whether exemptions for military personnel were necessary.

Ms. Gonzalez explained that Congressional Bill HR3186 would have amended the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act to exclude amounts received as a military basic income housing allowance from consideration as income. She noted this legislation would have allowed certain military personnel qualify for tax credit housing, affordable housing as defined by the Internal Revenue Service and State funded programs. Ms. Gonzalez said this legislation may need to be reopened for military personnel to be evaluated on just salary and not on base housing allowance.

Mr. Ed Haynes commented that he would forward this concern to Congresswoman Frederica Wilsons' Legislative Director.

8. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Councilman Timothy Daubert that the March 6, 2013 Military Affairs Board Minutes be approved with the following amendments: 1) to reflect on page 1 that Mr. Manny Gonzalez arrived late rather than as being absent; 2) to delete in the eighth paragraph, third line of page 8 "She noted the Veterans Administration Hospital would pay rent as long as military members were living in the housing units."; 3) to add "... at most army installations." after the last sentence of the same paragraph; and 4) to change "Mr. Manny (unidentified last name)" to "Mr. Manny Gonzalez" on page 10, paragraph 7. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jorge Sibila, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Next Meeting Date

Chairman Diaz said the next Military Affairs Board meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at location that would be announced.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Military Affairs Board meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



Military Affairs Board
April 10, 2013

Prepared by: Alan Eisenberg

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	4/10		Meeting Agenda
2	4/10		Miami-Dade County Cemetery Photos
3	4/10		Welcome Home – A Real Welcome For Our Vietnam Veterans Statement from Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
4	4/10		Voices for Veterans – A Concert of Thanks to the U.S. Military Flyer
5	4/10		U.S. Department of Labor News Release: Grants available to provide job training, employment services for 2,600 homeless veterans
6	4/10		Celebrate Women in the Military Luncheon Flyer
7	4/10		Single Stop USA Flyer
8	4/10		Sign-In Sheet
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Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 10th, 2013

Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp.,

8000 NW 21 Street, Miami, FL 33122

5:30 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Moment of Silence**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Board Member Roundtable**
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
 - Miami-Dade Cemetery
 - Veteran's Day Parade
 - Memorial Day Events
- **Presentations:**
 - Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc
 - International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- **Sub-Committee Reports**
- **Approval of Minutes (March 6th, 2013)**
- **Next meeting date**
- **Discussion Items for the next agenda**
- **Adjournment**

Miami-Dade County Cemetery





-Flag was replaced on 3/20/13



Miami-Dade County Cemetery 3/18/13









Miami- Dade County Cemetery 3/18/13

WELCOME HOME – A REAL WELCOME FOR OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

They were not only not welcomed home; they were called names, seen as part of the problem, protested on, mistreated, spat on or simply ignored. That is what coming back home looked like for most of our Vietnam Veterans. Many which now make sure that our troops have an appropriate welcome and deployment. Many which fight for the rights and the respect they didn't get when they returned home. Many which are still struggling to overcome the lingering taste of "survivor's guilt", haunted by the fact that they survived when thousands more didn't, and many still dealing with feelings of resentment for the rude reception back home, which made readjustment to civilian life more difficult.

Well, the Military Affairs Board of Miami-Dade County and I, as the Chairman, want to say to our Vietnam Veterans: Welcome Home! Welcome Home! Welcome Home!

On Memorial Day last year- May 28th, 2012-President Barak Obama proclaimed the beginning of a 13 year commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, through Veterans Day, November 11, 2025. Historians are yet to agree when the war began, but this year on March 29th we celebrated 40 years from the day the last combat troop from the United States left Vietnam. We, the Military Affairs Board, encourage all the residents in our County to join in our efforts to be part of this Commemorative Program by joining us in preparation of a massive Veterans Parade on November 8th, 2013, that will unite our cities, military and civilians in order to provide a dignified "Welcome Back" Celebration for our Vietnam Veterans.

We want to be able to give them the kind of greeting that they deserved back then and didn't get. We want to be able to show that an entire community is becoming part of the national efforts to bestow honor and respect to the 2.7 Million Americans that served our country during that long, bloody conflict. With the spirit of finding in each resident of Miami-Dade County a partner in the preparation and execution of this commemorative event, I share with you an excerpt from the proclamation for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War signed by the President of the United States of America, which reads: *As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots-their names etched in black granite-who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May*

they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful to their service, valor and sacrifice.

This is not about the politics that surrounded that war it is about the men and women who put their lives the on the line-those that lost their lives, those that survived and those that will forever be impacted by their service. Let's come together to show our gratitude with the upcoming united Veterans Parade because it is never too late to pay homage to the American Patriots that served during this war. If you would like to be informed or get involved in the preparation of this commemorative event, please visit the Military Affairs Board website at www.miamidade.gov/advocacy/military_home.asp or call my office at 305.599.1200.

I am certain that together we can embrace their legacy of courage, extend a welcoming hand and positively impact history.

The Military Affairs Board's mission is to promote, attract and solicit military activities in Miami-Dade County, as well as advocate on behalf of military personnel on issues like health care, housing loans, pension benefits, education, employment, unemployment benefits, disability claims, vocational training and insurance. The idea is that everything that relates to the past and present service men and women would converge through the MAB and then into the hands of the specific agencies that can find solutions and create opportunities. For more information on the Military Affairs Board, please visit the site at www.miamidade.gov/advocacy/military_home.asp

José "Pepe" Díaz

Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 12, Miami-Dade County Military Liaison and Chairman of the Military Affairs Board

VOICES FOR VETERANS

A Concert of Thanks to the U.S. Military

**Sunday April 21, 2013
4:00 P.M.**

**South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center
10950 S.W. 211 Street
Cutler Bay, FL 33189**

presented by

**MIAMI DADE COLLEGE, KENDALL CAMPUS
& THE CIVIC CHORALE OF GREATER MIAMI**

FREE for Veterans and those currently serving

**Ticket Information at 786.573.5300
or online www.smdcac.org/shows.html**

With the Support of the Miami Dade County
Department of Cultural Affairs and the
Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami Dade
County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners





News Release

Connect with DOL at
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U.S. Department of Labor For Immediate Release April 3, 2013

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C.

Release Number: 13-603-NAT

Contact: Michael Volpe Egan Reich

Phone: 202-693-4651 202-693-4960

Email: volpe.michael@dol.gov
reich.egan.2@dol.gov

Grants available from US Labor Department to provide job training, employment services for 2,600 homeless veterans *Groups nationwide invited to compete for up to \$5 million in funds*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the availability of up to \$5 million to fund 16 or more Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program grants. Approximately 2,600 veterans will receive job training and related services to help them succeed in civilian careers.

“Every day, our service members and their families make tremendous sacrifices for their country. Although homelessness among veterans has fallen, too many of our heroes still are without jobs or homes,” said acting Secretary of Labor Seth D. Harris. “Through these grants, the Labor Department will provide those who have served our nation with the opportunity for a fresh start and a good job.”

Funds for the grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to state and local workforce investment boards, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and faith-based and community organizations. Because these groups are intimately connected with their local economies and the needs of homeless veterans, they can offer occupational, classroom and on-the-job training, as well as job search and placement assistance, including follow-up services. Awards will range from \$100,000 to \$300,000 each.

HVRP is recognized as extraordinarily efficient and effective, and is the only federal program that focuses exclusively on the employment of homeless veterans.

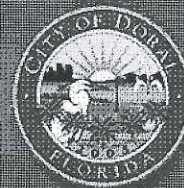
The solicitation for grant applications is available at <http://www.grants.gov>. For more information, visit that site and <http://www.dol.gov/vets>, or contact grants officer Cassandra Mitchell at 202-693-4570.

###



Sandra Ruiz

Councilwoman, City of Doral



SAVE THE DATE

*City of Doral Councilwoman
Sandra Ruiz*

cordially invites you to a luncheon to

Celebrate Women in the Military

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Registration: 11:30 AM to 12 Noon

Event Time: 12 Noon to 1:30 PM

InterContinental at Doral

2505 NW 87th Ave

Doral, FL 33172

RSVP and Nominations for Women Heroes Awards to
Sandra.Ruiz@CityofDoral.com



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Immediate Family Members

Services Include:

- Benefits Screening
- Financial Counseling
- Tax Preparation Services
- Legal Assistance
- Referral Services

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MIAMI DADE COUNTY MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD

April 10th, 2013

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