

Veterans & Military Services Standing Committee Business Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 2:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. EST

Veterans & Military Services Standing Committee Leadership

Chair: Councilwoman Heather Post, Volusia County, Fla.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Monique Baker McCormick, Wayne County, Mich.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Steve Bradshaw of Dekalb County, Ga.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Bill Holen, Arapahoe County, Colo

Vice Chair: Commissioner Chris Lukasevich, Carbon County, Pa.

Vice Chair: Recorder, Becky Lynch, Lake County, Ohio

Vice Chair: Commissioner Demarcus Marshal, Lowndes County, Ga.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Trista Matascastillo, Ramsey County, Minn.

Vice Chair: Mr. Jason Skinner, Director of Veterans Services, Livingston County, N.Y.

Vice Chair: Supervisor Thomas Snider, Winnebago County, Wis.

Vice Chair: Ms. Claudia Tuck, Director of Community Support Services, Alachua County, Fla.

Vice Chair: Mr. Ed Zackery, Veterans Service Office Director and Immediate Past President of NACVSO

Liaison to NACo's Executive Committee: Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County, Mont.

Meeting Agenda

2:00 PM: Call to Order and Welcome

- **Hon. Heather Post**, Chair, NACo Veterans and Military Services Committee; Councilmember, Volusia County, Fla.

Serving our Veterans Together: A Discussion Between Counties and our Federal Partners

With the 117th Congress underway, our federal partners remain focused on helping veterans weather the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing legislation focused on veteran suicide prevention and access to care and services for women veterans. Congressional staff and officials from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will join the committee to discuss these major priorities. The committee will also learn about new resources for veteran and military caregivers and opportunities for county-military partnerships available through the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program.

2:10 PM: Legislative Update for Counties on the American Rescue Plan Act

Staff liaison Rachel Mackey will provide an overview of important issues and recent legislative developments, including the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and supports it includes for veterans.

- **Rachel Mackey**, Associate Legislative Director, Human Services and Education, NACo

2:20 PM: Supporting Women Veterans During COVID-19 and Beyond

Majority staff from the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) will discuss major areas of focus in the coming months, including implementation of the bipartisan Deborah Sampson Act, which is aimed at eliminating barriers to care and services that many women veterans face. County officials will have the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues women veterans in their counties are facing in accessing VA benefits during the pandemic and beyond.

- **Shauna Rust**, Professional Staff Member, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (Majority)

2:45 PM: Providing Veterans with Virtual Mental Health Care During COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will join the Committee to discuss how the agency is providing virtual mental health to veterans during this unprecedented pandemic, including lessons learned and opportunities moving forward. County officials will have the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback on VA's critical work supporting the mental health of our former service members.

- **Dr. Kendra Weaver**, Senior Consultant, Mental Health Clinical Operations, Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention (OMHSP), Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

3:15 PM: BREAK

3:25 PM: New Resources for Military Caregivers

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation will provide an overview of new resources that the organization is providing for military caregivers and ongoing opportunities for county governments to engage in the Hidden Heroes Challenge and other support systems for veteran and military caregivers.

- **Coleton Whitaker**, Director of Programs, Elizabeth Dole Foundation

3:45 PM: Update on the REPI partnership

The Department of Defense's (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program facilitates cost-sharing partnerships between the Military Departments, local governments, other federal agencies, and private conservation organizations to help relieve or avoid land use conflicts near military installations. Through a spotlight on Coconino County, Arizona, learn more about REPI and county-military partnerships to maintain military readiness, while preserving open space and working lands, protecting natural resources, and building resilient economies and communities.

- **Jack Morgan**, Program Manager for Resilient Economies and Communities, NACo
- **Hon. Matt Ryan**, Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.

4:05 PM: Open Discussion

The committee will have an opportunity for reflection and further discussion.

- **Hon. Heather Post**, Chair, NACo Veterans and Military Services Committee; Councilmember, Volusia County, Fla.

4:30 PM: Meeting Concludes

- NACo staff contact: Rachel Mackey, Associate Legislative Director, rmackey@naco.org or 202.661.8843