

Arizona America250 Commission

Military and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025

1. Call to order, roll call, and welcome.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Adrian Fontes, Manny Beltran, Sean Stoddard, Les Presmyk, Bob Dalpe, Julia Gusse, Gary Vaughan, Wanda Wright, Paula Pedene, Nicole LaSlavic, Jonell Sullivan

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from August 12, 2025. Les Presmyk motioned, Wanda Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously without discussion.

3. Report from Executive Director

a. A250 AZ tentpole initiatives updates. ED Terech had another commitment today. Staff and Chair Fontes gave an update, including about the Traveling Museum, *Suffs*, and the new publicity team, Agital.

4. Discussion, updates, and possible action on projects and initiatives to engage military members, military families, and Veterans in the Semiquincentennial. Commander Beltran reported that he has some extra time to become involved helping others. Gary Vaughan: Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame is on 24 October, and tickets are still available. Gary Vaughan has tickets that have been anonymously donated for an American Legion program at a ball game later this month.

a. Committee volunteers to create and staff a possible float and/or other activities for Veterans Day parades. Wanda Wright reported that AZDVS will be having a breakfast on 11 November for Vietnam veterans. Bob Dalpe would like to have some information emailed to him to take to an event on 3 October. Les Presmyk reported about their Veterans Day celebration. Paula Pedene is looking for volunteers to help out and march in Prescott and Phoenix for their

Veterans Day parades. Pearl Harbor Day commemoration will be on 6 December in Wesley Bolin Plaza. Gary Vaughan will be helping with the Veterans Day parade in Tucson.

b. Operation Freedom March: Arizona Trail relay. Chappy reports that there hasn't been a lot of movement yet. He encouraged everyone to sign up for Operation Freedom March on National Public Lands Day, 27 September. Chair Fontes pledged to sign up and have a video done on NPL Day.

c. USS Arizona SSN-803 collaboration. There will be a project at the training facility in Buckeye tomorrow (10 September) to collect more grommets.

d. Arizona State Legislature Veterans Caucus. No updates.

e. Eagle Scout projects to support Veterans and military families. Gary Vaughan said that there are many ongoing projects.

f. Communications and social media. Chair Fontes hopes that representatives from the PR/Marketing firm will be on the call next month.

g. Updates from subcommittee members on additional events to promote and co-brand. See above.

5. Call to the public. There were no comments brought forth.

6. Adjournment. Next meeting is on 14 October at 0900 h. Meeting adjourned at 0930 h.