

Arizona America250 Commission

Military and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:01am.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Adrian Fontes, Jonell Sullivan, Julia Romero Gusse, Gary Vaughan, Bob Dalpe, Paul Johnson, Manny Beltran, Paula Pedene, Paul Aguirre

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from September 9, 2025. Not taken due to not being quorate.

3. Report from Executive Director

a. Traveling Museum. The Commission is in the process of acquiring the vehicle. An interest form has been sent to municipalities and libraries. The form can be shared with any community, organization, or business that might be interested in hosting a stop.

b. Passport250. There is one more round of sites that will be released next month, and that will bring the pass to 250 sites. Promotion is encouraged.

c. PR/Marketing. The Commission has onboarded Agital. They are working with the Arizona Trail Association to promote Operation Freedom March and other initiatives.

d. New A250 AZ website. This has been built and is live. ED Terech gave a quick digital tour of the site, which will be undergoing additional refinement over the next several months.

4. Discussion, updates, and possible action on projects and initiatives to engage military members, military families, and Veterans in the Semiquincentennial.

a. Veterans Day parades and events. The Commission is working on getting some A250 swag for this. Paula Pedene shared that Chair Fontes will be participating in the Phoenix parade.

b. Promoting Operation Freedom March. Chappy shared that they had an amazing event up north a few weeks ago. He has met with Agital about Operation Freedom March. They will be having a Veterans Day event and Chappy invited Chair Fontes. The event will be from 8 November to 11 November. This will be done in collaboration with Team Rubicon West Branch.

c. USS Arizona SSN-803 collaboration. Gary Vaughan reported that the submarine captain and his crew will be in Arizona on 13 November, and the American Legion is hosting a special breakfast for them at Post 41. Grommets are still being collected, and they can be dropped at American Legion HQ at 4701 North 19th Avenue in Phoenix.

d. Eagle Scout projects to support Veterans and military families. Gary Vaughan reported that there are a few projects coming in. Some scouts are building storage containers for spent flags. Some are looking to help out veterans in need. The MVA committee will look to collaborate with the Civic Engagement, Education, and Community Service committee.

e. Updates from subcommittee members on additional events and initiatives to promote and co-brand. Kelly McDonald shared an event called Wreaths Across America on 13 December. She shared that there is a program that goes with that which provides wreaths to government buildings.

5. Call to the public. Murphy from Patagonia reported that they will be having a flag-raising on 11 November. He is working in Patagonia on a Blue Star Memorial with the dedication on 4 July 2026.

6. Adjournment. 0932 h.