



County of El Dorado
Veteran Affairs Commission

130 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667

June 12, 2025

George Turnboo, Chair, District II
Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville CA 95667

Re: Year in Review 2024

Dear Chair Turnboo:

In compliance with the By-Laws of the El Dorado County Commission on Veterans Affairs, it is my pleasure to submit this end of year report to appraise the Board of the Commission's activities during the previous (2024) calendar year.

In the year, the Commission addressed a number of issues. Following is a description of the most significant and the Commission's activities concerning them:

Commission Meetings

In general, the Commission meets on the second Thursday of the month at 12 noon, please view the Commission Meeting Calendar for agendas on the county website, the Commission meets at the following locations:

- January, February, May, June, July, August, October, December – District III in the Supervisors' Chambers, 330 Fair Lane, and Bldg A, and Conf Room D, Placerville
- March – District II – Child Support Services Training Room, Shingle Springs
- April – District III EDC Sheriff Community Room, 200 Industrial Ave. Drive, Placerville
- September – District V – South Lake Tahoe – HHSA Large Conference Room, 3368 Sandy Way South Lake Tahoe, Ca.
- November- District I – EDH Fire Department 85, Conference Room, EDH

This is to fulfill the request from the public to hold a Veteran Affairs Commission meeting in each respective Supervisor District, to which the Board of Supervisors previously fully supported.

Commissioners (current as of December 2024)

District I Member: Todd Smith, term 1/29/13-1/1/29

Alternate: Robert Fisher Term 1/25/23-1/1/29

District II Member: Roger Reynolds, term 2/23/21-1/1/29

Alternate: Donna Mullens-Becker, term 8/16/22-1/1/29

Commissioners (current as of January 2024) continued:

District III Member: Christopher Vinton, term 1/28/25-1/1/29

Alternate: Seth Culver, term 7/30/24-1/1/29

District IV Member: Ken Welch, term 2/25/20-1/1/27

Alternate: Timothy "Tim" Thompson, term 11/10/20-1/1/27

District V Member: Gary Norton, term 1/3/23-1/1/27

Alternate: Tom Millham, term 11/12/24-1/5/27

In January 2023, Ken Welch was elected as Chair and Todd Smith as Vice Chair of the El Dorado County Veteran Affairs Commission for 2023 and 2024. In November 2024, Ken Welch stepped down as Chair and Roger Reynolds was elected as Chair with Todd Smith remaining as Vice Chair.

TOT (Transit Occupancy Tax) Committee

This committee meets at least 8 of 12 months of the year, on the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. before the general meeting of the Veteran Affairs Commission; exceptions are the beginning of the Mini Grant Cycle which typically begins at 11:00 a.m.

TOT Allotted funds are managed by County of El Dorado Health and Human Services with oversight by the CAO. Mini-Grant TOT funds and grant applications continue to be managed by the El Dorado Community Foundation. Allotment and allocation for FY23-24 \$175,000 of the Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT), allocation breakdown as follows:

FY 23/24 Annual TOT Grants

Contract #	Organization Name	Approved FY 23/24 Grant Amount	Date Funding Received	Notes	Funding Out Completed	Funding Pending
#8025	Lake Tahoe Community College	\$6,000.00	N/A	Contractor did not submit invoice; contractor is expected to submit invoice once 22/23 progress reports and financial back up are final.		\$6,000.00
#8048	Snowline Hospice	\$25,000.00	N/A	Contractor did not submit invoice; contractor is expected to submit invoice once 22/23 progress reports and financial back up are final.		\$25,000.00
#8023	El Dorado County Veterans Alliance	\$10,000.00	6/20/2024		\$10,000.00	
#8024	Sierra Chaplaincy	\$4,000.00	N/A	Contractor did not submit invoice; contractor is expected to submit invoice once 22/23 progress reports and financial back up are final.		\$4,000.00
#8027	MFSG/EDVR	\$8,000.00	N/A	Contract was delayed due to documentation needed from vendor; contract request to be resubmitted		\$8,000.00
#8028	Only Kindness	\$15,000.00	1/29/2024		\$15,000.00	
#8026	El Dorado Food Bank	\$10,000.00	6/13/2024		\$10,000.00	
#8021	El Dorado Community Foundation for TOT Mini-Grant Administration	\$76,000.00	2/12/2024		\$76,000.00	
	Veteran Services General Trainee	\$21,000.00	12/1/2023		\$21,000.00	
	Total	\$175,000.00			\$132,000.00	\$43,000.00
	Total Funds Available	\$175,000.00				

Note: Due to the funds being distributed late and Covid, numbers have now been completed.

2024 Veterans TOT Mini Grant Applications						
App ID	Legal Name of Organization	Executive Director CEO President	Grant Title Description	Grant Amount Requested	Grant Amount Approved	Approved
4729855	Calvary chapel food ministry	Gail Archer	Calvary chapel food ministry	\$7,000	\$0	Not Approved
4722195	Center for Post Traumatic Growth	Melinda J Keenan, PhD	Veterans TOT 2024 Grant Application	\$10,000	\$0	Not Approved
4693437	El Dorado Post 119, American Legion	Lauralee Flannery	Veterans Commission TOT Grant	\$10,000	\$10,000	Approved for full amount
4731036	Gilmore Hero Foundation	Chris Whitaker	Vehicles for Veterans Program	\$10,000	\$10,000	Approved for full amount
4727089	Shingle Springs Community Center	Mike Williamson	Facility Renovation	\$10,000	\$0	Not Approved
4708057	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post 10165	Leonard McAdams	Veterans TOT Grant	\$10,000	\$2,500	Approved for \$2500 with stipulations
4716377	Veterans of Foreign Wars Sierra Nevada Post 2680	Seth Culver, Commander VFW Post 2680	Veterans TOT Grant	\$10,000	\$10,000	Approved for full amount
Total Approved Amount				\$ 32,500		

FY 24/25 Annual TOT Grants				
	Organization Name	Approved FY 23/24 Grant Amount	Proposed Funding for FY 24/25	Notes
	Lake Tahoe Community College	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
	Snowline Hospice	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
	El Dorado County Veterans Alliance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
	Sierra Chaplaincy	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	
	MFSG/EDVR*	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	
	Only Kindness	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
	El Dorado Food Bank	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
	El Dorado Community Foundation	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 59,803.00	
	Veteran Services Office Assistant**	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 37,197.00	
	Total	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	
<p>*The TOT Committee recommended and the Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC) approved at the July 13, 2023 VAC meeting to provide \$8,000 of FY 23/24 TOT funding to the Military Family Support Group (MFSG) for the FY 23/24 Annual Grants cycle. However, the contract with the MFSG was not able to be executed during FY 23/24; therefore the allocated 23/24 funds for the MFSG would be included as part of their FY 24/25 contract.</p>				
<p>** Funding to support a permanent .50 FTE Office Assistant for the El Dorado County Veteran Services office (instead of an extra-help General Trainee) was recommended by the TOT Committee and approved by the VAC at the July 11, 2024 VAC meeting.</p>				

Note: The Mini Grants have been funded with funds left with the Foundation due to Covid

Waiting for the final distribution of 23/24 funds. The 24/25 proposed funding has been approved by the Commission.

Rules Committee

- There has been no update on the Rules Committee.

Legislative Committee

- There has been no update on the Legislative Committee.

Transportation Committee

- We are pleased to report that in August, the Military Family Support Group (who receives TOT allotment) have used their funds to support provide transportation needs to veterans for medical appointments.

Budget Committee

We are pleased to report that we are working with HHSA for partial funding of a new position in the VSO office. This will allow for more veterans to be assisted in the future. This position was filled on January 25, 2025.

Education and Employment Committee

- Continued review and support for Lake Tahoe Community College for use of TOT funds.

Social Media (proposed Committee on the revised By-Laws)

- Social Media Facebook page for the Commission reaching over 1410 followers. From across many different age groups. 43.70% - men 56.30% - women. Hoping to reach 2000 in the future.

Veterans Memorial Building

- Veterans Memorial Building House Council continues to do an exceptional job of managing the building ensuring that use is complying with Facility Use Agreement #255-O1611, effective 03/17/17-03/17/22.
- The Eagle Scout Project for honoring the fallen soldiers from El Dorado County has been completed and is on display at the Veterans Building in Placerville
- The building has been repaired from the flood of 2023 and is open and being used.

Department of Veteran Services:

- January – The VSO and HHSA interviewed to fill the Veterans Service Representative position.
- February – The VSO and VSR II attended the winter training conference in Sacramento. The Veteran Services Office is fully staffed with 4 VSRs.
- March – VA Health Care Eligibility became available for veterans without having to apply for disability compensation first.
- April – The Senior Office Assistant for the Veteran Services Office became accredited with Cal Vet to further help the VSRs. Senate Bill 1124, which aims to protect veterans from predatory practices by addressing the issues of “claims shark” was proposed to the senate.
- May – VoterVoice was introduced in relation to Senate Bill 1124 and Assembly Bill 46 to help veterans engage in the legislative process.

- June – VFW 10165 started serving breakfast at the VMB the second Sunday of each month. El Dorado Veteran Resources (EDVR) held a “Come and Get It” event to clean out their storage and give items to veterans and their families in need. EDVR also started a food giveaway to help veterans and their families through the summer and fall months on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. David Zelinsky won Senior of the Year award from El Dorado County for his work in assisting the homeless populations and veterans in the community.
- July – The VSO had his VSR II attend the summer training conference in Sacramento. New VSR became accredited with Cal Vet and will be able to further help the team serving veterans. HHSA and the VA TOT Committee asked the VAC to approve the .50 FTE Office Assistant Position at the Veteran Services Office. The VAC voted to approve this position.
- August – Senior Office Assistant began training with Administrative Technician to learn how to run VAC meetings.
- September – The Stand Down was held on Friday September 13th and Saturday September 14th, which was successful in informing veterans of the services they might be eligible for.
- October – The VSO and his VSRs attended all three fall virtual training conference.
- November – The Veteran Services Office opened a new Office Assistant position with help from HHSA and the VA TOT.
- December – The Veteran Services Office started interviewing to fill the new Office Assistant position. Assembly Bill 53 was introduced that would exempt military retirements and Survivors Benefit Plan from state taxes.

“Good of the Order”

Friends of the Monument:

- Buy a Brick Program, sales and applications are available through the POOL PLACE, at 4480 Missouri Flat Road, Placerville CA 95667, 530-622-5386, currently the price per brick is \$150, DD-214 with Honorable Discharge.
- No Vet Forgotten Program provides a brick in the name of veteran(s) who have passed away in El Dorado County, as part of handling their final disposition who were identified as destitute and buried in a National Cemetery.
- The Welcome Home statuary becoming a reality, drawings presented to the public and fundraising in progress.

Vet Mentorship Program- Volunteer David Zelinsky, another tireless veteran advocate, provided assistance to veterans in the Veterans Treatment Court Program, developing process and outreach. Eventually, he will be transitioning out of this role to mentor his replacement.

Senior of the Year Award – David Zelinsky was awarded the Senior of the Year Award for El Dorado County in June 2024 for his work in assisting the homeless population and veterans in the community.

Thanksgiving Dinner – Georgetown hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for veterans and their families at no charge. MFSG worked with District Church to give out Thanksgiving dinners to veterans and their families at no charge as well.

Ralph M. Brown Act - Training session made available to commissioners.

Additionally, this Commission has been in contact with the members of your Board to keep them apprised of issues of concern to the veteran community as well as continuing to keep in touch with Service Office, the veteran's service organizations and veteran's legislation at the state and federal levels.

The Commission extends its sincere thanks to the entire Board for its active support of the Commission and the veteran's community.

Respectfully,

Roger Reynolds, Chair (2025)

cc: Veteran Affairs Commissioners
Greg Ferrero, District I
George Turnboo, District II
Brian K. Veerkamp, District III
Lori Parlin, District IV
Brooke Lain, District V
Olivia Byron-Cooper, Director of Health & Human Services Agency
Timalynn Jaynes, Assistant Director of Health & Human Service
John Brown, Secretary Ex-Officio/Veterans Service Officer
Kimberly Dawson, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Tiffany Schmid, Chief Administrative Officer
Alison Winter, Analyst Chief Administrative Office