



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2014 NOV 7 PM 7 17

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: December 2, 2014

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN: SUPPORTING A MEMORY CARE UNIT FOR CHULA VISTA VETERANS HOME (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

The Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista opened in May 2000 and is home to about 300 courageous men and women who have served our nation. Residents of the home have served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and have sacrificed greatly for the protection of our freedoms.

The home is located on a 25-acre campus overlooking the City of Chula Vista and provides a residential care facility and a skilled nursing unit. Unfortunately, the home does not have a secure unit for residents suffering from Alzheimer's disease, dementia or memory loss.

Overall, the California Department of Veterans Affairs operates eight Veterans Homes throughout the state. Memory Care programs are provided at four of the homes, but not at the Chula Vista Veterans Home.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease and every 67 seconds, someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's. With Alzheimer's and dementia as a growing problem in America and with 60,000 people in San Diego County afflicted with Alzheimer's, it would be appropriate to establish a Memory Care Unit at the Chula Vista Veterans Home to further assist our veterans.

Approval of today's recommendations will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter to the California Department of Veterans Affairs urging the creation of a Memory Care Unit at the Chula Vista Veterans Home and also add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation or administrative action and funding for a Memory Care Unit at the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista.

SUBJECT: TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN: SUPPORTING A MEMORY CARE UNIT FOR CHULA VISTA VETERANS HOME (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Recommendation(s)

CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND SUPERVISOR COX

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chairwoman's signature to the California Department of Veterans Affairs expressing the County's support for the funding of a Memory Care Unit at the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation or administrative action and funding for a Memory Care Unit at the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

The Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista opened in May 2000 and is home to about 300 courageous men and women who have served our nation. Residents of the home have served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and have sacrificed greatly for the protection of our freedoms.

The home is located on a 25-acre campus overlooking the City of Chula Vista and provides a residential care facility and a skilled nursing unit. Unfortunately, the home does not have a secure unit for residents suffering from Alzheimer's disease, dementia or memory loss.

Overall, the California Department of Veterans Affairs operates eight Veterans Homes throughout the state. Memory Care programs are provided at four of the homes in Fresno, Redding, Los Angeles and Yountville, but not at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. This service provides a supervised environment for veterans with symptoms of confusion, memory loss, difficulty making decisions, solving problems or participating in conversations. Programs are designed to actively engage residents and promote a safe and familiar environment.

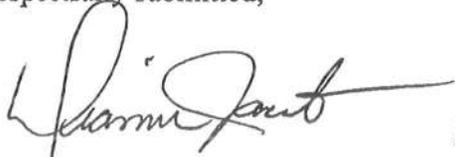
The Alzheimer's Association estimates that more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease and every 67 seconds, someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's. With Alzheimer's and dementia a growing problem in America and with 60,000 people in San Diego County afflicted with Alzheimer's, it would be appropriate to establish a Memory Care Unit at the Chula Vista Veterans Home to further assist our veterans.

Approval of today's recommendations will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter to the California Department of Veterans Affairs urging the creation of a Memory Care Unit at the Chula Vista Veterans Home and add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation or administrative action and funding for a Memory Care Unit at the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista.

SUBJECT: TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN: SUPPORTING A MEMORY CARE UNIT FOR CHULA VISTA VETERANS HOME (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan
N/A

Respectfully submitted,


DIANNE JACOB
Chairwoman


GREG COX
Supervisor, First District

ATTACHMENT(S)
N/A

SUBJECT: TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN: SUPPORTING A MEMORY CARE UNIT FOR CHULA VISTA VETERANS HOME (DISTRICTS: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Chairwoman Jacob and Supervisor Cox

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Luis Monteagudo, Jr.
Name
619-531-5511
Phone
luis.monteagudo@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail

Amber Tarrac
Name
619-531-5522
Phone
amber.tarrac@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY

DIANE VANDERPOT

POST OFFICE BOX 942895

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 94295-0001

Telephone: (916) 653-6834

Fax: (916) 653-1388



December 15, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Jacob
Chairwoman, Second District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101-2470

Chairwoman Jacob,

Thank you for contacting Secretary Gravett regarding the creation of a memory care unit at the Chula Vista Veterans Home.

I agree that the demand for memory care is expanding, and CalVet is on a path to more than double our care capacity. Currently, the Veterans Homes offer 105 memory care beds, while 120 additional beds will be available in the next few years. While memory care would be an excellent addition to the Chula Vista Home, it would require a number of staffing and facility changes to comply with state and federal regulations. Unfortunately, the Home was not designed for this level of care; these modifications would be significant and costly to implement and maintain.

Opening new memory care units in Fresno, Redding, and West Los Angeles remains a top priority for CalVet, but we are taking steps to expand care options in our older facilities. While the Chula Vista Home does not appear to be an ideal candidate, we will review all available options for a memory care retrofit or expansion in 2015.

Thank you again for your letter. I greatly appreciate your interest in our veterans and I look forward to any suggestions you and the Board of Supervisors have on improving care and comfort in the Chula Vista Veterans Home.

Sincerely,

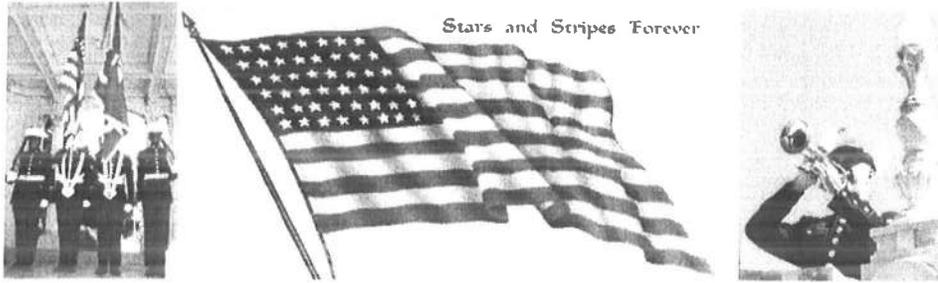
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Vanderpot".

DIANE VANDERPOT

Undersecretary for Veterans Homes

California Department of Veterans Affairs

CC: Lael Hepworth, Administrator, Veterans Home of California – Chula Vista



**The 59th Annual Massing Of The Colors Tribute Ceremony
Saturday Mar 21, 2015 10:00-11:30 At Balboa Park Club Building**

Honors To World War II Veterans

70th Anniversary Year End of WWII

The Military Order of the World Wars San Diego Chapter

Patriotic Music Concert by

“Marine Band San Diego”

Tributes

To American Ex-Prisoners of Wars & To Wounded Warriors

Pearl Harbor Survivors & Military Order of Purple Heart

Procession of Flags: Military Units, Veterans, ROTC, Citizens

Open Free To The Public. Access For Handicapped.

Color Guards Are Invited To Enroll & Participate!

Email Entry Request By MAR 10: MassingColors.SD@gmail.com

Phone: (619) 804-3200