

MINUTES

**Special Teleconference Meeting of the
MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION
Held, pursuant to notice
Friday, March 7, 2008 — 10:00 AM
The designated location where the public may
observe and attend the meeting
Missouri Veterans Commission Headquarters
12th Floor, Jefferson State Office Building
Jefferson City, Missouri**

I. NEW COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Members Present: **Member General Arvid West**

Via Telephone: **Chairman Joseph Frank; Vice Chairman Bernadette Miller; Member S. Lee Kling; Member Carson Ross;**

Staff present: **Hal Dulle**, Executive Director; **Bryan Hunt**, Acting Deputy Director; **Jill Talken**, Executive Secretary; **Stan Baughn**, Director Veterans Services Program

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Frank for the purpose to discuss HJR 71 – Veterans Support Act.

Hal Dulle briefed the Commissioners on the sales tax initiative (HJR 71) to go on the November ballot if passed by the General Assembly.

- February 21 - Commission received draft legislation. Contacted Representative Fisher's Office regarding changing the Commission to a free standing Commission.
- March 4 - Mr. Dulle and staff met with Representative Fisher to discuss issues with the legislation. Representative Day would not meet. Representative Fisher did agree to include in the bill language a designated fund for veterans programs, however, the Commission remained within the Department of Public Safety and kept the four additional members to the Commission (two members of the house representatives and two members of the senate).
- March 4 – Hal Dulle and staff attended hearing. Bonnie McNeill-Boyt addressed the Veterans Committee at their

request on the expenditures of the money. MAVO and VFW testified. Bill was passed out of committee with HCS (Missouri Veterans' Commission Sales Tax Fund)

MAVO and American Legion have already endorsed HJR71.

After much discussion Chairman Frank stated he will meet with MAVO Committee advising them the Commission strongly agrees not to support HJR 71 due to the following reasons:

- 1) not to expand Commission members with non veterans,
- 2) and support changing the Commission from a Type III agency to an independent department.

Hal Dulle advised he attended meeting at Jefferson Barracks regarding the Fisher House. A \$25,000 check for construction was presented to the Fisher House in St. Louis Board. A date for the ground breaking ceremony should be announced within the next 60 days. Commissioners will be invited to attend.

Hal Dulle will meet today with Dr. Keith Schafer, Director of Mental Health to discuss developing an MOU Agreement between DMH and VISN 15 in providing services to veterans/families in rural areas suffering TBI and PTSD.

The Governor's Office has expressed interest to the commission regarding the Veterans Complex concept. They have advised that the commission should look into seeking own funds for construction and to concentrate on locating the complex at the former Missouri State Prison site.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Hal J. Dulle, Secretary