

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday October 4, 2025

1pm Virtual Meeting

Agenda

The Department of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee meeting was called to order at 1:10pm. David Cook was appointed as secretary from the 6th District. There was no pledge or invocation due to no Quorum this meeting was for informational purpose only.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Call to Order | Chairman |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance | Chairman |
| 3. Appoint Secretary | Chairman |
| 4. Roll Call of Committee Members | Chairman |

Dist.	Name	Substitute	Present	Absent	Voucher
1	Randy Roberts		X		
2	Mike Homan				
3	Mike Blackwell			E	
4	Jerry Perry		X		
5	Darell Bishop		X		
6	David Cook, Chairman		X		
7	John Tepper			X	
8	Jeff Holaday			X	
9	Joseph Ball			X	
10	Bob Rhodes			X	
11	Steve Wainwright			X	
12	Suzette Heller		X		
13	Leroy Brinkhoff			X	
14	Bob Carson		X		
Total			6	8	

5. Introduction of Guest: William Genochio VBA Coordinator

6. Reading of previous minutes: Previous minutes emailed out to the VA&R Commission.

7. District Reports: No Reports given.

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

7th

8th

9th

10th

11th

12th

13th

14th

8. Unfinished Business: Genochio gave a quick overview of the bills talked about at our last meeting. They have been reintroduced and are in committee at this time. Again, Chairman Cook asked to do better on getting award nominations from the districts. Heller asked if Nurse Practitioners could be nominated? Genochio will check it. Genochio asked Jerry Perry if he had any luck with VTC in the 4th District, nothing new to report.

Veterans Courts: Use of Funds. Bishop D 5 mentioned purchasing challenge coins to give out to each Court. David Cook Union County Veteran Treatment Court. Again, not further discussed due to no quorum.

9. New Business: Discussion Truelieve medical marijuana Company. Heller asked what they are asking of the American Legion, vague or what they want. They have 7 locations in Ohio. Will need to check to see. Perry asked for a budget, they did get new coffee maker, to replace old one. He noted the SAL took vets on a trip. Genochio reported that Troy Elliott and he attended a Suicide Prevention at the Chillicothe VAMC last week. Had a great turnout at the event.

Update on Various Bills: These Bill have all been introduced into the 2025-2026 119th Congress.

- i. **H.R.71 Health Care Freedom Act: (Introduced House – Veterans Affairs) (2/6/2025 referred to Subcommittee on Health)** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a three-year pilot program to improve the ability of veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system to access hospital care, medical services, and extended care services through the covered care system by providing such veterans with the ability to choose health care providers. Under the bill, the *covered care system* includes VA medical facilities, health care providers participating in the Veterans Community Care Program

(VCCP), and eligible entities or providers that have entered into a Veterans Care Agreement.

- ii. **H.R.333: Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act:** (2/11/2025 referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs)) This bill modifies provisions related to military retired pay. Specifically, the bill authorizes veterans with a service-connected disability of less than 50% to concurrently receive both retired pay and disability compensation. The bill also makes qualified disability retirees with less than 20 years of retirement-creditable service eligible for concurrent receipt, subject to specified reductions in retired pay.
- iii. **H.R. 303 Retired Pay Restoration Act:** (2/11/2025 referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs) This bill allows the receipt of both retired military pay and veterans' disability compensation with respect to any service-connected disability. Under current law, only individuals with service-connected disabilities rated at 50% or more receive both without offset.

Individuals who were retired or separated after at least 20 years of military service due to a service-connected disability shall be eligible for the full concurrent receipt of both veterans' disability compensation and either military retired pay or combat-related special pay.

- iv. **H.R.2164:** (3/14/2025 referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs) This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to begin the process of entering into an agreement with the Montgomery County Land Bank not later than 30 days after the date on which the land bank makes an offer to transfer at no cost a specified parcel of land in Dayton, Ohio, to the VA to expand the Dayton National Cemetery.
- v. **H.R.2102 Major Richard Star Act:** (04/04/2025 referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs) To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

10. **Trulieve:** Trulieve is an industry leading, vertically integrated cannabis company and multi-state operator in the U.S., with established hubs in the Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest, anchored by leading market positions in Arizona, Florida, and Pennsylvania. Trulieve is poised for accelerated growth and expansion, building scale in retail and distribution in new and existing markets through its hub strategy. By providing innovative, high-quality products across its brand portfolio, Trulieve delivers optimal customer experiences and increases access to cannabis, helping patients and customers to live without limits. Trulieve is listed on the CSE under the symbol TRUL and trades on the OTCQX market under the symbol TCNNF. For more information, please visit [Trulieve.com](https://www.trulieve.com). Suzzette gave information from the Legislative commission note. Asked Jacob to ask her to a meeting to speak as to what they are wanting from use as a partnership.

11. **Awards:** Start looking now for nominations for VA&R awards: Awards: Genochio gave review on Awards. No nominations were presented. We as a committee need to push this as there must be someone out there that can be nominated.

- a. **Department Awards:** Veterans Affairs Award, Al Shaefer Award

- b. National Awards:** VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year, VA Physician of the Year, VA health Care worker of the Year, Certificates of Application to Outstanding VA Officials, William F. Lenker Award.

12. **Gifts for Yanks Report:** No report to be given

13. **DSO Report:** Troy and I attended the Chillicothe VAMC Suicide prevention stand down the Friday before last, The Federal building office has been closed due to the Government shutdown return TBD, The VAMC appears now to be unaffected. William Genochio will be attending the DSO symposium in the last week of October in Leesburg VA.

14. **Resolutions:** Resolution 26-01 Military Service in Honduras: American Legion urges Congress to authorize the Armed Forces Expeditionary or similar award to veteran who served in Honduras between 1981 and 1992. This was tabled due to no quorum. Review of minutes from the VA&E committee. Cook 6th District went over the part on possible creation of award that will be reviewed by the Sub-Committee at their fall meeting.

- a. **H.C.R. No. 18 A** Concurrent Resolution to urge Congress to recognize United States troops who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992. Representative Mathew Miller.

15. **Good of the Legion:**

16. Closing Prayer: none

17. Salute to the Colors

18. Adjourn, Meeting was adjourned at: 1:25pm