

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs**  
**Wednesday, April 3, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Iowa Veterans Home**  
**1301 Summit Street**  
**Marshalltown, Iowa 50158**

**Present:** Col. Todd Jacobus, Chair  
Dan Gannon  
Becky Dirks Haugsted  
Darlene McMartin  
Kate Myers  
Larry Spencer  
Bill Wallace  
Jon Wille  
Mickey Williams

**Staff:** Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director, IDVA      David G. Worley, Commandant, IVH  
Michael Hines, IVH – Recording Secretary

<b>Guests/</b>	Laurel Phipps, VFW	John Derner, American Legion
<b>Presenters:</b>	Dennis Myers, VFW	Lyle Schaffer, American Legion
	David Bolton, DAV	Bill Schaefer, Notable Iowa Veterans
	David Thornburg, DAV	Dwayne Rider, VACIHCS
	Ron Langel, American Legion	Steve Mulcahy, VNRC
	Tracy Daugherty, VNRC	Brett McClain, IACCVSO
	Julie Buchmiller, Ashford University	John Hintz, Fayette Co. VA Director
	Susan Martens, Ashford University	Joseph Jones, Senator Tom Harkins
	Amy Beller, Senator Tom Harkins	Bart Quick, Des Moines, VAMC

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE 'UNAPPROVED' UNTIL ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

**APPROVED:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 10 Jul 2013  
Col. Todd Jacobus, Chair, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

**1. Meeting Handouts:**

- a. Request & Proposal for Korean War Monument at Iowa Veterans Cemetery -- Ron Langel
- b. Korean War Memorial Fund Drive Donation Slip -- Ron Langel
- c. Notable Iowa Veterans Listing -- Dr. Bill Schaefer
- d. Criteria for Notable Iowa Veterans Program -- Dr. Bill Schaefer
- e. PTSD -- TBI Flag depiction -- Ms. Tracy Daugherty
- f. Changes to Veterans Trust Fund Administrative Rules -- Director Jodi Tymeson
- g. Vietnam War Commemorative Sponsor Program -- Commissioner Dan Gannon
- h. Letter to Iowa Court Administrator (David Boyd) RE Disability Compensation Calculation of Family Support -- Commissioner Todd Jacobus

**2. Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Jacobus at 10:02 a.m.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:**

Pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Jacobus followed by a moment of silence.

**4. Roll Call:**

Recording secretary took roll call and all Commissioners were present.

**5. Welcome/Introductions of Guests:**

Chair Jacobus welcomed everyone in attendance and asked guests to introduce themselves.

**New Business:**

6. Mr. Ron Langel from the American Legion Post 22, Manning, Iowa, briefed the Commission on a proposal for a Korean War monument near Van Meter. Chair Jacobus asked if someone wanted to make a donation how does one do that? Ron Langel handed out forms and explained the donation form.

a. Commissioner Dirks Haugsted made a motion to approve the placement of the Korean War Monument. Second by Commissioner Gannon. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

b. The Commission asked that Mr. Langel please discuss with those who have initiated this monument request the ending date outlined on the monument. Of particular concern was the ENDING date, either January 27, 1953 (date armistice signed), or January 31, 1955 (date that the VA Recognizes as the ending date for VA Benefits). It appears that the team from Carroll County tried to mitigate that concern by inserting the words "dates of hostility". The CONCERN voiced by the Commission arises due to the fact that there have been 135 service members killed in South Korea since the Armistice was signed, so it may not be appropriate to have the words "Hostility Dates", including an ENDING date for hostilities, listed on the monument, as it would seem that hostilities continue. Mr. Langel indicated that he would discuss this further with his committee and provide feedback during the next meeting.

7. Dr. Bill Schaefer, retired Grand View University Professor of Photography, updated the Commission on the Notable Iowa Veterans Program. Dr. Schaefer photographed 40 Notable Iowa Veterans between January and November 2012. These Veterans included current Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, Larry Spencer, and current Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs Executive Director, Jodi Tymeson.

a. Dr. Schaefer further explained that since November 2012, he has photographed 15 additional Notable Iowa Veterans, and these photographs will be on display at the Gold Star Museum starting on November 7, 2013.

b. Dr. Schaefer further explained that anyone who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, received an honorable discharge, and who has established name for themselves in their community would be candidates for this project. A goal of the project is to show that military service can lay a foundation for a life of success and commitment.

c. Candidates could include a superintendent of schools, long-time coach who has name recollection, community leader, etc.

d. Commissioner Dirks Haugsted asked if the Notable Iowa Veteran Project is connected to the Veterans History project. Dr. Schaefer said that the Veterans History Project is associated with the Library of Congress, and they want video of Veterans telling their respective stories. Dr. Schaefer's project is exclusively photographs with a narrative biographical summary included, so it does not meet the criteria of the Veterans History Project.

8. Ms. Tracy Daugherty gave an update on the Veterans National Recovery Center (VNRC). Tracy is a volunteer project coordinator for the VNRC. She clarified to the Commission that the VNRC is a 501 (c) 3, which is a public not for profit charity. Tracy explained that the VNRC is interested in working with veterans and other veteran agencies to provide services and support to our veterans.

a. Ms. Daugherty briefed the Commission that Bob Krause, President of the VNRC, had presented some information at a Commission meeting in January 2012 for opportunities to secure properties for a center so that veterans can get referrals and resources. Those particular properties have not materialized; however, options exist in other Midwestern States, and VNRC is pursuing those.

b. As a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit, the VNRC does not endorse any political candidate or any kind of political agenda. VNRC president, Mr. Bob Krause, has indicated that he is interested in perhaps seeking some kind of political office and therefore he has stepped aside for Ms. Daugherty to serve as spokesperson for the VNRC, and they want to make certain that this charity is not misconstrued or somehow used as a political agenda item.

c. One of the projects VNRC has been pursuing most recently is an effort to raise awareness of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). As they went through a process with their board of directors on what needs are unmet, they determined that PTSD and TBI were really awareness issues, as the public does not understand issues associated with them.

d. As VNRC Board considered future projects, they identified with the National League of Families. This organization, which was founded in the early 1970s, was very successful in raising awareness of American Prisoners of War (POWs) and Missing in Action (MIA), resulting in a flag. Congress recognized the POW/MIA Flag in 1991.

e. Ms. Daugherty presented a prototype of a PTSD / TBI flag. The board of directors came up with this particular flag and the slogan, "Not everyone who came home from the war left the war." This is a flag prototype that VNRC will use at the Iowa Capitol on April 18, 2013, at 12:30 p.m. During this ceremony, speakers from other nonprofit organizations, and individuals who have experienced PTSD, will talk about their particular experiences and about what this image could do to ignite people.

f. In conclusion, VNRC wants to help raise awareness about PTSD to get individuals the help that they need and let those individuals know they are not alone as VNRC recognizes their needs.

g. Commissioner Myers asked Ms. Daugherty if one of the latest thoughts was to drop the word disorder from that phrase. She asked Tracy to do some research into that. Tracy commented that the VNRC flag project is intended to do this very thing – generate conversation.

h. Commissioner Spencer stated his appreciation for the initiative to increase public knowledge, but indicated a concern about the start-up cost associated with a new treatment facility. There was a general discussion about the Wounded Warrior Program, and possibilities of linkage to VNRC.

i. Ms. Daugherty indicated that VNRC is very much looking for feedback on what may or may not work, and also for additional networking possibilities. She stated that she has been involved with VNRC since December 2012, and that their greatest accomplishment has been generating awareness of Veterans and their issues.

j. Mr. Steve Mulcahy, a VNRC Board Member, and former Commissioner on the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs, informed those present that the VNRC intends on using Counselors currently employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to their Vocational Rehabilitation specialists, and expanding as needed.

9. Director Jodi Tymeson gave the Commission a briefing on the language changes of Chapter 14 Veterans Trust Fund Administrative Rules. All Commission members received a handout of the language changes.

a. The most frequent request through our County Directors to the Trust Fund is for dental care.

b. Director Tymeson explained to the Commission that the Trust Fund now has \$17,000,000.

c. The Commission is authorized to use only interest on that \$17,000,000 to support requests.

d. During the 2012 legislative session, the Iowa Legislature approved \$300,000 from the principle of the fund to be used to support a backlog of trust fund requests.

e. In addition, the Commission was allowed to use the first \$300,000 from the lottery proceeds to support future trust fund requests with the intent of eliminating the backlog.

f. It has been several years since the Administrative Rules have been written and most of the changes are for clarification and loosen up some of those restrictions for those who are applying.

g. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the Veterans Trust Fund Administrative Rules. Second by Commissioner McMartin. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

10. Chairperson Jacobus presented the requirement of two estimates for emergency issues supported by the Veterans Trust Fund.

a. Commissioner McMartin explained to the Commission that the Trust Fund Committee will typically approve an emergency trust fund request if informed of the emergency nature of the request by the County Director / Administrator. Typically, an emergency request is approved by email vote, and in these cases the Trust Fund Committee should not need to ask for two estimates.

b. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve emergency assistance applications to the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund without two estimates. Second by Commissioner Myers. Motion carried; approved unanimously. This will be added to the Administrative Rules changes.

11. Director Tymeson briefed the Commission that there was no need for a purchase a portable microphone system. She located a system that can be used during meetings. That system will be tested. NO need for discussion.

## 12. VA Regional Office Update:

a. Chairperson Jacobus introduced and welcomed Terri Beer, the new Director of the VA Regional Office in Des Moines. Director Beer is the former Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Operations, where she worked in Washington, DC.

b. Director Beer reported that the Des Moines station was one of the first 18 stations to transfer to a paperless system. About 30% of the inventory is sitting in the paperless system. The VA Under Secretary for Benefits is very interested in the paperless system and how it is working.

c. It takes the Des Moines VA Regional Office a total of 95 days to process a fully-developed claim. A fully-developed claim is one where no additional research or paperwork is required for processing. Fully-developed claims go straight into the “express lane” for processing. Director Beer emphasized a need to be as detailed and accurate in the submission of all claims so that the VA can decrease processing time.

d. Director Beer reported that on average the Des Moines VA Regional Office takes 237 days to process a claim. They are making every effort to get the oldest applications processed first.

e. Significant is that 250,000 agent orange claims have been recently loaded into the VA system.

f. Mr. Laurel Phipps, a former Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, asked about the VA’s goal to process claims. Director Beer indicated that the VA Under Secretary for Benefits has stated a goal of 125 days.

g. Commissioner Gannon asked how this region rates in comparison to other regions. Director Beer informed the Commission that the Des Moines station is a very good station. The national accuracy numbers are about 86% and Des Moines is 96%.

g. Commissioner McMartin brought up that the VA Regional Office in Des Moines does not handle all Iowa claims for veterans.

i. Commissioner McMartin indicated that the VA Pension Center in St. Paul, MN, seems to be significant concern right now.

j. Director Beer informed the Commission that if there are issues or concerns from our perspectives, then she is more than willing to work with us in addressing the problem.

k. Director Beer also mentioned that the backlog was due to a lot of veterans returning from deployments. The Des Moines VA Regional Office is increasing outreach efforts, which results in more business.

l. Director Tymeson informed Director Beer that our County Directors / Administrators are contributing to the backlog, as the State and County teams are constantly educating Iowa veterans and helping them file claims. Director Tymeson asked Director Beer to keep the Department informed on what Service Officers can do better to support the Regional Office. Director Tymeson indicated that better communication will result in faster claims processing.

m. Director Beer explained “E-Benefits” to the Commission. Veterans can check the status of their claims, benefit letters, home loan guarantee information, DD-214s through “e-benefits”.

n. Director Beer reported that the Regional Office continues to invest energy in the area of Veterans Employment. The Des Moines VA Regional Office has partnered with Wells Fargo and USAA, and is working with them on comprehensive resumes, interviewing and training programs that will connect veterans a contact in their Human Resources department. The Veterans Coordinator for the VARO is Scott Silvey.

o. Director Beer briefed everyone that there would be a job fair on May 22 at the American Legion Post 298 in Marion, Iowa.

p. Commissioner McMartin mentioned to the Commission that all future CBOC construction projects have been halted.

### **13. VA Medical Center - Iowa City Update:**

There was no presentation by the VA Medical Center – Iowa City.

### **14. VA Medical Center – Des Moines Update:**

a. Mr. Bart Quick presented the Des Moines VA Central Iowa Health Care System update. Don Cooper, Director, will be retiring on June 30, 2013. Director Cooper has served in the VA system for over 45 years, including his last 14 years as Director.

b. Mr. Quick introduced Mr. Dwayne Ryder as the New Public Affairs Officer. This is the first time that the Des Moines VA has had a dedicated Public Affairs Officer.

c. Mr. Quick provided the following construction updates:

(1) The walkway between the CLC building and the main entrance is complete.

(2) The Center has gained some parking spaces that were lost due to equipment staging during construction projects.

(3) Once the weather improves, there will be an initiative to fix the drive so that patients can be driven up to the building and dropped off at the medical center.

(4) The VACIHCS is about 95% complete on construction to the interior of the facility.

d. The tele-health program has expanded. This program enables patients and doctors to communicate with each other through a live feed connection. Mr. Quick indicated that the system provides VA Medical Centers throughout the Country with the ability to get subject matter experts addressing medical issues of the Veterans community. There is a constant effort at the National level to expand the program.

e. Mr. Quick indicated that over the years treatment for post traumatic stress has changed. The Central Iowa Health Care System has pursued a more collective approach. The program will be at least 8 weeks, and longer, if needed. Once completed, the veteran will return to his community and follow up with his/her therapist.

(1) In 1990 the Des Moines VACIHCS had 10 bed unit dedicated to treatment of post traumatic stress. Within the next few months, there will be more of a collective approach to treat PTS, and simultaneously a more holistic approach to treat veterans with concerns in other areas, including drug use, homelessness, employability, lack of coping skills, etc.

(2) The Des Moines VAMC will be opening existing PTS beds to Veterans who suffer from any of these types of treatable conditions.

(3) The VACIHCS facility has 60 beds dedicated to the treatment of PTS.

(4) The Domiciliary had an 82% occupancy rate last year.

(5) The VACIHCS is having a difficult time hiring mental health professionals, who have expertise in treatment of post traumatic stress. Congress has authorized VAs Nationwide to hire thousands of mental health professionals. Problem is that they are just not out there. They are actively recruiting professionals.

(6) Chairperson Jacobus asked if a veteran comes into the VA Medical Center and asks for help, how long does it take to get them help? Mr. Quick commented that it takes an average of 21 days for veterans being seen at the CIHCS to get a mental health appointment. However, if a veteran presents who is homicidal or suicidal, then they will receive care immediately.

f. Mr. Quick briefed that the CIHCS has a total of 251 beds, which are considered "active". Some of those active beds are not being filled because of a shortfall in nursing staff at the Center.

g. The amount of time that it takes to schedule a compensation and pension examination is down to 35.6 days. They are hoping to get down under the 30 day threshold by the end of April.

15. **Approval of Commission Minutes:** Commissioner McMartin made a motion to approve the January 9, 2013, quarterly Commission meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Gannon. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

**16. Trust Fund Applications:**

a. Commissioner Dirks Haugsted made a motion to approve the January 9, 2013, Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

b. Commissioner Dirks Haugsted made a motion to approve February 6, 2013, Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Spencer. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

c. Commissioner Wille made a motion to approve March 6, 2013, Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

17. Commissioner Jacobus reported that during quarterly commission meetings on September 19, 2012, and January 9, 2013, Mr. Michael Capps and Mr. Jerry Bohr brought to the Commission their concerns relative to the Iowa Courts interpretation of VA disability compensation, and how it pertains to family financial compensation during divorce proceedings. During the January 2013 meeting, the Commission decided to draft and send a letter to the Iowa Courts. Over the last two months, Commissioner Jacobus received input from the other Commissioners, and on March 7, 2013, sent a letter to Mr. David Boyd, State of Iowa Court Administrator. This letter asks how the Iowa Courts make decisions regarding the use of disability compensation in the calculation of family support. Commissioner Jacobus handed out a copy of the letter to those present. To date, the Iowa Courts have not replied to the letter; Commissioner Jacobus will follow up on this.

**IDVA Update:**

18. Director Jodi Tymeson updated the Commission on the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs.

a. The Seabee Monument is still on schedule for a dedication at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day.

b. As of April 2, 2013, there have been 1,479 veterans, and other eligible persons, interred at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery.

c. Director Tymeson indicated that she continues to work on the Federal grant, which is in the pre-application phase. There is a discussion currently on the materials to be used during construction of the Columbaria Plaza, as well as the Federal-State costs for the construction. Director Tymeson indicated that she is working with the federal government to determine exactly what portion of the projects the federal government will pay, and anticipates that this will be finalized within the next few weeks. Also, anticipates learning if the federal government will award the Iowa Veterans Cemetery a grant. Funding of the Columbaria Plaza at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery is a priority project because of the frequency of internments there.

d. Director Tymeson reported that Senator Harkin's staff visited the Iowa Veterans Cemetery on Monday, April 1, 2013, and was briefed on the federal grant, what we are requesting, and an overview of the process.

e. Director Tymeson reported that she submitted the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Annual Report to the Legislature in January 2013. The Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Sub-Committee reviewed the Administrative Rules. At some point there is a need to discuss the honor guard reimbursement process. There was a backlog of honor guard claims, and those groups who submitted requests received compensation. There was funding approved in 2012 by the State Legislature to pay off the backlog. We now are getting additional claims for years prior to FY 2013. Ms. Melissa Miller is holding the claims

until the end of the fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year, Director Tymeson recommends that we send out some definitive guidance to all of the veteran organizations. No motion was taken. Director Tymeson will send out a letter to the Department of Iowa Headquarters.

f. Director Tymeson reported that there have been 270 applications approved for the Military Homeownership program to date. There was enough funding appropriated by the Iowa Legislature to support 320 grants. The good news story in this is that we have more Veterans buying homes and remaining in Iowa.

g. Director Tymeson indicated that the veteran designation on the Iowa driver's license is a great way to get veterans into the offices of the County Veterans Service Officers.

(1) The County Director / Administrator is required to sign off on all applications after verifying veteran status on the DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.

(2) A concerted effort was made to ensure that the application form was as easy to administer as possible.

(3) Director Tymeson will be talking to the commissioners and directors at the IDVA Spring School of Instruction about setting some special office hours, if the Legislature approves the bill that is in process right now.

(4) At this time, a veteran has to wait until his license is up for renewal.

(5) The Legislature is considering a \$10.00 replacement fee, which will be applied to all drivers license fees. In the meantime, the Legislature has added veteran license into the language, meaning a veteran can renew their license any time but will have to pay the \$10.00 fee.

(6) Director Tymeson reported that the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs received an invoice for \$35,000 from the Iowa Department of Transportation. This was to pay for the software required at each licensing station to print the new Veterans designation on the Iowa drivers license. The Commission already approved an expenditure up to \$50,000, so Director Tymeson approved the payment.

h. Director Tymeson reported that he submitted the County Allocation Report to the Legislature in January 2013. There were 18 counties that returned unused funds, which in turn were placed into the designated county training fund.

i. Director Tymeson provided an update to the Commission on the bills that are still alive for the session as of March 29, 2013. The following bills were briefed:

(1) **HF 361** – provides for the issuance of special hunting licenses to certain nonresident disabled veterans and disabled members of the armed forces serving on active federal service; *Passed House 100-0; Passed Senate Natural Resources Committee*

(2) **HF 453** – relates to veterans preferences in certain appointments made by counties and cities and making penalties applicable; *Passed House 100-0; Referred to Senate VA Committee*

(3) **HF 545** – creates a new category of allowable expenditures from the Veterans Trust Fund (expenses related to screening or treatment for medical needs related to military service-connected traumatic brain injury for which payment or reimbursement is not otherwise available); *Passed House 97-0; Referred to Senate VA Committee*

(4) **SF 224** – will allow replacement drivers license for a \$10 fee; veterans will be able to have “veteran” designation placed on license any time by paying this replacement fee; *Passed Senate 37-11; Passed House Ways & Means*

(5) **HF 420** – relates to absentee voting in general elections by certain military and overseas voters through electronic means and making penalties applicable; *Passed by House VA; Referred to House State Government*



(6) **HF 544** - relates to the Iowa veterans home and providing for the consideration of contributions to support as repayment receipts; *Passed House 95-0; Amended and Passed by Senate 49-0*

(7) **+HF 596** - county commissions of veteran affairs changes to Chapter 35B; *Passed by House VA; Placed on Calendar*

(8) **HF 280**- moves the war orphans educational assistance fund and related duties to the veterans trust fund and the commission of veterans affairs; *Passed by House VA; Referred to House Appropriations*

(9) **+HF 506** - relates to property taxes of veterans and members of the armed forces by modifying the military service property tax exemption and credit, providing an additional homestead credit for certain disabled veterans, making penalties applicable, and including applicability provisions; *Passed by House VA; Referred to House Ways & Means*

(10) **SF 302** – creates the hire a hero tax credit including retroactive applicability provisions; *Passed by Senate VA; Referred to Senate Ways & Means*  
**Fiscal Note: \$3.2 million in 2013, \$6.3 million by 2017**

(11) **+ HF 221 / SF 303** - exempts federal retirement pay of a resident received for military service from the state individual income tax and including retroactive applicability; *Passed by House VA; Referred to House Ways & Means; Passed Senate VA; Referred to Senate Ways & Means*  
**New Fiscal Note: \$10.7 million/year by 2017**

j. Director Tymeson reported that she requested a \$68,000 increase on her budget note, which will all go to the Department of Public Defense. The Governor did put this into his budget, and the Legislature has not yet started to debate the budget.

k. Director Tymeson Reported that the 2013 IDVA Spring School of Instruction takes place next week.

(1) As of April 2, 2013, there are a total of 313 persons registered to attend, including 187 commissioners.

(2) The Department's goal was to have all counties represented at the school by at least one Commissioner.

(3) The 2013 IDVA Fall School of Instruction will take place in October 2013; this program will include directors and commissioners combined.

#### Veterans Home Update:

19. Commandant David Worley of the Iowa Veterans Home, provided the following update:

a. Census today, April 3, 2013, is 602.

b. The Iowa Veterans Home has admitted 15 residents each month during the months of December 2012, January 2013, and February 2013.

c. There is a new Volunteer Coordinator, Aimee Deimerly

d. The Memorial Day keynote speaker at the Iowa Veterans Home will be Command Sergeant Major Rachel Fails of the Iowa National Guard. The team at IVH is very much looking forward to her visit.

e. Commandant Worley gave a brief update on construction.

(1) The team at the IVH has completely emptied the north tower in the Malloy building.

(2) Has submitted all paperwork and documentation to the VA for the budget. Hopefully it will all be approved by the end of next week.

(3) 20 rooms in Malloy Hall and Dack Hall will be dedicated to couples residing at the Iowa Veterans Home. All other rooms will be single dwellings.

(4) There are currently 26 couples residing at the Iowa Veterans Home.

f. Commandant Worley indicated that the IVH House Bill will pass. It went over to the Senate. They made two minor amendments. In addition, there are some minor changes in language that does not change operations at the IVH.

g. Commandant Worley reported that there are two surveys every year. During the last week of March 2013, the VA survey team was at the Iowa Veterans Home, and they reported NO deficiencies during their exit interview on Friday, March 29, 2013. Further, the VA Survey team was very complimentary regarding improvements that have been made since the previous survey.

h. Commandant Worley played the Iowa Veterans Home's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD. Chairperson Jacobus indicated that this should be up-loaded to the internet for Iowans to see.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

20. Mr. Dave Thornburg, Secretary – Treasurer of the Iowa Veterans Council, and President of the Iowa Disabled American Veterans, asked to speak about an earlier presentation by the Veterans National Recovery Center. Mr. Thornburg indicated that it appears to him that the VNRC flag shown today as a proto-type would appear to be a final edition, as that particular flag is available for purchase on the VNRC website now for \$65.00. He indicated that the VNRC also came to the last Iowa Veterans Council Meeting and mentioned the ceremony at the State Capitol on April 18, 2013.

21. Mr. Ron Langel informed those present that he personally did not support the design of the VNRC Flag that was presented earlier. He indicated that an M16 Rifle pointing up into the skull of a human being does not depict something favorable, and may even give people second thoughts about being willing to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

22. The next quarterly Commission of Veterans Affairs Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum. The following quarterly meeting will be held on September 18, 2013, at the Iowa Veterans Home.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.