



The United Veterans Coalition of Colorado

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October 2019

Newsletter

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Frank McCurdy 303-981-3336

UVC Newsletter

Steve Bender 719-310-9930



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dennis Orr

On September 5, members of your Executive Committee met to set forth goals for the coming two years. We were graciously offered one of the training rooms at the VA Regional Office.



After doing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) exercise we identified three major areas to concentrate on for the next two years.

1. Communications - Dennis Churgovich, Chair. More effective communications through an enhanced website, wider distribution of the UVC Newsletter so not only the primary member gets the newsletter but it is also passed on to all members of that organization, creation of a trifold brochure, continued streaming of the



General Meeting and added to other Social Media sites, such as YouTube, better use of Social Media. 2. Fundraising - Vacant Chair. Additional revenue beyond the Annual Banquet, such as fundraisers like a UVC night at an Avalanche game, working with the UVC Foundation to raise tax-deductible funds through public service programs; getting additional revenue from the Annual Banquet through increased sponsorships. At the Annual Banquet, sponsors will be invited to the invitation-only reception with the Speaker.

3. Legislative - Robbie Robinson and Shelly Kalkowski, co-Chairs. Get realistic goals from member organizations, approved by the Executive Committee and develop strategies to achieve those goals. Solicit member organizations for their legislative needs and get sponsors for those initiatives. Work with our Lobbyist to achieve the goals at the Legislature.

> p2 President

The next UVC Member Meeting will be October 8th at

VFW Post 9644, 2680 W. Hampden Ave., Englewood, CO 80110.

Unable to attend? Stream it on FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/>

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> *President*

I've added a fourth goal-Youth. We need to reach out and attract more younger veterans to assist your UVC to achieve the goals important to this group.

4. Youth -Stephanie Viverski, Chair. Three objectives:

- A. To educate younger veterans of the mission/ vision statement of the UVC
- B. To gain more informed younger veterans as UVC members.
- C. To ask our new members to share the mission/ vision statement of the UVC with their friends and family members.

Additionally, we are going to begin Town Hall Meetings around the State on a quarterly basis to educate and inform the veteran and general public about the UVC and to solicit potential legislative wants and needs. This is an area the UVC Foundation will be able to be of great assistance.

We will have a follow-up session in six months to check on the progress of our goals and continued follow-up after to make sure we achieve those goals.

We would invite our readers' input on the above named goals and if you are available, you are invited to become involved to assist.



Dick Young, USN RADM Ret
1st Vice President

We want to thank the many of you who contacted the Denver Regional Transportation District and educated them on what the Medal of Honor is all about. But having to do this exposes the fact that we still have work to do getting more people, especially our elected officials, to understand and appreciate the high value that veterans bring to Colorado.

Also, check out our new website: uvcoc.org. It is costing us about \$200 a year, rather than the almost \$5,000 a year our previous provider was costing us. Communications Committee Chair Dennis Churgovich and his crew have worked hard to bring this new website on line in only two months. Check it out. Tell us what more needs to be done. And thank Shelly Kalkowski for encouraging the UVC to create a Communications Committee.

Looking for more volunteers to actively help. So, join us. You will help getting things done.

Medal of Honor Museum gains needed support

The initiative to have the city of Denver selected as the home for the Medal of Honor Museum gained support when the RTD (Regional Transportation District) reversed an earlier decision, and now supports including a parcel of land they own located across the street from the state capital at the northeast corner of East Colfax Avenue and Lincoln Street..

Colorado is competing with Arlington, Texas as the host city for the museum. A final decision is expected from the Medal of Honor Foundation by the end of October.

Congressional Medal of Honor





Dennis Churgovich, Chair
Communications Committee

In the short time the Communication Committee has been in existence, there has been some changes to the way the UVC is doing business. The Communications Committee first major accomplishment was establishing a new website server and a website.

By switching to a lower cost server, the UVC will see a substantial cost saving. Our new website is at www.uvcoc.org. Please go to this new website and see if there is anything that you can suggest we can do better or should add or correct. If you have any suggestions or comments, please send them to the UVC at admin@uvcoc.org or contact any member of the Communications Committee.

The UVC has a new address and new email address. All snail mail should now be sent to United Veterans Coalition of Colorado, 700 Colorado Blvd, #747, Denver, CO 80206. The new email address is admin@uvcoc.org.

Current Communications Committee members include: Steve Bender who produces and publishes the UVC Newsletter; Karen Hone acts as our secretary and is the person you would contact with for any UVC business; Diane Young who has volunteered to setup our new website and manage the databases; Stephanie Viverski will be handling our social media issues; Russell Dennis; and finally myself as committee chair.

Karen assisted Diane Young with the information to go into the UVC membership data base found on the new website. Stephanie will prepare and maintain UVC accounts with Facebook, You Tube, SnapChat and any other social media sites that would expand our outreach to younger veterans.

Remember to go to and review the new UVC website uvcoc.org and consider becoming involved in the UVC Communication Committee. Contact me for details on opportunities with projects/activities our committee has that can use your help.

The Communication Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month at American Legion Post 1, 4500 Yale Avenue, Denver, Colorado, at 10:00 am.



**Regional Rep's contributions in
Pikes Peak Region will be missed**

Due to medical issues I need to resign from my position as the Pikes Peak Area Rep which includes membership on the UVCC Legislature, and Executive Committees. It was a true honor working with the dedicated professionals of UVCC and their untiring dedication and support to our Veterans and active duty military of Colorado. I'll continue to search for a replacement and work the transition with my replacement when he/she is identified and approved.

Best and Warm Regards
Phil

Save the Date

**48th Annual Awards Banquet
United Veterans Coalition of Colorado**



Sunday, April 19, 2018

Renaissance Hotel
3801 Quebec St. Denver

3:30PM Reception/Silent Auction

5:00PM Dinner & Program

Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Colorado
A Rich History of Military Service

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe are the oldest residents of Colorado, inhabiting the mountains and vast areas of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Eastern Nevada, Northern New Mexico, and Arizona. The Southern Ute Indian Reservation located in southwest Colorado covers 1,064 square miles in La Plata, Archuleta, and Montezuma Counties where the Ute people live in harmony with their environment.

The Utes had a reputation as defenders of their territories, becoming even fiercer warriors and adept raiders, preying upon neighboring tribes such as the Apache, Pueblos and Navajo. The Utes eventually established Treaties and Agreements with other tribes and the U.S. government.

*For a detailed history (and more) of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe visit their website at <https://www.southernute.nsn.gov/history/>.

Southern Ute Tribal members have served in the armed forces from World War I at which time they weren't even citizens, to the Present Era. The Right to Vote was not granted to all Native Americans until 1957. The Southern Ute Veterans Association maintains monuments and displays around the tribal campus. A Tribal Wall stands as the centerpiece of a park and lists all the Southern Ute veterans from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf-era and present veterans.

The Southern Ute Veterans Association can be traced back to the year 1986. It began with a group of three Vietnam-era veterans - the late Roger E. Price, Howard Richards Sr. and Randy Baker Sr.

The Southern Ute Veterans Association maintains several monuments in addition to the Tribal Wall, including World War I Monument, World War II Monument, Korean Monument, Vietnam Monument, and the Persian Gulf Monument.



Memorial Day

Walk of the Warriors

Photo Robert Ortiz / Southern Ute Drum

In 1994, the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council donated a park on the upper tribal campus to the Southern Ute Veterans Association. In 1995 the name "Southern Ute Veterans Association" was formally adopted. Beyond addressing the needs of veterans and helping them procure benefits, the association is active in community functions. Veterans actively participate in Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Durango and are always willing to provide - at no cost - military services and color guards when asked.

The UVC is greatly appreciative of the Southern Ute Tribe, a Platinum Sponsor of the 2018 46th Awards Banquet

Editor's note: Willard Leight, light_w@rocketmail.com, is a member of the Southern Ute tribe, and is serving as the southern Colorado Regional Representative for the UVC. As the UVC regional rep, he is the primary POC for southwestern Colorado.

It's not too late to be involved!

September 17th is recognized as Constitution Day. On this is the day volunteers go into schools across our country to teach the basics of our constitution. They coordinate with the school's principal and teachers to set aside a day or a class period for teaching about our legal foundation. Liberty Lives Forever makes available constitution booklets with teaching materials bound in as mini-flash cards to help presenters teach about the constitution. The booklets cost \$1 each, plus shipping.

Following is a list of some supporters of our effort: State Attorneys General, the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, American Legion Dept of Colorado, Colorado's District Attorneys' Council.

Although Constitution Day has recently passed, your interest and efforts to become involved in this initiative can still be realized in a timely manner as we approach celebration of Veterans Day next month.

Any organization interest in becoming involved in this initiative can contact Andy McKean at andy@libertylivesforever.org for details and other dates to consider.



VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Ralph Gigliotti - VISN Director - VA VISN 19 General Membership Meeting September 10, 2019

Ralph Gigliotti VISN 19 – UVC is unparalleled in all the 4 other states he supervises. Michael Kilmer, current VA director in Grand Junction will replace Sallie. There will be a welcome reception Oct. 4, and invitations will be sent out. This means they have a vacancy in Grand Junction and Patrick Hull will serve as acting. Job post closes Oct 9...hope to fill by end of January. Mission Act implemented in June...their internal workload has gone up 5-7% Overall implementation had been outstanding. They are embarking on a market analysis that will consider the physical conditions of buildings, the vet population and the quality and quantity of community providers.



VA ECHCS Providing Flu Shots



On October 8, VA ECHCS will be giving flu shots to Veterans at the the UVC meeting. Shots will be available from 0815-0900 (start of the meeting) and for approximately 30 minutes after the end of the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Kristie Barker at Khristie.barker@va.gov.



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

VCLC Director Announced

Elizabeth Mullins joins CDHS from Telligen Health Management Solutions, where her responsibilities included improving patient satisfaction, leading quality improvement, and providing oversight for 229 Colorado, Illinois and Iowa nursing homes. Elizabeth has spent



nearly 15 years leading nursing homes and assisted living communities in Colorado. Much of her career as a skilled-nursing champion has focused on guiding nursing homes toward innovative ways of improving overall quality. Elizabeth is an Eden Educator with a passion for making nursing homes great places to live and work. She has a special passion for elders living with dementia and remains involved with organizations and initiatives focused on improving their lives. Prior to committing to long-term care, she was in nonprofit management serving low-income, under-educated adults.

Elizabeth recently completed the LEAN/DFSS certification. She has a bachelor’s degree in communicative disorders from the University of Kansas, a Master of Social Work from the University of Denver, and is a certified life coach.

“I recognize the importance of strong leadership, integrity and perseverance in obtaining sustainable outcomes,” Elizabeth said.

“We are excited for Elizabeth to join the Office of



Beloved WW II Veteran celebrates 103rd Birthday at Homelake

Just down the street from where he was born, Joseph "JC" Clark celebrated his 103rd birthday. Surrounded by his wife, family, friends, staff and his fellow veterans, JC blew out the candles of his birthday cake and received well wishes from all of the party attendees.



JC lives at Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake, in the same neighborhood as his birthplace, Monte Vista, Colorado where he was born on September 6, 1916. Prior to joining the military, JC went to school in the Sargent School District. During his time in the military, JC served with the Army during WW II in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. Specifically, he served in the New Guinea campaign and the Battle of Luzon.

After returning from the war, JC settled in the San Luis Valley and farmed with his father. He married Madalyn in 1945 and they moved to Salida. JC worked at the Reformatory for 21 years. After retirement, they moved back to the San Luis Valley and have been married 74 years.

Since 2017, this couple has lived at Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake. JC and Madalyn were thrilled to celebrate this milestone birthday together among the party decorations and people they cherish.

Community Access and Independence team,” OCAI, Director Yolanda Webb said. “Her experience and background will lead us forward to the next chapter of the Veterans Community Living Centers.”

Elizabeth started in her new role in August.

Miscellaneous

October

October 7, 2018 - Ms. Veteran America Pageant

[Learn more...](#)

October 13, 2019 - Navy Birthday

October 14, 2019 - Columbus Day

October 26, 2019 - National Day of the Deployed

A day set aside to honor all of the brave men and woman who have been deployed and are sacrificing, or have sacrificed, their lives to fight for our country and acknowledges their families that they are separated from. [Learn more...](#)

October 31, 2019 - Halloween

LINK - [Organizations that send Halloween candy to deployed military personnel](#)

LINK - [Coloring page for military children](#)



ROLLING THUNDER®, INC. COLORADO 1
HOSTING A FREE APPRECIATION BRUNCH
FOR ALL VETERANS OCTOBER 12, 2019
Must show Military ID at door to be served

With a special Ceremony preformed with the Flame of Freedom Coordinator John McKendree and Rolling Thunder CO 1 – Ceremony to start at 3PM Sharp.
 (www.rtfameoffreedom.com)

All veterans near and afar are welcome to brunch and the special event of the Missing Man Ceremony with a very emotional ending with the Flame of Freedom

Brunch is to be served between 11:00 and 2PM at VFW Post 2461, 1350 S Broadway Denver, CO. With the ceremonies to follow afterwards.

Serving Sandwich and soup
Must show Military ID at door to be served



*Veterans Legacy Program Exhibit Opening

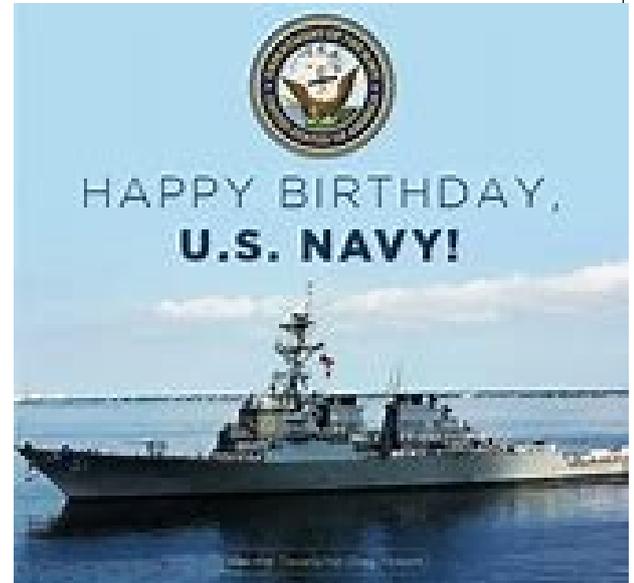
November 9 5:30pm - 6:30pm

LOCATION: Anderson Academic Commons room 290

Join us at the opening reception for the Veterans Legacy Program Exhibit, "More Than a Headstone: The Lives and Legacies of Veterans at Fort Logan National Cemetery."

Through a contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, history professors Elizabeth Escobedo and Carol Helstosky organized a research project dedicated to understanding the lives and contributions of veterans buried at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.

FREE but registration (<http://www.alumni.du.edu/s/1150/interior2013/interior2col.aspx?sid=1150&gid=1001&pgid=17966&cid=31912&ecid=31912&crd=0&calcid=11759>) is required



AURORA VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION STAND DOWN DAY

AN EVENT SUPPORTING LOCAL VETERANS EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Heritage Christian Center • 14401 E. Exposition Ave.