



## **CITY OF MENIFEE**

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SUBJECT: Veterans Recognition Events and Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE: January 18, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Mariana Mitchell, Community Services Manager

REVIEWED BY: Jonathan Nicks, Community Services Director

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

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### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Review and discuss the options for recognizing Vietnam and Korean War Veterans, and the potential formation of a Veterans Advisory Committee.

### **DISCUSSION**

On May 4, 2022, City Council requested staff to research the South Korean “Ambassador for Peace” Medal Program. This commemorative medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to the United States service men and women who served in the Korean War. Staff have reached out to the Los Angeles office of the South Korean consulate for additional information and have obtained the official application necessary for awarding the medal to those who qualify. Staff are working with VFW Post 1956 of Menifee to gather applications and are working towards scheduling a date for presenting the medals in 2023.

On October 5, 2022, City Council requested staff to explore the option of making the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event that was held on March 30, 2022, an annual recurring event. Staff have reviewed the request and are open to integrating this event into the annual special event calendar with 2023 presenting a unique opportunity. Miller Jones Memorial Park and Mortuary will be hosting “The Wall That Heals”, which is a Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica wall and education center, from April 6 – 9, 2023. City staff are working closely with Miller Jones staff to assist with coordinating this regional event and propose integrating the annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event into the opening ceremony.

On October 19, 2022, City Council requested the opportunity to discuss the potential formation of a Veterans Advisory Committee. In the past, the Community Services Department hosted informal meetings for local veteran’s groups and service organizations to share resources. However, during the many closures related to the COVID pandemic, this group moved toward email as the primary form of communication. Interactions have slowed and most groups have

either integrated into the regular Community Partners meeting hosted by the Community Services Department; or have become involved in specific veteran's event committees.

**STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE**

Accessible and Interconnected Community

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Potential events associated with the South Korean "Ambassador for Peace" Medal and an annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event can be absorbed in the Community Services Fiscal Year 2022/2023 approved Budget. However, the implementation of a formal Veterans Advisory Committee may require an additional appropriation dependent upon City Council direction.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.