

Mills County Veterans Affairs

August 14th, 2026, Meeting Minutes

To: All MCVA Commissioners, Board of Supervisors Liaison, MCVA staff

Christina Hankins, CVSO/Caseworker

Lori Swisher, CVSO/Clerk

(Commissioners have staggered three-year terms)

Paul Hathaway, Commissioner 1974-2029

Jeanne Wilkins, Commissioner 2019-2028

Yolanda Hardesty, Commissioner 2019-2028

Jess Cook, Commissioner/Secretary 2019-2029

Jim Schoening, Commissioner/Chair 2017-2028

Richard Crouch, BOS Liaison 2003 - 2026

From: Elizabeth Richardson, CVSO/Administrator

August Regular Meeting 8:37 am

Location: 403 Railroad Avenue, Glenwood

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call All Commissioners, Liaison, and staff were present. Chris Weidie, David Farmer, and Brian Ring were in attendance.

C. Old Business

1. Jess made a motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting; Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.
2. Jess made a motion to approve the minutes from the August training meeting; Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.
3. Richard gave an update on ISAC Award application for Outstanding Leadership by MCVA. He said our application made a strong finish at second place, missing the ISAC Award by only two points. All thanked Richard for nominating the office for this award.
4. Discussed removing Veterans Affairs from sign by road and above door to building. Will need to replace with something similar to other departments in building. Richard said he would discuss with BoS about putting a similar sign on the side of the building, like Public Health's. He suggested seeing if the prison shop could make that sign for a reasonable amount of money.

D. Reports and Outreach/Training

1. Monthly Reports/Awards

- a. Communication and Forms Reports
- b. Quarterly Assistance and Awards Reports
 - i. Assistance requested twice/nothing completed.
 - ii. Running Awards C and P for June 2026: \$1,395,175 (Increase of \$5,000 monthly)
 - iii. Running count of **awards only: 653 people** (veterans/widows/dependents)
*This does not include current claims and appeals
 - iv. Current # eligible veterans for 100% Disabled Property Tax Exemption: approx. **132**

2. Outreach

- a. Cultivate Community was a success. Worked with Omaha Medical VA Eligibility Rep, David Conrad (he had six new prospects for eligibility) and he was pleased with the turn out.
- b. DAV Van Rider luncheon/informational meeting this fall for all of our volunteers will be held later in September.
- c. Dog Days of Summer was a success! 216 hotdogs were grilled up that day and it was standing room only for veterans and families to stop and eat. Rick Honeycutt and representative from Home Based Iowa were in attendance to present office with award and pass out coins to

Commissioners. It was discussed to have event at an even larger, indoor venue next year to accommodate everyone. This discussion will be investigated further next year by Emily Swinford and Rachel Pierce. They did a great job, as always, giving back to our veteran community.

E. New Business

1. Commissioner Updates
2. Discussion re Jack Sayers, who was invited to attend this meeting. Sayers said he was unable to attend and offered to meet with the Commissioners individually. It was discussed that his comments were directed to the Board so they preferred to discuss those comments with him as a whole. Elizabeth was directed to invite him to our next meeting in September.
3. Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal update: Chrstina has been working on contacting all of our known Korean veterans for this award. We have a few veterans and/or families that will be in attendance for this event in October (?).

F. Adjournment

Yolanda made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jeanne seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:01am.

Next meeting: October 9th, 8:30 am

Future meetings: items must be on the Agenda by Wednesday before the next monthly Commissioner's Meeting per Open Meeting Laws.

Meeting Agendas are posted 24 hours before a Commissioner Meeting on the front door of 403 Railroad Avenue, Glenwood, Iowa. Meetings are held at 403 Railroad Avenue on the second Friday of each month starting at 8:30 am.