



COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mandy Coates, Director
Bill Blanchard, Chairperson
Larry Hingtgen, Secretary

JoAnne Downes
Chad Gerdes
Jacob Korbakes

Formal Meeting Minutes
Health and Human Services Building
855 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240
Conference Room 203 B
May 19, 2026

Meeting called to order at 17:00 by Blanchard

Present: Bill Blanchard, Chad Gerdes, Jake Korbakes, Larry Hingtgen and Mandy Coates.
Guests: Nathan Peters- Johnson County Attorney's Office

Unless noted, all actions were taken unanimously

1. I-9 and bank account information was presented to HR and placed into the Workday system in order to pay them per IRS requirements. Gerdes chose not to provide his information, as he is resigning from the Commission
2. Motion by Gerdes, second by Hingtgen to approve the April minutes
3. Motion by Korbakes, second by Gerdes to approve the April vouchers
4. Budget is at 62% utilized. Federal revenue for Johnson County from VA Compensation and Pension payments was \$3,495,152.00. SF2466 failed to pass the legislative term. The memorial landscape was updated with new flowers and mulch in time for Memorial Day. Coates met with Rachel Anderson, Mariannette Miller Meeks' Representative. Josh Brown, CVSO, was on military orders for two weeks in May. Coates shared that the IACVS District 1 meeting is June 11th at 1:30 and Commissioners are invited. Coates attended the Iowa Association of County Veteran Services Spring Training in Des Moines and shared an outreach event regarding a Veteran who missed his Honor Flight
5. Coates provided information to the Commission regarding a fraud prevention tool that the VA plans to roll out, updates on the Richard Start Act regarding retirement and combat disability pay, Incapacitated Veterans who will be appointed guardianship if they have no one else, and the automatic draft that will be implemented using databases already in use
6. Iowa Code Chapter 35 and 35B was presented to the Commission with key points summarized by Coates
7. Commission decided to discontinue the roadside cleanup along Mahaffy Bridge for now and revisit at a later date
8. New Commissioner applicant names and branches were presented and discussed. Commission will recommend that the female Marine be appointed to the Board of Supervisors to adhere to Iowa Code's requirement of having Veterans of different military branches serve on the Commission

9. Meeting dates and times were discussed. The commission stated that the times and dates still work and we will keep it the same. Typically the meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the Month at 17:00 in the Health and Human Services building

10. Blanchard shared information regarding one of his friends who was drafted along with his brother in Korea and Vietnam. The friend had recently passed away.

Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 17:55

Recorded by Mandy Coates

These minutes will be presented to the Secretary for approval during our June 2026 meeting.

6/17/2026

Date:

Signature on File

Secretary or Alternate