

**Meeting Minutes - Special Committee on Veterans' Services
(Pending Committee Approval)**

**Thursday, September 26, 2024 7:15 PM
Held at Bronx Ale House 216 West 238th Street, Bronx, NY 10463**

1. Welcome & Roll Call - 7:20 pm
Present: Sergio Villaverde (Chair), Julia Gomez, Emily Hausman, Patrick Watson, Rob Spalter
Absent: Margaret Della, Herb Barrett (community committee member)
Board Members: Julie Reyes (CB8 Chairperson)
2. Approval of Prior Committee Minutes of April 25, 2024 - moved by Robert Spalter, Second by Emily Hausman. Passed Unanimously
3. Chairperson's Report - Report on events and outreach made for partnerships from the previous year. Review of plans for the upcoming year.
4. Memorial Grove Event - Committee reviewed the previous order of events and partners that assisted with each part. Mrs. Hausman reported that the Rabbi that participated last year is no longer available. Mrs. Hausman will attempt to engage a new rabbi and a new Chaplin.
5. Award Criteria Discussion - Committee reviewed the presented criteria. The committee discussed if all criteria were needed to be considered. Agreed to reword the criteria to make clear that they are not required but should be included if they apply. Dr. Gomez proposed that the criteria be expanded to include military spouses. Discussion of whether it should further be expanded and how far. Decision to limit the inclusion criteria to household members. Committee voted on the revised criteria. Moved by Dr. Julia Gomez, Second by Mrs. Emily Hausman. Passed Unanimously

Military Service

- I. **Service:** The veteran must have served in any branch of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force or National Guard). Service may be active or Reserve. A household member of a Veteran is also eligible.
- II. **Community Residence**

Awardee will preferably be a member of Community Board 8 area.

III. Professional Achievement

- **Career Success:** Achieving professional success while serving in the military.
- **Excellence in a Career:** Excellence in a military/civilian career, particularly one that benefits the broader community (e.g., healthcare, education, public service).

IV. Personal Character

- **Integrity and Respect:** Demonstrating a high level of personal integrity, respect, and dedication to the values of service.
- **Role Model:** Being a positive role model for others, both within the veteran community and the general public.

V. Endorsements or Nominations

- **Community Support:** The veteran is often nominated by peers, fellow veterans, or community members.
- The committee can consider nominees upon its own initiative and the recipient may self-nominate.

The criteria are disjunctive. An awardee need not meet all of the criteria.

6. Flag Maintenance - Flagpole by Riverdale Monument - Discussion of the maintenance. Chair Villaverde informed the committee that the group that previously maintained it is no longer available. Discussion of who should be responsible. Decision made to follow up with the office to reach out to relevant parties.
7. Old Business - no old business
8. New Business - no new business
9. Adjournment - Moved by Mrs. Emily Hausman, Second by Mr. Robert Spalter. Passed Unanimously. Adjourned at 8:35

Submitted by: Sergio Villaverde, Committee Chair