



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645
(734)222-6850
FAX (734)222-6715

TO: Jeff Irwin, Chair
Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Mark Lindke, Director
Washtenaw County Veterans Services

DATE: December 3, 2008

SUBJECT: Appointment of Five Members to the Recently Created Washtenaw County
Veterans Affairs Committee

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners appoint five members to the recently created Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs Committee as recommended by the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

For many years, Washtenaw County provided services to its veterans pursuant to PA 77 of 1945 (MCLA 35.11). Under this model, any county that had an established local council of veterans affairs could work with that council to provide veterans services. In 1953, the Michigan Legislature passed PA 192 (MCLA 35.621 et seq), which provided for a more formal veterans organization within a County. Under PA 192, a county may establish a county department of veteran affairs to be administered by a county department of veterans affairs committee which is comprised of up to 5 qualified veterans to be appointed by the local board of commissioners upon the recommendation of the local council of veterans. Once created, a county veterans affairs committee replaces the soldiers' relief commission within that county. The vast majority of Michigan Counties provides veterans services pursuant to the PA 192 model.

On October 15, 2008, the Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #08-0176 which re-organized the County's Veteran Services pursuant to PA 192. To that extent, the Resolution created the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs as well as a five-member Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs Committee. ("WCVAC") The re-organization becomes effective on January 1, 2009; accordingly, it is time to appoint the

initial five members of the WCVAC. County Veteran Services Director, Mark Lindke has been working with the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans to obtain their recommendation for these five appointed positions. In a letter dated November 11, 2008, the Council has made its recommendations for the five veterans to be appointed to the WCVAC. Three of the five recommended appointees are the current members of the Soldiers Relief Commission which will be dissolved effective January 1, 2009. This letter is attached for your review.

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING FIVE VETERANS TO THE WASHTENAW COUNTY
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR VARYING TERMS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 3, 2008

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2008, the Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #08-0176 which reorganized the County Department of Veteran Services to comply with PA 192 of 1953 (MCLA 35.621 et.seq.); and

WHEREAS, as part of the reorganization, the Board of Commissioners approved the creation of the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs as well as a five-member Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs Committee ("WCVAC") all of which becomes effective on January 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, PA 192 requires that the five members of the WCVAC must be qualified veterans who have served honorably on active duty in the United States armed forces, actively served the in the United States armed forces in a war or who have received an armed forces campaign or service medal; and

WHEREAS, the five-persons of the WCVAC are to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners upon the recommendation of the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the initial terms of the five-person WCVAC may be no more than 4 years and must be staggered so that no more than 2 positions become vacant in any one year; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans have recommended that the Board of Commissioners make the following appointments to the WCVAC:

1. Gregg Weaver Viet Nam War Veteran-U.S. Army (4 year term)
2. Donald O'Dell Korean War Veteran-U.S. Marine Corp. (4 year term)
3. Edward Steele World War II Veteran-U.S. Army (3 year term)
4. Rueben Swisher Korean War Veteran-U.S. Army (3 year term)
5. Kenneth Schwartz Viet Nam Era Veteran-U.S. Air Force (2 year term)

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners appoints the following individuals to the Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs Committee for the terms as shown:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Qualification</u>	<u>Term</u>
1. Gregg Weaver	Viet Nam War Veteran	4 years (expiring 12/31/12)
2. Donald O'Dell 12/31/12)	Korean War Veteran	4 years (expiring

- | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| 3. Edward Steele
12/31/11) | World War II Veteran | 3 years (expiring |
| 4. Reuben Swisher
12/31/11) | Korean War Veteran | 3 years (expiring |
| 5. Kenneth Schwartz
(expiring 12/31/10) | Viet Nam Era Veteran | 2 years |

h: general/WCVACappt