



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Public Minutes of January 2020 Commission Meeting

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (the Commission) held a meeting on January 17, 2020, at its offices in Arlington, VA. The entire meeting concerned pre-decisional and deliberative matters and was closed to the public pursuant to Public Law 114-328, section 554(b)(3).

Attendance

Commissioners present:

- Mr. Edward Allard
- Mr. Steve Barney
- The Honorable Dr. Janine Davidson (by telephone)
- The Honorable Mark Gearan (by telephone)
- The Honorable Avril Haines
- The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck
- Ms. Jeanette James
- Mr. Alan Khazei
- Mr. Thomas Kilgannon
- Ms. Shawn Skelly
- The Honorable Debra Wada

Staff present:

- Paul Lekas, General Counsel
- Peter Morgan, Director of Operations
- Jill Rough, Director of Research and Analysis
- Sandy Scott, Director of Government Affairs and Public Engagement
- Other Commission staff

January 17, 2020

Business Meeting

Chairman Heck convened the Commission at 0800 ET, with eight Commissioners physically present; Vice Chair Gearan and Dr. Davidson participated by telephone. Ms. Haines arrived at approximately 0815 ET.

Chairman Heck moved to close this and other business meetings to occur on January 17 because pre-decisional and organizational matters would be deliberated. A motion was made and seconded, and all Commissioners agreed.

Chairman Heck then moved to approve the minutes for the November 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the minutes subject to technical edits and clarifications.

Reports on Recent Engagements

Ms. Skelly attended the Partnership for Public Service's Best Places to Work breakfast, held on January 10, 2020. She described the event as positive and had an opportunity to speak with senior Partnership staff.

Mr. Kilgannon attended an event in Bentonville, Arkansas, in December that included a roundtable discussion arranged by Theresa Walsh of the Boys & Girls Club. The discussion included representatives from Walmart.

Mr. Kilgannon also spoke with Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL) around an event hosted by the Freedom Alliance. Rep Waltz said he was looking forward to the Commission's report.

Chairman Heck described follow up discussions he has held with members of the For Country Caucus, which includes Rep. Waltz, and with the group With Honor Action, which was created to promote veteran leadership in public service through education/advocacy programs, grants, and charitable contributions. He noted that both the For Country Caucus and With Honor Action have interest in the Commission's mandate.

Ms. James addressed a meeting with Janet Tran of the Reagan Library and Commission staff. She explained that the Reagan Library is pursuing an initiative on civics and civic education and that Ms. Tran is interested in the Commission's work and in helping the Commission.

Mr. Barney met with Matt Donovan, currently serving as Acting Under Secretary for Personnel & Readiness, on January 16. He noted that Mr. Donovan is aware that the Commission has met with P&R staff in the past and is open to engaging further with the Commission.

Mr. Khazei met with Eliot Gerson of the Aspen Institute on January 16. Mr. Scott also attended. Mr. Gerson is open to holding a plenary session at this year's Aspen Ideas Festival, which will be held on June 27-July 3.

Commission Recommendations and Key Messages

From 0815 to 1015 ET, the Commission held a deliberation on Commission recommendations and key messages.

Review of Draft Legislative Proposals

Following a short break, from 1030 to 1130 ET, the Commission held a deliberation on legislative proposals that the Commission would introduce in March 2020.

At 1130 ET, the Commission recessed for a one-hour lunch.

Briefing by Barbara Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of CNCS

The Commission reconvened at 1230 ET for a discussion with Barbara Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Ms. Stewart, accompanied by Haley Lamm, CNCS Deputy Director of Business Transformation, and Kirsten Grantham, CNCS Deputy Director Government Relations and Strategic Engagement, briefed the Commission on CNCS' efforts to improve branding and marketing of national service.

Following a discussion of preliminary research findings and CNCS' plans to improve awareness of national service over 2020 and 2021, Ms. Stewart held a question and answer session with the Commission.

Business Meeting

The Commission continued its business meeting from 1300 to 1500 ET. From 1300 to 1345 ET, the Commission received an update on legislative affairs activity from Jeff McNichols, Deputy Director of Government Affairs and Public Engagement. From 1345 to 1445 ET, Sandy Scott, Director of Director of Government Affairs and Public Engagement led a discussion of events in the week of March 23-27, 2020, to accompany release of the Commission's report. From 1445 to 1500 ET, Paul Lekas, General Counsel, provided the Commission with ethics training.

At approximately 1500 ET, the Commission then adjourned its January meeting.

Prepared by Paul Lekas, General Counsel

Adopted by the Commission on February 20, 2020.