

**Cerro Gordo County**  
**Veterans Affairs Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes, December 22, 2025**

Vice Chair Cindy Davis gaveled the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Director Beatty and Commissioners Ochoa and Johnson were present. Chair Jessica Reith and Commissioner Foell were absent.

The Minutes from the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Johnson moved approval and Commissioner Ochoa seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Commission signed various operating invoices and reviewed the Financial Report covering expenditures made during the month of November. Commissioner Ochoa moved approval of the Financial Report. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Director Beatty reported there has been an additional Home Base Iowa claim recently approved. That represents the second application approved this fiscal year.

There are currently 35 open service- connected claims with 12 being filed this month.

The Director informed the commission that the Challenge Coins which had been discussed at the November meeting have been recently ordered. There was discussion about how these coins should be presented. The consensus was that the Director should present the coins which could include a Thank You card signed by commissioners. The Challenge Coin represents an expression of appreciation to an individual or organization who demonstrates a significant event of support to the Cerro Gordo County Veterans Affairs Commission and the Veterans of Cerro Gordo County.

The Director lead a discussion on Chapter 35 Bill. This Bill covers the educational benefit available to the spouse and children of 100 percent disabled veterans. If the spouse/child is enrolled as a fulltime student they may be eligible for a

monthly stipend of up to \$1,488.00. There is a maximum time limit and dollar limit on this benefit.

The Director noted that the \$500.00 donation the commission made to Wreathes Across America was made just in time.

It was noted that Toys for Tots volunteers were distributing the toys last week at the Salvation Army. The organization covers at least 10 counties.

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

The next meeting for the commission was scheduled for January 26, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner Johnson moved adjournment with Commissioner Ochoa seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Following the meeting, Staff and Commissioners handed out Christmas hams to Cerro Gordo County Veterans. The hams were donated by Smithfield Corporation and were packaged in Mason City.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daryl Johnson, Secretary