

## **Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
May 25, 2023

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Kenny R. Cox, chairman of the Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Kenny R. Cox, chairman  
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler, vice chairman  
Representative Raymond J. Crews  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.  
Representative Randal L. Gaines

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gabrielle Lewis, attorney  
Diane Merritt, committee administrative assistant

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Michael McCain, clerk  
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

### **III. PRESENTATION OF TESTIMONY**

Major General D. Keith Waddell, adjutant general, Louisiana National Guard, 6400 St. Claude Ave., Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70117, (318) 416-7534, provided an update on force structure and personnel relative to the Louisiana National Guard. The adjutant general answered questions from the committee members.

Colonel (ret) Joey Strickland, secretary, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA), 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-5000, testified on the status of state veteran homes, state cemeteries, veteran services offices, and unmet needs of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

Julie Baxter, deputy secretary, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-5001, testified for information only. She stated that LDVA was in need of funding to repair shower rooms at the Southwest Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jennings, Louisiana. She said that the amount of \$2.35 million would need to be added to the capital outlay bill and that this is bond money only, which does not affect the spending cap. Julie Baxter answered questions from the committee members.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Kenny R. Cox  
Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs