



**Mike Prendergast**  
Executive Director

State of Florida  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
**Office of the Executive Director**

Suite 311 K  
11351 Ulmerton Road  
Largo, Florida 33778-1630  
Phone: (727) 518-3202 Ext.5594 Fax: (850) 488-4001  
[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)

**Rick Scott**  
Governor  
**Pam Bondi**  
Attorney General  
**Jeff Atwater**  
Chief Financial Officer  
**Adam Putnam**  
Commissioner of Agriculture

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Honorable Rick Scott  
Honorable Pam Bondi  
Honorable Jeff Atwater  
Honorable Adam Putnam

**FROM:** Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Mike Prendergast, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Agenda – Cabinet Meeting of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The next public meeting of the Governor and Cabinet to transact the business of the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be at 9:00 a.m. (EST), March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Agenda and all required back-up materials are attached for your review.

If you have any questions, please call my Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director Colleen Krepstekies, at (850) 487-1533 x7723.

cc: Monica Russell, Director of Cabinet Affairs  
Executive Office of the Governor  
  
Cynthia Kelly, Director  
Governor's Office of Policy and Budget

Attachments

**AGENDA**  
**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
Meeting materials for the following items are available on the web at:  
<http://floridavets.org/about-us/public-notice/>

**MEMBERS**

Governor Rick Scott  
Attorney General Pam Bondi  
Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater  
Commissioner Adam Putnam

**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**9:00 A.M. (EST)**  
**LL-03, The Capitol**  
**Tallahassee, Florida**

**Contact:**      **Colleen Krepstekies, Director, Legislative & Cabinet Affairs**  
**(850) 487-1533**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
1.	Respectfully request approval of the minutes of the January 13th, 2015 meeting.	<b>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>
(ATTACHMENT 1)		<b>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>
2.	Respectfully request approval of the minutes of the February 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 meeting	
(ATTACHMENT 2)		<b>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>
3.	Respectfully submit recommendations for the 2014 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.	
(ATTACHMENT 3)		<b>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>

1                   **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

2

3                   ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: At this time I would  
4                   like to recognize Mike Prendergast with the  
5                   Department of Veterans Affairs.

6                   Colonel.

7                   EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: I brought a  
8                   few props for this morning's Cabinet meeting with  
9                   us.

10                  Good morning, General Bondi, CFO Atwater, and  
11                  Commissioner Putnam. I'd like to give you an  
12                  update on the great work that our Florida Veteran's  
13                  Foundation has been doing with an agency called  
14                  Support the Troops. It's a Wesley Chapel  
15                  organization that we've introduced to you in  
16                  previous Cabinet meetings; and, in fact, their  
17                  Executive Director, Mr. Mark Van Trees, was honored  
18                  by the Governor and Cabinet during the November  
19                  Cabinet meeting that we held down here right after  
20                  Veterans Day.

21                  Leading up to the holidays, Support the Troops  
22                  put together a wide range of donations for our  
23                  veterans in our state veterans domiciliary located  
24                  in Lake City: Girl Scout cookies like you see in  
25                  the box here, packages of socks for veteran

1 residents, and a whole host of other things, like  
2 personal hygiene items and clothing for our  
3 residents, were all provided by donations from  
4 Support the Troops and other organizations from  
5 across the state.

6 The Activities Director, Diana, received an  
7 overwhelming response and a lot of thanks and  
8 gratitude from the veteran residents of the  
9 veterans domiciliary. And, in fact, one of the  
10 comments that she related back to Naomi just  
11 yesterday was that our veterans came to them and  
12 told them that this was one of the best Christmases  
13 that they could ever remember and, indeed, the  
14 Christmas was so good it compared to Christmases  
15 they had with their own children whenever they were  
16 raising their families.

17 So they were very thankful for Mark and our  
18 Florida Veterans Foundation for all of the support  
19 over the holiday season, and we just wanted to  
20 thank them again for everything that they do for  
21 our veteran community here in the state.

22 Most recently, Support the Troops has  
23 facilitated the donation of more than a quarter of  
24 a million dollars of items for the Florida Veterans  
25 Foundation to use for upcoming homeless veterans

1 stand-downs. Items such as these long-term  
2 shelf-life meals, backpacks, other items of  
3 clothing, and personal hygiene items have been  
4 donated and will be donated again in 2015 as our  
5 homeless veterans stand-downs take root across the  
6 state. And, in fact, I think our chairman of our  
7 Foundation is here with us today, Colonel Retired  
8 Washington Sanchez from the Foundation, as he is at  
9 every Cabinet meeting.

10 We sincerely appreciate all that Support the  
11 Troops and the Florida Veterans Foundation do for  
12 all of our veterans, their family members, and  
13 survivors. And quite simply, we couldn't do the  
14 job that we do to the standards of excellence  
15 without their support, assistance, and the love  
16 that they provide to our veterans and their family  
17 members.

18 Before we begin our agenda, I have one  
19 additional brief but notable update for you  
20 regarding our State Veterans Homes Program. As you  
21 know, St. Lucie County was awarded the site for the  
22 seventh state veterans nursing home following a  
23 unanimous vote at the September 23rd Cabinet  
24 meeting.

25 Following the vote, we invited the

1 general public to participate in the naming process  
2 by suggesting eligible nominees for consideration.  
3 Our naming protocols state that a nominee must be a  
4 deceased medal of honor recipient accredited to  
5 Florida by the Congressional Medal of Honor  
6 Society.

7 We received an overwhelming response for a  
8 Viet Nam War veteran: Ft. Pierce and St. Lucie  
9 County native, Sergeant Ardie R. Copas. Then a  
10 specialist, Ardie Copas distinguished himself on  
11 May 12th, 1970, while serving as a machine gunner  
12 in Cambodia.

13 When his convoy was ambushed, the 19-year-old  
14 specialist repelled the enemy under heavy fire,  
15 holding his post, while his wounded comrades were  
16 evacuated to safety. He was, unfortunately, killed  
17 in action and posthumously awarded the Medal of  
18 Honor for his heroic actions on March 18th, 2014.

19 We are honored to have here with us today, the  
20 daughter of Sergeant Copas,  
21 Ms. Sharelle Copas-Herrera, who accepted our  
22 nation's highest military honor on behalf of her  
23 late father from President Obama last year.  
24 Sharelle traveled down to Tallahassee from  
25 Tennessee to deliver a few brief remarks to you

1           this morning. Please join me in welcoming  
2           Ms. Sharelle Copas-Herrera to the Cabinet meeting.

3           (APPLAUSE).

4           GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good morning.

5           MS. COPAS-HERRERA: Good morning. I'd like to  
6           thank everyone for letting me and my mother be here  
7           today, and I'd also like to thank everyone who has  
8           been involved with everything that has happened  
9           thus far with my dad in honoring his sacrifice that  
10          he made that day for myself, my mom, my family, his  
11          buddies that day, and our country.

12          I'm so very proud of him, and words just can't  
13          describe the feelings that I've had ever since this  
14          has happened. I wondered so many years, my whole  
15          life, why he didn't receive this medal a long time  
16          ago.

17          After reading my dad's citations of his medals  
18          that were placed in my arms in my 30s, everything  
19          that had been told to me my whole life about my dad  
20          just came rushing from the top of my head to the  
21          bottom of my toes. You can be told things your  
22          whole life, but until you actually experience and  
23          see it for your own eyes, like I said, just --  
24          there's nothing like it.

25          And I've been extremely honored, and very

1 honored even more so about this nursing home being  
2 named in my dad's honor, for the fact that when I  
3 was a little girl I used to go to nursing homes and  
4 sing at the nursing homes. And at one time I even  
5 got to meet one of the oldest living relatives --  
6 oldest living Floridians at the time. She was 112  
7 or 113, 14 I think, and that was just very  
8 impressive to me. And this past holiday, my first  
9 granddaughter, Hannah Renee Garrett, she went to  
10 the nursing home this year, kindergarten, and sang,  
11 and she loved it.

12 And just -- my mom, only being 17 when I was  
13 born, obviously my grandma had a big hand in  
14 raising me, my grandmom and my grandpa. So this  
15 nursing home is even better to me in my heart than  
16 even a veterans hospital because the elderly are so  
17 dear to me. And obviously veterans, because of my  
18 dad and what my dad did that day, veterans always  
19 have been a special part in my heart. And I just  
20 thank everyone so very much for everything you've  
21 all done for us.

22 Thank you.

23 (APPLAUSE).

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good morning. I think  
25 Caroline is going to come back in a few minutes and

1           we'll get a picture. The photographer is going to  
2           come back in a minute.

3           MRS. COPAS: Thank you.

4           GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you.

5           EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you,  
6           again, ladies, for attending today's Cabinet  
7           meeting.

8           Governor, the Department of Veterans Affairs  
9           has five agenda items for the Cabinet's  
10          consideration today. Agenda Item 1 consists of the  
11          Cabinet meeting minutes for the September 23rd,  
12          2014, Cabinet meeting.

13          We respectfully request approval of these  
14          minutes.

15          GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve?

16          COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: So moved.

17          GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

18          CFO ATWATER: Second.

19          GOVERNOR SCOTT: Moved and seconded, show the  
20          minutes approved without objection.

21          EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

22          Agenda Item 2 is the Agency's annual report  
23          for fiscal year 2013 and 2014. Each of your  
24          offices received a copy of this report prior to the  
25          holidays, and we would be pleased to review it with

1                   you in further detail if you have any questions.

2                   Briefly, I'd just like to talk about a couple  
3                   of the highlights from this year's annual report.  
4                   The Agency supported 18 Governor's Veteran Service  
5                   Award ceremonies last year, along with a number of  
6                   presentations at Cabinet meetings held here in  
7                   Tallahassee and throughout the state. In total,  
8                   Governor Scott honored nearly 5,500 veterans with  
9                   this well-deserved recognition, and we look forward  
10                  to the first ceremony for 2015 later this week in  
11                  Melbourne.

12                  Fifty VA state veterans nursing homes enjoyed  
13                  an overall occupancy rate of 97.8 percent for the  
14                  year with our standard being at 90 percent. The  
15                  percentages include our assisted living facility in  
16                  Lake City which operates at a slightly lower  
17                  percentage for its occupancy. Our six state  
18                  veterans nursing homes again maintained an average  
19                  occupancy of 99 percent last year.

20                  Further, I'm pleased to note that we now have  
21                  five of our six state veterans nursing homes rated  
22                  at the five-star ranking by the Centers for  
23                  Medicare and Medicaid Services. And our final home  
24                  is a four-star home striving daily to try and  
25                  achieve that five-star ranking.

1                 Finally, our Benefits and Assistance Division  
2                 provided over 620,000 services to veterans, their  
3                 family members, and their survivors last year, and  
4                 served over 110,000 unique veterans. This hard  
5                 work from our 99 veterans claims examiners  
6                 throughout the state under the leadership of  
7                 Ms. Eileen Tarter, our Division Director, resulted  
8                 in more than \$174 million in retroactive  
9                 compensation awarded to veterans, and a return on  
10                investment of \$128 of earned federal benefits  
11                flowing into Florida's economy for every dollar  
12                invested.

13                We respectfully request approval of our annual  
14                report.

15                GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to accept  
16                the report?

17                CFO ATWATER: So moved.

18                GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

19                COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Second.

20                GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any objections?

21                (NO RESPONSE).

22                GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion  
23                carries.

24                EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you,  
25                Governor.

1                   Agenda Item 3 is the legislative budget  
2                   request for fiscal year '15 and '16. I'd like to  
3                   highlight a couple of the key issues within each  
4                   division of the agency, but we've provided great  
5                   detail to the staffs and, as well, to the Office of  
6                   Policy and Budget upstairs.

7                   Priority 1A is our homes improvement and  
8                   renovation grants request. The Department has been  
9                   approved for two federal matching-fund grants to  
10                  increase the safety and security of our residents  
11                  in two of our homes. Examples to meet these needs  
12                  include new beds, required medical equipment and  
13                  safety equipment, and other items to support the  
14                  health, safety, and well being of our veteran  
15                  residents.

16                  The grants are, again, a cost-sharing program,  
17                  with the federal government paying 65 percent, and  
18                  our State Veterans Trust Fund paying the remaining  
19                  35 percent. These two grants total \$11 million.

20                  And our Priority 1B project is our capital  
21                  improvement program which the Department requests  
22                  approximately \$2 million in our state trust funds  
23                  to maintain and repair the remainder of our state  
24                  veterans nursing homes. There are several other  
25                  highlights throughout the budget, but I'd like to

1           turn now to the veterans -- the Division of  
2           Veterans Benefits and Assistance.

3           This great team over there does an awesome  
4           job, and a couple of years ago, due to our fiscal  
5           constraints, we used some of our trust fund money  
6           out of our operations and maintenance account to  
7           pay for some full-time equivalents to fund our  
8           requirements to help deliver veterans' benefits and  
9           services. We'd ask that this budget cycle consider  
10          removing that money from the trust fund account and  
11          putting it back into general revenue where  
12          traditionally it has been in the past.

13          And finally, for our Division of Executive  
14          Direction and Support, we seek funding for our  
15          Bureau of Information and Research in order to  
16          allow the agency to do the in-depth analytics and  
17          forecasting required to prepare us for the  
18          challenges of our next generation of veterans that  
19          are returning home on a daily basis. And we would  
20          like to meet those requirements well ahead of their  
21          demand landing squarely in the Agency's hands to be  
22          executed.

23          Subject to your questions, we respectfully  
24          request approval of our legislative budget request  
25          for 2015 and 2016.

1 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to accept  
2 the legislative budget request?

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

4 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

5 CFO ATWATER: Second.

6 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Florida law requires the  
7 Governor to independently submit budget proposals;  
8 accordingly, I am abstaining from the vote on  
9 this item. The record should reflect my  
10 abstention.

11 Any objections to accepting the legislative  
12 budget request?

13 (NO RESPONSE).

14 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion is  
15 approved with one abstention.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you,  
17 Governor.

18 Agenda Item 4 consists of the Agency proposals  
19 for 2015 and, at the high level, Agenda Item 1 for  
20 this proposal is in-state tuition for dependents  
21 using the post 911 GI Bill. Item 2 is the veterans  
22 Employment Opportunity Act; and Item 3 adds some  
23 license plates to the license plates available for  
24 veterans and increases the opportunity for us to  
25 make those sales which provides approximately

1           \$2 million into our annual budget each year from  
2           the sale of those license plates.

3           Subject to your questions, we respectfully  
4           request approval of the Agency's proposals for  
5           2015.

6           GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to accept  
7           the legislative proposals?

8           COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: So moved.

9           GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

10          ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Second.

11          GOVERNOR SCOTT: Florida law requires the  
12          Governor to independently review legislation upon  
13          passage. Accordingly, I am abstaining from the  
14          vote on this item. The record should reflect my  
15          abstention.

16          Any objections or comments with regard to  
17          these legislative proposals?

18          (NO RESPONSE).

19          GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion is  
20          approved with one abstention.

21          EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you,  
22          Governor.

23          Our final agenda item is Number 5, and it  
24          consists of a notice of Proposed Rule 55-12.006,  
25          and it concerns residents' contribution to the cost

1 of care.

2 On June 3rd, 2014, House Bill 5003 became law  
3 increasing the amount of income that residents to  
4 the state veterans nursing homes may retain for  
5 their personal use from \$35 per month to \$105 per  
6 month. Residents must contribute the remainder of  
7 their income to their maintenance and support while  
8 residing in a state veterans nursing home up to the  
9 actual cost of operating and maintaining the home.

10 We respectfully request approval of this  
11 proposed rule change.

12 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve?

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

14 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

15 CFO ATWATER: Second.

16 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any objections or any  
17 comments?

18 (NO RESPONSE).

19 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion  
20 carries.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: In closing,  
22 thank you, Governor Scott, General Bondi,  
23 CFO Atwater, and Commissioner Putnam for your  
24 untiring support to our state's veterans and the  
25 most veteran friendly state in the nation. Thank

1                   you.

2                   GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much.

3                   ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Thank you.

4

5

6                   \*

7                   \*

8                   \*

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 if we might acknowledge that FDLE's visiting with us in  
2 June is an appropriate time for us to align all our  
3 expectations against the best measures we have and  
4 to -- and to visit with the Commissioner at the time  
5 and speak to the success at that time, and if there is  
6 any action needed to take, that it would be addressed  
7 at that time.

8 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. All right. Anything else?  
9 All right.

10 \*

\*

\*

11

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Now I'd like to recognize Mike  
12 Prendergast with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.  
13 Good morning.

14

MR. PRENDERGAST: Good morning, Governor Scott,  
15 General Bondi, CFO Atwater, and Commissioner Putnam.  
16 Every day is Hero's Day in the great Sunshine State  
17 with your leadership and fierce dedication to our  
18 American patriots who have made everything that we have  
19 in the United States of America so richly possible for  
20 each and every one of our citizens and today's --  
21 today's cabinet meeting has really been a testament to  
22 the hard work that goes on among all of the state  
23 agencies, from the Department of Economic Opportunity  
24 to the Division of Forestry and everything in the  
25 between, that makes possible our ability to say that

1 Florida is the most veteran-friendly state in the  
2 nation, so thank you very much on behalf of our 1.5  
3 million veterans, their family members, and their  
4 survivors.

5 Governor Scott, we have for the cabinet today  
6 three agenda items for your consideration. Agenda Item  
7 1 is the agency's first quarter report for fiscal year  
8 2014 and 2015. We just have a couple of quick  
9 highlights for you in the interest of time. In our  
10 Bureau of Field Services and the Benefits and  
11 Assistance Division led by Alene Tarter, who had to  
12 depart earlier to attend a conference call, we attended  
13 over 200 outreach events during that quarter alone, and  
14 we provided services to 15,000 veterans and their  
15 families whenever they attended those outreach events.

16 In our Bureau of the State Approving Agency, which  
17 helps us ensure that our veterans and our family  
18 members and survivors get access to their GI Bill  
19 benefits, we actually accredited and approved 3,600  
20 programs through the State Approving Agency, and that  
21 marked a 52 percent increase for the agency over the  
22 previous quarter -- previous fiscal year's same  
23 quarter. Of course, we maintained a 99 percent  
24 occupancy rate in our state veterans' nursing homes,  
25 and we continue to excel in delivering world class care

1 by having all six of our state veterans' nursing homes  
2 now ranked at the five-star level.

3 We respectfully request approval of the first  
4 quarter's report for the agency.

5 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to accept the  
6 report?

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

8 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there second?

9 CFO ATWATER: Second.

10 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any objections? Any comments?  
11 Hearing none, the motion carries.

12 MR. PRENDERGAST: Thank you. Agenda Item 2 is the  
13 agency's second quarter report for fiscal year '14 and  
14 '15. For the second quarter, our Bureau of Veterans'  
15 Claims advocated for more than 27,000 veterans and  
16 their family members, and part of those efforts  
17 resulted in \$29 million in retroactive compensation to  
18 our veterans and their family members.

19 Also, in the second quarter, FDVA began its work  
20 with Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., the 501(c)(3)  
21 nonprofit that was created as part of the legislative  
22 session last year that came into being once we got the  
23 appointments made, and as part of that process, the  
24 folks at Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., went through  
25 and conducted a pretty wide and strategic search, and

1           they ended up tracking Bobby Carbonell, our former  
2           Director of Legislative and Cabinet Affairs, to go on  
3           and take on the responsibilities and roles as their new  
4           Executive Director.

5           So with Bobby's departure, we immediately  
6           advertised the vacancy in accordance with our  
7           established procedures, and after conducting an open,  
8           transparent, and highly competitive process to fill an  
9           urgent and critical need in the agency and after  
10          reviewing more than 57 applications, we found an  
11          exceptionally outstanding candidate, who happened to be  
12          part of our agency already.

13          And, Governor, it's someone that you know quite  
14          well because she was our key leader for executing all  
15          of the Governor's record service award ceremonies over  
16          the past calendar year, and that's Captain Colleen  
17          Krepstekies, an Operation Iraqi Freedom combat veteran  
18          and also a member of our esteemed 53rd Infantry Brigade  
19          of the Florida National Guard as a joined guardsman, so  
20          we're going to work really hard for this legislative  
21          session, but we're looking forward to great  
22          contributions from Colleen for all her hard work.

23           (APPLAUSE.)

24          GOVERNOR SCOTT: She does a great job.

25          MR. PRENDERGAST: She absolutely does, Governor,

1 and we're blessed to have her in the agency. Ladies  
2 and gentlemen, we respectfully request approval of our  
3 second quarter a report.

4 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to accept the  
5 report?

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

7 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

8 CFO ATWATER: Second.

9 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments? Any objections?  
10 Hearing none, the motion carries.

11 MR. PRENDERGAST: Thank you, Governor. Agenda  
12 Item 3 is the agency's recommendation for the Florida  
13 Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2014. The Florida  
14 Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those  
15 military veterans who, through their works and lives,  
16 during or after military service, have made a  
17 significant contribution to the state of Florida  
18 through civic, business, public service, or other  
19 pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of  
20 fame as it focuses on post military contributions to  
21 the state of Florida and its citizens.

22 The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council, an  
23 appointed seven-member body, is an advisory panel that  
24 is responsible for submitting to the Governor and  
25 Cabinet a list of recommended nominees. In selecting

1           its nominees for submission, the Council gives  
2           preference to veterans who were either born in Florida  
3           or adopted Florida as their home state.

4           The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council  
5           received a number of nominations from the field, and  
6           reviewed each nominee submitted by the general public  
7           using established criteria. The Council ranked the  
8           nominees and submitted eight recommendations to our  
9           agency for possible inclusion in the 2014 Hall of Fame.

10          Based on the Council's formal nominating criteria  
11          and Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of  
12          Veterans' Affairs is honored to recommend five of the  
13          eight names for your approval. The nominees are the  
14          late Rear Admiral Leroy Collins, Jr., from Tampa,  
15          Florida; Major General James Lee Dozier, United States  
16          Army retired; Dr. and Colonel and former Surgeon  
17          General of the great state of Florida, Colonel Frank  
18          Farmer, who served in Vietnam with the Army and retired  
19          from the Air Force as a full Colonel; Chief Master  
20          Sergeant Gene Cecil Johnson, United States Air Force  
21          retired, and as we observe Black History Month, Chief  
22          Johnson will be the first African-American inductee, if  
23          so voted today; and finally, Lieutenant General  
24          Lawrence F. Snowden, United States Marine Corps retired  
25          and a Tallahassee native.

1                   Moving forward, we will work with your respective  
2 offices to schedule a ceremony at the Capitol so that  
3 we can formally honor the nominees as they are inducted  
4 into the Hall of Fame with their names placed on the  
5 wall near the Capitol's rotunda.

6                   Before we proceed, here to speak on Agenda Item 3  
7 is Mr. David McAllister, Sons of Confederate Veterans,  
8 Florida Division.

9                   MR. McALLISTER: Good morning, Governor and  
10 cabinet members. I'm David McAllister, PO Box 7343,  
11 Wesley Chapel, Florida. I advocate for appreciation of  
12 history and veterans and especially of the period of  
13 the war between the states. I am the Chairman of the  
14 Sons of Confederate Veterans, Florida Division, Florida  
15 Veterans' Hall of Fame Committee. I am here with Mr.  
16 H. K. Edgerton, a veteran of the United States Army;  
17 former President of the NAACP of Ashville, North  
18 Carolina; Chairman Emeritus of the Southern Legal  
19 Resource Center; winner of the CSS Hunley Award, named  
20 for the famous confederate submarine, which is the  
21 highest accolade of the National Sons of Confederate  
22 Veterans for his -- which he won for his defense of all  
23 southerners' civil rights and the defense of the good  
24 name of the confederate veteran.

25                   Honorable Governor, ladies and gentlemen, it would

1           be a sad day when the Florida cabinet is complicit in  
2           breaking Florida law. Failure to act and hopefully to  
3           approve all eight of the recommendations of the Florida  
4           Veterans' Hall of Fame Council for 2014 violates  
5           Florida Statute 265.03. The Director of the Department  
6           of Veterans' Affairs has no authority to delay this  
7           issue past the calendar year of 2014, nor has he the  
8           authority to exclude or include certain Florida  
9           veterans and not others arbitrarily and unilaterally.

10           I'm calling on Attorney General Pam Bondi to  
11           investigate these violations of Florida Statute.  
12           Florida Statute Number 1.01, Definitions, defines the  
13           term "veteran". The term "veteran" means a person who  
14           served in the active military, naval, or air service  
15           and who was discharged or released under honorable  
16           conditions only, or who later received an upgraded  
17           discharge under honorable conditions. That's all. The  
18           enabling statute for the Hall of Fame says it is the  
19           intent of the legislature to recognize and honor those  
20           military veterans who, through their works and lives,  
21           during and after military service, have made a  
22           significant contribution to the state of Florida.

23           These are the three men that the Director deems  
24           not qualified. The first is Governor and earlier  
25           General Edward A. Perry, who led the Florida Brigade at

1           the Battle of Chancellorsville; Colonel and later the  
2           first Inspector General David Lang, who led the Florida  
3           Brigade at Gettysburg; Private and later Sergeant  
4           Samuel Pasco, a Harvard graduate who came to Florida,  
5           signed up, was wounded at the Battle of Missionary  
6           Ridge, became a POW.

7           Now, Governor Perry, when he was Governor, founded  
8           and started the university system in Florida. He also  
9           started the Florida Veterans' Pension Plan. Inspector  
10          General David Lang is known as the Father of the  
11          Florida National Guard. Samuel Pasco, after the war,  
12          became a lawyer, was elected to the Florida  
13          legislature, Chairman of the Constitutional Convention,  
14          was elected by the legislature to be a United States  
15          Senator from Florida where he was on the Panama Canal  
16          Commission for the nation, and he's the namesake of  
17          Pasco County here in the state of Florida.

18          These are people, men, obviously, certainly,  
19          worthy candidates. I ask that you withhold your  
20          approval of any veterans for the Florida Veterans' Hall  
21          of Fame until all veterans can be recognized. The  
22          whole world is actually watching Florida. What you do  
23          is important way beyond the plaque in the rotunda of  
24          the Capitol building. Would you deny Holt Collier or  
25          Napoleon Winbush, who is a black confederate and whose

1 grandson, Nelson Winbush, lives here in Florida and is  
2 a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans? The  
3 President, himself, is qualified for full voting  
4 membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

5 Where's the reconciliation in Florida for  
6 confederate veterans? Where's the inclusion of their  
7 descendants in the diversity of this state? If you  
8 believe that it's important that no veteran be left  
9 behind and that no veteran is a second-class citizen,  
10 then remember this about the message that you send with  
11 your vote today. How we treat the veterans of 150  
12 years ago is how the veterans of today will be treated  
13 150 years from now. Thank you very much.

14 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you.

15 Do you have a question?

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Yes, Governor. No, I  
17 don't have a question, but I would ask that the Colonel  
18 come up, and if he could, with his general counsel,  
19 they are the entity who can address this, the general  
20 counsel for Veterans' Affairs.

21 MR. PRENDERGAST: Thank you, General Bondi,  
22 Governor Scott, CFO Atwater, and Commissioner Putnam.  
23 In fact, it's not a technicality. It's a reality, and  
24 I would like for my general counsel at the Department  
25 of Veterans' Affairs to speak to the essence of the

1 matter so that we can discuss it in the legal terms  
2 that are appropriate for the statutes of the state and  
3 also to the U.S. Code. Mr. David Herman.

4 MR. HERMAN: Good afternoon. Thank you. Very  
5 briefly, the nomination guidelines for the Florida  
6 Veterans' Hall of Fame was approved in 2012. They're  
7 on the public website. They're the same criteria in  
8 effect today as they were when they were approved. The  
9 nominees for the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame must  
10 meet the following criteria: They must have received  
11 an honorable discharge from the United States Armed  
12 Forces and provide official documentation verifying  
13 discharge status.

14 Regrettably, three of the nominations that were  
15 given to the Executive Director of the Department of  
16 Veterans' Affairs did not meet this criteria. They  
17 were -- served with the Confederate States of America,  
18 not the United States Armed Forces, and no discharge  
19 documentation showing their honorable discharge status  
20 was provided. Additionally, the nominees must meet the  
21 definition of veteran as defined in Section 1.01 of the  
22 Florida Statutes. This definition does not reference  
23 the Confederate States of America.

24 Given the failure to meet this criteria, the  
25 Department of Veterans' Affairs had the authority and

1 responsibility to not advance that recommendation. The  
2 Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs appreciates and  
3 thanks the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council for  
4 their work and their expertise in developing this list  
5 of nominees. However, per Florida law, the Florida  
6 Veterans' Hall of Fame Council is an advisory council.

7 They provide recommendations. They submit those  
8 recommendations. Then, as the Council exists within  
9 the Department of Veterans' Affairs, they provide that  
10 list to the Executive Director, who then makes the  
11 recommendations from there to the Governor and Cabinet  
12 for a decision. I can answer other questions, if  
13 needed.

14 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I have a question. Are  
15 there any inductees in the Veterans' Hall of Fame who  
16 served prior to Florida's statehood who were  
17 territorial members of our militia?

18 MR. HERMAN: No, sir.

19 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: And would they be eligible?

20 MR. HERMAN: If they meet the criteria, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: But they wouldn't meet your  
22 criteria because they wouldn't have served in the  
23 United States Army. They would have served in some  
24 militia or territorial militia.

25 MR. McALLISTER: Amen.

1                   COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Do the nominees -- when you  
2 say "nominees," how many submissions were there? How  
3 many names were put forward for consideration?

4                   MR. HERMAN: There were eight nominees put forward  
5 for consideration, sir.

6                   COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I mean, of the pool of  
7 people who were considered --

8                   GOVERNOR SCOTT: So you -- Commissioner, you're  
9 saying how many nominees to the commission?

10                  COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Yes.

11                  ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Overall.

12                  GOVERNOR SCOTT: How many overall nominees?

13                  MR. PRENDERGAST: In excess of 50 this year.

14                  MR. McALLISTER: About 40, 50 this year.

15                  GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Let's -- let's let the  
16 person at the microphone speak.

17                  MR. HERMAN: I beg your pardon. About 50, sir.

18                  COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Okay. So the eight that  
19 were put forward went through the same selection  
20 process. They were evaluated, ranked, compared against  
21 the broader pool of 50, and it wasn't until the end of  
22 the process that you discovered or interpreted that  
23 three should not be eligible. Is that correct?

24                  MR. HERMAN: After the list was submitted to the  
25 Executive Director, sir, we reviewed them.

1                   COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: So you all don't have  
2 anybody on the committee? You don't staff the  
3 committee? You don't provide administrative support?

4                   MR. HERMAN: The Florida Veterans' -- excuse me.  
5 The foundation, the Florida Veterans' Foundation staffs  
6 the Hall of Fame, sir.

7                   GOVERNOR SCOTT: Say that one more time.

8                   MR. HERMAN: I'm sorry. The Florida Veterans' --  
9 excuse me. The Florida Veterans' Foundation provides  
10 staff support for the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame  
11 Council.

12                  GOVERNOR SCOTT: So if there had been a review of  
13 the statute at the time, that's who would have done the  
14 review? You were -- at that point, you were not asked.  
15 Right?

16                  MR. HERMAN: Yes, sir, Governor.

17                  GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you very much.

18                  Any other questions?

19                  COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I'll be happy to yield, if  
20 others have questions. Otherwise, I'll --

21                  GOVERNOR SCOTT: If you have more, go ahead.

22                  COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I think you all screwed this  
23 up.

24                  MR. McALLISTER: Amen. Amen.

25                  COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Sir, you're not helping me.

1           We don't need to relitigate the Civil War or the war  
2           between the states, whichever camp you come down on.

3           Kirby Smith is one of our two state honorees in  
4           the nation's capitol. Under your logic, we should  
5           remove that, and that debate has occurred before. The  
6           legislature could have that debate again and make a  
7           different decision, but it's not -- there clearly have  
8           been people pre-statehood who made a difference in our  
9           state. There clearly were people who were part of the  
10          state's legal decision to succeed who, at the  
11          conclusion of hostilities, rolled their sleeves up and  
12          helped make Florida what it has become today. Good,  
13          bad, and ugly.

14          So if you're throwing these guys out on a  
15          technicality, that's just dumb, and we don't need to  
16          relitigate this. If it needs further clarification by  
17          the legislature, I'm not willing to hold up five  
18          deserving people to wait on three, but I'm sure  
19          irritated that it gets all the way to the Cabinet to  
20          relitigate the war between the states in 2015.

21          GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. So we have a choice.  
22          All right. We can say that we want to -- your legal  
23          advice is that we don't have a choice. Right?

24          MR. HERMAN: Yes, Governor.

25          GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. So we have a choice.

1           We can either say we'll wait, if the legislature wants  
2           to come back and amend the existing statute and wait  
3           for the Class of 2014, all right, we can not take your  
4           advice, or we can approve these five, and then we'll  
5           wait and see if the legislature changes the law. Are  
6           those the three choices we have?

7           MR. HERMAN: Yes, Governor.

8           GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Does anybody have any  
9           comments or suggestions?

10          COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: One question. Who has  
11          ultimate author -- I assume since we're voting on  
12          this -- who has ultimate authority to make this  
13          decision?

14          MR. HERMAN: You do, sir, the Governor and  
15          Cabinet, sir.

16          COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Well, then I would move that  
17          we adopt the five you've put forward and that we  
18          provisionally adopt the three, pending clarification  
19          from the Florida legislature this legislative session,  
20          and then you guys can go to the legislature and defend  
21          why you think pre-statehood soldiers who helped make us  
22          a state and those who served during the period of  
23          hostilities don't deserve to be recognized.

24          ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Just -- Governor, may I?  
25          Just so you understand, it has to be pending

1 legislative approval this session to make it legal.

2 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Attorney General, will you say  
3 that and explain that one more time?

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Well, I see Commissioner  
5 Putnam's point, but we have to have it -- we're being  
6 told that that's not the law right now. I don't have  
7 it in front of me. So according to the general  
8 counsel, it would have to be pending legislative  
9 approval.

10 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Right.

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: For the three additional  
12 members? Sir, for the three additional members, for  
13 the three, you understand that it would have to be  
14 pending legislative approval?

15 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Legislative clarification --

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Clarification.

17 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: -- that, in fact, those who  
18 served prior to 1845 and those who served during the  
19 period that the state of Florida was not a part of the  
20 United States of America would be just as eligible as  
21 all others who have served the state of the Florida.

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: And I don't think  
23 anyone's disagreeing with that, but that's not the law  
24 as it currently exists, according to the general  
25 counsel. Is that correct?

1 MR. HERMAN: Yes, Attorney General.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So we can --

3 GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. Let's go back for a  
4 second.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL: -- approve them pending.

6 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Colonel, can you -- can you give  
7 us the background of the three that don't fit within  
8 the definition of today so we know what we're voting  
9 on?

10 MR. PRENDERGAST: I don't have their biographies  
11 with me this morning, Governor Scott, but all of the  
12 cabinet aides were provided copies of their biographies  
13 prior to the cabinet aides meeting last week. The  
14 three gentlemen in question are Samuel Pasco, David  
15 Lang and Edward Perry.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: May I ask a question?

17 MR. PRENDERGAST: And they -- their -- their  
18 packets that were submitted did not contain anything  
19 whatsoever indicative of active federal service in the  
20 Armed Forces of the United States of America in  
21 accordance with our statutes and also in accordance  
22 with the nominating guidelines for the Florida  
23 Veterans' Hall of Fame Council, and those guidelines  
24 for the 2014 class remain unchanged for the 2015 class  
25 that is currently advertised out on the street.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: But were they simply just  
2 crossed off the list because they didn't qualify  
3 statutorily, or you're saying if they qualified  
4 statutorily, you still wouldn't have nominated them? I  
5 think that's the question.

6 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Yeah. You probably didn't make  
7 that decision because you said they didn't meet the  
8 qualifications.

9 MR. PRENDERGAST: They did not meet the initial  
10 qualifications.

11 GOVERNOR SCOTT: So why don't we do -- why don't  
12 we -- I think we're all okay with this.

13 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: He's one of the  
14 commissioners who could shed some light on how they  
15 made their consideration.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Commissioner Hart --

17 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Can we -- here's my  
18 biggest concern. I didn't review the other three  
19 because I didn't -- they weren't presented.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Never made it to us.

21 GOVERNOR SCOTT: So I don't -- I don't feel  
22 comfortable voting on something I have no -- I'd want  
23 to read it first. So it seems to me what we ought to  
24 do is I think -- I don't think your resolution is a bad  
25 idea or your motion's a bad idea, but I'd like to

1           postpone it to the next meeting, and let's all read  
2           their backgrounds and make sure we know what we're  
3           approving.

4           ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Because they were just  
5           automatically disqualified is what I'm understanding,  
6           so, Governor, if it's appropriate --

7           COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: That's an important point.  
8           My understanding is they bubbled up to the top and were  
9           selected as one of the eight winners. They weren't --  
10          they weren't crossed off at the beginning. They were  
11          crossed off after being determined they were among the  
12          eight vets.

13          MR. PRENDERGAST: They were -- they were voted by  
14          the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council and  
15          forwarded as the eight recommendations for the Class of  
16          2014, and after we received the list, we went through  
17          and did our due diligence to ensure that the Council  
18          had complied with the Hall of Fame guidelines, but  
19          also, we went back to the U.S. Code and reviewed the  
20          statutory language in the U.S. Code and as well as  
21          Florida Statutes, and we followed Florida Statutes  
22          1.01, but we also went back to Title 38 that talks  
23          specifically about definitions of what a veteran is,  
24          and Title 38 says that a veteran provide -- means a  
25          person who served in the active military, naval, or air

1 service and who was discharged or released there from  
2 under conditions other than dishonorable.

3 The term "Armed Forces" means the United States  
4 Army, the United States Navy, the United States Marine  
5 Corps, the United States Air Force, and the United  
6 States Coast Guard, including reserve components  
7 thereof. The term "active duty" means full-time duty  
8 in the armed forces, other than duty for training, and  
9 the term "active military" for any of those services  
10 means active duty, that they were activated under the  
11 statutory authority of the United States of America to  
12 serve, and then received a discharge certificate  
13 indicating that they were indeed a veteran.

14 We have men and women in our National Guard all  
15 across this country who have never been activated to  
16 serve in support of a Title 10 responsibility, and  
17 various states have done a lot of great things to make  
18 sure that those men and women are taken care of,  
19 appreciated and respected and thanked for their  
20 service, but that does not automatically make them  
21 eligible for veterans' benefits under Title 38 of the  
22 U.S. Code.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Governor, I'd like to  
24 review the applications. I haven't had a chance to  
25 review them.

1 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Here's -- it seems to me what we  
2 ought to do is two things. One, we got to review the  
3 applications. That's one. Two, I'd like to have the  
4 Attorney General review the -- review the statute and  
5 give us your advice.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: I think my general  
7 counsel's all over it back there. So, yes, but that's  
8 going to take time. We're going to have to look at  
9 that and speak with all of these gentlemen, and I'd  
10 like to speak with Commissioner Hart also who was on  
11 the committee, the selection committee.

12 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Commissioner?

13 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Governor, I certainly  
14 appreciate this good conversation, and I'm going to  
15 withdraw my motion that calls for their conditional  
16 approval so that everyone can have an opportunity to  
17 research this further, but as a policy matter, it's not  
18 my view that we should exclude based on the period of  
19 time during which they served, and clearly, there's no  
20 character or other features about their biography that  
21 disqualify them, other than the period of time during  
22 which they served their state, or the commission would  
23 not have elevated them to the top eight, but everyone  
24 should do their due diligence.

25 So I would withdraw my motion and move that we

1 approve the five that are put forward and urge the  
2 Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, a cabinet  
3 agency, to seek legislative clarification that will  
4 allow members of the pre-statehood militia and the  
5 period of time during the succession to be eligible,  
6 given all the other factors, for inclusion -- for  
7 consideration into the Hall of Fame.

8 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Commissioner, I want you to think  
9 about something, though. If we do it that way, we  
10 cannot go back -- we can't go back and include them in  
11 this class. Right? I think the law right now is you  
12 can only do five. Right?

13 MR. PRENDERGAST: No. Governor, we can -- the  
14 Hall of Fame Council can nominate up to 20 for your  
15 consideration.

16 GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. So I'm fine with  
17 doing the five then, as long as we actually review it  
18 and do more, if we want to.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: And let me -- can I  
20 clarify with general counsel? So they don't all have  
21 to be done -- I haven't read -- they don't have to all  
22 be done at the same time. Correct? So if we do five  
23 today, could we later add additional ones?

24 MR. HERMAN: I believe so, Attorney General.  
25 Excuse me. It's hard to hear. The statute says the

1 department can submit a list of names up to 20, so it's  
2 at the discretion of the Governor and Cabinet to choose  
3 some, all, or none of that list.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: I don't -- no offense. I  
5 just don't feel that that's a solid enough answer right  
6 now. Governor, what I would ask currently is that we  
7 just withdraw this from today, not defer it, just  
8 withdraw it where we have time to look at this entire  
9 class because I don't want to mistakenly -- and you  
10 presented great names, but there may be additional  
11 great names. I don't want to mistakenly add five  
12 people and then not be able to come back.

13 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Me either.

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So I would just ask at  
15 this time, based on the confusion, to withdraw it.  
16 Commissioner Hart is nodding, and then we can still  
17 revisit the Class of 2014 honorees, Commissioner  
18 Putnam, because I don't want there to be a loophole in  
19 here that could leave people out.

20 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Okay.

21 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Commissioner Putnam, are  
22 you going to withdraw yours?

23 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I'll withdraw my motion.

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. So we have a motion that  
25 we're going to withdraw this.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Withdraw.

2 GOVERNOR SCOTT: What the plan is we're going to  
3 bring it back after you have the opportunity to review  
4 it, after we have the opportunity to review all of  
5 the -- at least all the eight.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: And we may -- it sounds  
7 like we do need legislative clarification, and we may  
8 be able to -- I have to look at the law and see if we  
9 can approve additional members conditionally, you know,  
10 upon legislative clarification.

11 Gentleman, you want to do this the right way, and  
12 that's what we're all trying to do, the general  
13 counsel, the Colonel, everyone here, Commissioner Hart,  
14 so we want do this in -- and with the proper decorum  
15 and respect.

16 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. There's a motion. Is  
17 there a second?

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Second.

19 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or objections?

20 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Wasn't it your motion?

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Oh, I thought it was your  
22 motion.

23 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. It's the Attorney  
24 General's motion.

25 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I'll second her motion.

1 GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. So any comments or  
2 objections?

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Just one question for the  
4 general counsel because I don't want to -- I don't want  
5 to cause confusion with the Class of 2014. There's no  
6 time frame on this. Right? We're okay. We're already  
7 in 2015. We're okay?

8 Sir, please -- please have proper decorum. We're  
9 trying to help you. Okay? You're military. You  
10 should understand this.

11 MR. HERMAN: No, ma'am. I believe there's not a  
12 specific limitation.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Okay. So that helps you.  
14 All right. Thank you.

15 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. So the motion we're doing,  
16 just to make sure everybody knows, we're withdrawing  
17 this issue, but the plan is we're going to review it.  
18 You're going to give us your advice on -- sorry -- on  
19 the law, and then we'll review those additional  
20 candidates, and we'll come back, hopefully next  
21 meeting.

22 All right. All in favor aye?

23 (Unanimous ayes.)

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Opposed?

25 (None.)

1 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Motion carries.

2 MR. PRENDERGAST: Thank you, Governor and Cabinet.

3 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Next, we have John Stevenson with  
4 the Department of Environmental Protection.

5 MR. STEVERSON: Good afternoon, Governor and  
6 Cabinet. There are three items on the Board of  
7 Trustees' agenda. I will be as quick as I possibly  
8 can, but if you could grant me -- grant me one moment  
9 of latitude, I would like to mention that Operation  
10 Outdoor Freedom events, those hunts are fantastic.

11 Where I just recently came from, the Northwest Florida  
12 Water Management District, we'll be holding our third  
13 annual hunt this year. We got that going with the help  
14 of Commissioner Putnam's office and Executive Director  
15 Nick Wiley, and I plan to be there skinning deer first  
16 thing Saturday morning. I invite you to come by. It's  
17 just a great chance to give back just a little bit to  
18 those who gave so much.

19 Our first item is submittal of the minutes of the  
20 November 12th and December 9th cabinet meetings.

21 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve this  
22 item?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

25 CFO ATWATER: Second.



**Mike Prendergast**  
Executive Director

State of Florida  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
**Office of the Executive Director**

Suite 311 K  
11351 Ulmerton Road  
Largo, Florida 33778-1630  
Phone: (727) 518-3202 Ext.5594 Fax: (850) 488-4001  
[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)

**Rick Scott**  
Governor  
**Pam Bondi**  
Attorney General  
**Jeff Atwater**  
Chief Financial Officer  
**Adam Putnam**  
Commissioner of Agriculture

March 13, 2015

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Rick Scott  
Honorable Pam Bondi  
Honorable Jeff Atwater  
Honorable Adam Putnam

**FROM:** Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Mike Prendergast, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame – Class of 2014

The agency is pleased to recommend the following five veterans for induction into the 2014 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame:

- Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr.
- Major General James Dozier
- Colonel Frank Farmer
- Chief Master Sergeant Eugene Johnson
- Lieutenant General Lawrence Snowden

If you have any questions, please call my Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director Colleen Krepstekies, at (850) 487-1533 x7723.

cc: Monica Russell, Director of Cabinet Affairs  
Executive Office of the Governor

Cynthia Kelly, Director  
Governor's Office of Policy and Budget