

Notice of Development of Rulemaking

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

RULE NOS.: RULE TITLES:

- 55-14.001 Eligibility and Criteria to be considered for the Veterans' Hall of Fame recognition and honor.
55-14.002 Anticipated timing for nomination; acceptance; recommendation; selection; Veterans' Day induction.
55-14.003 The Nomination Package.
55-14.004 Responsibilities of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council; the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Section 265.003, F.S., was enacted among the many memorial provisions of Chapter 265, FS, to recognize and honor the many contributions made by Floridians. The Florida Legislature has created the opportunity to honor military veterans whose good works before and after military service have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida. Honorees are selected by the Governor and the Cabinet after the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council engages in a qualification process that results in annual recommendations for up to 20 nominations.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council will recommend candidates to the Governor and the Cabinet for selection. The honorees will be named on a plaque and displayed in a special area on the Plaza Level of the Florida Capitol Building. These rules will detail the nomination process.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 292.05(3) and 265.003(5), FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 265.003, FS.

A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

DATE AND TIME: November 30, 2021, 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Join the meeting using one of these options:

- 1) From your computer, tablet or smartphone <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/412330429>
- 2) You can also dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)
United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073 - One-touch: tel:+18773092073, 412330429#
United States: (571)317-3129 One-touch: tel:+15713173129,,412330429# Access Code: 412-330-429
- 3) In person Mary Grizzle Building, Room 342, 11351 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida 33778.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 7 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: AgencyClerk@FDVA.STATE.FL.US/ If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT AND A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT, IF AVAILABLE, IS: Vicki Goonen, Agency Clerk, AgencyClerk@FDVA.STATE.FL.US/ or (727)518-3202, extension 5639.

THE PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT IS:

CHAPTER 55-14

FLORIDA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME

55-14.001 Eligibility and Criteria to be considered for the Veterans' Hall of Fame recognition and honor.

Each year, the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council, an advisory council to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, accepts nominations and compiles a list of up to 20 nominees to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for transmittal to the Governor and the Cabinet, which selects the inductees for that year, in accordance with Section 265.003(4), FS.

(1) Eligibility for nomination is based on the following criteria:

(a) Nominations may be made directly, by the person seeking this honor or indirectly, by a proponent who may be a friend, family member, or other person who believes that the nominee merits consideration for this honor for his or her significant good works and contributions to the State of Florida during or after military service.

(b) Nominees shall meet the definition of "Veteran" as defined by Section 1.01(14), FS, and evidenced by Department of Defense documents such as DD Form 214 that may be obtained from the National Archives at www.archives.gov/veterans/ , or proof of service from the Florida National Guard with NGB Form 22 found at [DOS link placeholder for this form].

(c) Nominees or proponents shall produce evidence that the nominee received an honorable discharge from any of the United States Armed Forces or Florida National Guard and provide official documentation verifying the nominee's discharge status.

(d) Nominees shall be of good moral character, as attested to in the nomination form, and shall support a nomination with evidence of good character, if so requested.

(e) Posthumous nominations are acceptable and records to document military service are required, just as for living nominees. If no DD Form 214 or NGB Form 22 is available, proponents may provide other documentation to include discharge papers, news articles, affidavits, official letters of service from their branch of service, the Department of Defense, the Florida National Guard, or any other documentation that can be verified.

(f) Employees of the Governor's staff, all constitutionally elected officials in the State of Florida, Florida state agency heads, members of County Veteran Service Offices and members of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, its paid Foundation members and the Veterans' Hall of Fame Council are ineligible for induction until two (2) years after they have left their position. The Veterans' Hall of Fame Council may recommend a waiver of the two year requirement for nominees over the age of 70.

(g) As a prerequisite, nominees must have either been born in Florida or adopted Florida as the nominee's home state.

(2) The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council shall consider the following criteria and evaluate each factor, giving weight to:

(a) Education and training accomplishments;

(b) Significant civilian significant contributions and accomplishments, whether civic, business, public service, or other pursuits;

(c) Advocacy on behalf of Veterans;

(d) Awards and honors in military and all other fields of endeavor; and

(e) The overall impact made to the State of Florida.

(3) Nominees will be scored on a 50 point scale, based on allowing up to ten (10) points for each of the five (5) areas below:

(a) 10 points for nominee's advocacy on behalf of Veterans;

(b) 10 points for civic activities and contributions;

(c) 10 points for awards and/or honors;

(d) 10 points for impact the nominee has made to the State of Florida; and

(e) 10 points for "whole-citizen" evaluation of the nominee.

(4) This rule will expire five (5) years from the effective date, unless readopted.

Rulemaking Authority 292.05(3) and 265.003(5), FS. Law Implemented 265.003, FS. History—New 00-00-00.

55-14.002 Anticipated timing for nomination; acceptance; recommendation; selection; Veterans' Day induction.

(1) Nomination.

(a) Each nominee or proponent shall submit the nomination package to the Florida Veteran's Hall of Fame Council between November 30th through March 31st of the following year referred to as "the induction year" or until the first 250 applications have been received and then, the nomination window will close. The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council shall meet at least once during the nomination window to establish the number of nominees to be selected for the upcoming class.

(b) Nominations will be made by submitting the complete nomination application found at [DOS placeholder for application package] to the following address: Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council, The Capitol, 400 S.

Monroe Street, Suite 2105, Tallahassee, Florida 33399-0001, or by e-mailing it to FVHOF@FDVA.STATE.FL.US/. Any questions may be directed to the Department of Veterans' Affairs at (850) 487-1533.

(2) Acceptance.

(a) The administrative staff for the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council will review each nomination package and determine whether an application is complete, having all required supporting documentation, no later than April 30th of each year, and shall send a letter of acknowledgement to indicate acceptance of the nomination package.

(b) Thereafter, the staff will distribute all nomination packages for review by the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council members.

(c) The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council will meet in June of the induction year to consider nominations and the agenda prepared for that meeting will include an addendum with the full list of nominees in order to provide information to the public.

(3) Recommendation.

(a) The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council will notice the June meeting in the Florida Administrative Register, and will meet to comment, discuss, and evaluate nominees, weighing the various qualities and characteristics of each person in order to score each person for civic, business, public service or other pursuits, and will vote at that meeting on whom to recommend.

(b) Thereafter, staff will calculate total scores of nominees voted for recommendation by each of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council members and prioritize the nominations by total scores, in order to determine the top 20 nominees to succeed to the next stage and the names will be announced publically before the close of that meeting.

(c) Upon certification of the nominees by the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council Chair, the selected nominees will be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

(4) Selection.

(a) In accordance with Section 265.003(4), FS, the Executive Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs will forward up to 20 nominees recommended by the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council for selection to the Governor and the Cabinet for inclusion on the earliest available Cabinet meeting.

(b) Thereafter, the Governor and the Cabinet will select the nominees who will be inducted on next Veterans' Day, the date Veterans' Day will be commemorated in accordance with the national calendar.

(c) The staff for the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council will send a letter of congratulations and invitation will be mailed to the address of the nominee or proponent, seeking an RSVP for the induction ceremony.

(5) Induction. The induction ceremony will be a formal event scheduled to coincide with Veterans' Day in accordance with Section 265.003(5), FS.

(6) This rule will expire five (5) years from the effective date, unless readopted.

Rulemaking Authority 292.05(3) and 265.003(5), FS. Law Implemented 265.003, FS. History—New 00-00-00.

55-14.003 The Nomination Package.

The Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Council has developed and approved a nomination package for consistency in the evaluation process and procedure so that all nominees are reviewed on an equal basis that will include:

(1) Nomination application available at [DOS placeholder link for permanent location of package] consisting of:

(a) Name and contact information of the nominee and proponent/nominator, if any;

(b) In the case of posthumous nominations, the application will provide the name and contact information for the next of kin;

(c) Attestation by the nominee and/or proponent/nominator that the information that is being submitted is true to best of his or her knowledge and belief, that the nominee is of good moral character;

(d) Nominee and/or proponent shall provide information and supporting documentation regarding the facts of nomination eligibility and criteria as described in rule 55-14.001, FAC.;

(e) The nomination packet submission, including the mandatory nomination form and all supporting documentation, may not exceed ten pages total. The typeface used for the application may not be smaller than Times New Roman, 12 point font size.

(2) This rule will expire five (5) years from the effective date, unless readopted.

Rulemaking Authority 292.05(3) and 265.003(5), FS. Law Implemented 265.003, FS. History—New 00-00-00.

55-14.004 Responsibilities of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council; the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

In order to ensure the quality and eligibility of nominees, the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council and the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs have separate areas of responsibilities, as follows:

(1) The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs shall:

- a. Publish and or provide nomination guidelines and applications;
- b. Receive nomination applications and ensure they are complete;
- c. Verify that nominees are in fact eligible Veterans based on documentation received; and
- d. Staff Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council meetings and perform various administrative tasks, as needed.

(2) The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council shall:

- a. Evaluate only complete applications;
- b. Conduct any outside research deemed necessary. Any individual Council member's research findings and opinions may be brought forth only during the member comment and discussion portion of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council June meeting, which is subject to Government in the Sunshine laws in Florida.

c. Members will have time to consider nomination packages in advance, and may calculate tentative scores in advance of the June meeting, but may not share findings, opinions, or scores with each other outside of the noticed meeting, and may decide to change scores after the comment and discussion portions of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame nomination meeting in June, or any other duly noticed meeting.

(3) This rule will expire five (5) years from the effective date, unless readopted.

Rulemaking Authority 292.05(3) and 265.003(5), FS. Law Implemented 265.003, FS. History—New 00-00-00.