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VETERANS
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**TITLE 32
VETERANS**

**CHAPTER ONE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Section 100. Veterans Policy

It is the policy of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma to honor the cultural tradition of military service in the highest regard. The Seminole Nation shall endeavor to meet the needs of its Veterans and honor their service to this Country and the Seminole Nation. The Seminole Nation Veterans' Affairs Office is to educate and assist the Seminole Nation community veterans and their dependents without regard to tribal affiliation, degree of Indian blood, Branch of Armed Forces or combat status in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled, both federal and state, either by direct contact or through the assistance of the Seminole County and Tribal Veterans Service Officer (TVSO).

Section 101. Department of Veterans Affairs; Qualification; Appointment; Removal.

- (a) The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma shall officially establish a Department of Veterans Affairs, which shall include a Director and any other staff the Nation may hire, who shall report to the Executive Department; and
- (b) The Seminole Nation Department of Veteran's Affairs shall also have advisory oversight from a Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee charged and empowered with the duties and responsibilities listed in Section 104 of Title 32; and
- (c) The Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee shall be a five (5) member Committee.
 - (1) Eligibility for appointment to the Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee shall be Veterans, or who are currently on active military status, or reserve military status, or retired military status; and
 - (2) Committee members shall be appointed with the following order of preference: (1) members of the Nation, (2) members of other federally-recognized Tribes; and (3) non-Natives.
 - (3) The Principal Chief shall appoint the members of the Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee, subject to confirmation by the General Council.
 - (4) At least three (3) official Committee members shall be in attendance in order to establish a quorum.

(d) The first meeting of the Seminole Veterans Affairs shall be after at least three (3) appointments are confirmed by the General Council. At the first meeting of the Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee, the members shall select within their membership a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Recording Secretary.

(e) The Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma may at any time recall the appointment of any member of the Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee for good cause shown, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the Council.

(f) Voting on agenda items by the Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee shall be by roll call vote and shall be recorded by the Recording Secretary.

(g) The Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee shall enact bylaws to govern parliamentary procedures and meeting notices. The bylaws shall be submitted to the General Council Secretary. Meeting minutes shall be promptly submitted to the Council Secretary.

[History: Ordinance 2012-, October 27, 2012]

Section 102. Term.

The term of Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee members shall be four (4) years from the date of appointment by the Chief and confirmation of the General Council.

[History: Ordinance 2012-, October 27, 2012]

Section 103. Duties.

The duties of the Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee shall include the following:

(a) Assisting in the development of short and long range advisory goals for the immediate and future needs of the Seminole Nation Department of Veterans Affairs consistent with the identification of needs and delivery of services to Seminole Veterans; and,

(b) Provide insight, advice, and opinions about Veterans services to both the General Council and the Seminole Department of Veterans Affairs; and,

(b) Make recommendations for implementation of any long and short range plans and goals, including identification and all Seminole Veterans; and,

(c) Make suggestions and recommendations to the Veteran's Affairs Director and/or staff hired by the Nation.

[History: Ordinance 2012-, October 27, 2012]

Section 104. Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee: Compensation.

Pursuant to Title 16, Section 602, in which all members Committees, Boards and Task Forces of the Seminole Nation receive a stipend of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), this law shall apply to persons appointed to the Committee who attend the meetings of Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee. If the amount paid to members of Committees, Boards and Task Forces of the Seminole Nation is modified in Title 16, Section 602, the modifications shall also apply to the Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee.

[History: Ordinance 2012-, October 27, 2012]

Section 105. Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee Governed by General Council.

(a) It is to be understood and directed that the Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee will be extended the fullest and best cooperation of all concerned while in the performance of its duties and will be working in the best interests of the citizens of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

(b) The Seminole Veterans Affairs Committee is governed by the General Council and shall submit an annual report of activities, findings and proposals for review at the Quarterly Meeting of the General Council held the first Saturday of September each year.

[History: Ordinance 2012-, October 27, 2012]