

**DRAFT LETTER – FOR VAC APPROVAL**

May 9, 2024

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

The San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission formally recommends William "Bill" Clift for recognition by the Board of Supervisors. His decades of exemplary service to the United States Navy and the Veterans Affairs (VA) demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to our nation's veterans and warrants your acknowledgment.

Bill Clift's military career began in 1980 with his enlistment in the U.S. Navy, where he served until 1987. After completing Corpsman School, he was stationed at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland, California. During his tenure in the Navy, he served in various medical capacities, including the Cardiac Care Unit and the Emergency Room, before moving into the Naval Reserve with the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing Medical Squadron 42.

Following his distinguished naval career, Bill continued his service to veterans through the Veterans Affairs. He began working at the Martinez VA in 1984, eventually transferring to the San Francisco VA Medical Center (SFVA) in 1991. Over the years, he assumed various roles, including working in psychiatry and substance abuse treatment. His expertise and compassion were instrumental in improving the lives of countless veterans. In his most recent role as a case manager at the SFVA Methadone Clinic, Bill continued to demonstrate a tireless commitment to veteran care.

Bill's impact extends beyond his professional roles. His initiative and dedication have led to the establishment of several innovative programs, including:

Popcorn Sales Fundraiser (1995 - COVID Pandemic): Organized weekly sales to fund recreational activities and essential services for veterans.

SADH Clothing Room: Created a facility providing clean clothing for veterans in need.

Veterans Community Garden (2010 - Present): Founded and managed the garden, fostering a space for healing and education.

Collaborations with Community Partners: Partnered with organizations like Healing Waters Fly Fishing and PGA HOPE to provide recreational opportunities for veterans.

Additionally, Bill has consistently supported homeless veterans by managing hotel rooms and ensuring they have access to essential services. His leadership and innovative approach have left a lasting legacy within the veteran community.

Given his remarkable contributions and unwavering dedication to the veteran community, we respectfully submit his name for a Certificate of Honor from the Board of Supervisors.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission