

Vietnam Veterans of America
Gold Vault Chapter 1051
Minutes of the Meeting
Of
12 February 2017

CALL TO ORDER: President David Cowherd called the meeting to order at 1359 hours at the Elizabethtown Police Department Training Room. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER: Daryl Durbin led a prayer for the meeting and the membership. Secretary Lowe followed by leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS: Loretta Sherod and Representative Tim Moore were recognized as special guests. Other guests included Flo Joyner, Ronnie Joyner, Hedi McCoy and Frank Fisher. Steve Sheets was welcomed as a new member to the chapter.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the meeting of 8 January 2017 were presented. Bill Wooldridge moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Second by Denzil Lile. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Gilbert Richardson reported the account status as being:

Operating Account	\$1,722.18
Household Goods	357.63
Total	\$2,079.81

Brad moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Second by Denzil Lile. Motion passed.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Loretta Sherod, Ronnie Joyner and George Dille presented a plaque and certificate from the National League of POW/MIA Families. to Frank Fisher in memory of Warrant Officer Michael J. Campbell who was held as a POW during World War II. Warrant Officer Campbell survived the Bataan Death March.

David Cowherd presented an Honorary Member Certificate to Kentucky State Representative Tim Moore in recognition of his service to and support of veterans throughout the Commonwealth. As Chairman of the Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee, Representative Moore pledged his total support to veterans and their causes.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: President Cowherd noted the passing of LTG (R) Hal Moore on 10 February 2017. General Moore was a great American and a warrior without equal.

David also reported that BJ Osborne, one of our WWII buddies from Allegro had broken his thigh bone and needed intensive physical therapy. He is currently at the Genesis Healthcare Kensington Center. He would love to have visitors while he is on the road to recovery.

Volunteers of America will hold a Stand Down in September. The final date has yet to be determined but our chapter has been asked to participate. This would be a good opportunity to distribute Agent Orange and other health related information pertaining to veterans.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Health Care and Benefits Act, H.R 6416 passed the house and the Senate and was signed by the President. This bill paves the way for research to be conducted on how toxic chemicals that veterans have been exposed to may affect our children.

The Region 3 Conference still has a number of positions for which volunteers are need. They are Main Room, AVVA Room, Oversee Vendors, Audio/Video, Opening Ceremony, Flags, Awards, AVVA Auction, Welcome Table, Van Driver, Reunion Room. Saturday Tour, Agent Orange, and food/bartender. Our Chapter table will need people to work passing out information on our Wall purchase project.

We need a committee to work on placing signs on our highways honoring the memories of Hardin County Soldiers who were KIA.

NEW BUSINESS:

Items are needed for the gift baskets for the Region 3 Conference. Members are requested to bring items at the next meeting.

The name for the new Veterans Home in Radcliff has not yet been announced.

Kentucky BR 238 is a bill that would reduce motor vehicle property taxes of the totally disabled combat veterans by 50%. We need to support this bill.

Kentucky BR 369 proposes to increase the current homestead exemption from \$36,000.00 to the full assessed value of the property for all totally disabled combat veterans.

Funds for the Wall now amount to \$64,186.35 in the bank, \$10,000.00 down payment made, \$150,000.00 being held by Tourism and Travel. The Wall Committee will meet next at Denney's on 21 February.

David read a message from the Swope Family of Dealerships indicating that they plan to contribute but before they determine that exact amount they want to solicit funds from a number of their manufacturer resources that provide matching grants for such projects. Toyota has already agreed to make a matching grant. A decision should be forthcoming after the next Swope Board meeting.

Harry Braxton reported that an old Laotian man that lives on his street wants to be buried in the Veteran's Cemetery in Radcliff when his time comes. It was felt that this request should be referred to Representative Tim Moore.

David stated that there are two phone apps that may be useful to our members, one is Mr Number which blocks telemarketer calls and the other is Gas Buddy which helps locate the lowest gas prices in our area.

He also stated that the Harrodsburg Wall will only list veterans who were KIA from Kentucky.

Wayne Ray reported that we have 79 members on the rolls of the chapter and approximately 2/3s are Life Members. The \$100. Life Membership is a good deal and it may not continue to be offered at that reduced rate.

Dirk wright will be setting up a Wall donation table at Rural King in the near future.

EVENTS: David and Daryl Durbin and their wives attended the Vietnamese TET New Year's celebration in Louisville on 4 February. It was a very nice event and the Vietnamese people were very friendly and appreciative of their attendance.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on 12 March 2017 at Elizabethtown Police department at 1400 hours.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1515 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lowe
Secretary

