

**MINUTES OF THE HAMDEN VETERAN'S COMMISSION,
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM, MILLER COMPLEX,
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Mr. Conway, Mr. Oakes, Mr. Ortoleva, Ms. Pavlis, Mr. Shultz
Mr. Slater, Mr. Weil

Absent: Mr. DiSorbo, Mr. Mallory, Mr. McCarthy

Guests: Jane Parks, Mark Slater

Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2009 – **APPROVED AS WRITTEN.**

September 1, 2009 – **APPROVED WITH REVISIONS.**

Mr. Ortoleva & Ms Gaiolini noted the misspelling of their names in the September 1st Minutes.

Mr. Conway made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Ms. Pavlis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The minutes were approved.

Mr. Oakes spoke of the funeral for Capt. Sklaver. There were over 250 cars. The procession passed the Old Town Hall, The Government Center, the Middle School and High School.

During the ground-breaking ceremony Monday at the Old Town Hall, they had arranged with the Mayor for a moment of silence in honor of Capt. Sklaver. Mr. McCarthy had brought over a bugler from the Post and they set up the Fallen Warrior (the rifle, boots, helmet & tags) by the flag post outside. Hamden Police & Fire stayed outside and after the moment of silence Taps was played.

Mr. Slater shared a conversation with Mr. Conway about obtaining additional small flags. He & Ms. Parks will get prices for the flags. Regarding the Rotunda, Mr. Oakes recommended we form a committee to work with the Mayor. There are two names that have to be added: John Gallagher and now Capt. Sklaver. Mr. Conway suggested we take photos of the walls in the rotunda so we have "photo documentation" of the "before". Mr. Ortoleva offered his assistance w/photo taking.

Veterans Day Ceremonies: November 8, 2009 – Monument – Normal time. If it rains - it's possible we can move to the Elks prior to the luncheon. Ms. Parks will check on moving the ceremony to the Elks. **Time for ceremony changed to 12:00 noon** – luncheon immediately after. Mr. Conway will work on getting a singer.

Veterans Day – Hamden Middle School – November 10, 2009. Mr. Shultz reported the time has been moved up to 9:30.a.m. In discussion with Dan Levy they decided to break things up. Bob McKiernan, Sheila Pavlis, Ron Weil & Guy Ortoleva will participate.

Veterans Day – Aces – November 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m. Mr. Oakes reported Mayor Henrici's brother a veteran with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart will be in attendance. They also hope to have the National Guard with the dogs.

Flag Pole Dedication – Scott Jackson has authorized the electrician to handle the lighting. Mr. Shultz took a moment to inform everyone of the Brooksvale Fall Festival on Oct. 17th.

Sacred Scars – November 11, 2009, 7-9 p.m. @ Hamden Middle School. Mr. Ortoleva distributed a flyer to all and elaborated on the event. "The basic question is, Why do people serve?" A panel will discuss why people serve, the various wars (from WWII to present day) and recruitment efforts. They will try to explain why and what we have learned. He spoke of Capt. Sklaver's funeral procession and the students had made signs, "HMS Supports Our Troops". "That's a difference from what you might have seen 30 years ago."

In attendance will be Linda Schwartz, Elliot Storm, author of "These Stars Are Sacred", Jack Mordente from SCSU, John March, CT Veterans Affairs and a General from West Point. They are still looking for someone who is currently serving to participate. Mr. Shultz and Mr. Weil will assist in that effort. Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Weil to work with Mr. Ortoleva, because of his military contacts.

Honor Our Troops – Bridgeport Hockey Game -November 8th. The pro hockey team will be wearing fatigues as their uniforms and will play a regular hockey game against another team.

Mr. Slater suggested we work with QU and have the military play a hockey game there. Have a "Veterans Night".

Collections for Troops – HMS – Mr. Oakes reported the students collected food, letters, DVDs, etc. There was a total of 65 pounds in the box he shipped last week.

Wreaths Across America – Mr. Oakes reported they will not be stopping in Hamden this year. Their route will include Hartford, Bridgeport and Darien.

Dedication of Korean Sculpture, Hartford, November 9th at 3:30 p.m. – Sen. Bill Schlossberg will be there.

Mr. Shultz informed the HVC that November 7th at the HMS it's Korean Cultural Night. Korean War Veterans and any all veterans are invited. It's a show of music and dance. "I've been going to about 4 years – It's gorgeous". Starts at 7:00p.m.

New Year's Eve – December 31, 2009 at noon, Veterans Home in Rocky Hill – Mr. Oakes reported that the Banjo group will be there and, "it's a fun thing to do". They need books, DVDs, etc. He will discuss further at our November/December meetings.

Mr. Shultz suggested we run a program like Rivers to Recovery. He'd like to set up a program at Clarks Pond for the spring and would like the State to waive licenses and stock the pond with extra fish.

Ms. Parks stated the Naugatuck Elks takes veterans from West Haven (VA) out fishing. Mr. Weil noted the Army Times also had an article about fishing programs for veterans.

Mr. Oakes showed a note card of the Veterans Memorial Mural, designed by Kathy Teulings. There will be 12/box with a requested donation of \$10. Proceeds to HVC.

Mr. Slater wanted to add that on Item 3 of New Business, Collections for Troops – he has bookmarks available for donation. He also shared info on the Ethnic Heritage Center. They're holding an event on October 18th at SCSU in the Butler Building from 2-4 p.m. There will be displays and old pictures of New Haven.

2010 HVC Meeting Schedule – Clerk Gaiolini distributed the proposed schedule for review. After brief discussion, Mr. Conway made a motion to accept the 2010 Meeting Schedule. Mr. Weil seconded the motion. **The 2010 HVC Meeting Schedule was unanimously approved.**

At Barbara Tito's request, Ms. Gaiolini also distributed info on the 17th Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show to benefit "Veterans Care at West Haven Hospital".

Meeting Adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Deborah Gaiolini, Commission Clerk