

**MINUTES OF THE HAMDEN VETERAN'S COMMISSION,
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM, MILLER COMPLEX,
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009 AT 5:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Mr. Conway, Mr. DiSorbo

Guests: Peter Curtis, Jane Parks

Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2009 – **APPROVED AS WRITTEN.**

Veterans Day Ceremonies: November 8, 2009 – Monument – Time for ceremony changed to 12:00 noon – luncheon to follow at 1:30 at the Elks.

Veterans Day – Hamden Middle School – November 10, 2009. Mr. Shultz reported the time has been moved up to 9:30.a.m. Sheila Pavlis, Ron Weil & Guy Ortoleva will also be participating.

Veterans Day – Aces – November 10, 2009, 9:30 a.m. Mr. Oakes reported that Ken Henrici and Hamlet Hernandez will be there to speak to the kids. Westwood School is also holding an event on Nov. 10th at 9:30 a.m. They currently have 2 or 3 veterans who are relatives of the students but may need more? He will email the HVC when he has more info.

Sacred Scars – November 10, 2009, 7-9 p.m. @ Hamden Middle School. Mr. Ortoleva distributed a memo regarding the confirmed panel for the event (attached). There will be opening ceremonies, colors, 20-minute panel discussion followed by Q&A and another 20-minute panel discussion. “The panel will discuss issues of recruitment and how we're taking care of veterans that have served.” The basic question is, "Why do people serve?"

Mr. Ortoleva also noted that he will be taping radio shows with WQUN on Thursday & WICC on Friday. Mr. Slater donated bookmarks to be given out at this and various other veterans' events.

Wal-Mart Salute to Veterans. Mr. Oakes reported that the HVC will be a recipient of a monetary award from Wal-Mart on November 11th at 8:00 a.m. He also noted another donation received from John Boyle, who had seen a poster for Sacred Scars and asked how he could help veterans in Hamden. He made a donation of \$100.

Applebee's – Hamden Plaza – Free Meal for Veterans – November 11, 2009. On November 11th veterans can have a free meal at the Hamden Applebee's. There are 4 or 5 different items on the menu that veterans can choose for their free meal. Also noted were discounts for veterans at Lowe's & Home Depot.

D.A.R./Regional Meeting – November 14th at the HMS at 9:30 a.m. Kathy Teulings will speak on the mural, how it was designed and the kids involved. Attending will be Hamden, New Haven, North Haven & Cheshire Chapters. The CT president of the DAR will be at the HMS meeting.

Note Cards of Memorial Mural - Mr. Oakes showed a note card of the Veterans Memorial Mural, designed by Kathy Teulings. There will be 12/box with a suggested donation of \$10. Proceeds to HVC Gift Fund. He's hoping to have them available for Sacred Scars and the Luncheon at the Elks. Mr. Oakes asked the HVC to consider giving some of the proceeds to programs for the HMS students. At the end of November there will be a State BOE meeting and Kathy Teulings will speak on the mural and show a video of what was done here in Hamden.

No Vet Left Behind – George & Mary Porter (Desert Storm) operates a store for veterans and their children. They're hosting a Ziti Dinner at the Elks on November 12th at 6:00 p.m. George is also involved in helping veterans not only with clothing but he's also helping getting them positioned to go back and get an education. They're also planning a Stand Down for sometime in December.

Capt. Ben Sklaver - Mr. Oakes reported the Sklaver Family is very appreciative of all that was done for Capt. Sklaver. They were very impressed with Hamden and the Hamden Middle School & High School kids. The Town of Hamden, Mimsie Coleman in involved, is putting together a book of pictures to present to the family. He asked if anyone had any pictures of that day they give them to Mimsie.

He also suggested donating a flag case to the family. **Mr. Shultz made a motion for the HVC donate a flag case to the family. Ms. Pavlis seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion passes.**

Mr. Weil noted the family may be getting one from the Army. He will check into it on behalf of the HVC.

Mr. Oakes also suggested that it might be a very nice gesture for the HVC to honor Capt. Sklaver's memory by asking his mother & father to be Grand Marshals in the Memorial Day Parade.

Ms. Parks asked for a letter of recommendation from the HVC. Mr. Ortoleva agreed to assist.

Mr. Shultz reported this Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. the Korean Society is having their Cultural Night. All are invited. Monday, November 9th is the unveiling of the Korean War Sculpture in Hartford at the Legislative Office Building, Room 2C at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Curtis noted that Vets Link (his not for profit) is moving forward. On November 8th at 2:00 p.m. there will be a Bowl-A-thon at Callahan Lanes. November 10th - Elliot Storm and the following day they go to West Point.

Mr. Weil reported that this Thursday at 5:00 p.m. the U.S. Army Reserve and the CT Auto Retailers Assn are signing an employee partnership agreement - which means the car dealers in CT will guarantee interviews to Army Reserve soldiers coming off of active duty. They post the openings on the Army website. It will be at the CT Convention Center this Thursday night at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. McCarthy spoke on women in the military. 22% of those currently serving in Iraq & Afghanistan are women. 3 women from CT have been killed. He elaborated on budget cuts, veterans benefits and the problems veterans encounter - physically, emotionally and administratively. "There's problems out there - it's not all hunky dory."

Meeting Adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Deborah Gaiolini, Commission Clerk