

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF  
THE HAMDEN VETERANS COMMISSION,  
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM – MILLER COMPLEX  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023**

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Cardo, Mr. Kautzner, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Lupi  
Mr. Maebry, Mr. Shepard, Mr. Weil

**Commissioners Absent:** Mr. Best, Mr. Jackson

**Guests:** None

**Approval of Minutes** – December 6, 2022 – Approved as Written.

**HVC Office** – The HVC Office will officially open January 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Lupi read the press release. There was discussion on the types of calls/questions that might be received and how the information should be made available. Mr. Maebry said there should be a standardized “S.O.P.” He had worked with Mr. Jackson on putting together a Veterans Resource Worksheet. Additional info needs to be added to that including info on filing claims, PACT Act, Camp Lejeune, etc. It was suggested that the Commissioners meet and have a sort of training/organizational meeting. They’re scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.

Regarding the HVC Office Schedule - As stated in the December meeting, “It was agreed to start on January 18, 2023 with Mr. Best and continue in alphabetical order each following Wednesday (Mr. Best 1/18, Mr. Cardo 1/25, Mr. Jackson 2/1, etc.). The schedule can be modified as needed as we go forward”. Tonight it was discussed and agreed that “if a Commissioner is unable/unavailable on their scheduled date - it is their responsibility to get coverage”.

**HVAD May 26, 2023** – Mr. Weil will call the principal at HMS to set up an appointment to meet. Jason will do the front work at QU. Mr. Shepard asked about the contract? Mr. Weil will follow up on that. He also wants to talk to Jen Vienneau and include Dan Levy in part of this – however we will take care of everything. QU provides the veterans with breakfast & lunch.

The target is the Middle School. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade or a mix. What the Principal wants to do. We can get the numbers we need out of HMS. If we need to we can reach out to others – Let’s see how it goes. Mr. Shepard has the list of people we call. The VAD Committee - Mr. Weil, Mr. Shepard, Mr. Maebry & Mr. Kautzner – will meet on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p in the HVC Office. Hopefully Mr. Best and Mr. MacMullen can join the Committee as well.

Mr. Cardo offered to post flyers at the museum for vets to participate and will also ask for WWII Reenactors.

**HVC Vacancies** – Mr. Weil reported that Bill MacMullen has submitted his application. Awaiting Legislative Council Approval. We still have one vacancy on the HVC that needs to be filled. It was mentioned that Mr. Jackson knows someone interested in joining the HVC.

**Memorial Day Parade** – Ms. Lupi reported she has to set up a meeting with Alexa, Brian, Dave & Reggie. They will start the second week of February doing the initial “blast” with the Parade Registration Form.

**Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony** – Mr. Weil shared with the Commission that he is being inducted into the Veterans Hall of Fame. The Ceremony is January 19, 2023 at 5:00p at the State Armory in Hartford. All are welcome to come. “Thank you to Elissa Lupi and Cal Shepard for submitting me”.

**Commissioner’s Bios** – Ms. Lupi and Mr. Maebry shared their Bios with the Commission.

\*Ms. Lupi is 1 of 4 children. Born in New Haven and raised in Hamden. Dad was a bakery owner and Mom was a teacher. She was 1 of 12 grandchildren, raised around their family bakery in Highwood while living in the West Woods area...so she had the great fortune of being raised in two sections of Town. Her father’s truck would arrive to the bakery covered in snow and her uncles couldn’t believe the difference driving from one end of Town to the next.

She went through the Hamden Public Schools. Went to Central Ct State University as a compromise to her parents. Her dad bought her a car so she could attend Southern. Her Mom wanted her at Miami of Ohio because that’s where she graduated from, but she didn’t want to leave home. CCSU was perfect...45 minutes away from home. When she graduated, she got a permanent subbing job at Sleeping Giant then tried substituting at MJ Whelan. She loved it there. She got a permanent teaching position there that lasted 2 ½ years until she had her children. She stayed home for 12 years until she was offered a job back at HMS down at the old MJ Whelan site. She retired after teaching for 22 years in Town.

She’s been involved in community service to the Town since 1990 when she was part of the Town’s Beautification Committee – that became the Recycling Committee – which changed to Solid Waste & Recycling Commission which is still in existence today.

“It’s been awesome. I love being involved in the Town. I love being a part of this Veterans Commission. This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year on the Commission. My whole goal when I was asked to join this Commission was to have kids gain an appreciation of veterans sacrifices that guarantee us all the everyday freedoms we have”.

“It’s been very rewarding to be on this Commission because I’m in the school system and working with kids between the Pen Pal Program and Veterans Awareness Day”.

She loves living in her 1823 farmhouse built by Ebenezer Warner with her husband, John. She is a mom to 3 grown children. Grandmother of 2. Very Busy. And very content.

\*Mr. Maebry was originally from North Carolina. Moved permanently to CT in 1973. Attended Sheridan, Wilbur Cross and Branford High. Went on to Gateway and got his Associates Degree. Then to Charter Oak for Liberal Arts Bachelors, Minor in Sociology. Was accepted in MBA program at Southern which he did not complete. He lived on Thompson Street for many years and Sheffield Street. He’s been married for 39 years. Currently he lives on Hodder Drive in Hamden. He lost his daughter in 1996 so he’s raising her kids, 4 girls.

Worked for Yale University 1977-2006. Started in grounds maintenance as a truck driver, came up through the ranks, became supervisor, managed 11 buildings & had 19 personnel reporting to him. Left in Yale in 2010 on a medical retirement with 33 years of service.

He became very active with the veterans service organizations such as the DAV, AMVETS. Currently the DAV Past State Commander. Past Post DAV Commander. Current VFW Commander. And here in Hamden on Morse Street - Currently the AMVET State Commander.

He's very busy helping veterans with benefits. He turned Ron over to Dan (Eddinger) and Dan did the proclamation and now Hamden is a Purple Heart City. He takes care of a couple of properties. He also manages the VFW building on Morse Street in Hamden.

On the Reserve side – he joined the Reserves in 1976. Came out in 2005. Attained the rank of E-8 Master Sergeant. Member of the 439<sup>th</sup> Quarter Master Company, 399<sup>th</sup> Troop S&S Battalion.

He said a lot of his education came through the military. As he went up the ranks he had to obtain certain qualifications - if you wanted to make E-6 or E-7. In order to be competitive you had to have an Associate's degree, you had to have a Bachelor's degree, so a lot of his formal education was with the military. He was a medical records guy. Fluent in logistics. Accountability of inventory. And he's also a grunt. While in Iraq he did a couple of missions. Lost a couple of troops. He spent 15 months in country (Iraq).

He had 5 kids of his own. He lost 1 girl. He has 19 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37p.

Submitted by: Deborah Gaiolini  
Deborah Gaiolini, HVC Clerk