

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, LT. RALPH TALBOT CHAPTER 65
POST OFFICE BOX 890300, E. WEYMOUTH, MA 02189-0005
November 8, 2021

Membership meeting held Monday November 8, 2021, at the Weymouth, American Legion, Bean Post. Luncheon at 12:00 noon and meeting started at 1:00pm.

Minutes of the Meeting are as follows:

- a. **Presiding Officer:** Commander, George Pontes
Started meeting with Pledge of Allegiance followed with Opening Prayer by Chaplain Ron Evans.
- b. **Officer Roll Call :** In attendance: Commander “George Pontes”, Junior Vice Commander “Genie Boland”, Adjutant “Vin Burdziuk”, Membership Chairman ”Buzz Smith”, Chaplain “Ron Evans”.
ABSENT: Senior Vice Commander “Arthur Sharp”, Chapter Service Officer ”Dan Meehan” and Treasurer “Steve Hendricken”.

Genie Boland introduced a guest. Her brother Jeff who was in the Marines from 72-78

c. **Committee Reports**

- (1) **MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 13, 2021:** Executive Meeting Minutes were read.
- (2) **TREASURER’S REPORT:** **Not Available**
- (3) **LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Buzz Smith reported the VA legislated a rule for Gulf War and later Vets for specific injuries incurred by Burn Pits. Mostly respiratory and considered presumptive right now. Asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis and they are looking at other conditions. We are also getting a 5.9% raise for Retirement, Disability, Military, and Social Security. George Pontes added that there was a 10-year limit on presumptives but that has been lifted and there is no end date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS: (a) Since we couldn’t have a Poppy Drive maybe we should send out a notice to our members to see if they can send in a buck or two to help us fund Veteran Issues. Buzz Smith told us he had a Flag Donated to us that was flown on the Embassy at the Green Zone in Bagdad on November 2007. So, if someone donates \$10 bucks or more we will put your name in for a drawing to win the Flag and Certificate.

(b) George Pontes asked for a motion to send out letters to local businesses for donations. It was seconded and passed. It was agreed to meet sometime after Thanksgiving.

(c) George mentioned we received a generous donation for Stop & Shop Cards to help Veterans with food purchases for themselves and family. A Vietnam Airforce Veteran donated (50) \$50 dollar cards to our Weymouth Office.

(d) It was suggested that we have our DAV Membership Meeting on Friday after the Veterans Coffee Social. Our next meeting will be January 28 right after the Coffee Social. So it will be in January, March and we can address May at a later time. Motion was made to hold our meetings the 4th Friday of the month following the Veterans Coffee Social.

(e) After next week D’Ann’s Veterans Luncheon will go back to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

LOCAL VETERANS OFFICER REPORT: (a) Veterans Day Observances’ coming up this Thursday. Start with our Traditional Ceremony followed by parade and final ceremony at the Ralph Talbot Amphitheater. Then at 1400 there will be a flag retirement ceremony conducted by the scouts. There will also be a Coalition of Veterans and their invited guests at the American Legion immediately following the 11 O’clock Ceremony.

(b) On the day before Veterans Day on Wednesday 12 O'clock at Abigail Adams there is a Veteran Day Understanding and Appreciation Session was put together by a new teacher. Its limited to several veterans and our own Buzz Smith and Richard Norton are both going to be there to talk about their experience in the military.

(c) George Pontes said the last 3 weeks he was notified about 3 Veterans who are about to be homeless. We are working with both Federal and State Agencies to prevent that. I believe a lot of that has to do with lockdowns and isolation because of Covid. If we found 3 than there has to be a larger number out there that we haven't been alerted to yet.

(e) On the 21st the American Legion is having a Veterans meal at 12:00 noon here at the Bean Post.

(f) Wolfie has a food drive in Marshfield on the 2nd Thursday every month.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

GOOD OF THE ORDER: (a) There's a Veterans Harbor Day Cruise on Saturday November 13 from 11 -3pm for a historical cruise of the Boston Islands. \$5 dollars for Veterans and active Military. Boarding begins on Long Wharf North at 10:45am. You need to reserve at www.BostonHarborIslands.org

(b) Bob asked if the funds from the DAV 5k goes to the State? The answer was yes.

(c) For the Good of the Order we had a very nice ceremony yesterday at the National Cemetery. 77 thousand Flags were placed on the Veterans Graves. It was quite a site to see in Bourne. You can contact Wreaths of America if you would like a Wreath placed on a specific grave. You have till November 39th to sponsor a grave.

(d) This Saturday we are having a DEC Meeting but we have not got a notice from the DAV Department on the time. George will be attending by ZOOM on his phone.

IN CLOSING: Salute the Flag, Closing Prayer by Ron Evans, Meeting adjourned 2:00pm

**Respectfully Submitted,
Vinnie Burdziuk, Adjutant**