

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
VETERAN'S AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 1st DAY OF MAY, 2023

The Caddo Parish Veteran's Affairs Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:30 p.m., in the Government Plaza First Floor Conference Room, with Mr. Epperson, Sr., Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell, Jones, and Lazarus (3).

The invocation was given by Mr. Atkins, and Mrs. Gage-Watts led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

- Col. Steven DePyssler's U. S. Postage Stamp

Mr. Epperson discussed the military career of Col. Steven DePyssler. Mr. Epperson indicated that the Commission received a response from the resolution regarding the Col. Steven DePyssler U.S. Postage stamp and that the postage stamp would meet the criteria. Mr. Epperson discussed the Commission and the Veterans Committee are tuned into the building named after Col. DePyssler.

- Congressional Medal Of Honor Convention (Caddo/Shreveport)

Mr. Epperson discussed hosting a Medal of Honor Convention to honor living Medal of Honor recipients. Mr. Epperson would contact the Medal of Honor Society based in Texas regarding hosting a convention in Shreveport.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to submit a resolution requesting the Medal of Honor Society to consider hosting a Medal of Honor Convention in Shreveport.* Motion carried unanimously.

- Northwest Louisiana Military & Veterans Museum

Mr. Epperson discussed a potential location for the Northwest Louisiana Military & Veterans Museum at the old Fire District 8 station. Mr. Epperson explained that military visitors would stay at hotels around Monkhouse, Pines Road and Lakeshore Drive and how the museum could be a central location to those areas. Mr. Epperson discussed visiting the Veterans Museum in Marshall, Texas. Mr. Chavez and Mr. Epperson discussed resources to support a veteran's museum. Mr. Epperson explained that the veteran's museum idea is a spark and that he intended to update the committee.

- Veterans Celebration Committee's Activities For 2023

Mr. Epperson announced the next Veterans Celebration Committee meeting will be on May 17th at 11 AM on the Fairgrounds. Mr. Epperson explained the committee would review honoree nominations, ads for program books, parade lineups, coordination with schools and the VA. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21st at 11 AM on the Fairgrounds. Mr. Chavez requested that the Clerk send email notifications of the dates, which Mr. Epperson would send a list of forms, dates and times. Mr. Epperson discussed coordinating with NACo's veteran activities. Mr. Chavez indicated that the City of Shreveport is contracted to relight the Bakowski Bridge's with LED lights. Mr. Epperson suggested to send a letter regarding the relighting of the bridge.

- Downtown Light Pole Signs (Veterans Celebration Week)

Mr. Epperson announced that Veterans Celebration Week is November 6-12, 2023 and requested that the downtown lamps are lit up and the banners are hung.

- Caddo Parish Signage: 'Caddo Parish Proudly Supports Our Veterans.'

Mr. Epperson requested that the Caddo Parish have a sign with the Parish seal and a message that supports veterans. Mr. Epperson explained that the City of Shreveport has a sign beside I-20 and he would like to use the spare land.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



Linda J. Montgomery
Administrative Specialist I