

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024

The Caddo Parish Veterans Affairs Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:30 p.m. in the Government Plaza Chambers, with the following members were present constituting a quorum: Commissioners Blake, Cothran, Epperson, and Thomas (4). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1).

Mrs. Blake gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions nor any Public Comments, so the Committee moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Review of Veterans Parade*

Mr. Epperson gave a brief update of the Veterans Parade and Honor Ceremony. He said that they are looking at other venues to host the honor ceremony due to the challenges for handicap people. Mr. Epperson also said that the Fairgrounds needs a little updating, especially to the parking lot. Despite these challenges, Mr. Epperson said that the Parade and Honor Ceremony were both successful.

Mr. Cothran and Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Epperson and the Veterans Celebration Committee for all of their hard work in celebrating the Veterans of this Parish and surrounding areas.

Mrs. Blake would like to be a part of any meetings that enhance the area and provide quality of life events for the citizens of Caddo Parish.

Mr. Epperson expressed gratitude to the Parish's Administration for all of their support in lighting the courthouse, Bakowski Bridge, and press conference.

- *Notification of significant dates throughout the year regarding Veterans*

Mr. Epperson would like an Everbridge notice to be sent to all employees each year for Veterans Day. He would also like Human Resources to identify all of Caddo Parish employees who are veterans. Mr. Epperson requested collaborating with the Communications Department to post on social media all of the events for Veterans.

Another date of significance is D-Day, Memorial Day, Purple Heart Recognition, etc. Mr. Epperson wants to ensure that people know that Caddo Parish is truly veteran friendly. He then named off several facilities that offer support services for Veterans.

- *Maintenance and condition of Veterans Memorial on Clyde Fant Parkway*

Mr. Epperson discussed the maintenance and condition of the Veterans Memorial on Clyde Fant. He said that the memorial has been vandalized and would like it cleaned up. He suggested collaborating with the City of Shreveport to implement a consistent maintenance schedule.

Mr. Cothran suggested installing cameras in the area in hopes of catching the vandalers. He said that the condition of the memorial is deplorable.

Mr. Epperson encouraged all to visit the memorial.

Mr. Thomas suggested working with the JROTC, VA hospital, or Barksdale to help maintain the condition of the memorial. Mr. Walker said that this is something that they can look into.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk