

Veterans Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Clinton County Board Room  
February 15, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Greg Riechman, Chairman

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Greg Riechman.

**2. OPENING PRAYER & PLEDGE**

Greg Riechman shared a prayer and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Committee Members Present: Holly Clark, Mike Hilmes

**4. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Nine guests were recognized via the sign-in sheet.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Holly Clark to approve the minutes and seconded by Mike Hilmes. Motion carried.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

Holly Clark shared that we now have the following full-time VSO in the Centralia office in Marion County:

Anthony Krajefska  
125 W Broadway St  
Centralia, IL 62801  
(217) 836-6639

Greg Riechman confirmed the following two events related to the upcoming 100th birthday celebration for World War II Veteran/POW Vince Rolves:

- 100th birthday celebration drive-by, leaving from the Carlyle VFW at 2 PM (Friday, February 23rd)
- 100th birthday celebration @Carlyle VFW, starting at 3 PM (Saturday, February 24th)

Rachele Smith confirmed that the following two events will be held at Whispering Pines of Clinton County:

- Memorial Day Ceremony (Monday, May 27th @11 AM)
- Veterans Appreciation Day (Saturday, September 7th @10 AM)

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee Update

Jim Beasley was not present. Don Berdeaux confirmed that the Veterans Tribute Committee will be hosting a ceremony to observe Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29 at 4:30 PM. The ceremony will be at the Veterans Tribute located on the main campus of Kaskaskia College.

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Holly Clark reported that their next event will be at the Greenville First United Methodist Church @6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 27th. Holly reiterated that she and her husband Mike are available at any time if someone has a need. If so, please feel free to reach out to her @618.741.7339.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

### VVA Chapter 269 Update

Bob Zahn, Dave Maue and Joe Timmermann confirmed that the flagpole has been ordered for the flagpole replacement and landscaping improvement project at the southeast corner of the Clinton County Courthouse. Greg Riechman shared that the County Board has already provided the approval to move forward with completion of that project.

### Honor Flight Update

Greg Riechman shared that the current count of applications stands at 76, with another 10 applications expected soon. He will continue to work with Carl Huels and local press to promote the event leaving Springfield on October 15, 2024.

Bill Schultz and Mark Hilmes were in attendance and both shared very personal stories regarding taking an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Both veterans discussed their amazement at the crowd that greeted them when they returned to the airport and how emotional that the "mail call" process was. Additionally, they both agreed that it is a "bucket list" event that should be experienced by every veteran.

### Meeting Cadence

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 21st @6 PM in the Board Room.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hilmes, seconded by Holly Clark. Motion carried.