

Minutes for July 9, 2025 Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 279 Meeting

The regular meeting of VVA Chapter 279 was called to order by President Hester at 1830 hours. After the salute to the American flag, President Hester led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of officers: President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, Treasurer Haase, and Secretary Halbkat were all present. There were 4 officers and 34 members present. We have a quorum.

Guest Speaker: Joe Higgins and Mark Thompson gave the Chapter a short talk about the submarine, USS OMAHA SSBN692. They are making a memorial to it located at Levi Carter Park.

New Members: None

Sick Call: Please keep Ron Dupell in your thoughts and prayers. He sure could use our support!

Secretary Report: The report was emailed to all members. George Abbott moved to accept the report as written and Ed Boller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: The report was on the table for members to view. Treasurer Haase explained all entries and with no corrections to be made, George Abbott moved to accept the report and Dwain Holmes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Haase presented bills to be paid: \$65.50 for renewing license for the parade trailer. Jim Quick moved to pay the bill and Andy Nudelman seconded. Vice President Mangiamelli made a motion to pay for the flags at the James Faust ceremony and Ed Boller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report:

The Fremont Days parade is Sunday, July 13. We will meet at our usual spot next to grain bins and the railroad tracks. Be there by 1230. We are #2 in the parade.

Jim Quick reports there will be a gathering at 10am at the Ashland Country Club put on by Hero's Stock. He questioned if maybe we could set up a table at the gathering. Will be held 8-22 and 23.

Sept. 6, 2025 will be the next headstone cleaning at the National Cemetery.

Golf Outing: Held Sept.29, 2025 at the Pacific Springs Golf Club. Will be our 10th annual. Let's start now to secure teams and prizes.

Scholarships: no report

Veterans Home Board: Tom Brown reports he will have a report next month since the board meets in Scottsbluff July 24, 2025,

Correspondence Report: Vice President Mangiamelli read an awesome thank you card from the Quilts of Valor organization. They were thanking us for our \$1000.00 donation and the card was signed by all the members of their organization.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports there will be a graduation in December of 14 to 20 individuals.

National VVA Delegate Report: Dottie Barickman reports that the National Convention being held in August will answer a lot of questions and the members from 279 that will be attending will be full of answers to your questions.

Nebraska VVA Foundation: Tom Brown reports they will meet July 10, 2025 to discuss groundwork plans with the architect for the new educational building at the Memorial.

Homeless Veterans: no report

Chapter Membership Report: 214 members and 12 associates

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports the total now is 1567. 3 MIA found at a radar sight in Laos.

Events: VVA Convention—New Orleans, August 5th- 9th Nebraska Vietnam Reunion—Kearney, Ne. August 14th—17th

Be sure to check out the chapter's webpage: nebraskavietnamveterans.com

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 1830 hours. Located at the Millard American Legion Post 374.

Motion to adjourn made by Vice President Joe Mangiamelli and seconded by Dick Rowe. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Tom Halbkat, Secretary

