

Minutes for March 12, 2025 Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 279 Meeting

The regular meeting of VVA Chapter 279 was called to order by President Hester at 1800 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. There were 4 officers and 34 members present. We have a quorum.

Business Brought Before the Chapter:

An FYI if you are 50% or more hunting and fishing licenses are free by the state.

On May 24th Patriot Productions will be bringing Ann Margaret and Pat Boone to The Relevant Center in Elkhorn. They will also be in the Memorial Day Parade. Everyone plan to attend the parade for pictures. If you go the concert the tickets range from \$75 to \$250 a piece. Five thousand dollars will get you front row, a signed album, and maybe a kiss.

"Guitars for Vets" is now known as "Heroes Encore"

March 28th at National Cemetery will be a ceremony at 10am.

March 29th is Vietnam Veterans Day, the chapter will have a dinner with spouses and a Quilts of Valor ceremony for four of our vets. The chapter will provide the dinner at the legion. Everyone come!!!!

April will be monument cleaning month at the National Cemetery. More info to follow.

Parades this year are:

May 24th – Memorial Day, downtown

May 31st – Elkhorn Days

June 14th – Papillion

July 4th – Ralston

July 13th Fremont

July 26th – Gretna Days

August 16th – Aerospace Parade, Bellevue

August 23rd Millard Days

Concerning the trailer, the chapter is working on liability insurance. Right now the VVA covers 6 million dollars.

Guest Speaker: None

New Members: We have 1 new members---Glen Leapley. Welcome aboard, Glen.

Sick Call: None

Secretary Report: There is no report from February since we had no meeting.

Treasurer Report: The report was made available to the members and Treasurer Haase explained all the entries to the members. He also explained the budget for 2024 of which we missed by \$143.01. A motion was made by Ed Boller to accept the report and was seconded by George Abbott. Motion passed unanimously.

Golf Outing: Being held at Pacific Springs Golf Course, September 29, 2025. This will be our 10th Outing.

Scholarships: Tom Brown reports UNL will be sending him a complete list of all scholarships given by the chapter.

Veterans Home Board: Tom Brown has no report.

Correspondence Report: Vice President Mangiamelli read two letters. One from Omaha VA and one from Victory Apartments, thanking us for our donations.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports a newly decorated MOD and a December 4th graduation at 2pm. there will be a 2 week break and they will start back up again the week of January 15.

National VVA Delegate Report: Dottie Barickman reports in 18 -24 months the VVA will run out of money. She gave us the 7 steps to un-incorporate. Time to start thinking about name change and new patches.

Nebraska VVA Foundation: Tom Brown has no report.

Homeless Veterans: Tom Brown has no report.

Chapter Membership Report: President Hester reports 214 members and 12 associates.

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports 1573.

New Business:

Jim Quick suggested the chapter tour the forensics lab at Offut Air Base. More information to follow.

Just a reminder--- the ladies that serve as bartenders at our VVA home are working on a volunteer basis. So the next time you order a drink--- think TIPS. I'm sure they will appreciate it. Thank you.

Vice President Mangiamelli is in need of a person to help him with communication with working on articles for the Veteran Magazine. Any volunteers????

Please check out the Chapter web page: nebraskavietnamveterans.com

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 1830 hours, at Millard American Legion Post 374.

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Quick and seconded by Andy Doza. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat, Secretary