

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

The regular meeting was called to order by President Hester. After the salute to the American flag, President Hester led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of officers: President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, Secretary Halbkat, Treasurer Haase. There were 4 officers and 40 members present. We have a quorum.

New Members: Louis Secora, Dave Smooth, Larry Bloom, and Bob Rockwell. Welcome aboard, gentleman.

Sick Call: Please keep in your prayers Ron Dupell, Dennis Schissel, and Jim Kjosa. All having tests we hope for a quick recovery.

President's Report: President Hester reminded the chapter of our yearly December donations. The backpack program run by Bellevue University. VP Joe Mangiamelli made a motion we give the \$1000.00. The motion was seconded by Dwaine Holmes and carried unanimously. VP Joe Mangiamelli also made a motion that we continue giving the 4 surrounding counties VSO's with \$1000.00 for gift cards and it was seconded by George Abbott. It carried unanimously. The last bill to be paid is for storage of the parade trailer. It is \$1000.00 for a year. George Abbott moved to pay and Jim Scott seconded. The motion carried unanimously. President Hester also informed the chapter that November 15 is military appreciation night at Baxter Arena for the Omaha Lancers Hockey team. Stop by after the mtg. for FREE tickets.

Secretary Report: With no corrections to be made, George Abbott moved to accept the report and Tom Lundquist seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Haase will explain all entries next month. All bills and donations have been taken care of for the coming month.

Scholarships: Tom Brown reports from Metro College that we have donated almost \$3500.00 this year out of our fund.

Veterans Home Board: Tom Brown reports the meeting was held in Norfolk Oct. 24 with 100 applications.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports there will be a graduation in Dec. with 11 graduates.

National Delegate Report: Dottie Barickman reports the VVA has 3 goals this year. Veteran Healthcare, Benefits, and Legislation. Since she is the National Treasurer, she will have a hold on the budget.

Nebraska VVA Foundation: Tom Brown reports work is going on now to fund a new building to use as an education part of our Memorial.

Homeless Veterans: No report

Chapter Membership: 223 members and 12 associates

POW/MIA: No change from last month

New Business: Tony Weathers reminds us about the Quilts of Honor celebration held on Dec. 6. Sure would like to see a great turn out from the membership. Be sure to wear uniform. Starts at 11am.

Ted Bissen reminds us that Wreathes Across America will take place at the National Cemetery on Dec. 13, 2025.

Dec. 12 at Baxter Arena, Blue Collar Boxing will take place. We have been asked to be the Color Guard for the event.

The next mtg will be Dec. 10, 2025 at 530pm. We will have a short 10 minute mtg and then adjourn to the dining room to celebrate our potluck dinner and Christmas party. More to come on this.

Dick Rowe made a motion to adjourn and Jim Scott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Tom Halbkat, Secretary