

## MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIRED SOLDIER COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 8 October 2015, meeting of the Soldier for Life, Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1130 hours at the Spirit of Fort Hood Warrior and Family Chapel, Fort Hood, Texas.

### 2. Membership Attendance:

#### a. Members Present:

GEN (Ret) Thurman, Co-Chairman	SFC (Ret) Moore, Member
CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Co-Chairman	COL (Ret) Oliver, Jr., Assoc. Member
LTC (Ret) Christ, Member	COL (Ret) Portmann, Assoc. Member
LTC (Ret) MacMillan, Secretary	CSM (Ret) Minosky, Assoc. Member
CW3 (Ret) Heath, Member	
CSM (Ret) Waller, Member	
CSM (Ret) Small, Member	
CSM (Ret) Bobb, Member	
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member	

#### b. Members Absent:

COL (Ret) Phelps, Member  
CMCPO (Ret) Hall, Member  
COL (Ret) Phillips, Jr., Member  
LTC (Ret) Pierce, Member  
SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member  
SFC (Ret) Pullins, Member  
Ms. Roupe, Member

3. The Co-Chairman, GEN (Ret) Thurman called the meeting to order at 1145 hours and thanked everyone for their service. He reiterated the importance of looking at retiree issues. GEN (Ret) Thurman stated the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) is on 30 and 31 October. During this event we will recognize Viet Nam veterans as part of the 50th anniversary of the Viet Nam War. The newsletter is out and looks good. He told Ms. Bedgood that he has gotten lots of compliments on it. He asked that we bring issues associated with taking care of retirees to his attention so they can be properly addressed.

CSM (Ret) King introduced the special guests: Ms. Sandra Williams, Department of Preventive Medicine; Mr. Anthony Triola, Fort Hood Liaison for Congressman John Carter, and Judge Endicott, Central Texas Aging, Disability & Veterans Resource Center (CTADVRC).

### 4. Topics of discussion for this meeting:

- Judge Endicott spoke regarding the work being done to provide a regional focal point of access for available supportive resources to veterans and their families, and military and their families. CSM (Ret) Minosky and LTC (Ret) Christ are also involved in this initiative to form a viable group to address systemic problems which adversely affect our veterans and military.
- Ms. Williams spoke about WOW, Wheel of Wellness, (see enclosure) a new campaign in the military health care arena promoting wellness. She will be at the RAD Health Fair at Thomas Moore Health Clinic on Saturday, October 31st.

- Mr. Anthony Triola thanked everyone for what we are doing for retirees. He is the representative for Congressman Carter for the Killeen and Harker Heights area. Mr. Triola stated he will listen to any and all concerns we have and pass them to Congressman Carter. GEN (Ret) Thurman told Mr. Triola that sequestration remains a serious issue and puts all the services in a bad situation.
- Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) activities were reviewed. Ms. Bedgood gave an update on the dining facility. The NCOIC is very excited to host the luncheon and promised it will be much better this year. CSM (Ret) King said the council members will evaluate the same areas as they did last year during RAD. He asked that each Council Member bring a door prize to donate. Flu shots will be given on Friday, 30 Oct at the Copeland Center. All other vaccinations including flu shots will be done on Saturday at the Thomas Moore Health Clinic. CSM (Ret) Waller would like to have a member of the Council at Thomas Moore Health Clinic to greet retirees and help if need be. CSM (Ret) King said the Old Timer's breakfast is covered with the donations received from area businesses.

5. Individual Council Member Updates:

- Health Care Advisory Council Update: CSM (Ret) Waller reported that a tour of the new hospital cannot be done for RAD. He said due to delays the official date of ownership was pushed back to November with an opening date in April or May.
- Benefits Update: CSM (Ret) King had nothing new to report.
- Installation Update: CSM (Ret) Bobb reported that preparations are underway for Make a Difference Day, 24 Oct 2015. Unfortunately, she had to report that the installation had a case of someone trying to take a child on post. There have been human trafficking cases in Belton and Temple where children are being targeted. She wanted to make us aware of the incident.
- AAFES Update: LTC (Ret) MacMillan reported the new Exchange tour for the Soldier for Life Retiree Council went very well. The new Exchange is like walking into a Dillard's or Macy's.
- DECA Update: No Report.

6. Final Comments:

- CSM (Ret) King said Killeen has been named as a Regional Site for Veteran's Day. The event starts at City Hall at 10:30. The parade starts at 11:11 downtown. SCM (Ret) Lopez is trying to get Viet Nam veterans to walk at the front of the parade in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Viet Nam War.
- CSM (Ret) King announced that the Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee is hosting a dinner and dance on 14 November. He handed out a flyer and said if anyone on the Council wants to sponsor a Viet Nam Veteran for the dinner that veteran would be recognized. He said this event helps to promote good will in the community.
- CSM (Ret) King said the new Council roster is in your information packet. He asked that we check our information and give any corrections to Ms. Bedgood.

- LTC (Ret) Christ said there are major changes in the retirement bill; that most of the recommendations will be put in place. The Legislative CRA lasts until 10 December. He stated the Defense Authorization Bills are moving. The House approved a 1.3% pay increase.
- The Council reviewed an application for a new member for the Council and turned in their vote to Ms. Bedgood. GEN (Ret) Thurman said we need to have a medically retired person on the Council.
- CSM (Ret) Bobb mentioned that Veterans Affairs is changing terms which will change veteran's benefits. There are a large number of basic trainees getting hurt and receiving disability pay so to save money the VA is changing term definitions. LTC (Ret) MacMillan state that is not fair; if someone took the oath to defend this country they should get the benefits. Mr. Triola said he would bring it up to Congressman Carter.
- CSM (Ret) Bobb said that the DEERS office on post was a test site for the Common Access Card (CAC). The survey of those utilizing the cards was very positive.

7. GEN (Ret) Thurman closed the meeting at 1300 hours and thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 14 January 2016.

  
GEN (Ret) James D. Thurman  
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved  
  
JOHN W. REYNOLDS, III  
Colonel, GS  
Deputy Chief of Staff