

## MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIRED SOLDIER COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 14 April 2016, 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  
CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Co-Chairman  
COL (Ret) Zumwalt, Member  
COL (Ret) Salter, Member  
LTC (Ret) Christ, Member  
LTC (Ret) MacMillan, Secretary  
LTC (Ret) Pierce, Member  
CW3 (Ret) Heath, Member  
CSM (Ret) Small, Member  
CSM (Ret) Waller, Member  
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member  
SFC (Ret) Pullins, Member  
SFC (Ret) Moore, Member

Ms. Roupe, Member  
COL (Ret) Oliver, Jr., Assoc. Member  
COL (Ret) Portmann, Assoc. Member  
CSM (Ret) Minosky, Assoc. Member  
SFC(Ret) Evan-Quickley, Assoc. Member

#### b. Members Absent:

COL (Ret) Phillips, Jr., Member  
CMCPO (Ret) Hall, Member  
CSM (Ret) Bobb, Member  
CSM (Ret) Wilson, Member

3. The Co-Chairman, GEN (Ret) Thurman called the meeting to order at 1140 hours and thanked everyone for all they do for the community. GEN (Ret) Thurman said it is important that we take care of retirees, families and soldiers. We need to watch benefits to ensure we looking after the retiree population. It is also important that the Council and act as the eyes and ears for the Fort Hood Commander and provide feedback on the key issues.

CSM (Ret) King thanked everyone for their attendance. CSM (Ret) King had LTC (Ret) Pierce introduce one of our newest members, COL (Ret) Salter. CSM (Ret) King then introduced our other new council member, COL (Ret) Zumwalt. He congratulated Ms. Roupe for her outstanding representation of the Gold Star Families. He then introduced our special guests, COL Yarvis, Deputy Commander, Damall Army Medical Center, and Judge Endicott, member of Texas Silver Haired Legislature. He had the other quests present introduce themselves; Charles Edens, Veterans Outreach Specialist, Ronald Cook, visitor, MSG (Ret) Norma Thompson, Women's Army Corps, Chapter 94, Arthur Thompson, retired service member's spouse, and SGM (Ret) Ernestor Cortez.

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

- GEN (Ret) Thurman recognized COL Yarvis, congratulating him on moving into the new hospital. COL Yarvis discussed the Direct In Campaign (a program to

bring retirees back on post for medical care). He stated that soldiers need us (Tri-care) and America cannot afford us. In the campaign, there is an increase in Primary Care for veterans/retirees. They are creating Primary Care Teams to provide more complete care. CSM (Ret) Minosky was concerned how the medical community was relating the campaign to retirees. The letter he received about the campaign was directing him where to go and when. This led to a discussion on how to communicate the changes to those affected. COL Yarvis said he will take it to task and rectify it. He asked that the Council provide input on how best to handle the communication effort. COL (Ret) Salter recommended that an open enrollment campaign be held to allow retirees who want care on post to come back which may solve the problem. GEN (Ret) Thurman said the Council will help with information flow.

Judge Endicott stated he got a call one night asking for help from a mother who had a sick child who is authorized medical care on post. She could not get on post to get the child to the hospital for care. He asked how he gets help for the mother. CSM (Ret) King explained how the mother can get a letter authorizing her to get on post for 6 months at a time to obtain medical care for the child.

Mr. Edens asked about continuity of care for those being pulled back on post. COL Yarvis explained that the electronic records will cover those with routine care. Retirees living within 30 miles of the installation are receiving these letters to go back on post for care. For patients undergoing specialty care, appeals are being approved in order for the patient to complete that care. CSM (Ret) King related that if a patient is in the middle of specialty care there is flexibility to allow them to continue to receive care where they are. COL Yarvis said they have added after hour care and are in the process of creating an urgent care center to avoid overuse of the emergency room.

GEN (Ret) Thurman asked how the hospital is being filled; are they getting the right specialties for the population needs. COL Yarvis said they are getting what they need and maintaining a close watch, making adjustments as required to ensure the population is properly covered.

SFC (Ret) Pullins commented that she had a good experience with treatment on the first day the hospital opened. GEN (Ret) Thurman said the refill system is excellent. CSM (Ret) King said it is a great hospital. GEN (Ret) Thurman thanked COL Yarvis for coming and asked the Council to provide any ideas on how best to craft the message to provide them.

- CSM (Ret) King introduced Mrs. Miriam Washington, Military Youth of the Year Advisor for Fort Hood. She explained how the Fort Hood Youth of the Year is going to represent Fort Hood in the State Military Youth of the Year competition. Fort Hood has won the State Military Youth of the Year competition the last 3 years. She introduced Mr. Lorenzo Branch as the Fort Hood Youth of the Year. Mr. Branch gave his speech for the competition. It was well received. Mr. Branch also said he had received an opportunity to attend West Point.

5. Individual Council Member Updates:

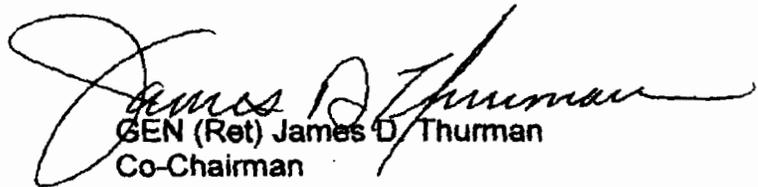
- **Benefits Update:** SFC (Ret) Pullins handed out an update of veterans benefits including information regarding higher co-pays for prescriptions, Pentagon Health Care Proposals, Community Care Call Centers to help veterans with Choice Program billing issues, extension of healthcare enrollment for living veterans, and future site of VA National Archives. A copy of the handout is attached.
- **Health Care Update:** CSM (Ret) Waller stated they covered everything earlier in the meeting. LTC (Ret) Pierce said a new clinic is being added on Clear Creek.
- **Installation Update:** No report.
- **AAFES Update:** LTC (Ret) MacMillan reported that a retiree asked about parking lot numbers for the new Post Exchange. She contacted Mrs. Paula Gunnison, the AAFES Director about it. Parking lot number are being worked but may take some time to complete.
- **DECA Update:** CW3 (Ret) Heath reported the commissary scholarship winners will be announced May 15. He said the case lot sale at Warrior Way will be May 5-7, 0900 to 1800 hours and Clear Creek case lot sale will be May 12-14, 0900 to 1900 hours. He stated that the commissaries have jobs for college and high school students.
- Ms. Roupe said on 5 April the SOS (Survivor Outreach Services) conducted spouses day. CSM (Ret) King mentioned that the theme for Veteran's Day this year is Honoring Gold Star Spouses.

6. Final Comments:

- COL (Ret) Oliver reported he saw Mrs. Beck, the mother of Bernie Beck for whom the main gate was named, and she sent her regards to the Council.
- CSM (Ret) Waller said there are four days left for tax season. He said there is a difference between alimony and spouse support when completing taxes. Veterans coming in must have verification of health care.
- Judge Endicott reported that 15 counties grant money to provide information to military, veterans, and families in Texas. They can call 211 for information. The CTCOG (Central Texas Council of Governors) is working on a fact sheet to provide further information.
- SGM (Ret) Lopez said the Memorial Day Service will be held at 1000 hours at the Central Texas Veteran's Cemetery.
- CSM (Ret) Minosky asked why he has to enroll for part B Medicare when he turns 65 and has to turn in his ID card when his employer provides medical coverage. Mrs. Bedgood, Retiree Services, is looking into this.
- SFC (Ret) Pullins mentioned the retirement party for Willie Browning, a veteran who worked at the VA and assisted veterans with disability claims, will be 12 May at Big Hoss BBQ Restaurant.
- LTC (Ret) Christ said we want to make sure all the Vietnam veterans are recognized and thanked.

- GEN (Ret) Thurman said this was a good discussion. RAD (Retiree Appreciation Day) is coming in October. Ms. Bedgood continues to put out a very good Retiree Newsletter. In addition, he said he appreciates what everyone is doing.

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

  
GEN (Ret) James D. Thurman  
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved

  
John W. Reynolds, III  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff