

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER**  
**VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION**  
**15 April 2026**

**Call to Order:** Dale House, President, called the meeting to order at 0958.  
Dale House noted that that those present represented a quorum for voting purposes.

**Those Present:**

Bill Bates	Lou Grill	Greg Mann	Bob Simms
Ralph Bellizzi	Al Harinck	George Mayl	Chris Towne
Carlo Cavalluzzi	Bob Harris	Doug Neil	Bob White
Wick Clark	Dale House	Terry Olson	Chuck Wiley
Bruce Girvan	Phil Lanphier	Mike Silva	

***Zoom Attendees:*** Don Kent, Jim McNamee

- Dale led the chapter members in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Members did self introductions for our new member Ralph Bellizzi.
- Dale is still collecting member biographies.
- Dale reported the passing of Robert Brightwell who was a lifetime member of the VHPA and had two tours in Vietnam. A moment of silence was held by the chapter members.

**Meeting Minutes:** The March 2026 Meeting Minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim McNamee reviewed the treasurer's report for April 2026. It was accepted.

**Old Business**

- Bill Bates distributed a copy of the April/May 2026 issue of *Veterans Life* magazine to chapter members. He indicated the magazine staff is looking for veteran stories they can use.
- **Clothing update:**
  - Carlo Cavalluzzi said many clothing size mediums are available.
  - We need to consider Chapter wives clothing order in light of the coming 2027 reunion.
  - Challenge coin order for 300 should arrive by the end of the month. Current coin inventory is 22.
  - Carlo is receiving orders for clothing but is waiting to place the orders until minimum levels of six items are reached.
- **Mahogany Models**
  - Terry Olson had no update.

- **Honor Flight**

- Honor Flights are open to WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Purple Heart veterans.
- Carlo updated the following Honor Flights departures:
  - High Plains (Northern Colorado) ([highplainshonorflight.org](http://highplainshonorflight.org))
    - Next Flight: April 19, 2026
  - Rocky Mountain (Denver Airport) ([rockymountainhonorflight.net](http://rockymountainhonorflight.net))
    - Channel 9 is conducting a telethon to raise money for future flights.
      - Flight #55: April 30 – May 2, 2026
      - Flight #56: Early September 2026
      - Flight #57: Early Fall 2026
  - H.F. of Southern Colorado Springs ([honorflightsocs.org](http://honorflightsocs.org))
    - Currently they have a **3 plus year** waiting list for flights.
    - WWII and Korea era veterans are given priority
    - Vietnam era veterans are assigned to flights based on their application dates.
- Applications need to be sent if interested in attending an Honor Flight
- Additional information can be obtained on the WEB ([coloradohonorflight.org](http://coloradohonorflight.org) )

- Dale reported that Joe Minkiewicz is currently residing in a medical facility in Colorado.

- The Jan/Feb/Mar 2026 issue of the VHPA Aviator was reviewed by Dale. He noted that his submission of the Rocky Mountain Chapter activities was cruelly edited by the Aviator staff. Large sections of the Aviator are reserved for book reviews and the Louisville reunion.

- **Vietnam War Museum**

- Charles Bogle was not on the Zoom call but Dale reported that the VWM conducted ceremonies for Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29 which included Huey flight rides.

- **Golden History Museum (GHM)**

- Dale reviewed his meeting with members of the Golden History Museum who recently toured the HWM on April 8.
  - The GHM wants to salute Colorado/Golden area Vietnam veterans in light of the 50 years since the end of the Vietnam war. GHM is proposing September for the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Exhibit. It will be in place 6-12 months.
  - Curator contact is Stephany Gilmore 303-278-3557.
  - The HWM is being considered however space and time are issues.
  - Potential activity is a pinning ceremony for veterans.
  - Since Vietnam is the “Helicopter War” some type of helicopter display should be addressed and is being researched.
- The HWM is accepting loans or gifts of Vietnam Artifacts , Bio Books, etc.
- A large garrison flag folding event at GHM is scheduled for June. This is to celebrate the 250th Independence Day. The GHM is looking for volunteers.

- **Wings Over The Rockies (WOR)**

- Dave Dickerson, CEO of WOR and Rachel Herman, Chief Experience Officer toured the HWM on April 9.
  - Terry Olson reported that Rachel and the WOR team was very impressed and Dave thanked us for the time we had spent with them and on the WOR museum displays.
  - Setting up the HWM at WOR on Memorial Day weekend is approved.
  - It has been determined that WOR is not interested in keeping the trailer containing the member displays and artifacts. However, WOR staff is interested in setting up displays in conjunction with the Sweet Sioux M Huey static display.
  - The membership concern is how will our displays and memorabilia maintain the “touchy/feely” that exists with current displays in the trailer.
  - Texas Tech has been an archival maintainer of Vietnam artifacts via the WEB. National VHPA is forwarding all of their artifacts to Texas Tech.
  - Texas Tech does not have a brick and motor building for displays. However, there is the potential that could change in the future which would make them a candidate for HWM displays.
  - Don Kent suggested the HWM remain in Denver some how.

- Al Harinck suggested HWM be set up at Wind Crest senior living community. There are 200 veterans along with 2,000+ residents living at the facility. Tom Puckett is the facility contact. HWM display at Wind Crest is scheduled for July 9.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Event Schedule:**

- Firestone Charter School Wednesday, April 29 starting at 1000 through 1500. Terry passed the sign-up rooster. Dale is coordinating with the trucking company to deliver the HWM.
  - WOR May 23,24,25 inside; Memorial Day weekend.
  - 7/9 Wind Crest senior living community.
  - 7/25 Car council Metro airport.
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- The HWM vinyl depiction of the Huey with the Coors rocket pod will be replaced, with a new vinyl paid for by Molson Coors as suggested by Phil Lanphier.
    - Fineline Graphics is the company that will replace the vinyl. A separate Coors logo will be displayed on the HWM.
  - Chapter meetings will remain the third Wednesday of the month.
  - The 2026 ReUnionIs in Louisville, KY August 5-8.
  - The 2027 ReUnion is in Denver, CO.

### **Next Meeting:**

- The next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, May 20 1000 HRS at the American Legion Post 1.

### **Adjournment:**

- Dale House adjourned the meeting at 1115 HRS.

**Submitted by Doug Neil**

**Secretary**

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