



☆☆☆USS Oklahoma City Base☆☆☆

Mailing Address: 3201 Bishop Rock Place
Yukon, OK 73099-3357



Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2026

Location: American Legion Post 73
5000 S.E. 24th St.
Del City, OK 73115

Attendance:

Todd Holmes – *Base
Cmdr; Webmaster*
Jim Owen – *Base Treasurer*
Dale Sanders – *Base Vice Cmdr/
Base Secretary*
W. Becket Bircher – *Base Chaplin*
Ken Box - *Chief of the Boat*
“Gus” Hawkins

Chuck Hladik – *Past Base Cmdr*
Donald LeBlanc – *Base
Quartermaster*
Gabe Long
Gary Palmer
Michael Skaggs
Jay Van Duzer
Bob Zahn

Officers Absent:
None

Visitors:

Gary Hayes – *Candidate*
Danny Hill – *Candidate*

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 0900 by Base Commander Holmes. A quorum was present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Gabe led base members in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Previous Minutes – Dale read the minutes from January. Ken motioned to approve the minutes as read, Mike seconded, minutes approved.
4. Treasurers Report – Jim provided a report of a balance of \$2,713.⁵⁹ on deposit, and petty cash again of \$95.⁰⁰. Primary change was payment for longevity pins. Detailed records are available upon request. Dale motioned to approve the report, Jay seconded, report approved.
5. Status of 2026 – Jim reported that seven members have not yet paid dues. These members will be contacted.
 - a. Dues are \$50 year, unless you are a National Life member (still own \$10 local dues). Make checks to OKC Subvets.
6. OKC Subvets Website and Facebook page (Todd) –
 - a. Photos, new officers, and JB Messer Memorial page are done.
 - b. National website is preparing to switch to the new website (same address)
 - c. WhatsApp Group Messaging setup. Discussion came to consensus to implement this. (**ACTION:** *Todd – provide numbers, and Chris – create group*)
7. Storekeeper Items (Don) – Current inventory is 111 coins, 16 hats, and 16 assorted automobile decals. Still working on T-shirt possibilities.
8. Memorial Day (Becket) – Becket’s work veteran group is working with Commandant Matt Moore of the Sooner Base of the Marine Corps League for the annual reading of Oklahoma veterans at the OKC Veteran Memorial site on Capital grounds. Members are encouraged to attend at least a portion. If you are interested in being one of the readers, let Becket know.
9. Base Positions to be filled (Todd Holmes) – There are several positions which need to be filled.
 - a. Secretary - Darrin Husmann was elected but has been given additional duties at work that prevent him from taking office. Per our base By-Laws, the Base Commander must appoint a person to fill this. Until a volunteer is found, Dale will continue to fulfil these duties.
 - b. Webmaster – Michael Skaggs agreed to do this. Todd will work with him for turnover.
10. USS Oklahoma City SSN 723 Memorial Park (Steve) – No new information.
11. USS Oklahoma commissioning (Don) – No new information.

12. "Rust" Insurance (Todd Holmes) – Verified we do not owe this year, but likely will in 2027. Question was asked if this would change needing to use personal insurance for parades. **ACTION:** *Todd.*
13. February Social Dinner (Todd Holmes) – Again this went well. Pictures are posted.
14. Letter to Senator Mullin (Gabe Long & Dale Sanders) – Decision was to adjust the header and send this immediately. **ACTION:** *Dale.*
15. Marty Proper Walk Sponsorship Request (Todd Holmes) – We were approached William Hart of "40 & 8" veterans' group about being one of the sponsors for this event. Funds raised go into their nursing scholarship fund. It was too late to bring to the membership, so the Executive officers discussed it. While a good cause, we can't fund every cause and this one does not directly align with our creed.
16. Del City Parade, Saturday May 16th (Todd Holmes) – Todd has the information and will submit our application.
17. Base Patches with Errors (Jim Owen) – Jim will bring these in April
18. Annual Longevity Award Presentation (Todd & Dale) – Awards were presented as follows:
 - a. 5 Year Pin – Ken
 - b. 15 Year Pin – Becket
 - c. Several other pins were presented at the Social Dinner in February.
19. New Attendees share Naval Experiences – Gary H and Danny shared their adventures.
20. New Business –
 - a. Todd shared some of the highlights from the District Commander Zoom meeting.
21. Concerns and Open Discussion –
 - a. Ken is as well as he's going to get.
 - b. Joyce continues to recover from her shoulder surgery.
 - c. Bob lost his wife in January, still has son and daughter in the area.
 - d. Becket will have testing for possible receipt of a kidney transplant. Meanwhile his wife is having surgery.
 - e. Danny is getting used to his knee replacements.
22. Tolling of Boats – Becket and Dale led us in the tolling of the boats for February and March.
23. Closing Prayer –Becket led a closing prayer.
24. Depth Charge – Chuck won the Depth Charge drawing and donated his portion.
25. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Dale, seconded by Jay. Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 am.

★ ★ ★ **Next Business Meeting – April 11, 2026 @ 0900** ★ ★ ★

