

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 1140

9 December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order – 1107 hours

Invocation – (Pastor Ronnie Johnson, Franklin Community Church of Faith Church of the Nazarene)

National Anthem (Pastor Amber Armistead, United Methodist Church)

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of officers and Board: All officers and board members present, except Bob Nichols

Welcome of special guests (List attached as Appendix 1)

Secretary Report Review and approval of prior meeting minutes was approved by voice vote

Treasurer Report :

Checking:	\$17, 443.57
501(c)(3) Checking Account:	\$12,361.64
Money Market Account:	\$41,929.89

Unfinished Business

- **Tennessee State Veterans Home Visit** – There were three visitors in November

New Business

- **Quilt Presentation – Pat McMahon** – No quilts to present
- **Tonight's Speaker** – Ramon Presson, humorist and columnist

Events / Community Involvement

Report on Activities/Accomplishments for 2024 (List Attached as Appendix 2)

December

- **Wreaths Across America** – Saturday, December 14, 11-2, Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, McCrory Lane
- **Dickens of a Christmas** - Saturday and Sunday, December 14-15 –Downtown Franklin
- **VVA Tennessee State Council Chapter Presidents Meeting**, Monday, December 16, 11 AM, Wilson County Fairgrounds

January 2025

- **Concert for Hope**-Thursday, January 9, 6-8 PM, Franklin Community of Faithy, Church of the Nazarene, 506 Jordan Road, Franklin

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 1140

9 December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Future Speakers:

- **January 13** – Beverly Williams – Vietnam Combat Nurse
- **February 10** – Judge M. T. Taylor, Williamson County Veterans Treatment Court
- **March 10** – Dr. Kaylon Bruner-Tran, Vanderbilt professor, speaking on Agent Orange
- **April 14** – Student entries in Essay Contest

Inside the Chapter:

- **Quilts of Valor:** Remember – if you would like a quilt, you have to come to our monthly meetings.
- **“Reflection” poster available**
- **Mugs** (15 oz, logo on both sides) which you can have for a donation of \$10 or more.
- **Embroidered shirts** with our Chapter info and the VVA logo. The shirts can be ordered with or without your name for a donation of \$35 or more. **(See Gregg Conroy)**

Meetings:

- Our next scheduled membership meeting is set for January 13, 2025, 5:30PM, Williamson County Enrichment Center
- Our next scheduled Board meeting is on Wednesday, December 18, 1:30, at the Williamson County Enrichment Center (upstairs). Members are always welcome to attend and silently observe the board meetings.

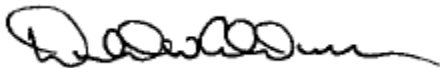
Thank you to all who financially support our chapter.

Benediction – (Pastor Amber Armistead)

Please stay for a group photo.

Anything else for the good for the order?

Respectfully submitted:



Chapter Secretary

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Chapter 1140

9 December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Appendix 1 – Special Guests for today’s meeting

Pastor Ronnie Johnson – Franklin Community of Faith Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Amber Armistead – The United Methodist Church

Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson

President of Vietnam Veterans of America TN State council Don Smith

Cumberland Valley Quilters Pat McMahon

Owner & Editor, Williamson County Herald – Derby Jones

Senior Staff Writer Williamson County Herald – Carole Robinson

Williamson County Enrichment Center – Anthony Fox

Senior Producer and Host of WAKM “Hometown Radio Show” Tom Lawrence

Owners of the Fitzgerald Freedom Ranch – Amy & Marty Fitzgerald

Founders of Honor Our Veterans – Tom Freeman & Don Belton (& wife Irene)

Author of 77 Letters Susan Hunter

VA Medical Center, Nashville – Don Fields

Music City AACA (Veterans Car Show)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| ○ Randy Shemin | ○ Richard Clements |
| ○ Len Kloc | ○ Rand Springer |
| ○ Richard Berg | ○ Jerry Dyer |

Donor of three electric scooters for use by Veterans – Bill Flite

Williamson County Veteran Service Officer – Ben Welch

Maury County Veteran Service Officer – Lisa von Hagen

Owner of Hope and Healing at Hillenglade – Jeniffer O’Neill

Compassus – Carrie Meehan

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1140
9 December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Appendix 2 – Accomplishments for 2024

March

- National Vietnam War Veterans Day Event – Franklin
- Williamson County Library Display

April

- JROTC Vietnam Medal Award – Ravenwood & Independence HS
- Main Street Festival – Franklin
- Mule Days – Columbia

May

- Armed Forces Day – Franklin
- Flag placement and removal – Mt. Hope Cemetery – Franklin
- Memorial Day Event – Franklin
- Memorial Day Event (1st) – Brentwood
- Organized luncheon and presentation of Quilts of Valor for 15 veterans (WWII thru Korea) at Goldton Assisted Living Home – Columbia
- Spoke at Rotary Club luncheon – Columbia
- WPLN Radio Interview

June

- Built wheelchair ramp for disabled Veteran – Columbia

July

- Franklin on the Fourth – Franklin
- Bluegrass Along the Harpeth – Franklin

August

- Survivor Benefits – Franklin
- Survivor Benefits – Columbia
- Williamson County Fair – Franklin

September

- Established essay contest for students 8th thru 12th grades (interview & write about Vietnam Vet)
- Established \$1,500 Scholarship for graduating JROTC Seniors in 8 High Schools (Williamson & Maury Counties)
- Fourth Annual Veterans Car Show

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 1140

9 December 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Participated in Tennessee First Lady “Tennessee Serves” celebration at Governor Residence
- Toxic Exposure Town Hall – Franklin

October

- 7th Annual VetFest – Brentwood
- Toxic Exposure Town Hall – Columbia
- PumpkinFest – Franklin
- 50th Commemoration Pinning Ceremony of 6 Vietnam / Vietnam-era veterans on river cruise in France

November

- Franklin Family Day
- Flag Placement & Removal – Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery McCrory Lane
- Veterans Day Parade – Franklin
- Veterans Day Parade – Columbia
- Veterans Day Event (1st) – Brentwood
- Chapter member spoke at Thompson Station Middle School
- Participated in presentation of Omar Bradley Award to Tennessee First Lady, Maria Lee, for her continued support of veterans and first responders

Multiple / Ongoing

- Weekly visits to Goldton Assisted Living Home – Spring Hill
- Weekly visits to The Reserve Assisted Living Home – Spring Hill
- Tennessee State Veterans Home Visit (Murfreesboro) – monthly
- WAKM Radio Interviews – monthly

Chapter Donations for 2024

Spring Hill Church of Christ Food Pantry
Maury County VSO Food Bank
Working Dogs for Vets
The Well – Spring Hill Food Bank
GraceWorks – Franklin Food Bank
DAR – Wreaths Across America
Operation Standdown – Nashville & Columbia
Matthew 25
Repairs for Veterans rental house
Cumberland Valley Quilters
VetLinx

Homes for our Troops
Leave No Veteran Behind
Veterans Treatment Court (Williamson County)
Fitzgerald Freedom Ranch
American Legion Post 215 Restoration Project
Susan Hunter – Author “77 Letters”
VFW Post 4969 picnic tables
Hope and Healing at Hillenglade
VVA / TSC North Carolina Hurricane victims
TOTAL \$60,436