

May 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order** -,Curtis Jefferis, Raechel Manley, Joy Robinson, Greg Robinson, Ky Washington, Dean Beiber, Scott Lee, Tim Gaynor .
 - a. Meal Discount - provided by Serenity Hospice & Cargill
 - b. Review and Approval of April minutes and may agenda - approved.
2. **Guest Speaker** - Curtis Jefferis with South Hutchinson VFW educating about the history of Memorial Day. Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. In 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month, Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. People wear red and/or a poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem.
 - a. 10AM on Saturday at the Arlington Cemetery is the Memorial presentation by South Hutchinson VFW
 - b. 11AM on Memorial Day is Hutchinson VFW's presentation - no additional information available
 - c. 3:00PM on Friday, May 28th at the Lyons, KS Cemetery folks will be gathering to place flags on graves.
3. **Known Veteran Needs**
 - a. Veteran who needed steps was handled by the Hutchinson American Legion.
 - b. Veteran who needed wiring updated in Lyons has not yet ordered the changes.
4. **Subcommittee reports**
 - a. Veteran Education/Engagements - Upcoming is Veteran & Caregiver Resource Fair in Hutchinson, KS and online drawing.
 - b. Honor Flights - 5 flights are scheduled for late spring tentatively as well as 2 charter flights on Southwest for October. Micki was not present to give an update on fundraisers and the booth was cancelled at the resource fair. Facebook page shares this - Do you have the smoke it takes to take home this Championship

Belt?! Secure your team spot now in the 3rd Annual Ted Fitzmier Memorial BBQ Cook-Off August 14 at Maize City Park. It's a 3 meat competition with separate stick/coal and pellet/propane/electric categories. Event also features a Car Show, Live Bands ALL DAY , Pin Up Contest, Jr. Cook-Off, Corn Hole Tournament and more - all to send veterans on their KHF trip to DC!! Entry forms for everything are right on the website, so get signed up!
<https://tbgmt5.wixsite.com/tfmco>

- c. Suicide Prevention - VA Suicide Prevention as well as Reno County Suicide Prevention Coalition will both be at the resource fair.
 - d. RED Friday - Flea Market in June is scheduled for sale of RED Friday Shirts and promotion of the online giveaway.
5. **Action Plan Updated** - see attached..
 6. **Old Business** - none
 7. **New Business** - Nominations for Vice President, Secretary, and Communications Chair needed.
 8. **Organizational Announcements** -
 - a. July 27th is Korean War Dinner put on by Hutchinson and South Hutchinson VFW groups.
 - b. Ky Washington with Hutchinson Community College shared about their coordination of the GI Bill at the JUCO. He will speak at a future meeting.
 9. **Closing** - Next Meeting - Hutchinson Community College June 11th at noon with Scott Lee from Futurity First speaking on supplemental support for veterans.