



Angeles City Post 2485  
District 7 (Philippines)  
Department of Pacific Areas  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

**General Membership Meeting**

**08 February 2017**

**OPENING CEREMONIES:** Commander Smith called the meeting to order at 1400 hours in the Post Home. Opening ceremonies were held in accordance with VFW Ritual. Twenty-two (22) members were present. Adjutant Chaplin assumed duties as Post Chaplain for this Meeting. Assistant Adjutant Andrejck assumed Officer of the Day duties for this Meeting.

**DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS:** Commander Smith recognized the following distinguished Members:

Past National Council Members: **Tom Elliott, Bob Zaher**  
Department of Pacific Areas Chief of Staff: **Bob Zaher**  
District VII Chief of Staff: **Bob Zaher**  
Past Department Commanders: **Tom Elliott, Bob Zaher**  
Past District VII Commanders: **Bob Zaher, Carl Burke**  
Past Post 2485 Commanders: **Bob Zaher, Carl Burke**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

<b>Commander</b>	Norman Smith	Present
<b>Sr. Vice Commander</b>	James Collins	Present
<b>Jr. Vice Commander</b>		
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Mike Compton	Present
<b>Adjutant</b>	Gerald Chaplin	Present
<b>Chaplain</b>		
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Lynn Travers	Present
<b>Surgeon</b>	Anthony Grimm	Present
<b>Trustee One-Year</b>	Charles Dwyer	Excused
<b>Trustee Two-Year</b>	Tom Aldrich	Excused
<b>Trustee Three-Year</b>	Barry Larson	Excused
<b>Service Officer</b>	Warren Marr	Present
<b>Officer of the Day</b>	Eric Zarriello	Excused

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:** Chairman Wilsey stated there were six (6) new applications for membership for period ending 7 February 2017:

Name	Type	Eligibility	Recruiter
(1) Fred Santizo	LN	Korea Svc	Wilsey
(2) Manuel Diwa	LN	ACM,KDSM, GWOT Exp	Wilsey
(3) Willie Harris	LT	SWASM	Wilsey
(4) Jon Tucker	LN	KDSM, AFEM	Wilsey
(5) Rogelio Medina	N	ICM, GWOT Exp	Wilsey
(6) David Jones	N	NEXM	Wilsey

Chairman Wilsey made a motion, seconded by Comrade Andrejcik, that the six (6) applicants be accepted for membership in our Post. **Motion Passed.**

**READING OF MINUTES:** Adjutant Chaplin made a motion, seconded by Comrade Zaher, that the 4 January 2017 General Membership Meeting Minutes be accepted as posted, subject to correction. **Motion Passed.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Adjutant Chaplin briefed the VA “Camp Lejune Presumptive Final Rule” message which is posted on the bulletin boards. He mentioned the VFW National “A Guide to Our National and Local Efforts to Support America’s Veterans, Service Members and Their Families”. This quick guide is available on the VFW National Website. A copy is on file with the Post Adjutant.

**TRUSTEES’ REPORT:** Adjutant Chaplin reported that Trustee Larson had sent text message stating the Quartermaster had been audited and found to be in balance.

**QUARTERMASTER’S REPORT:** Quartermaster Compton gave report for the month ending 31 January 2017. Motion was made by Comrade Compton, seconded by Comrade Grimm, for the financial reconciliation be accepted as presented and audited. **Motion Passed.**

Any Post 2485 member who wishes to see Quartermaster documents may do so with the approval of the Post Commander.

#### **REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:** Comrade Collins – No report.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER:** Vacant

**JUNIOR PAST POST COMMANDER:** Comrade Burke – No report

**CHAPLAIN:** Vacant

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:** Comrade Travers – Reminded Membership of the Annual Philippine Immigration requirement for Alien Registration due before 5 March 2017. Visit the local Philippine Immigration office to accomplish this requirement.

**SURGEON:** Comrade Grimm reported that Tony Houston conducted Tricare assistance each Monday during the month of January. Mr. Houston helped file 14 claims and answered 12 Tricare related questions. No individuals required help with DS logon or the Tricare overseas web site. 131 persons were admitted to The Medical City (TMC)- Clark under Tricare/VA programs during the month. Comrade Grimm, along with Comrade Larry Martin, a VFW Member and Retired US Army Chaplain, visited nine (9) patients receiving care under Tricare/VA at TMC. Comrade Larry Martin met with a Veteran who is suffering with anxiety issues on two occasions to help the individual and his wife find activities that may lessen the individual’s anxieties. This is following the National Commander-in-Chief’s plan for VFW posts worldwide to have long term commitment to assist fellow comrades who may have daily life issues affecting them or their families.

**CASUALTY ASSISTANCE OFFICER:** Comrade McAuliffe reported for the month of January 2017:

**Casualties:**

The Casualty Assistance Office, during the month of January, recorded a total of three (3) American deaths in Pampanga Province.

Three (3) Veterans: One (1) was a VFW Member and American Legion Post 123 Member, one (1) Veteran from Subic area and one (1) from Bulacan. One (1) non-Veteran, a Filipino American in Pampanga.

There were no unreported deaths in the month of January 2017 that would require notification of the Casualty Assistance Officer.

There is currently one (1) Veteran from Subic, currently in storage at a local funeral home, that is unclaimed and awaiting a decision by Tri-care to where or not they will pay the hospital bill. The funeral home is awaiting the clearance from the Embassy to bury as an unclaimed indigent foreigner. If no clearance is received, he will be buried by Philippine sanitation laws upon notification from a local city hall of a burial date.

One non-veteran remains that is claimed but his will has been challenged by his wife. The U.S. Embassy has issued a stop order while awaiting the Philippine Probate Court to confirm that the will is valid before authorizing the burial. Individual is currently in storage at a local funeral home. The funeral home is awaiting the clearance from the Embassy to bury as unclaimed indigent foreigner. If no clearance is received, he will be buried by Philippine sanitation laws upon notification from a local city hall of a burial date.

**Disposition:**

Five (5) Veterans were buried at Clark Veterans Cemetery. No (0) Veterans were returned to U.S. for Burial

**Will / Lawyer Assist:**

The next schedule Lawyer Assistance is on hold due to a recent ruling by the U.S. Embassy on the requirements and validity of having a Philippine Will, if there is a Next-of-Kin. Also, the U.S. Embassy ruling states that all Final Wills will have to be probated here in the Philippines or in the U.S., if challenged.

Chairman McAuliffe provided packets or assistance to four (4) Veterans, one (1) non-veterans and eight (8) foreign nationals in the preparation of their final arrangements and burial.

Chairman McAuliffe conducted weekly visits of local Funeral Homes to find or assist Families of fallen Comrades in the funeral and burial arrangements

**SERVICE OFFICER:** Comrade Marr – In conjunction with Department of Pacific Areas Service Officers: Inquiry's -- 92; Interview's pre-screening walk-ins – 65; appointments made – 75; widows benefits and burial reimbursement – 2

Mentioned coordination with the Australian RSL in assisting a child who was born with no rectum to assist with payment toward operations for this child.

**SAFETY OFFICER:** Comrade Ryan – No report.

**ROVING AMBASSADOR:** Comrade Prinz – No report.

**LIBRARY:** Comrade Turner – No report.

**HISTORIAN:** Comrade Metherell / Comrade Johnson – Comrade Metherell and Comrade Kempski briefed on the to date efforts of the POW/MIA Search Group. They mentioned the on-going diggings on Palawan and their efforts to locate remains. They displayed numerous artifacts already uncovered, including dishes, silverware, bullet, canteen, that were uncovered during the diggings. Comrade Kempski thanked all who donated funds to assist the Search Group.

**WEBMASTER:** Comrade Harcourt – No report. *Resigned 4 February 2017.* Notified Post via email message. On file.

**BUDDY POPPY:** Comrade Travers – No report

**SEAM SQUIRREL:** Comrade Korder – No report.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 485:** Scoutmaster LaBenne – No report.

**COMRADE OR FAMILY OF A COMRADE IN DISTRESS:** None reported.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**POST HOUSE COMMITTEE:** No report at this Meeting. See the PHC Meeting Minutes, 7 February 2017, for the complete update of the PHC and the status of on-going and completed projects.

The PHC Minutes are posted on the Member bulletin board and may be viewed at:

<http://www.vfwpost2485.com/VFWPHCMinutes.html>

**MEMBERSHIP:** Chairman Wilsey reported that total membership currently stands at 1651 of which 1581 are Life Members. This represents 99.52% of last year end figure (1659).

**CHILDREN'S OPERATION PROGRAM:** Chairman Wilsey reported five (5) operations at Manila Hospital. Payments pending.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Chairman Zaher reported the completion of one hundred sixty-seven (167) community activity projects this past month in the following categories:

Post Members assisted at Boy Scout training

Veterans Burials

Post hosted AA Meetings

Post Service Officer has continued to reach out and help Veterans

Post member as Santa Claus distributed gifts to Children

Chairman Zaher thanks all Comrades for your generous donations and to please keep up all the good work in the Community.

**HOSPITAL:** Chairman Grimm – Reported 131 admissions to Medical City under Tricare/VA. He visited 9 individuals at Medical City-Clark along with Comrade Larry Martin.

**CEMETERY/GRAVE DIGGERS:** Chairman Smith provided the following report:

- 1) Our Burial Assistance Program, wills and testaments portion, has hit a legal snag and is suspended pending a ruling from American Citizens Services, US Embassy, Manila. We are working to resolve the issue with our burial assistance lawyer to prevent an increase in indigent veterans as wills can be contested and sent to probate court. We continue to work with families to provide proper and timely burial for veterans.
- 2) All veterans are encouraged to have a clean and readable copy of their DD214 on file both at home and with their veteran's organization. Not finding a deceased veteran's DD214 causes delays in burial and other benefits. We are working a source for retrieving DD214s, as needed, for burial purposes.

3) Significant Activities (5):

- 3 Jan - VFW Post 2485 provided interment burial services and military honors for Earnest Booker, MSgt, USAF at Clark Veterans Cemetery.
- 5 Jan - VFW Post 2485 provided interment burial services and military honors for Robert Brooks, PVT, USMC at Clark Veterans Cemetery.
- 6 Jan - VFW Post 2485 provided interment burial services and military honors for Robert Newkirk, SSgt, USAF at Clark Veterans Cemetery.
- 20 Jan - VFW Post 2485 provided interment burial services and military honors for John Cotton, CPO, USN at Clark Veterans Cemetery
- 27 Jan - VFW Post 2485 provided interment burial services and military honors for Emil Ridgeway, PO1, USN at Clark Veterans Cemetery

4) As of 31 January 2017, Grave Digger life membership stands at 1373.

- Sergio Gonzalez VFW Post 10216
- Donald Meurett VFW Post 12146
- Roberto Manrique VFW Post 124
- Cesar Velasco VFW Post 124
- Pedro Asuncion VFW Post 124
- Rudy Acheta VFW Post 124
- Jaime Pulmano VFW Post 124
- John Allen VFW Post 124
- Joseph Catacutan VFW Post 124
- Dominic Osboro VFW Post 124
- Daniel Morgan VFW Post 124

- 5) Grave Digger Memberships will continue to be offered as a legacy commemorative program with donations used for indigent Veteran burials, upgrade of burial equipment, and to help defray the expenses of our annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

Information is available on the Post 2485 website: <http://www.vfwpost2485.com> and Clark Veteran's Cemetery Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ClarkVeteransCemetery>

**NATIONAL HOME:** Chairman Collins – No report.

**VOD/PP:** Chairman Collins – No report. Completed donation in November 2016.

**POST REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Adjutant Chaplin reported the committee had reviewed the six (6) applications for Membership and found all to be eligible and worthy.

**POST RELIEF COMMITTEE:** No report.

**VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN:** Adjutant Chaplin led the prayer for the National Home for Children.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

*Complete nomination process from 4 January 2017 Meeting and conduct election:*

Nominations were still open for the position of Post 2485 Junior Vice Commander. **No nominations were made.** Junior Vice Commander position remains vacant.

Nominations were still open for the position of Post 2485 Quartermaster. Mike Compton had been nominated at 4 January Meeting. No additional nominations made. Motion was made, seconded, and passed for the Adjutant to cast one unanimous vote for Comrade Compton as Post Quartermaster

Nominations were still open for the position of Post 2485 Chaplain. Tony Grimm had been nominated at the 4 January Meeting. Comrade Grimm withdrew his nomination and nominated Larry Martin. Comrade Martin accepted the nomination. No additional nominations made. Motion was made, seconded, and passed for the Adjutant to cast one unanimous vote for Comrade Martin as Post Chaplain.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Comrade Kempinski spoke of getting a budget line item in the Post 2485 budget to aid the funding of the POW/MIA Search Group. Commander Smith alluded to how this would be accomplished and for the Group to be added to the Post 2485 General Order.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

1. Comrade Zaher spoke on the Legacy Life Membership Program. What it does for VFW National, Department of Pacific Areas, and specifically Post 2485. He emphasized reasons for joining the Legacy Program and mentioned the amount of money the Post received this past month for the current 100+ Legacy Members.

2. Comrade Travers spoke of his inability to attend Post Meetings due to numerous illnesses and hospital stays. He thanked all who visited him in the hospital.

3. Comrade Collins briefed the Post 11447 Annual Beach Bash, Barrio Barretto, 10-12 February.
4. Adjutant Chaplin advised of the tentative date for the District VII Convention at Post 9892, Poro Point, San Fernando, LaUnion, as 18 April 2017. Confirmation will be sent via District Notification Letter.
5. Commander Smith spoke of a Historical Tour of Bataan conducted by Edna Binkowski. He mentioned the work of Edna Binkowski with History Tours, books, and her continuing efforts maintained Bataan Death March Markers. Comrade Schwalbe also contributed to this discussion and his personal experiences with Edna Binkowski and her tours and work maintaining Filipina-American History within the Philippines.
6. Commander Smith advised the Membership of the resignation of Post Webmaster, Micah Harcourt, via an email message to him and the Post.
7. Past National Council Member/Past Department Commander/Past District Commander Bob Zaher administered the Officer's "Oath of Obligation" to Comrades Compton and Martin.
8. The monthly free membership dinner winners were Comrades Len Leake and Ross Hood. These free meals are provided by the Management of the Lamp Post Restaurant and Bar.
9. The Post 50/50 drawing winner was Comrade Burke with 800 Pesos collected for the Post and 800 Pesos to the draw winner. The National Home for Children drawing winner was Comrade Schwalbe with 950 Pesos to the National Home and 950 Pesos to the draw winner.

**CLOSING CEREMONIES:** Closing Ceremonies were held in accordance with VFW Ritual. The meeting was adjourned at 1447 hours. The next General Membership Meeting will be 1 March 2017, at 1400 hrs. The Officers' Call will be held 27 Feb 2017, at 1100 hours.

**OFFICIAL:**

//signed//

Gerald Chaplin  
Adjutant

**APPROVED:**

//signed//

Norman Smith  
Commander

**DISTRIBUTION:**

File  
Bulletin Board  
District Adjutant  
Webmaster