



THE FWCVH/HPA NEWSLETTER

FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

An independent organization not under control nor authorized to act as an agent or representative of the VHPA.

March, 2018

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President's Message

On the day before Thanksgiving, in the middle of the night, I suffered a stroke. All that day, I was paralyzed on my right side and could not speak. When I woke up on Thanksgiving Day, I found I could move my toes and my fingers and could say a few words. I spent 3 more days in the hospital and then moved to a rehab hospital where I spent an additional 9 days before coming home. I have made great strides toward recovery and have finished my occupational therapy. So that being said, I plan to fulfill my obligation as President. As a side, I also married my girl friend of 16 years on January 11th.

I understand we now need only \$4,000 toward the \$25,000 needed to get the chapters name as the sponsor of the OH-23. That's down from the \$7,000 last reported. The helicopter is restored and ready to go in the museum and the museum is being built. Let's see if we can get four more people to donate a thousand dollars or even 40 people to donate a hundred dollars so we can get our name on the helicopter.

Also, our guest speaker, B. J. Pryor, was well received as she provided insight to the war from the point of view of a flight attendant shuttling military personal to and from the war zone.

On another front, the Ground Breaking Ceremony for phase I of the Main Building was a success. I found the Keynote speaker to be particularly interesting. He was B. G. Burkett, author of "Stolen Valor, - How the Vietnam Generation was robbed of its Heroes and its History". He has investigated many individuals including active military personal for falsely claiming service or exaggerating there heroics. He gave one example of a service man who actually served prison time for falsely displaying awards. Other men who claimed to be service members and were in the VA system had never even served in the military. I read where 10 million citizens claimed to have served in Viet Nam in the last census when in reality, only about 2.7 million actually did. Makes you wonder about the integrity of so many Americans.

The Phase I building will be an 18,000 square foot two story museum complete with three major galleries an some full time staff. The galleries are planned to be The Home Front featuring LBJ's oval Office, Fort Wolters information with the OH-23 on display, and an exhibit that includes a large tactical map of the Viet Nam region.

Notes from the Webmaster

Any member with an email address already registered in the database can create an account at our website in order to update their own information and read other members' information in the database. This is also the way to opt in to receiving the chapter newsletter by email instead of snail mail. To create an account go to the website home page <http://fvcvhp.org> and click on the "Login" menu item at the top right of the page. When the Login page appears click on the "Create Account" button and follow the

screen prompts.

Everyone's membership expiration date has been changed by moving it back one day, so that expiration dates are now December 31 instead of January 1. This is the same way motor vehicle registrations are shown and should eliminate some confusion. Your own expiration date will be printed next to your name on the newsletter address as 12-18 if you are current, or as 12-17 if your membership is not up to date. As of this writing (January 12, 2018) there are 26 people who's membership expired at the end of 2017 and 62 members who are up to date.

Ed Faught – webmaster and database maintainer

Quarterly Meeting Notice

Our next Chapter meeting will be Saturday, March 3rd, at Logan's Roadhouse in Hurst. The Executive Council will meet at 11 AM with General Membership meeting at 11:30 (or whenever the EC finishes its meeting.) Lunch, which includes coffee, tea, or a soft drink, is \$20 per person from a special rate menu. The beer is on you. Guests eat if you or someone pays. Peanuts are free and you can throw the shells on the floor. Address is 948 NE Loop 820, Hurst, TX. Phone is 817-590-0261. GPS data: 32°49'32.43"N 97°2'03.69"W.

Secretary's Stuff

For questions or actions about membership or dues, contact Gerald Brazell at brazell911@aol.com or 817-267-7596. For change of address and email issues, contact webmaster@fwcvhpa.org.

For Newsletter questions or inputs, please contact Herb Koenig at 817-801-1649 or email to herb@fwcvhpa.org.

Treasurer's Report

Wrapped up 2017 with 4,625.42 in the bank. They have a special CD that I will try to get into with some of these funds; pays 2 % ☺

Meeting Minutes

Executive Council Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2017

Members in Attendance: Pat Richardson, Jim Messinger, Rick Couch, Ed Faught, Adam Steczko, and Gerald Brazell.

The meeting was called to order at 1117 hours.

There was a particular unusual meeting. The president, and vice president were both MIA. Unsure of how to proceed, will agreed not to present any new business until the Chapter's by laws could be researched.

Ed Faught made a generous donation of \$1000 towards the chapter's sponsorship of the OH-23.

OLD BUSINESS

Jim presented the chapter finances.

The only "new" business discussed was the date that chapter members would be considered expired renewals. The current data is Jan 1 of the following year. There was discussion on changing the date to December 31st of the current year.

With no new or old business remaining, the meeting was adjourned at 1150 hours.

General Membership Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1213, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was one new member at the meeting, Jim. He introduced himself, and gave a brief history of his service.

Jim Messinger reminded the assembled of the ground-breaking event at the museum site on December 9th. It will be followed by Christmas at the wall. All are invited to attend.

The Museum will host a fund raiser on March 1st. Check the Museum web page for details, soon.

Our guest speaker was BJ Elliott Prior, a 40-year veteran stewardess with Continental Airlines who spent two years shuttling military personnel around the pacific theatre including Viet Nam. Her stories were touching, and I'm sure brought back memories of the trips to and from the Nam.

Jim made the appeal for the chapter to sponsor the OH-23. Just \$4,000 more, after Ed Faught's generous donation of \$1000.

Rick Couch reminded the membership of the upcoming reunion in Atlanta. Kansas City will be the host city for 2019.

Having no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1300.

Adam Steczko
Scribe

Fort Wolters Chapter of the VHPA Officers for 2017

Name	Office	
Herb Koenig	President	
Richard Gaurkee	Vice-President	
Don Ancelin	Immediate Past President	
Gerald Brazell	Secretary	
Jim Messinger	Treasurer	
Pat Richardson	Senior Member-at-Large	
Rick Couch	Midterm Member-at-Large	
Ed Faught	Junior Member-at-Large	