BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brown County

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VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE
Bernie Erickson, Chair
Ed Koslowski, Vice Chair
Louise Dahlke, Rosemary Desisles,
Lynn Geiser, Jim Haskins,
John Maino, Delores Pierce,
Duane Pierce, Tracy Rosinski, Joe Witkowski

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1726

VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016
4:30 pm
Room 200, Northern Building
305 E. Walnut Street

****NOTE LOCATION***

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Invocation.
3. Approve/Modify Agenda.
4. Approve/Modify Minutes of December 15, 2015.
5. Presentation re: Honor Rewards Program.
6. Possible Discussion re: 2016 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.
   6A 25th Anniversary of Desert Storm?
7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.
8. Comments from Carl Soderberg.
9. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Dahlke, Desisles, Haskins, Geiser, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).
10. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.
11. Adjourn.

Bernie Erickson, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda. Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Jerry Polus, Rosemary Desisles, Carl Soderberg, Lynn Geiser, Joe Witkowski, Tracy Rosinski
EXCUSED: Ed Koslowski

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1725

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of November 17, 2015.**

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At this time the rules were suspended by Chair Erickson to allow Jim Haskins to give his report under Item 8.

5. **Possible Discussion re: 2016 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**
5A. 25th Anniversary of Desert Storm.

Items 5 and 5A were discussed together. Chair Erickson noted that 2016 marks the 25th anniversary of Desert Storm and he thought it would be nice to honor Desert Storm veterans at the 2016 Fair event. He felt that there would be a good, solid turnout for this and would like to see it be a special event. The event will be held on August 20, 2016.

Motion made by Jerry Polus, seconded by Duane Pierce, to honor Desert Storm veterans at the 2016 Military Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

CVSO Jerry Polus reported on the Honor Rewards Program that was discussed several months ago. The Honor Rewards Program is sponsored by Fidlar Technologies and is a community service made available through the County's land and public records office to thank and acknowledge veterans for their sacrifices to our country. The program allows veterans in the community to sign-up to receive an Honor Rewards Card and use this card to receive discounts and benefits at local participating retailers, restaurants and other businesses. Polus noted

that Brown County Executive Troy Streckenbach is in favor of the county participating in this program as it is a year-round program. Polus continued that a representative from Fidlar Technologies will attend the next meeting to talk more about the program. He felt the program was a win-win situation as it provides discounts to veterans and also allows good PR to businesses. Polus will invite people from the Chamber and business associations to attend the meeting to learn about the program and what they can do to help develop it in this area. A discussion was held regarding the local business associations and Chambers and Polus will contact all of them to invite them to the presentation so that they can promote the program throughout all areas. Contacts will include the Green Bay Area Chamber, De Pere Chamber, Jeff Mirkes, Wrightstown Chamber, On Broadway, Advance Business Center, Military Avenue Business Association, Pulaski Chamber and Howard Suamico.

Erickson suggested the possibility of distributing CDs with the Power Point presentation on it for any group that is not able to have representation at the meeting. Polus felt that participating in this program would eliminate the need to solicit businesses for Veterans' Day offers because it is a year-round program. Erickson added that a brief outline of the program could be given at different events along with the opportunity for people to sign up for the program on the spot.

Polus concluded by reporting that they have a new staff member in their office. Thomas Doyle, a retired Air Force veteran was working at the VA Clinic in Security before coming to work in the Veterans Office. He is off to a great start and replaces Bonnie Fermanich who has retired.

7. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Soderberg noted that they have been receiving calls and letters recently regarding the VA Caregivers Support Program. The program provides stipends, travel expenses, health services and counseling, training and respite care for family members taking care of veterans. At this time, this applies only to post 9/11 veterans and there is currently a bill to expand this program in stages to all veterans who have caregivers. The DAVs throughout the area are making a big push for this bill.

8. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Dahlke, Desisles, Haskins, Geiser, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

-Haskins reported that the remains of SFC Billy D. Hill, age 21, of Wichita, Kansas, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors on December 17, 2015.

-Erickson talked briefly about donation funds that accumulate in the donation account. He said that he has worked with Director of Administration Chad Weininger and Internal Auditor Dan Process to be sure that the remaining funds do not revert back to the general fund at the end of the year but instead are allowed to accumulate to be used as needed.

-Desisles reported that she has spoken with the Green Bay Yacht Club regarding holding the Veterans' Day event there rather than at the VFW. She will be meeting with the Yacht Club soon and will keep this Subcommittee advised. Desisles is looking for a new location for the Veterans' Day event for the reasons that were discussed at the last meeting, namely the lack of room at the VFW. Rosinski felt that before making a commitment to move locations, a discussion should be had with the VFW to see what options would be available to improve at that location. Erickson advised Desisles to go ahead and meet with the Yacht Club to see what the options may be but not to make any commitments at this time. Desisles said she does not intend to make any changes without discussing them with this group first.

-Geiser reported that she is part of the Milwaukee Women's Advocacy group and they are currently working on doing a sister assistant program to assist women veterans. This program will be based in Milwaukee but will be available in the Appleton and Green Bay area as well. The program will include providing mentors to women veterans who may need some assistance.

Geiser also reported that she has also restarted the women empowerment military program at the Volunteer Center and she noted that they have received a $3,000 grant. Any woman who has a military background or has a spouse or family member in the military is invited to participate and their first event will be held on January 21 and will be a painting and wine event.

-Pierce reported that the Veterans' Center on Ashland Avenue will be holding an open house on December 16 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Additionally, Pierce reported that he received an e-mail that there will be an Agent Orange town hall meeting at the Vietnam Veterans of America meeting following this meeting. The presentation will be made by Mike Dempsey and Dick Lembeck. All veterans are invited to spread the word and attend. A short discussion regarding Agent Orange followed Pierce's report.

-Rosinski reported that Heartland recently held a food drive for the Veterans' Manor and 10 – 15 bags of food was collected and donated. She also noted that they distributed cards at the Veterans' Manor that had been made by a group of students at Washington Middle School which were greatly appreciated by the veterans.

-Witkowski reported that the flag at Ryan Funeral Home is being flown in December to honor Frank Wood, a US Army veteran. Witkowski also shared his feelings that there seems to be almost too much veterans' recognition. He said that there are often several events held on the same day and if a veteran is not able to attend everything, some veterans feel guilty because they cannot make them all. Witkowski felt there is no end as the veterans gave up their life for us, but there seems to be so many patriotic remembrance ceremonies going on. He also shared several newspaper articles he had seen in the paper recently regarding veterans.

Witkowski continued that he has been thinking about the Veterans Day event at the VFW and he felt that this Subcommittee needs to carefully consider and review the range of options that we have in providing door prizes at the breakfast each year. The prizes do not seem to achieve the anticipated results for the Subcommittee which is to be recognized and he noted that door prizes are given out and we should not have an ego of being able to say that we should be appreciated for doing what we do. He felt that those who attend the breakfast probably think that the VFW gives out all of the prizes. Witkowski noted that the VFW does hand out their own prizes, plus sells paddles. He noted that one option may be to give more prizes at the Appreciation Day at the Fair and get prizes that are worth over $50 each. He said the Fair event is the Subcommittee's own event. Further, he felt that the event at the VFW is chaotic and the Subcommittee does not get appropriate recognition for being there. Desisles indicated that they are looking into other options and things should improve in the future, one way or another.

Witkowski also felt that Subcommittee should invest in a camera to take pictures at the events they take part in so they can be forwarded to the newspaper for publication to let the public know what the Subcommittee does. Erickson noted that he has submitted a number of photos to be published over the years but they are never published.

Polus stated that he concurred with Witkowski's wisdom regarding the Veterans Day event. He felt that the Honor Rewards program would be a better effort for the Subcommittee to take part in, especially since it is a year-round program.

Witkowski also mentioned the change in the airport name and he felt that this Subcommittee should make it known that they approve the change to add Green Bay to the name.

Motion made by Joe Witkowski, seconded by Duane Pierce, that this Subcommittee supports the name change of the airport. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Erickson recalled that one of the things discussed at the last meeting was to have a sign that could be posted at events to help identify the Subcommittee. Erickson has found someone that will make an 11"x 17" sign for the Subcommittee.

10. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Lynn Geiser to adjourn at 5:26 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary