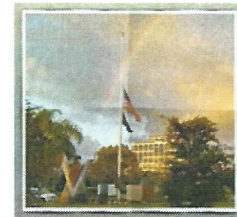




MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 1881
BRADENTON, FL 34206
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Minutes of the November 21, 2019 Meeting
Manatee County Veterans Council Monthly Meeting
Location: American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24, Bradenton, Florida

1. **Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Chairman Edwin Robinson**, with all in attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a prayer from the Chairman.
2. **Chair Comments:**
 - A. **Nov. 6th Senior Softball Challenge** did not happen due to lack of participants.
 - B. **Veterans Day Activities were a huge success. Both the Parade and Ceremony** were well received and accomplished. Special recognition was given to Bob Green, Lisa Reese and Don Courtney for their work and leadership.
 - C. **Our Veteran of the Year, Les Martin**, was recognized and congratulated by the membership.
 - D. **Our Auxiliary of the Year, Theresa Cobb** was recognized and congratulated by the membership.
3. **Guest Speaker: Lori Ann Devine, CEO, Ty-Mar Horses**
Lori spoke to us about **Ty-Mar Horses**, which is an **Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT)** non-profit program located in **Myakka City**. It is primarily for those suffering from PTSD or coping with Tragedy. Veterans and First Responders are especially welcomed, as are civilian “warriors” coping with physical, mental or emotional trauma.
4. **Roll Call & Minutes: Roll Call** was not conducted, but a Quorum was established by the Chair, by virtue of the sign-in sheets. **October Minutes** were approved unanimously by a voice vote.
5. **Reports**
 - A. **Treasurer’s Report** was presented and unanimously approved for review. **Treasurer Margaret Smelser** notified the membership of receipt of our long-awaited Non-Profit designation renewal. The Chair and Vice Chair commended her work and mentioned that we now can collect \$5,000 in promised donations that were pending our non-profit status certificate.
6. **Primary Representative Reports**
 - A. **National Cemetery: John Rosentrater** discussed:
 - (1) the large turn-out for the recent active duty member burial
 - (2) **Wreaths Across America will take place at 10 AM December 14, 2019**. Arriving early is suggested.
 - (3) Volunteers are needed for the **removal of wreaths** from the cemetery on **January 11th, 2020**. Bringing a broomstick is suggested to more easily carry the wreaths.
 - B. **USF: Carlos Moreira** mentioned an upcoming **Dec.17th Meeting on Employment** to be held.
 - C. **Turning Points:** The Nov. 2019 Stand Down was very well attended with 224 participants obtaining services and over \$23,000 in fines being set aside.
7. **Old Business - Vice Chair Don Courtney** mentioned that we will begin planning for Memorial Day 2020 activities.

7. Standing Committees

A. Legislative: Brian Russ mentioned that Punta Gorda will have their Veterans Festival May 28-30, 2020 and that the VA's start of its Blue Water Navy Act services may be delayed.

B. Veterans Park: Jim Klocke discussed the possibility of having the flags in the Park displayed more often.

8. New Business:

A. Chairman Robinson mentioned that 2020 dues (\$50) are due and that a 2020 list of representatives be provided by each organization.

9. Around the Room: Members mentioned various programs & projects.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by the Chair at 12:05 PM.

Next Meeting: There will be no meeting of the Council in December due to the Christmas/New Year Observances. Therefore, the next meeting of the MCVC will be Thursday January 16, 2020 at 11:00 AM at American Legion Kirby Stewart Post #24.

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Carey

William F. Carey, Secretary