

Meeting Minutes September 2026

Meeting opened at 1900 with 12 members present.

Guests: Joe Smith – PSC at meeting for District Inspection.

Officer Roll Call: All officers were present except the Judge Advocate, 1 Year Trustee, 2 Year Trustee and Guard who were excused.

New Memberships: Three Membership applications were read; William Chestnut, Jacob Larimore, Rosy Lopez. QM made a motion to approve. Motion was seconded by Frank D. and passed with no discussion. William Chestnut was present and was sworn in. Commander then had him introduce himself to the membership and all members of the post present introduced themselves to him as well.

Minutes: As minutes were emailed to all members and spare copies were available, motion to dispense with reading of the minutes was made by Frank D. and seconded by Darrell M. Motion passed.

Reading of the Bills: None.

QM Monthly Report: QM gave his monthly report of expenditures & receipts. As the report had been audited, the QM made a motion to accept the monthly report. Motion was seconded by Darrell M. Motion passed.

Community Service/Service Officer – Larry Gerlt:

- Veteran Resource Fair at Main BX, 12 Nov, 1100-1300.
- Nebr. VA office in Main BX has qualified VSO! Available for walk ins and scheduled appointments for filing benefits claims.
- Just to ensure everyone is aware, as of 1 January 2026 all veterans with a VA disability rating, to include 0%, are eligible to have the state vehicle tax waived on 1 vehicle. Tax is based on the MSRP of the vehicle. The first year you do this, you MUST go to the State Vehicle Registration Office to register that Vehicle. After that, it will appear as an option when registering online. If you purchase a vehicle with a higher MSRP, you will have to go back to the State Vehicle Registration office to get it changed. Must apply within 30 days of purchase or before renewal date.

Members in Distress:

- Candy Woodward (Aux.): Bad MV Accident, now able to stand on one leg.
- Marty Shelton: doing well but still in speech therapy from stroke.
- Gary Tow's wife is in hospice with cancer.
- JD Glenn diagnosed with colon cancer, undergoing treatment.
- Benjamin Beans is home on bed rest per doctor's orders.
- Mike Papay stayed home due to having a head & chest cold with a lot of coughing.
- Mary Carlson just had knee surgery and is recovering.

Members Deceased: None.

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Committee Reports:

Membership - Larry Gerlt: We are now at 91.57% and must reach 103%. We need 67 more to accomplish this onerous goal! Next membership drive is Oct 3rd. We meet at VI on Fort Crook Rd at 8:30. I provide a short training while waiting on breakfast order paid by the Post. I furnish a pocket clip board with all that is needed. Will email previous Wednesday. If no one responds, I skip breakfast & go alone. If you have any family members, coworkers, neighbors or friends who are veterans and may qualify for the VFW, ask them if I can contact them about joining and pass me their contact info (at least name & phone number, address and email is good to have.) And please remember our Auxiliary – spouses, children 16 or older, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, and siblings are eligible!

Blood Drive/VA & Chaplain Report - Frank Durham: VA recommends getting flu, pneumonia, covid & shingle shots. Fisher house is doing AOK.

Surgeon - James Carmona: NR

POW/MIA - William Guy: Colleen Shine spent decades searching for her father, Lt. Col. Anthony Shine, a U.S. Air Force pilot who vanished over Vietnam in 1972. Her journey from grieving child to determined advocate ultimately brought him home. The 33-year-old airman was dedicated to his family and country. Colleen was 8 years old when her father left for his second deployment to Vietnam.

Two months after saying goodbye, the family received devastating news. During a mission over Vietnam, Lt. Col. Shine's Corsair vanished beneath cloud cover. "He told the wing man 'I'm gonna go beneath the cloud covering for reconnaissance, but you stay up here,'" Shine said. "And so he literally disappeared. Beneath the cloud covering."

Repeated search and rescue efforts failed to locate the crash site. Lt. Col. Anthony Shine was officially listed as Missing in Action. The Vietnam War had already taken a devastating toll on the Shine family. Anthony's younger brother John was killed two years earlier, in 1970.

Colleen Shine spent decades searching for her father, Lt. Col. Anthony Shine, a U.S. Air Force pilot who vanished over Vietnam in 1972. Her journey from grieving child to determined advocate ultimately brought him home. Now his story is on display at the Virginia War Memorial.

In 1995, 23 years after her father went missing, Colleen traveled to the jungles of Vietnam to search for answers after a crash site was discovered by the Joint Task Force Full Accounting which was the predecessor of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

"I was really thinking at that point they've done their best. I need to go over and make peace with this," Shine said. With the help of local villagers, she climbed to the site of a known crash. "I started finding pieces of aircraft on the surface of the ground," Shine said. "I brought bags of wreckage back down the mountain, and when I met with the villager, he handed me the helmet and I turned it over... and my dad's name was handwritten inside it," Shine said. Months later, Investigators with the Joint Task Force Full Accounting returned to the crash site. the remains of Lt. Col. Anthony Shine were positively identified through DNA.

Colleen's father received a long-overdue homecoming at Arlington National Cemetery.

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Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen/TOTY - Have taken Patriot Pen entries, Voice of Democracy entries and Teacher of the Year entries to schools that submitted to us last year. PP & VOD submission suspense date is 31 Oct.

Political Action - Matt Friesen: NR

Webmaster/Facebook - Rick Imgrund: NR

Graceland Park - Rick Imgrund: Lowered and raised the flags on Patriots' Day. Did some landscaping and cleaned the Post Memorial and Pvt Deml's grave marker, and the American Legion Memorial.

We remembered our National Home.

Correspondence – Thank you letters from our VFW Nat. Home and Red Barn School house.

Old Business

1. **Subj:** Eagle Scout Project **Content:** Had 6 post members and 1 from another post show up for interviews on 12 September at the DAV. Life Scout Powers had 2 teams conducting interviews. Interviews were recorded and will be submitted for the Congressional records after review. Very successful **Item closed.**
2. **Subj:** Korean War Veterans Coin Presentation. **Content:** We have 4 who qualify. Have received coins. Need to get them presented. **Item open.**
3. **Subj:** Airman's Attic **Content:** Offutt AFB – \$500 donation made. **Item Closed.**
4. **Subj:** Xmas Party **Content:** We usually get around 50 + - 5. Legion is proceeding with purchase of the Hall! We may or may not have a bar. If not bar, no alcohol as we would have to ask our guests to bring their own. We would only offer coffee and tea or lemonade. I move we plan our usual Xmas Party Awards banquet with a band/DJ. Motion was seconded by Darrell M. motion passed.

New Business

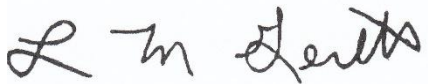
1. **Subj:** DAV - Bernie **Content:** Bernie was working full time prior to Nat. DAV closing the bar. Now she here just for our and other units' meetings. On Sept 12th, a Saturday, she missed her grandson's soccer match to be here for our Eagle Scout Interviews. QM made a motion we give her \$100 as a way of saying thanks. Motion seconded by Bernie. After discussion initiated by Frank D, motion was amended to get a thank you card and have it signed by members present at our October meeting to go with the check. Motion passed.
2. **Subj:** Annual Veteran Standdown **Content:** Standdown is an annual event being held in October this year instead of November and is where veterans in need get haircuts, winter clothing items, rucksacks/backpack and other needed items receive them for free. Our post and auxiliary participate each year. I move we donate \$250 to our auxiliary to purchase needed item for Standdown. Motion was seconded by Darrell and passed with no discussion.

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3. **Subj:** National Recognition as Aide de Camp for Darrell M. **Content:** While Darrell received a letter of recognition for this, National no longer provides the hat or pin that goes with it. The total cost of these two items is \$149.75 plus shipping. QM made a motion the post pay for these items. Motion was seconded by Frank D. and passed with no discussion.

Good of the Order (*All guests should be invited to speak*)

- Frank D.: Legion Post 331 has a special meeting on Oct 20th to vote on purchasing this building as National & State DAV has now blessed the sale. The DAV has a meeting on Oct 6th for their membership to approve the sale.
- Rick I.: If you have veteran on your license plate or driver's license, you're registered with the DMV.
- ENVH Bingo tomorrow night, 14205 Harrison Tull Dr. Show time is 6:15-6:30 PM and lasts about an hour.
- Poppy drive Oct 24th, Hy-Vee at 5305 Center St.
- District 10 Fall Conference & State Commander's & Auxiliary President's Home Coming is 10 & 11 October in Valentine.
- Big 10 Conference is 15-18 October in Muskegon, Michigan.
- Next District 10 meeting is 18 October, Post 2543, 501 1st Ave, Plattsmouth.
- PSC Joe Smith who was here for our annual District Inspection stated our post was one of the best, if not the top post in the state with our history of All State (to include 3 time Captain of the All-State Team & 5 National All American Post awards) in the past 12 years and that our post was in good working order.
- Our next meeting will be Wed., 28 October, 7 PM, here at the DAV.



Larry M. Gerlt
Quartermaster