

VSPA Points of Contact

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Business Meeting Minutes of 9 October 1999

President Kevin Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 0912 hours.

Don Poss gave the invocation.

Special Election: A special election for Vice-President was held due to the death of Ted Janiak (President). Kevin Fitzgerald (Vice-President) moved to the office of President to complete Ted's term of office. Mike Daoust (Past President and Trustee) presided over the election. There were two nominations offered: Larry Breazeale and Stephen Gattis. Mike Daoust made three calls for further nominations. There being none, Kevin Fitzgerald made a motion to close the nomination. Motion carried. Both candidates accepted the nomination. The nominee's retired from the room and the membership voted in the majority to elect Stephen Gattis to the office of Vice-President with his term to expire in October 2000.

The treasurer's report was given by Steve Ray, which covered the period 31 October 1998 to 31 September 1999. The balance was \$3205.97 for the period. A motion to accept the report was made by Terry Austin with a second from several members.

A motion to re-open the discussion on Life Memberships was made by Steve Gattis with a second by several. A discussion followed. An amended motion was made by Larry Breazeale to defer any discussion on Life Memberships until such time as the VSPA membership equals or exceeds 1000 members. Second by Tony Morris. Motion passed.

Jim Kelter requested a discussion on Association Dues - A motion was made by Joe Bouback to increase VSPA dues (beginning 1 January 2000) to \$15.00. Seconded by several members. Motion passed. Members were reminded that their family members are eligible for Associate Membership for \$5.00 per year.

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Reunion 2000 will be held in San Antonio, Texas as voted on at the 1998 reunion. A motion was made (Owen Lamb) to set the dates of the 2000 reunion as follows: 5-8 October 2000. Frank Ybarbo seconded the motion. It was requested that the President appoint a committee to lead the effort to organize the 2000 reunion. Steve Ray, John Langley and Don Graham were appointed. Steve Gattis made a motion to use "The Reunion Brat" to assist the VSPA in organizing the 2000 and Carlson Wagonlit Travel (owned by a VSPA member) to be used for airfare/travel arrangements. The motion was seconded by several. Motion passed.

Historian Report - Steve Ray reported the following:

1. VSPA members conducted a JJ Chestnut memorial service in Arlington, VA.

2. VSPA sponsored a ceremony at Lackland AFB, TX in February 1999 to honor Alonzo J. Coggins, Sgt., USAF (Ret). Sgt. Coggins receive the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal during the ceremony.

3. Research historian, Ken Record, found the names of 77 Air Force personnel (25 AP/SP) that died in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. These names were never included on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. A letter has been submitted to the Air Force. The Air Force has rejected the names for inclusion. Additional information will be submitted to the Air Force.

4. Ken Record identified one SP KIA, Horace Holbrook, that had received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" for days before he was a KIA. The only living next of kin had not been informed of this award. Ken Record and Steve Ray worked with Denton Lankford, Public Affairs 820th Security Police Group, Lackland AFB, Texas to obtain the awards. Denton Lankford obtained the Medals from the Air Force and organized a presentation at Maxwell AFB, Alabama with B. Gen. Richard Coleman. Due to health reasons of the next of kin, sister, the presentation could not be done. The Medals were mailed to Ken Record, who is to set up a local presentation ceremony in Jacksonville, Alabama.

5. On March 25, 1999, the 366th Security Forces Squadron, Mt. Home AFB, ID, dedicated the Gary L. Fuller Memorial Park VSPA member Lewis Barnett attended the dedication as the official VSPA representative. Lew had to drive a long distance to attend and his efforts on behalf of the Association is appreciated.

6. The Association continues to sponsor the Sgt. Louis Fischer Award, the highest award given at the Security Forces Academy at Lackland AFB, TX.

7. The Association has raised over \$1500.00 for the Security Police Museum at Lackland AFB through the sale of tee shirts. The money will be presented in the near future.

8. A letter was written to the Air Force Office of History, Dr. Richard Hallion, requesting his office conduct further research into the attack on Air Bases in Vietnam and Thailand. The Association has identified eight such cases that do not appear in the *Air Base Defense in the Republic of Vietnam Book*. (AUTHOR Roger P. Fox, who is a VSPA member).

A motion was made by Steve Ray and seconded by Larry Breazeale to have the VSPA Vice-President serve as the Public Relations Chairman of the Association. Motion passed.

Terry Morris, Membership Chairman, presented a report on membership.

John Langley wants to turn over the merchandise sales to the Association. This will be done when the Association has enough funds to purchase the stock of merchandise. Mike Daoust will lead the Association efforts.

Steve Ray reported that a \$250.00 donation was to be made to the guest speaker at 2000 hours on 10 October 1999. The speaker represented the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association and the money is to be used for their scholarship fund. Donation approved by the membership.

It was reported that if there are a minimum order of 20 rings with the QC logo could be made. A head count was taken with 13 members expressing an interest. Please notify Steve Gattis if you have an interest in purchasing the QC ring. The rings range in price from \$127.00 to \$400.00 depending on the material used.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion Passed. President Kevin Fitzgerald adjourned the meeting.

Steven F. Ray
Secretary/Treasurer