

Annual Meeting 1997

The annual business meeting of Vietnam Security Police Association was held on October 25, 1997 at Pensacola, Florida. The following are the minutes of that meeting.

Elections: Mike Daoust, vice-president, automatically moved up to the office of President as agreed upon at the 1996 election and John Langley automatically became a member of the Board of Directors. Ted Janiak was elected Vice President. Terry Morris (Membership Chairman), Steve Ray (Secretary/Treasurer), Steve Janke (Chaplain), and Vaughn Hull (Historian) were reelected into their respective offices. A new office was opened, Vice Membership Chairman, was created to assist Terry and Dale Terrell was elected into that position. If anyone desires to run for an office let Steve know as soon as possible.

1998 Reunion: The 1998 reunion will be held in Washington DC, October 9 - 12, 1998 with members arriving on the 8th. Mike Daoust is heading the reunion committee.

Casualties: The membership is asked to review the casualties list for missing names. This project will be on going, however, it is desired to be completed by October 1998. We will have a wreath laying ceremony in Washington. The list includes all losses in SEA, not just KIA's. The list will be published in the *Guardmount*, please review and provide Steve Ray with the names of anyone lost for any cause.

Louis H Fischer Award: This is the most prestigious award given at the Security Force Academy at Lackland AFB, Texas. The first award was presented by Owen Lamb Sr, VSPA member and VSPA member Robert G. (Skip) Tullgren presented the second one on November 5, 1998. Pictures on page of this *Guardmount*.

Security Police Museum: Several problems were discussed with the museum (1) who is on the Board of Trustees, (2) why AP's who received the Soldiers Medal (given before the Air Medal) were not included on the Scroll of Valor and (3) why was there not a list of AP/SP's

who have received the Purple Heart. Steve Ray was unanimously given permission to address these questions and try to get a member of VSPA on the board. Steve contacted Retired Colonel Albert Feldman by letter and he called Steve on the phone to discuss these issues. All of the current Board of Trustees are Vietnam veterans, the Soldier Medal recipients will be added to the Airman's Medal Scroll and Colonel Feldman agreed to put up a list of Purple Heart recipients. If you know of anyone who received either a Purple Heart or Soldier's Medal let Steve know so he can compile a list to forward to the museum.

Correspondence: A letter was sent to General Coleman, VSPA member, requesting his attendance at the 1998 reunion. A follow up will be sent four months prior to the reunion.

A letter from VSPA Johnnie Beasley requesting to be allowed to do the Charter Member certificates for VSPA. It was voted to allow him to do so.

Treasures Report: As of October 21, 1997 the organization had a balance of \$3927.34

Non-Profit Organization Status: It was discussed and decided that two legal opinions would be obtained by Mike Daoust and Olbert Hiatt. Their reports would be forwarded to Steve Ray for further action.

Gifts to Active Duty Squadron: It was decided to give the units that host our reunions \$200.00 to be for what ever they want. A check was sent to the 16 SFS Unit Morale Fund.

Supporting Members: It was decided to offer Supporting Memberships to family members of VSPA. It is our desire to strengthen the ties of the Association. Supporting Members will be non-voting members. Only family members may be Support Members. We have only one Associate Member who is conducting historical research for the Association. Associate members are non-voting members and are not automatically renewable.

Life Membership: It was voted to continue to allow only two year advanced memberships, no life membership.

VSPA History Book: This was discussed and tabled as a good idea to be considered at some future time.

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Misc. Items:

- Jack Roberts suggested that larger print be used in ads we send out - when available VSPA will print larger ads.
- David Williams requested reunion programs be mailed out in advance to attendees. This will be done.
- Ted Marshall requested that members of VSPA hand out brochures and make personal contacts to attendees of the moving Wall when it is in your area. Contact any officer for brochures
- Mike Daoust requested that additional banners be made for members to take to veteran gatherings. Tom Payne is checking on it. Billie Fitts asked that Thailand and Vietnam be on future banners.
- Members of VSPA sent a Certificate to Betsy Bigbie, owner of Betsy's Flowers and Gifts, 147 E. Montgomery Cross Roads, Savannah, GA 31406, (912) 927-6764. She donated the wreath that we placed at Wall South.
- Olbert Hiatt suggested that the Safeside organization be contacted since they are eligible for membership, he will be contact point since he is also a member of that organization.
- Mickey Reade and Dave Dobson were recognized for a job well done on the reunion and newsletter respectively.
- Jim Murray requested a moment of silence be held for our fallen comrades. A moment of silence was held and the meeting adjourned at 1510.

*Steven F. Roy
Secretary/Treasurer*