

OAK FOREST VETERANS COMMISSION

** Meeting **

DATE: Thursday March 17, 2022 at 19:30

Oak Forest City Hall Blue Room

Chairman: (X) Joe Pilch

Liaison to the city: (X) Paul Selman

Committee Members 11: () Chris Adams, (X) Ralph Chichester, (X) Dennis Mitzner, (X) Dave Moore, (X) John Perales, (X) Jim Pioth, () Don Snedden, () Tom O'Neill, () Jim Watson, () Rich Wojotowicz

Honorary Member:

Guest:

1. **Pledge of allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of the February minutes by Dennis Mitzner 2nd by Jim Pioth.
 - All members present approved, no nays.

4. **Liaison to the City Report Paul Selman:**

- VFW voice of Democracy contest Grace Pattara came in 5th.
- Update council on Veteran Commission projects.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Banners program honoring our (Oak Forest) Hometown Heroes is up and running. Request form is on the City of Oak Forest web site click on the banner icon each banner will cost \$75 and mounted on light posts in Oak Forest (Cicero & 159th street) from Memorial Day to 9/11 or Veterans Day for two years.
- Flag receptacle needs cleaning out and Don has friend to burn flags. Don will make sure flags will be retired in spring.
- FLEADH parade was Saturday March 5 thanks to Paul Selman and Dennis Mitzner for being color guard. Thanks to Don Snedden for donating flag carrying belts. Would not have made it without them, it was a bit windy.
- Paul and Joe will continue to talk with Tom Ceska about painting base of Nike Missile at Oak Forest Park District.
- Paul and Joe talked with Gerry Vankus about a Military Museum. He has a bunch of military uniforms and other memorabilia to share with all. He has outgrown his current building. He is hoping to acquire some land at the Oak Forest Medical Center to build a museum.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Trivia question: Why was there a spike on the top of the Picklehaube/Picklehelm (Helmet) worn by the Prussian and German Military?

Answer: Paul and I were told it was to be able to find the soldiers in the smoke. I guess we cannot believe everything we are told because...

Historynet.com explains it as, Napoleonic-era shakos offered virtually no head protection and were cumbersome to wear in wet conditions, as they easily soaked up rain. The *Pickelhaube*, therefore, was greeted as a practical modern invention. The new “leather helmets” or “helmets with spikes” gave soldiers’ greater head covering and visibility. The helmets did not fall off easily.

The distinctive spike on the *Pickelhaube* was supposed to function as a blade tip. It was designed to deflect sword blows aimed at the head. The spikes could be modified depending on soldiers’ battlefield duties and outfitted with plumes on formal occasions. The helmets could be easily modified to sport symbols of rank and affiliation.

7. **Once around the Table.**

Ralph Chichester - Shrimp boil at American Legion Post 615 Tinley Park having a fish boil Saturday March 19.

Dennis Mitzner – VFW is doing a day of service for Veterans

- o Abe Lincoln honor guard is back doing ceremonies again.
- o March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Day of remembrance.
- o Officer James Morrissey ‘End of Watch’ anniversary today March 17, 2014.

Dave Moore – He and his wife will try to find pictures on ancestry of our Oak Forest veterans that are memorialized at the Veterans Memorial.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** Adjourned at 20:30 by Dennis Mitzner 2nd by Jim Pioth.

All members present approved no nays.

Our next meeting is Thursday April 21, 19:30 in [Blue Room](#).

Meeting dates for 2022

January 20	February 17	March 17	April 21	May 19	June 16
July 21	Aug 18	Sept 15	Oct 20	Nov 17	Dec 15 No meeting

Dates and times could change with committee members approval.