

Mayor's Veterans Council**Monday, September 14, 2026, 1500/3:00 PM****City Hall, Room 208**

Members present: Mayor Jim Donchess; Lewis Chipola, VFW, Council Chairman; Doug Cotrau, DAV

Also present: Emily Vassar-Rivas, Mayor's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 1505/3:05 PM

Agenda Items

The first agenda item was a review of the 9/11 ceremony, held on the morning of Friday, September 11, 2026, at the West Hollis Street Fire Station, where a memorial for the fallen first responders is permanently installed. There were no issues to report.

The next item was a review of the upcoming Veterans Day Parade. John York of the American Legion, which is leading the parade planning this year, was not in attendance, but Chair Lew Chipola reiterated the need for clear parking restrictions in the Holman Stadium parking lot to accommodate the procession's lineup before step-off. E. Vassar-Rivas advised that J. York can email Parking to coordinate placement of cones or barriers, and she would connect them. No changes or additions were available to report.

Pearl Harbor Day is December 7, but the wreath-laying ceremony will be on the Sunday morning before, December 6. Since the Riverwalk project on the west side of the Main Street bridge is complete, the veterans will resume the tradition of using the bridge as the location for this ceremony.

Updates

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) rep Doug Cotrau had no updates.

VFW rep L. Chipola gave updates on the following:

- The annual flag retirement ceremony at Lost Cowboy Brewery, which also serves as a day-long fundraising event for Tunnels to Towers, happened recently, and it was another successful event
- The VFW and American Legion partnered with the City to install a flagpole at Dube Field along with the American flag; a ceremony was conducted for that as well

Mayor Donchess advised the group that a new flag has also been installed at Murray Field.

The meeting was adjourned at 1525/3:25 PM

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, at 1500/3:00 PM in Room 208 at City Hall