

The American Legion Department of Michigan

102<sup>nd</sup> Convention

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

9 July 2021

National Security and Foreign Relations Committee

The Department of Michigan National Security and Foreign Relations Committee was called to order in the DreamMaker Theater by Chairman Keith Wakefield at 10:32 am.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Districts in attendance: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19 ( Guests 15)

Committee Members present: Wakefield, Wotring, DeCarlo, Kailunis

Minutes of last meeting read by the Chair. Motion to accept by Dubay, Second by Roth.

POW/MIA Sub-Committee report provided by Hlavka (attached).

Reviewed proposed Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments. No action required by Committee.

PNC Spanagle addressed the Committee regarding the developing situation in Afghanistan. PNC Spanagle asked all Legionnaires to contact their Congressional members to persuade them to take action to save the thousands of Afghans who have worked with the United States during the past 20 years of war. Those Afghan allies are now in danger of being killed by the Taliban insurgents when the final US Troops depart.

There was no new business to be addressed.

There were no items for the Good Of the Legion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith M. Wakefield

Chairman

## POW/MIA

THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY ANNOUNCED THAT ARMY CPL. JEROME V. HUMMEL 23 OF ST LOUIS KILLED DURING THE KOREAN WAR WAS ACCOUNTED FOR SEPT 23, 2019. HE WAS A MEMBER OF HEAVY MORTAR CO 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION. HE WAS REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION NOV 30, 1950 IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR NORTH KOREA. HE WAS ONE OF THE 55 BOXES RETURNED.

THE DEFENSE DEPT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY ANNOUNCED THAT SGT JOHN PHILLIPS 25 OF CASSVILLE MISSOURI SERVED IN WWII WAS ACCOUNTED FOR DEC 11, 2019. HE DIED IN POW CAMP. HE WAS A MEMBER OF HEADQUARTERS CO 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT WHEN JAPANESE FORCES INVADED THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. HE WAS HELD AT THE CABANATUAN POW CAMP, WHERE MORE THAN 2,500 PERISHED IN THIS CAMP. ACCORDING TO PRISON CAMP AND OTHER HISTORICAL RECORDS, PHILLIPS DIED JULY 27, 1942. HE WAS BURIED IN THE CAMP CEMENTERY IN COMMON GRAVE 225. HE WILL BE BURIED IN BELMONT, NATIONAL CEMENTERY.

(2)

DEC 19, 1950 MARGARET BAKER OF BORIS "BO" BAKER  
A MARINE WITH A COMPANY 1ST BATTALION 5TH  
MARINES SENT A LETTER TO COLONEL J. SMITH, THE  
COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 1ST MARINE DIV. SHE  
WANTED TO KNOW WHERE HER SON HAD BEEN BURIED.  
JUST DAYS PRIOR TO SENDING THE LETTER SHE RECEIVED  
A TELEGRAM LIKE THOUSANDS OF OTHERS ACROSS  
AMERICA THAT RECEIVED. HER SON WAS KILLED IN ACTION  
AT THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR. THE GENERAL WROTE BACK  
THAT HER SON WAS KILLED IN ACTION AT YUDAMNI 60  
MILES NORTH OF HUNGWAM, IT WAS NECESSARY TO  
BURY HIM AT YUDAMNI, HIS GRAVE HAS BEEN  
OFFICIALLY RECORDED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.  
IN 1955 CPL BAKER'S BODY WAS FINALLY RETURNED TO  
HIS PARENTS AND WIFE NANCY HE MARRIED JUST  
MONTHS BEFORE DEPLOYING TO KOREA. HE WAS BURIED  
WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS IN HIS HOME TOWN OF  
MANFIELD OHIO.

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IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOV 07TH 1950  
CAPT MITCHELL RED CLOUD A 25 YEAR OLD MEMBER OF  
CO E 19TH INFANTRY REGIMENT 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
REALIZED ALL HELL WAS ABOUT TO BREAK LOOSE,  
CONCEALED IN A FORWARD OBSERVATION POST NEAR  
CHONGHYON NORTH KOREA, THE HO CHUNG NATIVE  
AMERICAN WHO FOUGHT AT GUADALCANAL EARNED A  
PURPLE HEART AT OKINAWA SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE  
HUNDREDS OF CHINESE CHARGING TOWARDS HIM, AND AN  
ATTEMPT TO WARN HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS OF THE ATTACK  
OPENED UP WITH HIS BAR RIFLE. HE FIRED POINT BLANK  
AT THE CHINESE ONLY FEET AWAY, SHOT TWICE IN THE  
CHEST HE REFUSED TO GO DOWN MORE COVERED IN BLOOD  
AND GOING INTO SHOCK HE WRAPPED HIS ARMS  
AROUND A TREE AND CONTINUED TO FIRE. THEY FOUND  
HIS BODY SURROUNDED BY DOZENS OF CHINESE.  
IN APRIL 1951 GENERAL ORDER BRADLEY PRESENTED RED  
CLOUDS MEDAL OF HONOR TO HIS MOTHER AND YOUNGER  
BROTHER.

(4)

January 13 2020

THE REMAINS OF A US SOLDIER LISTED AS A MIA ARE LOCATED.  
ARMY CPL WILLIAM McCOLLUM OF ANDERSON SOUTH CAROLINA  
WAS 19 WHEN HE WAS KILLED DURING THE KOREAN WAR.  
HIS REMAINS HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. McCOLLUM WAS  
A MEMBER OF G I IS BATTALION 32ND REGIMENT, 7TH  
INFANTRY DIVISION, 31ST REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. HIS UNIT  
WAS ATTACKED BY ENEMY FORCES NEAR CHOSIN RESERVOIR  
NORTH KOREA ON DEC 2, 1950. McCOLLUM WAS REPORTED MISSING.  
HIS REMAINS COULD NOT BE RECOVERED, HE WAS ONE OF THE  
55 BOXES OF REMAINS RETURNED. A ROSETTE WILL BE PLACED  
NEXT TO McCOLLUM'S NAME ON THE COURTS OF THE  
MISSING AT THE NATIONAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC IN  
HONOLULU TO INDICATE HE HAS BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. HE  
WILL BE BURIED IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.