



Aug 18, 2018

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Mick Guttau Speaks about Monument

Mick Guttau spoke on August 18 about the Dedication of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument. He and six of his Vietnam helicopter pilot buddies attended the ceremony on April 18 in Arlington Cemetery, VA. There were 3700 veterans, Gold Star families, and officials present. The monument is located about 300 feet from the amphitheater behind the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Mick Guttau

The monument is inscribed with a Bell UH-1 (Huey) Helicopter, the years 1961-1975, and the words: "In honored memory of the helicopter pilots and crewmembers who gave the full measure of devotion to their nation in the Vietnam War." The Huey helicopter was the most used helicopter in the Vietnam War and used by all five branches. Mick pointed out that although the US has the Air Force branch, the largest air force in the world is the US Army.

During Vietnam, nearly 2000 pilots and over 2700 crewmembers lost their lives. Of the nearly 12,000 helicopters operating in Vietnam, 43% were destroyed by combat or accidents.

Mick shared a quote from the program: "The aviation units were the sole combat element...that

did not come apart under the stress of the war in Vietnam...whether it was the oneness of man and the acrobatic flying machine, whether it was the equally shared risk of officer pilot and enlisted crew member, whatever the reason, the men of the helicopters kept their discipline and their spirit." Neil Sheehan – Author.

In that light, Mick shared that to this day there is misinformation about the Vietnam veteran in the media. It is verified that for the Vietnam vet the drug usage was less, the education level greater and the average income higher than the population in the US.

Helicopters performed more than 850,000 medical evacuations in Vietnam, which boost the survival rate for wounded from 10% in prior conflicts to 99% for the Vietnam War. Many lessons were learned about tactics. This information has also influenced changes in community hospital emergency rooms (ER) today. In the past, a young doctor would be assigned to an ER. Today training learned from war has been given to ER staff.

Even delivering Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners was part of the job description when combat stopped for a day. The common thread was the simple yet profound motivation to support those on the ground. In dropping food in Merimite containers, one holiday, Mick noted from the air an altar cloth on a Jeep and wondered if it was a Protestant or Catholic service and then realized it didn't make a bit of difference to those guys!.

Meeting Minutes

Keith Denton called the meeting to order. Fifteen members were present plus one guest, Jeff Casey and one soon-to-be member, Jordan Campbell. Gary Funkhouser, Mick Guttau and Keith Denton shared jokes followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judy Guttau's birthday the 23rd was observed with a promise of breakfast to come sometime this fall. Gary Funkhouser is providing breakfast next

Saturday for their anniversary. Chad Gutttau won the 50/50 Award and Gene Seran won the Attendance Drawing, but was not present.

Bragging Rights were given to Ken Graham to announce his daughter Cynthia Graham got married. John Klein contributed because he and Carol attended the State Fair and noted that local 4-H kids, who Carol had judged at county fair, did well at state. Keith Denton contributed to announce that the Las Vegas house of his sister, who is moving here, sold in a few days. Gary Funkhouser donated because of the large crowd at the scrimmage football game last night.

Kirk will find out the time of the can kennel sorting this Wed., Aug. 22. Dennis White indicated he will check with the school about giving dictionaries to the school. In two weeks the Club will be putting up flags for Labor Day.

Jeff Casey, Treynor High School football coach, was present to receive a check for \$814.55 from the can kennel for the purchase of guardian caps which the players use in practice to help prevent concussions. He explained the use of these caps and predicts in the future they will be used for games, but are restricted by state rules now. He discussed the tough competition ahead and the need to develop more aggressiveness.



L-R Jeff Casey, Keith Denton

Homecoming is September 14 and Kirk Vorthmann's wagon will be used again for the Optimist float. The theme is unknown yet.

The meeting was adjourned after the presentation with the stating of the Optimist Creed.

FUN IOWA TOWN SLOGANS

Gravity, Iowa: "We're down to earth. If Gravity goes, we all go."

Iowa City: "All of our creativity went into the name."

Nevada: "26th best small town in America."

Lake City: "Everything but a lake."

Pilot Mound: "Where every day's a holler day."

Stuart: "Home of 1700 good eggs and one stinker."

Aredale: "It not your Dale, It's not my Dale, It's Aredale."

Remember: All guests are welcome! Come be informed and enjoy the fellowship. The coffee is on and donuts are available. (Aug. 25 – Breakfast provided by the Funkhousers.)

Calendar

Aug 22	Can Kennel Sorting – Girl Scouts
Sept 5	Can Kennel Sorting – Girl Scouts
Sept 11	School Bond Vote and Board Election
Sept 15	Homecoming

Birthdays

Aug 23	Judy Gutttau
Sept 1	Josh Gutttau
Sept 22	Dee Gutttau

Anniversaries

Aug. 25	Gary & Julia Funkhouser
Sept 26	Bill & Ann Vorthmann

Programs

August	Judy Gutttau
September	Linda Danker
October	Bill Vorthmann

Speakers

Aug. 25	Deb Masker, SWI Leadership Academy
Sept. 1	Topic: Treynor School Bond Issue
Sept. 8	Congressman David Young
Sept 15	Connection (matter of balance)
Sept 22	Flex Therapy
Sept. 29	Angel's Health Care

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575