

MINUTES OF THE SVPOA GENERAL MEETING – August 7, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by President Grace Guess at the Sky Valley Country Club.

Bruce Gant introduced the Grant Reeves Honor Guard of veterans. The Honor Guard presented the flag and Bruce led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ed Steil offered an opening prayer. Grace Guess welcomed everyone to the first annual meeting as a Purple Heart City on National Purple Heart Day. Future August meetings will be held the week of August 7 to continue the honor.

She thanked Honor Guard members who came from Legion Post 84 and VFW Post 7720 in Cornelia; DAV Chapter 15 in Rabun, Habersham and Stevens counties; VFW Post 4570 in Clayton; and Legion Post 220 in Mountain City. She also thanked Gary Cantwell, commander of VFW Post 4570, for inviting the Honor Guard; and Rick Rahn for displaying his 1952 Willys that he restored in honor of his father who received a Purple Heart for his injuries as a paratrooper in Germany during World War II. Finally, she thanked Purple Heart veterans and Bruce Gant, who filed the application for Sky Valley to become a Purple Heart City, and City staff and Council for adopting the designation.

Bruce Gant provided the history of the Purple Heart Award, which was instituted by George Washington in 1782 to honor those injured or killed in action against an enemy of our country. He asked all those who received the award or were family members of award recipients to stand and be recognized.

Don Germano introduced Colonel Roger Glenn, US Army, Retired, who spoke on what the Purple Heart Award means. The Honor Guard performed a 21-gun salute and played Taps. Afterwards, the City of Sky Valley provided cake and beverages for all in attendance.

Announcements: The next pancake breakfast is August 31. The next meeting is September 18. Directories are available for SVPOA members and visitors were invited to join after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Dalhouse