

STATE OF TEXAS

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
SPECIAL SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2018

COUNTY OF COLLIN

On Monday, June 4, 2018, the Commissioners' Court of Collin County, Texas, met in Special Session in the Collin County Courthouse, 1st Floor, 2100 Bloomdale Road, McKinney, Texas, with the following members present, and participating, to wit:

Judge Keith Self

Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Precinct 1

Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2

Commissioner John Thomas, Precinct 3

Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Charles Dixon, Pastor, led the Invocation.

Brandon Byers, retired US Air Force Senior Airman, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Mills, retired US Army Colonel, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

1. Judge Self called to order the Special Session meeting of the Collin County Commissioners' Court at 3:30 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

2. **Public Comments.**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

3. AI-44751 Naming Ceremony of the Russell A. Steindam Courthouse, Commissioners Court.

Judge Self thanked everyone for attending the naming ceremony of the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building. He hopes this tribute to 1st Lt. Russell A. Steindam, US Army, will remind people that it is because of the young men and women who have gone into battle that has guaranteed and will continue to guarantee the halls of the courthouse be the halls of the temple of justice, truth and honor. Judge Self thanked the University of Texas for loaning the uniform for the ceremony display. He also thanked Colin Kimball, R. D. Foster, David McCall and all who voiced their support for this tribute. 1st Lt. Steindam was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallant sacrifice in the Vietnam War. He not only fought for his nation, but threw himself onto a grenade to save the lives of his men.

Judge Self introduced Jane Skinner, sister of 1st Lt. Russell A. Steindam. Ms. Skinner thanked the Commissioners' Court for their careful consideration and thoughtful work to allow the honor of renaming the courthouse. Ms. Skinner shared a story about her brother as a young boy. One summer Russell built a watchtower in the backyard of the family home to play childhood role-play games.

The whole neighborhood could be seen from the watchtower. It looked over a community that protected family, encouraged education and growth, and believed in personal responsibility and individual achievement. Here in Collin County, Russell found a society and culture with values both honorable and durable. When he became a man he realized this was a way of life worth preserving and fighting for. Russell marched away to do battle against a lifestyle of forced dependence on government. He fought for a limited government that resulted in unlimited individuals. This building in many ways is Russell's second tower, which overlooks Collin County, built to defend the people and maintain the good in society. It is up to the people to continue the fight in Russell's selfless spirit.

Judge Self introduced Pastor Charles Dixon, best friend of 1st Lt. Russell A. Steindam and student body president of their graduating class. Pastor Dixon shared a letter he received from Russell, who at the time was in his sophomore year at the University of Texas. The letter contained thoughts of a young man who found love and of a man ready to serve his country. Following the letter he read a personal tribute he wrote to Russell in 2006 as well as a poem he wrote, a few months before meeting Russell in high school, entitled "The Cost of Freedom".

Each member of the Commissioners' Court expressed admiration for 1st Lt. Russell A. Steindam and their happiness in honoring this selfless man by renaming the courthouse in his honor.

Judge Self declared the new name of the Collin County Courthouse as the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building. (Time: 3:55 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

4. AI-44749 Accept the donation of portraits of Collin County heroes, Commissioners Court.

R. D. Foster, Vietnam Veteran, came forward to present five portraits of Collin County heroes to be put on permanent display in the "Hall of Heroes" at the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building. The portraits were created by McKinney artist and US Air Force Veteran, Colin Kimball, who donates his time and talents to this historic project. The following are the five heroes being honored:

Gordon Neely, Anna, Staff/Sgt. US Army, 23rd Inf. Regt., 2nd Infantry Division. Killed in action on June 16, 1944 in France.

Hulette H. Abbott, Nevada, PFC, US Army, 175th Inf. Regt., 29th Infantry Division. Killed in action on July 14, 1944 in France.

Arlis K. Anderson, Altoga, 1st Lt. US Army Air Corps, 548th Bomb Squadron, 358th Bomb Group. Killed in action on June 26, 1943, when shot down over the Baltic Sea.

Mercer G. Abernathy, McKinney, 2nd Lt. US Army Air Corps, 548th Bomb Squadron, 358th Bomb Group. Killed in action on April 4, 1945, when his damaged B-17 went down in the North Sea.

Walter Faulkner, McKinney, "Buffalo Soldier", US Army, 9th Cavalry, Died while serving at Fort D. A. Russell, Cheyenne, Wyoming, on October 29, 1910.

Judge Self asked for a motion to accept the donation of the portraits of the five Collin County Fallen Warriors. A motion was made to accept the donation. (Time: 4:05 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2018-415-06-04

Following the acceptance of the five portraits, Mr. Kimball introduced Mother Leslie Stewart, Chaplain, North Texas Veterans Court, to give the benediction. (Time: 4:07 p.m.)

The Court did not recess into Executive Session. There being no further business of the Court, Judge Self adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.



Keith Self, County Judge

Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2

John B. Thomas, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4

ATTEST:

Stacey Kemp, Ex-Officio Clerk
Commissioners Court
Collin County, T E X A S