

State of Texas	§	Court Order
Collin County	§	2024-021-01-08
Commissioners Court	§	

An order of the Commissioners Court approving the filing of the November 6, 2023 Special Session minutes.

On Monday, November 6, 2023, the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in Special Session in the Center Hallway, First Level, of the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building, 2100 Bloomdale Road, City of McKinney, Texas, with the following members present, and participating, to wit:

Judge Chris Hill
Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Precinct 1
Commissioner Darrell Hale, Precinct 3

Absent: Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2 and Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Sheriff James Skinner led the Pledge of Allegiance
Jackey Babb of LifePath Systems led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

Judge Hill called to order the **Special Session of the Collin County Commissioners Court** at 11:02 a.m.

Judge Hill began the session by recognizing those in attendance for the ceremony: Sheriff James Skinner, Commissioner Darrell Hale, Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Judge John Roach, District Clerk Michael Gould, County Clerk Stacey Kemp, and Councilman Elden Baker of Anna. This is one of those most special County projects and is unrivaled across the state to remember and honor those who have given so much to our community. Judge Hill invited graphic artist, Colin Kimball, to come forward to present the portraits.

COMMISSIONERS COURT BUSINESS:

Colin Kimball came forward to present four portraits of Collin County Fallen Warriors to be put on permanent display. He began by inviting his friend, John Harden, to come forward to do an invocation to bless the event.

John Hardin came forward and gave the invocation.

Mr. Kimball recognized his former partner in the project, RD Foster, who passed away this year. Additionally, he thanked others who also made this project possible. These included the Bill Brian Post of

the American Legion, the Veterans for Foreign Wars Lone Star Post 1250, Stacey Kemp and the Collin County Clerk's Office, Sheriff James Skinner, Allen Clarke former Deputy Secretary of the VA (Veteran's Affairs), Nina Rigley, Jacob Hayes Chapter of the Marine Corps League, the North Texas Military Heritage Collection, Navy League, Air Force Association, Army Association, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. All helped to make this project possible.

Wilna Liles, 32, of McKinney, TX was a Private First Class Women's Army Corps for the Army Air Corps. This was a bold move due to the era and rumors being spread during this timeframe. She enlisted on June 9, 1944 and was stationed at the Air Transport Command in Ghana. On May 30, 1945, she was aboard a C-47 transport to Liberia. Something happened to the aircraft and it crashed in the Atlantic Ocean killing all onboard. Ms. Liles remains were never found. During the Second World War, this was the most significant disaster for the Women's Army Corps.

James "Bud" Lindsey, 29, of Weston, TX was a Technician 5th Class 1st Recon Troop with the 1st Infantry Division. In 1942, he was among those first combat troops fighting in North Africa. He also fought in Sicily, the Normandy Invasion, across France, and in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. Bud was killed in action outside of Bon, Germany in March 22, 1945, which was two months before the end of the war. He was buried in the American War Cemetery in Belgium.

John Lair, 23, from Celina, TX served as a Private First Class in the 175th Infantry Regiment 29th Infantry Division, which was a division composed of the grandsons of those who fought in the Civil War. This group was part of the first to hit the Omaha Beach during D-Day. He was in the regiment that landed on the second day and few survived. He later was involved in the fighting at the breakout of St. Lowe. On September 8, 1944 during the battle of Brest, John was killed in action. Over 10,000 American soldiers died during the same battle.

James Morgan, 18, from Anna, TX was part of the Private B Company 1st Battalion 24th Regiment 4th Marine Division. This group wore their division patch on their shoulder, which Mr. Kimball included in the portrait. James was killed on February 1, 1944 on a small atoll during the Marshall Island campaign in the South Pacific. After a long day of fighting, a Japanese sniper shot and killed him at night. He was buried at the Highland Cemetery in Melissa, TX.

Mr. Kimball noted these four portraits bring the total completed portraits to 100 on the 10th anniversary of this project. None of this would be possible without the leadership of Colin's co-founder, RD Foster, and from the project sponsor, Congressman Keith Self. Mr. Kimball thanked Judge Hill in continuing this project.

Judge Hill noted a representative from Congressman Self's office, Natalie, was in attendance to this proceeding. He said we are truly grateful for all who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Judge Hill

thanked those in attendance who have served or are still serving in the armed forces. We are grateful for all those who serve and given all for our community and nation. Judge Hill noted when he first introduced Judge Roach, he introduced him as the head of the drug court. However, Judge Hill said this was incorrect as Judge Roach is the head as well as the founder of Collin County's Veteran Court. He added this project has already filled up one level of the courthouse and will go to the next level to begin adding portraits there as well. Judge Hill encouraged everyone to take time to wander the halls to look at all the portraits of these fallen service men and women and read their plaques. In addition, Judge Hill noted on one of the other levels of the courthouse is another project for portraits of fallen County police officers which is also being done by Mr. Kimball as well.

1. Consent agenda to approve:

- a. AI-54918 Accept the donation of portraits of Collin County heroes, Commissioners Court.

Judge Hill called to order a special meeting of the Commissioners Court. A motion was made to approve acceptance of the gift of these portraits as a donation to the County. (Time: 11:17 a.m.)

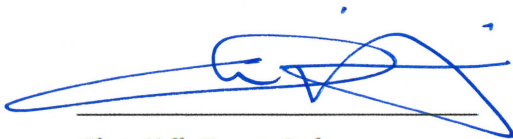
Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Vote: 3-0: Passed

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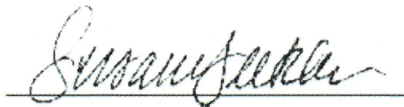
With no further comments, Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.



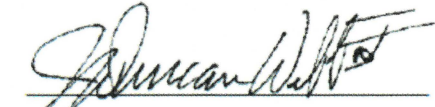
Chris Hill, County Judge



Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3



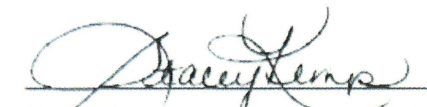
Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1



Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4



Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2



ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk