VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Atascosa County VFW Post 4853, Department of Texas, 809 Oak Street, Jourdanton, Texas, 78026

11/19/18

To: John Shipley
Ref: Steve Mueller

As a post member and serving at the Jr. Vice Commander of VFW Post 4853 under Steve Mueller, I had numerous interactions with Steve Mueller's unethical behavior in both meeting and non-meeting settings. On several occasions Steve expressed his feelings towards the Vietnam Nam Vets and how they were the ones closing the doors on the post. The Nam vets would always be too outdated to continue the VFW as they just want to smoke and drink at a bar. Steve successfully pushed the older vets out the post by his demeanor towards them during the meetings. We have not recovered the older vets due to the actions of Steve. Steve would go off on tangents in the meetings about issues beyond a post control on how national or state were running the organization and that unless the system was modernized, it would be useless. Steve in his last year as commander before being voted out, was devising a plan to try and take over the Poteet Post, had over $50,000 in donations towards building a new State of Art VFW Post for 4853, and apparently had several people lined up to run "his" auxiliary under the VFW Post 4853.

Steve constantly went and did things without the approval of membership or the officers of the post. Steve went and applied for a Liquor License without membership approval or notification to the quartermaster, Ran articles in the newspaper about the application, and never paid the paper for the cost of those articles. Steve requested his commanders allowance for two months in one shot ($500) to purchase bar equipment, but never provided the quartermaster a receipt for that purchase. After he was voted out as Commander, his last action was to go to the bank the day he left for state convention and pull out $250 cash from the post account without notifying the quartermaster or other officers that he was taking or removing money from the post account. Steve made electronic copies of all post meeting minutes, documents, deeds, and post membership information on his personal computer and never surrendered those electronic copies to the new post commander once he was relieved of his duties as commander.

Steve Mueller does not have the VFW in his best interest, he is only out for himself and being in the spotlight. He was always making backdoor deals using the VFW to gain leverage for his company. He would always tell the members that he had a set of investors that would remodel or build a new post if the post would sell them the property. At one point he had given a price and was looking into what needed to happen to sell the property without consulting the membership and the officers were having to tell him that he couldn't do that and that he needed to cease the

conversations until the membership was made aware of the conversations and voted to approve the selling of the property. That vote was never approved by membership.
Instead of spending the post money on repairs and upkeep of the building, the money was used for other things leaving the current leadership and post members stressed with the upkeep and maintance of the post.
Steve was very vindictive and would easily get angry loosing his temper on members and officers. On one occasion, Steve had a "Poker Party" in the post, which was very common, but left empty beer cans and bottles all over the post. I came into the post to show a potential rental the post and opened the door with client to discover the post in that condition. The renter left and did not rent it due to the conditions that day. I proceeded to clean up the post and put the remaining liquor bottles in a locked cabinet in the kitchen. Steve apparently came in to the post later that week looking for his liquor bottles. He sent threatening messages to myself and the other officers about fighting anyone who stole them from the post. When another officer came to the post to work a toys for tots event following that message, he found the door from the hall to the small side of the post kicked open and a black boot print mark on the door. When asked about it, Steve told that officer that I had kicked the door open and busted the door. I had not been at the post from the clean up incident until after the door was discovered. Steve forced a disciplinary write up on me that I refused to sign and that he wanted to submit to district officers. I still do not know if that letter was ever sent to district staff or not.
Steve is not a spotlight member of the VFW as he portrays, he is completely opposite.

Signed,

Jeff Rankin

Jeff Rankin,
Commander
VFW Post 4853

[redacted]

State of Texas
County of Atascosa
Sworn and subscribed before me a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas by Jeffrey C. Rankin on Nov. 28, 2018.

SANDRA G. HOLLAND
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires 07-11-2019
Notary ID 433588

Sandra G. Holland