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NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
ATTN: Commander-In-Chief
SUBJECT: Appeal/ Special Order No. 27 Article IX Disciplinary Action, April 15, 2019
DATE: 06/22/2019
FROM: Steven J. Mueller

APPEAL RESPONSE

1. Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 received several documents of evidentiary value on April 15, 2019 to include; a copy of an email dated November 15, 2018, Letter dated December 6, 2018, a Letter- November 16, 2018, a Letter dated November 30, 2018, Report of Investigation containing 41 attachments and Special Order 27. By advice of legal counsel, Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 did not attend the Scheduled Disciplinary hearing scheduled for May 23, 2019.

2. The case was erroneously decided because the panel was denied evidentiary materials necessary to fully understand the merits of the case. Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259, was routinely and repeatedly denied access to discovery items of prime importance by both Dan West and John Shipley, to include; Pleasanton VFW Post General Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2019 and February 11, 2019 and the Video of the January 14, 2019 General Meeting produced by VFW Department of Texas. Several attempts where made by the defense team to acquire these materials prior to the Scheduled Hearing date of May 23, 2019 and as early as February 2019. Additionally, once again, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of Texas violated the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Congressional Charter By-Laws Manual of Procedure Ritual Section 903- Procedure for disciplinary Actions. Specifically, by not providing the "Signed Incident Report" to Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 as required by Section 903(d) of the National By-Laws. These Incident Reports are of evidentiary importance and essential to Steve Mueller's, VFW Member No. 10425259 defense. These items were left out of the package submitted to Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 on April 15, 2019. Notably the signed and notarized statements of Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 as referenced in the Letter dated November 30, 2018 from John Shipley to Ingeborg Conley. These statements have a direct bearing on this case and is evidentiary material directly related to the rebuttal defense of Charge (1) Specification (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) & (8) and Charge (3) Specification (1). Furthermore, the meeting minutes and video file requested would

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prove the illegitimacy and erroneous libel nature of Charge (2) Specification (1), (2), (3) & (4) and Charge (4) Specification (1) & (2). The lack of access to these materials and repeated denial of requested evidentiary materials prompted Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 to object to the proceeding accordingly. Furthermore, the hearing date was scheduled for May 23, 2019, but Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 was only notified by certified mail on May 21, 2019. Mr. Mueller requested a continuance to prepare a defense, but the request was denied. VFW National indicated that they did not have Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 email address; however, Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 contact email address has not changed since he joined the VFW in 2014. Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 responded to VFW National providing a contact email to help expedite the exchange of information and correspondence.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and specifically the VFW National Commander-in-Chief has already been alerted to the libel and slanderous nature of these statements on March 29, 2019 when Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 informed the VFW National Commander-In-Chief that the charges were "hearsay and erroneous in nature" in response to Special Order No. 24. Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 also requested; "dismissal of Special-Order No. 24 Article IX Disciplinary Action, Dated March 7, 2019 and reactivation of membership in accordance with Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Congressional Charter By-Laws Manual of procedure Ritual as a member in good standing with all VFW entitled to all membership rights thereof." Furthermore, Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 requested; "a formal investigation be conducted by Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National level into the systematic and collective conspiracy perpetrated by the VFW Department of Texas leadership to undermine, slander and defame Pleasanton VFW Post 12162, its members and officers." Finally, Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 requested; "a letter from Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National Commander-In-Chief be sent stating that Steve Mueller is a member in good standing with all VFW entitled to all membership rights thereof." This document was sent to VFW National by certified mail and it has now been 91 days since the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States have been notified in writing of these libel statements and still, to this date, no corrective action or measure has been initiated or implemented by the VFW National Commander-In-Chief or any director of the Veterans of Foreign War of the United States. The continuous and relentless harassment and defamation, maliciously perpetrated against Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 by the VFW Department of Texas leadership beginning in November of 2018 and lasting to present has led to anxiety, depression and loss of quality of life. Every attempt to avoid and/or stop the harassment has been taken by Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 and the members of Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 to include the surrender of the Posts Charter by unanimous member vote on February 11, 2019 and ultimately Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259, embattled by defamatory comments, transferred out of the Department of Texas to Post 5917 in Bolingbrook, Illinois. Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 was transferred back into the Department of Texas by the Veterans of Foreign War

National headquarters, resulting in Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 being exposed to even more harassment and injury by the VFW Department of Texas leadership. The erroneous libel statements made by and condoned by Texas VFW Department Commander Ingeborg Conley/ 9692499, Texas VFW Department Quartermaster & Adjutant Dan West/ 1499052, Texas VFW Department Assistant Adjutant Andrew Camplen/ 10067444, Texas VFW Department District 20 Commander & Post 6970 Post Commander John Shipley/ 1304127, Atascosa County Post 4853 Post Commander Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Atascosa County Post 4853 Post Quartermaster & Adjutant Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Atascosa County Post 4853 Post Sr. Vice Commander Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 has destroyed Steve Mueller's, VFW Member No. 10425259 professional reputation, tarnished his good name and has negatively affected business opportunities for several business entities Mr. Mueller manages, directs and owns resulting in loss of income.

3. Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 DEMANDS the following action be taken immediately:

   A. Request a meeting with VFW National Commander-in-Chief in San Antonio, Texas no later than July 15, 2019 to present evidence of an active and ongoing conspiracy perpetrated by the VFW Department of Texas to defame Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 leadership and discuss possible options for resolution.

   B. Request immediate dismissal of Special Order 27 and the resulting verdict vacated.

   C. Request immediate reinstatement as a member in good standing with the VFW, entitled to all membership rights thereof.

   D. Request immediate release of incorporated entity identified by EIN 82-2717893 formally known as "Pleasanton VFW Post 12162", but now known as "Atascosa Veterans Council™", from the VFW Department of Texas Group exemption list with the IRS.

   E. Request Ingeborg Conley/ 9692499, Dan West/ 1499052, Andrew Camplen/ 10067444, John Shipley/ 1304127, Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 immediately be removed from their elected office.

   F. Request the immediate suspension of the VFW Department of Texas, VFW Department of Texas District 20, Atascosa County Post 4853, Poteet Memorial Post 6970 and the Bruno Phillip/ William Bordelon Post 688 until corrective action can be taken to retrain and/or replace their defective leadership and/or correct SOP's.

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G. Request an investigation into the actions of Ingeborg Conley/ 9692499, Dan West/ 1499052, Andrew Camplen/ 10067444, John Shipley/ 1304127, Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 for possible violations of VFW National By-Laws and Manual of procedure, specifically Section 902(2) for failure to fulfill the obligations taken upon installation of office.

H. Request an investigation into the actions of Ingeborg Conley/ 9692499, Dan West/ 1499052, Andrew Camplen/ 10067444, John Shipley/ 1304127, Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 for possible violations of VFW National By-Laws and Manual of procedure, specifically Section 902(4) for disregard of the provisions of the Congressional Charter, By Laws and Manual of procedure.

I. Request an investigation into the actions of Ingeborg Conley/ 9692499, Dan West/ 1499052, Andrew Camplen/ 10067444, John Shipley/ 1304127, Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 for possible violations of VFW National By-Laws and Manual of procedure, specifically Section 902(6) for conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline and conduct unbecoming a member in their relations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and other members.

J. Request an investigation into the actions of Ingeborg Conley/ 9692499, Dan West/ 1499052, Andrew Camplen/ 10067444, John Shipley/ 1304127, Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 for possible violations of VFW National By-Laws and Manual of procedure, specifically Section 902(8) for preparing and/or signing a false record.

K. Request an investigation into the actions of Ingeborg Conley/ 9692499, Dan West/ 1499052, Andrew Camplen/ 10067444, John Shipley/ 1304127, Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 for possible violations of VFW National By-Laws and Manual of procedure, specifically Section 902(10) for conspiring to undermine and aiding and abetting one another to collectively defame and slander Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 and its leadership.

L. Request an investigation into the actions of Dan West/ 1499052 and Andrew Camplen/ 10067444 for possible violations of VFW National By-Laws and Manual of procedure, specifically Section 902(11) knowingly making or causing to be made a false entry in or false alteration of a government record.

M. Request an investigation into the actions of Dan West/ 1499052, Andrew Camplen/ 10067444, John Shipley/ 1304127, Jeffrey Rankin/ 10608861, Patricia Hewitt/ 6013718 and Douglass Edwards/ 10115676 for possible violations of VFW National By-Laws and Manual

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of procedure, specifically Section 902(12) knowingly providing false information or statements in connection with the initiation of charges against another member.

N. Request a letter be submitted to the (1) Pleasanton Police Department Criminal Investigation Division, (2) City of Pleasanton City Manager, (3) City of Pleasanton attention- Mayor and Council members, (4) Pleasanton Express Newspaper, (5) Pleasanton ISD, (6) City of Jourdanton City Manager, (7) City of Jourdanton Attention- Mayor and Council members, (8) Jourdanton ISD, (9) Atascosa County Attn. Judge Bob Hurley, (10) City of Pleasanton Parks & Recreation director Greg Leach exonerating Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 of any wrong doing.

O. Request a letter be submitted to all VFW Department of Texas Districts and Posts by Special Order of the VFW National Commander-in-Chief to be read at the next general business meeting of each entity exonerating Steve Mueller, VFW Member No. 10425259 of any wrong doing.

Petitioner

(SIGNATURE)

Steven J. Mueller
Gold Legacy Life Member No. 10425259
Past Department of Texas Future Concepts Chairman (2017-2018)
(2) Time All-State Post Commander
(2) Time All-American Post Commander
Past Post Commander/ Post 12162 (2017-2019)
Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 Founder & Charter Member
Past Post Commander/ Post 4853 (2015- 2017)

STATE OF Texas
COUNTY OF Atascosa

This instrument was acknowledged before me on 28 day of June, 2019.

MEGAN MATA
Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 08/09/2021
ID# 125977111

(AFFIX SEAL OR STAMP)

Megan Mata L.S.
NOTARY PUBLIC
Print Name Megan Mata
State of Texas
Commission # 125977111
My Commission expires 08.09.21

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