

**NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes, Monday, February 16, 2026, 7PM**

Members Present:

Kristin Reilly
Erik Saracino
Wendell Rich
Tom Yaegel
Warren Harner

Not Present:

Paula Gasper-Liaison
James Gallagher
Dave Reese

Others Present :

Pete Palestina
Frank O'Donnel
Bernadette Heenan
Joe Lombardo

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: January 19, 2026 – Motion by Tom Yaegel. Unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS

- The NT Veterans Advisory Commission were informed that the request to install two banners on poles in Robert H. Dembrowski park was turned down. The reason given was that there was concern that there would be a further request for many other Veterans. These banners were only to be installed for two Township residents (Robert H. Dembowski, Jr. killed in Bagdad, May 24, 2007 and Kenneth B. Elwell, killed in Afghanistan on July 17, 2011. Our members were very disappointed on this decision.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pete Palestina will attend the 6:00pm Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss the history for the naming of the Robert J. Dembowski, Jr. park.
- Discussion to enhance our existing programs for the 250th Birthday. At our Memorial Day event additional discussion will be made concerning our two Township residents who were killed during the Revolutionary War.

- NTVAC would like to host a Veterans Expo for the 250th Birthday, perhaps in collaboration with Elected Officials. Kristin Marcell has a Veterans EXPO scheduled for April and we can install a NTVAC table at this event.
- Flags for forgotten Veterans: Tentatively, Mike Egan is planning on the installation along the grassy area at Municipal Park along Hatboro Road.
- W. Rich made a motion to purchase golf shirts and hats for NTVAC members to wear at Community events to put our organization out there, so Veterans become more aware. . Unanimous consent

2026 VAC EVENTS

- **MEMORIAL DAY: Monday, May 25th 9:00am @ Dembowski Park:**
 - **Bernadette Heenan will check the availability of attendance by a group of Gold Star parents.**
 - **Father Brendan R. Zehner was recommended for Memorial Day**
 - **Singer: Hailey Brown (to Be confirmed)**
- **FLAG DAY: Sunday June 14th – need to determine time due to religious services on Sundays,**
- **VETERANS DAY: Wednesday November 11th**
 - Kristin recommended that we return to the front of the Township building since the new Veterans bricks are installed at this location. Tabled until March meeting.
- **HOMETOWN HEROS WREATH LAYING: Saturday, Dec 5th @ Union Cemetery,**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45pm

Next Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2026

Submitted by:

Wendell A. Rich, Secretary