



FORT KNOX RETIREE COUNCIL

25 April 2025

The Fort Knox Retiree Council was called to order at 0900 hours, Friday, 25 April 2025 in the DHR Conference Room by BG (Ret) Charles D. Estes, Chair, who presided. After completing the roll call, BG (Ret) Estes led the members into the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voting members:

Charles D. Estes, BG (Ret), USA, Chair	Present
Belinda Gaither-Schmitt, SFC (Ret), USA, Secretary	Present
Jackie A. Ash, CSM (Ret), USA	Present
Betsy Brocklehurst, MSgt (Ret), USAF	via Phone
Harold Denson, 1SG (Ret), USA	via Phone
Bernard Hayes, MAJ (Ret), USA	via Phone
Paul J. Hettich, COL (Ret), USA	via Phone
Michael Pesko, MAJ (Ret), USA	Present
Darren W. Hargrove, SGM (Ret), USA	Absent

Emeritus members:

Irvin Lyons, SGM (Ret), USA	Present
Rodney J. Newell, CSM (Ret), USA	Absent
David Shearer, CW4 (Ret), USA	Absent

Non-voting members:

Thomas C. Cunningham, LTC (Ret) USA	Absent
Glenda Nicol, MSG (Ret), USA	Absent
Richard Ward, MAJ (Ret), USA	Absent

Non-voting council advisory members present:

Mrs. Tami Hutchinson, Program Manager, MPD
Mrs. Gail Harding, DHR, RSO

State reports:

Ohio: MSgt (Ret) Brocklehurst stated that Ohio is still working on organizing a RAD. Ms. Harding asked if MSgt (Ret) Brocklehurst can forward the dates for the 8 Retirement seminars scheduled in Ohio.

Illinois: COL (Ret) Hettich stated that currently there are no bills pending in the House pertaining to retired veterans.

Indiana: CSM (Ret) Ash mentioned 2 HBs. Bill 1111 increases the benefits from \$8000 to \$20000, if a member of the Indiana NG dies during active service for the State. Bill 1280 adds members of the Space Force from paying income taxes on their military pay. MAJ (Ret) Hayes forwarded a letter of resignation to BG (Ret) Estes.

Kentucky: MAJ (Ret) Pesko provided the following information:

1. Currently the real property tax exemption bill is pending in the house.
2. The Fort Knox commanding general has authorized the use of the Trusted Traveler Program. The program allows "trusted travelers" to vouch for no more than five non-military-affiliated passengers in a single non-commercial vehicle.
3. On 13 Jun 25, Fort Knox is scheduled for another picture in honor of the Army's 250 Birthday.
4. The VA clinic stays open for appointments, even if Fort Knox is closed due to inclement weather.
5. There is still no Optometrist at the CPOC clinic, but VA is doing Community Care referrals.
6. The PX started an Amazon pick up and drop off service.
7. The Commissary is receiving many complaints because they cannot keep their isles stocked.
8. Binter Court received complaints because of the constant changes to their Thursday morning hours.

SGM (Ret) Lyons added that the Fort Knox Retirement Appreciation Day is not receiving much attention outside of the Fort Knox area anymore. Not only is the travel time too long for most retirees, but some of the information can be retrieved at other locations or the internet.

RAD 2025:

The date for the 2025 RAD was set for 24 October 2025 in Sadowski Hall. The IPR's are scheduled for 6 Aug 25, 10 Sep 25, and 2 Oct 25 @1000. MAJ (Ret) Pesko asked if the 6 Aug date can be changed because it is conflicting with the JECVO meeting.

Discussion:

BG (Ret) Estes informed the Retiree Council that the Patton Museum will have several events for the 250th Army Birthday. At this time, he is not aware if Fort Knox has any other events scheduled for the Army's Birthday.

MAJ (Ret) Pesko stated that there is an issue with using military ID cards for travel if the card has an indefinite expiration date. Mrs. Hutchinson informed the Retiree Council that TSA will no longer accept any kind of military ID card for travel. Individuals must either have a Real ID or a passport. MAJ (Ret) Pesko suggested having a Real ID agent at the next RAD.

Closing comments from Chair:

BG (Ret) Estes asked COL (Ret) Hettich and CSM (Ret) Ash if they could provide him with names to fill the empty Retiree Council position from Illinois and Indiana.

BG (Ret) Estes adjourned the meeting at 0930 hours, Friday, 25 April 2025. The next meeting will be at 0900 on 25 July 2025.

/s/ Belinda Gaither-Schmitt
BELINDA GAITHER-SCHMITT
SFC (RET), USA
Secretary, Retiree Council

/s/ Charles D. Estes
CHARLES D. ESTES
BG (Ret), USA
Chair, Retiree Council