



CVSO REPORT #47; 4/28/14

Your Honor; Commissioners,

Courthouse flagpoles; The West or primary flagpole at the Titus County Veterans War Memorial was put back in service following the inspection of the truck, replacement of the halyard and necessary reconditioning of the US and Texas flags. McCollums Cleaners took custody of the flags during this process and provided care and services in keeping with the Flag Code for both flags, without charge. The halyard was replaced on the North flagpole by the 1st World War, 50th Anniversary/ Titus County Veterans Monument. EDH Electrical Service provided bucket truck, halyards and crew for both the West and North flagpoles. EDH performed the tree trimming that was required at the North flagpole. Commissioner Fields precinct crew took care of the trimmings. The CVSO will utilize the North flagpole to display the POW/MIA and Support Troops flags daily and military branch of service flags on other special occasions. The ambient lighting in the Courthouse Square area is adequate for this purpose as the US and Texas flags will not be flown at this site under normal circumstances. Total charges from EDH were submitted to the county. For public information, the County did not have a bucket truck with enough reach to assist, the Mount Pleasant Fire Dept. did not have their high reach truck available, DoT and a local utility explained that their "rules" do not allow them to provide the services requested. For future reference; straightening the Primary flagpole(off about 2 feet at the top), would require pulling the flashing collar, draining the standing water, filling the void with sand and packing the base, replacing the flash collar. This would also require a pole truck and crew. A rough estimate of \$400 was mentioned. This not presented at this time as a request, only a point of information for the Commissioners Court to consider.

Flag Repository; Since 2010 the CVSO has taken custody of over 2500 flags left in the receptacle at the Titus County Veterans War Memorial, of this number

2,300 have been Honorably Retired. 200 or so remain in the CVSO office awaiting disposition. The vast majority of these have been US Flags, followed by Texas Flags, next is POW/MIA, then Branch of Service flags, Support Troops flags, Merchant Marine flag, several versions of the Flags of the Confederacy, one Native American banner, a few Alaska State Flags, an Oklahoma State Flag and few flags of other nations and an occasional family crest banner. US Flags are retired en masse separately; Texas flags are retired en masse separately; Branch of Service, POW/MIA, Support Troops, Merchant Marine and other Service Organizations are retired together, Flags of the Confederacy are retired en masse separately, flags of other States are all retired together, flags of other countries and crests are retired all together. Most of the sorting takes place at the CVSO office and retirement takes place on private property. The retirement process is a solemn and Honorable proceeding. TAPS is played. US Flags placed into the receptacle are considered to have been honorably removed from service by their custodian/owner with dignity and have been presented as a candidate for Stars for Troops if the condition of the star field merits.

May Ceremonial Dates/Flag Displays (North Flagpole); May 1st is Loyalty Day, May 8th is VE Day (Victory in Europe, WWII), May 17th is Armed Forces Day, May 22nd is Merchant Marine Day and May 26th is Memorial Day.

"In the Line of Duty" Memorial; Finch Memorials reports that the stone is in transit aboard ocean container vessel. We do not expect arrival or etching and engraving to be completed before May 15th. (National Peace Officers Memorial Day). We are presently targeting National Firefighters Memorial Recognition around October 11th or 12th, 2014 as a possible formal dedication ceremony date.

Teachers/Students; Loyalty Day- established in 1921 to counter the perceived threats from Communists, known as the "First Red Scare". VE Day- Established in 1945 celebrated the end of fighting and victory over the European Axis Powers of Germany and Italy during WWII. Armed Forces Day- President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military for their patriotic service in support of our country. On August 31, 1946 Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces

Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. (Each Branch of Service still commemorates its own "Birthday" Celebration). Merchant Marine Day- The Congress, by joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day" (Merchant Marine Day) and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance. The Merchant Marine is a vital part of the US Naval Support and Armed Forces supply effort during times of war. Memorial Day- (Originally called Decoration Day), is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our Nation's service. There is evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic in his **General Order No. 11**, and was first observed on May 30, 1868(Traditional), when flowers were placed on graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Congress passed the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L.-90-363) for the observance of Memorial Day to be the last Monday in May.

STEVE AUSTIN; CVSO

TITUS & FRANKLIN