

12 November 2013

As a former 1st Lt. of the 15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Kimpo Air Base, during the Korean War, and Chair of the Veterans Committee of the Senior Center for the last two years, I thank the Members of the Town Council and the Town Manager for participating in our “Celebrating our Living and Remembering our Fallen” Veterans last Friday.

Mansfield Veterans and spouses asked whether they could come in to be seated before the doors were officially opened, Guests were welcomed by Air Force ROTC Cadets, and invited by our Committee to have some hot brewed coffee, provided for the second year by “The Quiet Corner Roasters”. What was amazing was that guests were not sitting at tables but rather walking about visiting with each other, talking happily like long lost friends. We consider that to be very special.

Mayor Paterson read a heartfelt Proclamation on behalf of the Town Council. It referred to our Veterans “as Patriots that risked their lives to preserve the Liberty of our Nation.” She added, “sometimes they have made the ultimate sacrifice, to protect the FREEDOMS that have blessed America.”

Mansfield has approximately 531 living Patriots, only about 4 % of our population, your neighbors. We thank our Mansfield Veterans and spouses, not only for their service, but also for the FREEDOM that is ours, because they served. We pray Mansfield does not become complacent about appreciating our FREEDOM, and our Veterans who fought for it.

One highlight of the event was when former Air Force Tech. Sgt. George Tomecko received an American Flag that was flown over the Capital of the United States to acknowledge our respect for the hardships he endured during World War II. He was captured by the

Japanese when they invaded the Philippine Islands. He was sold to North Korea for slave labor, then sold to China as a slave. He was repatriated after three and a half years.

A part of the program, planned by VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, was entitled “Generational Passing the Flag”. It involved Former Army Air Corps Tech Sgt. Richard Hobby, of World War II passing the flag to a Korean Veteran, then to Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq/Afghanistan, Veterans, an ROTC Cadet, a Mansfield Eagle Scout, a Cub Scout, then ultimately to a new enlisted sailor. At each passing, Captain Mary-Ellen Blake of VITAS listed some of the sacrifices that our armed forces endured.

For the second year, we are indebted to the Mansfield Business Community for providing the funding for the catered meal. Their generosity, especially in these economically challenging times, is indicative of how our local, “Mom and Pop” enterprises are dedicated to bring out the best of what the Town of Mansfield has to offer.

The Veterans’ Committee will now seek a line item in the budget to support our Veterans’ Day “Celebrating the Living and Remembering the Fallen”. We encourage the Town Council to support this initiative. Our Local “Mom and Pop” Mansfield Business Community has led the way. We ask Mansfield residents to support our local businesses and our Veterans. Please tell the Town Council you support Veterans.

**Anthony W. Kotula,
Former.1st. Lt. U.S. Air Force,
Kimpo Air Base, Korea
Senior Center Veterans’ Committee, Chair**

Brian Coleman

26 Centre ST.

Mansfield Center

November 12, 2013

Dear Council Members,

The fact that the town can come in and ticket vehicles on private property really rubs me the wrong way. A tenant of a property has the rights to the property that the landlord grants him or her. This can be regulated through a lease not an ordinance.

Government control of private property goes against the liberties that were granted to us by the U.S. constitution. Our founding fathers believed that the state and federal governments were the contractual agents of the people, not sovereign lords over them; this ordinance allows the Town of Mansfield to be the sovereign lords over the property owners. Someone wake me up and bring me back to the United States of America.

Secondly, the eighth amendment of the Bill of Rights prohibits excessive fines, a ninety dollar parking fine on private property doubled in ten day constitutes an excessive fine. In my opinion this ordinance is unconstitutional and should be scrapped.

The town has the authority to fine and remove cars that are a hazard to traffic or safety on town property, well, have at it, the town can barely enforce traffic violations on its property.

Property owners and tenants need to be respectful of neighbors; this is our responsibility not the governments.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Coleman