



## ***SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION*** ***Squadron 90, Cape Coral, FL 33904***

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*1401 Southeast 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Cape Coral, Florida 33904 • 239.540.8128*

### **Meeting of the Membership Squadron 90**

**Presiding: John Baker, Commander**

**Recording: John Baker, Commander**

**Date: June 8, 2026,      Begin Time: 7:00 PM      End Time: 7:38 PM**

#### **Call to Order (1 rap of the gavel)**

Remind everyone to turn cell phones off.

Sergeant-at-Arms announces the meeting at the canteen & secures the door.

#### **Opening Ceremony**

**Stand** (3 raps of the gavel)

**Hand Salute: Present Arms, Order Arms**

#### **Uncover**

**Commander:** - “All members/guests in attendance shall remain standing with their cap removed and placed over the heart from the opening prayer, through the POW/MIA ceremony and concluding with the Pledge of Allegiance”.

**Opening Prayer** – The Chaplain will offer prayer.

#### **POW/MIA Empty Chair**

Please join me at the **POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony:**

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67<sup>th</sup> National Convention and Resolution NC 2-94, adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of the Sons of the American Legion, calls for designating a POW/MIA “Empty Chair” at all official meetings of The Sons of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all the wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for

all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing.

Let us dedicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

Sgt. at Arms please place the POW/MIA flag on the "Empty Chair"). Please observe a moment of silence for those who are serving and who served in defending our country from all wars and conflicts. (60 seconds of silence should be observed).

**Pledge of Allegiance: (Sgt at Arms)**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

**Recover:** Everyone will recover.

**Commander:** Please join me in reciting the Sons of the American Legion Preamble

**THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE**

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all Wars, associate ourselves together as Sons of the American Legion for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.
- to maintain law and order.
- to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism.
- to preserve the memories of our former members and associations of our members and our forefathers in all wars.
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses.
- to make right the master of might.
- to promote peace and goodwill on earth.
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.

- to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."
- To adopt in letter and spirit of all the great principles for which The American Legion stands and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

**Call Meeting to Order:** One rap of the gavel.

**Commander:** I now declare the meeting Squadron 90 of the Sons of the American Legion of SWF Post 90, Department of Florida convened.

### **Business Order**

**Roll Call:** All Officers were present except:

Excused – Chris Antonellis

Absent –

**Determination of Quorum:** A total of 11 members and officers are present. Quorum (minimum of 4 members of good standing) was met.

### **Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests**

- Ed Lyons, Incoming Post 90 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

### **Approval of Minutes from Previous Membership Meeting:**

The May 2026 Membership meeting minutes are posted for review on the Squadron 90 bulletin board at the Post and on the Legion Post 90 website.

Motion to accept the May 2026 membership meeting minutes as posted was made by Mark Keeling, seconded by Sean Wing, Discussion - None. Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

### **Officer Appointment and Approval**

Finance Officer: Keith Berres accepted the position as voted by write-ins.

Adjutant: Keith Berres.

Motion to accept the Commander's appointment of Keith Berres as Adjutant was made by Larry Horner, seconded by Sean Wing Discussion - None. Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

## **Initiation of Prospective New Members**

John Baker, Commander, reads the following:

### **New Member**

- Peter Brown – Son, US Army, DD214 destroyed in records fire
- Jason Dietrich – Mother, US Army
- Timothy Hutchison, Father, Needs further vetting
- Brandon Jenkins, Father, US Navy
- David Langford – Father, US Army

### **Transfers**

- Brian Bearman, Verified by John Baker

Is anyone present whose name was read? (If so, have them introduce themselves). None were present.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if any of these personnel are present, please escort them out of the room so we may vote them in.

Does anyone have any reason not to accept any of these as new members?

**A motion to accept the new member into Squadron 90 was made by Keith Berres, seconded by Sean Wing, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

## **Commander Report (John Baker)**

- Running 50/50 raffles when the date is open for Legion events.
- The next membership meeting will be Monday, July 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM with Commander Keeling presiding.
- Legion Convention is June 11-14, 2026.
- Flag Day is Sunday, June 14, and the Post Honor Guard is hosting the event. If you can attend, please do so.
- The installation of officers will be held on June 28, 2026, with the cocktail hour at noon and the meeting commencing at 1:00 PM.
- The Post is having an open house on Independence Day, July 4. It will start with an Honor Guard presentation to celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding: anthem, reading, poem, life saga, 21-gun salute and taps. After that the real party starts with live

music by Bob and Bob, and BBQ ribs, hamburgers and Hot dogs for sale. Blood drive also held on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Marketing team will have a table to recruit new members. Squadron 90 will assist and share the cost and profit sharing. Squadron 90 volunteers are needed for the event.

- Commander Baker thanked everyone for support over the last 2 years.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Report (Chris Antonellis):**

- No Report.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Report (Larry Horner):**

- The gun raffle is underway. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. When 250 tickets are sold, the winning ticket will be drawn.

#### **Finance Officer Report (Submitted by Mark Keeling):**

- May 1, 2026, beginning balance: \$10,777.02
- Deposits total: \$1,870.00
- Charges and withdrawals total: \$66.00.
- Checks Cleared: \$1,658.55
- May 31, 2026, Ending Balance: \$10,922.47
- Outstanding Checks: \$3,500.00.
- Honor Flight Escrow: \$2,371.43
- May 31, 2026, Available Balance: \$5051.04

**A motion to accept the May 2026 finance report, subject to audit, was made by Sean Wing, seconded by Elon Hertzfeld, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

#### **Adjutant Report (Keith Berres)**

- As of June 4, 2026, Squadron 90 has 253 paid members for 2026. This is 106.57% of the target goal of 237 members.  
Read a letter from the American Legion Well-being Foundation for the donation.

### **Sergeant-at-Arms Report (Tony Truzzolino).**

- No Report.

### **Chaplain Report (Elon Hertzfeld):**

- Remember Tony Gregg and JoAnne as they grieve the loss of her daughter.

### **Judge Advocate Report (Open)**

- No Report.

### **Committee Reports – Limited to 3 minutes per report (reminder that all committee reports should be submitted via email so they can be included in the minutes):**

- **Legion Advisor** – John Baker (SAL Commander): No Report
- **Americanism** – No Report.
- **BE the One** – No Report.
- **Honor Flight** – One photo is at Crown Trophy to have a frame made. The cost will be less than \$50.00.
- **American Legion Baseball** – No Report.
- **Children and Youth (Families)** - No Report.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **New Business:**

- The American Legion Post 90's Women's Veteran's Committee obtained approval for a 501-C-3 not for profit corporation so that it can raise funds for the establishment of a Women's Veteran's Memorial at Echo Park. The corporation is named "Sisters-In-Arms of CC, Inc". As approved at the last meeting Squadron 90 donated \$500.00 to "Sisters in Arms, Inc".

**The Good of the Sons of the American Legion** (The membership shall be permitted to make suggestions of any kind, character, or description, save religion or partisan politics. Time is limited to 2 minutes per person.

- Generate a letter to Beverly LaTrelle thanking her for the funds she raised for the Honor Flight.

**Motion To Close:** A motion to close the meeting was made by Sean Wing, second by Peter Burt, Discussion: None, Vote: Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

### **Closing Ceremony**

**Stand** (3 raps of the gavel)

**Uncover**

**Closing Prayer** – Chaplain recites a prayer

**Recover**

**Retrieve the POW/MIA Flag:** Squadron 90 members are to join the Sergeant-at-Arms with a slow salute as the POW/MIA flag is recovered.

**Sergeant-at-Arms, recovers the POW/MIA flag.**

**Commander:** Till we meet again let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of The Sons of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy. Face the flag.

**Hand Salute:** Present Arms, Order Arms.

### **MEETING CLOSURE**

**Commander:** I now declare the meeting of Squadron 90 the Sons of the American Legion of SWF Post 90; Department of Florida is adjourned.

Everyone was reminded to turn their phones back on.