

House Committee

COMMITTEE MINUTES for VETERANS AFFAIRS

Date: ***March 19, 2019***

Location: ***RM 19***

Convened: ***2:00 PM***

Adjourned: ***2:25 PM***

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Representatives Salmon-CH, Gustafson-VC, Kurth-RM, Bennett, Breckenridge, Brown-Powers, Gaines, Hite, Jeneary, Kacena, Ourth, Smith, M., Sorensen, Thompson, Wheeler, Wills

Absent:

Excused: Representative Lundgren

Chairperson Salmon called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken. Representatives Lundgren was excused.

The minutes were approved.

The following bills were assigned to subcommittee: [SF 280](#) – Rep. Sorensen, Chair, Hite, Breckenridge.

A presentation was given by Representative Ray “Bubba” Sorensen, artist of The Iowa Freedom Rock. Rep. Sorensen is celebrating the 20th year of painting the Freedom Rock located on Highway 25 in Adair County, near Menlo, Iowa. The original Freedom Rock is approx. 12ft. tall / 60-90 ton boulder. He paints new murals on the boulder every May for Memorial Day. One hundred different Vietnam Veterans ashes are mixed into the paint on the Freedom Rock. Rep. Sorensen started a Freedom Rock Tour, painting a rock in all 99 counties. He has completed 80. He has expanded the goal to include all 50 states.

Chairperson Salmon turned the floor over to Representative Mark Smith who read the story of his father-in-law, Ray Lischer, who flew a B-17 named “Royal Flush” during WWII. Ray wrote a lengthy letter home that was intercepted by the military. Ray had given away too much inside information that would have been costly to his unit had it gotten into the wrong hands. After he was discharged from the military, Ray never flew again but became an engineer for the Burlington Northern Railroad. On the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII, he returned to England where he met the Queen.

As there was no further business to come before the committee, Representative Gaines moved to adjourn at 2:25 p.m.

Representative Sandy Salmon

Susan R. Foster, Committee Secretary