

Thaddeus asked the board members to take a look at the agenda. He said if there is nothing urgent on the agenda, he asked for a motion to table Items F – N in order to videotape and interview Gerty Graber, who is our special guest. It has been moved and seconded to table these items.

E. GERTY GRABER INTERVIEW/BIO PREPARATION – ANA BARBOSA/THADDEUS HAMILTON

The interview was conducted by Ana Barbosa and videotaped by Stan Leibowitz. Ana asked several questions and Gerty gave her background as a holocaust survivor and how this impacted her life. Gerty was born in Vienna, Austria. She left Vienna around 1938-39 and moved to England, got a job as a maid but that didn't work out. Later, she went out one day and joined the British Army. The war broke out and it seemed, so to speak, that she was the enemy. Her duties only allowed her to clean the bathrooms and cook (the British way). Gerty was in the British Army for four (4) years. Upon getting out of the Army, she found herself in a hostile environment. Her mother lived in the United States and kept telling her to come there. After 18 months, she finally came to the United States on an ocean liner. As far as she knows, this vessel doesn't exist anymore, it was a French ship. This was approximately 1952-53, not certain. Her mother gave an affidavit for her to become an American citizen. It was very easy back then; just give them any information you wanted and you became a citizen. Later, she got an office job in some kind of music business office.

Her mother decided to move from Brooklyn to Long Island, can't remember much about this. Again, she found a job.

Around this time, she met her husband, Norman Graber. He became serious about their relationship and kept saying he was going to marry her. Gerty said she was not interested in marriage. That went on for almost 18 months and she finally said she would marry him. They were married for 52 years.

Her husband left for the Army, indirectly the CIA but he didn't tell her of any of his assignments or locations. Eventually, the CIA allowed her to go with him as his chauffeur. She was responsible for driving him around and getting his food. He was with the CIA for three (3) years. During his time in the Army, he was in two (2) concentration camps in Germany. In order to get out of this camp, they had to do something. Norman's Father knew a guy who told the head of the camp that his son was in there and to let him out. They released him.

During Norman's time in the CIA, she lived in New York. However, as he continued to travel a lot, the CIA finally allowed her to go with him most of the time. Eventually, Norman became an interpreter, writing German to English.

Her father-in-law lived in California. They went out to visit him and spent a lot of time on the ocean. They drove from California back to New York. They also spent time in Chicago.

She and her husband have four (4) boys and 1 girl. One of the boys joined the Marines and went to Vietnam. Another son joined the Air Force and he was also in Vietnam.

Norman retired and they moved to Florida around 1960. Since coming here, she hasn't done much of anything. She is an active member of the Reserve Officer Association.

At the end of the interview, Gerty shared many photos of her husband and herself during their time in the military.

F. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION – THADDEUS HAMILTON

No public comment.

G. APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2019 SUMMARY MINUTES – THADDEUS HAMILTON

Tabled.

H. VETERAN'S CLINIC – THADDEUS HAMILTON

Tabled.

H. 2018 – 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS – THADDEUS HAMILTON

Tabled.

J. VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DAY – KENTON ISACKSON

Tabled.

K. VETERAN'S PARK GRAND OPENING UPDATE – MARK LUBELSKI

Tabled.

L. OLD BUSINESS – THADDEUS HAMILTON

Tabled.

M. NEW BUSINESS – THADDEUS HAMILTON

Tabled.

N. BOARD MEMBER’S DISCUSSION – THADDEUS HAMILTON

Tabled.

O. ADJOURNMENT – THADDEUS HAMILTON

Norm motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Kenton. The Board agreed.
Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2019.

Transcribed by: Alesa Lane, Board Secretary

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. F.S.S. 286.0105.