

Jim Justice

From: Gayle and Greg Gorrell <gggorrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2023 7:07 AM
To: mwelch@ashlandcounty.org; dbittle@ashlandcounty.org; jjustice@ashlandcounty.org
Subject: POW-MIA flag article in todays Ashland Source

Mike, Denny, Jimmy,

Mike, are quoted that a "FEW informal complaints" about the above flag has caused a policy to be enacted to have it removed. Is the article accurate? If so, have the commissioners forgotten that this came up years ago when several of us veterans came to your meeting to hear "the rest of the story". As a result it stayed up.

I would hope that the commissioners have not "caved" because of a few complaints (I would like to know who the few are).

Denny, have you forgotten that this flag was designed by a WWII pilot and represents those POW-MIAs from all wars - not just Vietnam? You may also recall several of us veterans came to your meeting years ago on this exact same topic - and as a result - the flag remained.

I would urge the commissioners to reconsider this issue. , it would seem logical that you would have a commissioners agenda topic to have others who ARE WILLING TO BE KNOWN, to have a discussion in an open session before establishing a "new policy about this specific flag" Please give me a call.

Greg Gorrell
419-651-9953

Jim Justice

From: Brooke Leidigh <brookeleidigh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2023 12:51 PM
To: jjustice@ashlandcounty.org; mwelch@ashlandcounty.org; dbittle@ashlandcounty.org
Subject: Flag Question

Afternoon Commissioners,

I am writing in response to a recent facebook post that was brought to my attention last night concerning your meeting minutes. In those minutes it states that you are considering approving and adopting a policy restricting the use of certain flags on the county owned flag poles. Although I have a feeling I know what flags you are trying to eliminate being asked to be flown I am wanting to confirm that you are still planning on flying the POW/MIA flag as part of your approved flags? Like the saying goes "bad gas travels fast in a small town" I am hoping the rumors to remove the POW/MIA flag are just that, rumors and bad gas. If you could please confirm whether this is true or not that would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
Brooke Leidigh

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Brooke M. Leidigh
VFW Post 1067 Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer
VFW Dept of Ohio District 10 Auxiliary President
419-606-8820

From: mwelch@ashlandcounty.org
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:18 AM
To: nhiller@ashlandcounty.org
Subject: FW: POW/ MIA flag display Policy

From: Andrew Leidigh <ableidigh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 4:24 PM
To: dbittle@ashlandcounty.org; jjustice@ashlandcounty.org; mwelch@ashlandcounty.org
Subject: POW/ MIA flag display Policy

Dear Ashland County Commissioners,

On August 31, 2023, the board set a new policy to only fly only certain flags at the county building effectively removing the POW/MIA flag. I understand the purpose of needing a policy in effect so that other flags may be not be flown. However, removing the POW/MIA flag is a mistake.

I feel that the passage of a policy to remove the POW/MIA flag from county properties is an embarrassment to the county, a slap in the face to the veterans that fought for this country, and a dishonor to the families with lost loved ones. The POW/MIA represents the 81,000 unaccounted American service members that have not come home. Community veterans honor those that have died and those still missing several times a year in many ceremonies handed down by National groups. Every single one of these veterans fought to preserve the rights of the American people.

The Defense POW/MIA Account Agency (DPAA) to this day still is finding remains of our military members. They are fighting a battle against mother nature trying to recover and identify these remains so that their families may know their loved ones fate. Just last year, we were able to bring home to Ashland one of our own, PFC Bowen (WWII). I had the honor of escorting his remains from Cleveland airport to the funeral home in town. Every Police, Sheriff, Fire department, EMT, veteran, and civilian covered every overpass, street, sidewalk, and corner available to pay their respects to this man.

Throughout the Ohio revised code whenever it is referenced about a flag being flown the American flag, the POW flag are mentioned. Section 9.50 of the Ohio revised code only encourages the display of the flag at public buildings. Your veterans of Ashland County encourage you to display this flag. I encourage you to amend your policy to reflect that the POW/MIA flag will be flown below the American flag at all county properties.

If there is a proper procedure to have this policy amended, I would like to know the steps so that I can have the communities voice upheld.

Andrew Leidigh
VFW Department of Ohio Youth Chairman
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VFW Past District 10 Commander
AMVETS Post 149 Adjutant
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