



April 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the April 2026 bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA).

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, April 7th at 1700 in the Gray Room of the Consolidated Open Mess. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the February 2026 meeting which were approved and accepted.
2. Officers present: President-Paul Sayles, Treasurer-Dave Barton, and Secretary-Joe Roginski.
3. Purpose: Bi-monthly general membership meeting to inform the membership of matters pertaining to the operations of the Association, and to canvass the membership on matters of concern in operation of the Association, and any issues pertaining to living in Japan, living and working in and around Misawa Air Base.
4. Members present: 17, including officers.

Special Guests: Alan Arcega Briefing; The Veterans Advocates organization that assists military retirees in applying for Veterans' Affairs benefits. The organization's website is VeteransAdvocates.com. This organization assists with case reviews for established claims and new claims for VA compensation. The charge for this assistance if the claim is successful is six times the increase of benefit or the initial benefit based on a percentage of the award from the VA. Veterans Advocates tracks the progress of the newly initiated claims through the VA system. There are similar services with similar fees, MMRA does *not* endorse any of them but wants members to know that these resources are available and this briefing was provided as a service to the membership. Any discussions or arrangements must be conducted between individual and Veterans Advocates.

5. Old Business

Per the Constitution we held elections. President, Paul Sayles announced opening for Secretary. There were no nominations and members by acclaim selected Joe Roginski to remain for secretary. The same process and result for the positions of Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. As a result, the current four officers were re-elected and remain the same. (Closed)

6. New Business

- a. Bill Tuttle reported the passing of Tobias (Toby) Fanelli. Bill gave a brief recap of the funeral and cremation, and the required documentation and disposal of his effects. Bill, Gary, Lee Martin and Paul discussed the disposal of Toby's personal items in storage, including over a

thousand DVD movies. Bill suggested that they be used by the ROTC for a fundraiser. Other suggestions were to donate to the thrift shop or other fund-raising activities including the MMRA. Lee Martin reported he is still sorting the personal items and papers for return to the stateside family. Joe Roginski offered to help with the mailing when ready. Bill said he will follow up on possible fund-raising activities from the DVDs. (Open)

- b. Paul Sayles reported that the base-wide parking lot painting is causing some inconvenience. He asked that all be aware so the process goes smoothly. (Closed)
- c. Joe Roginski commented on the base gym closure for renovations, and the relocation. Other members commented on the progress of the relocation and the new locations and hours. (Closed)
- d. Bill Tuttle reminded us that the Japan Day event was coming on April 12th. (Closed)
- e. A member reminded us that the commissary now charges 5 cents a bag, so bring your own bag or basket. (Closed)
- f. A member asked if Japan's Golden Week will affect any hours or closures on base, and everybody said it should not impact us as usual. (Closed)

7. Financial Report – Treasurer Dave Barton gave the report this meeting for the period February 3rd to present. Beginning balance of \$7,311.45. Income: MMRA dues \$80. MMRA donations \$240, We received a re-imbursement of \$170 from the Air Force Sergeants' Association for our annual expense on the Profession of Arms plaques. NFCU dividends of \$0.12. Total income of \$490.12; Expenses: Club bill for this month of \$189.20, and the total plaque payment which we made \$335.40. Total expenses \$524.60. Widows Fund stands at \$5,044.44, General Fund is \$2,232.53. Ending balance \$7,276.97. Motion to approve was made and carried.

At 1753, a motion was made and approved to adjourn. Paul Sayles announced the next meeting to be held on June 2, 2026 at 1700 in the club Gray Room. Paul also reminded us the dates for coming meetings are: 2 June, 4 August, 6 October, and 1 December.

PAUL SAYLES

President Name

President Signature

JOSEPH ROGINSKI

Secretary Name

Secretary Signature

