

## **Veterans Day Fireside**

**What:** A Veterans Day Fireside with Lt. Col. Sherman L. Fleek (US Army Ret) this fireside is open to all members, friends, and neighbors. Brother Fleek will share some personal experiences as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints serving in the military. He will also speak on how unique and honorable the military service of church members has been during some key moments in history, as well as the church's military-related doctrine in the scriptures.

**Who:** Sherman Fleek, a former member of the Winchester Stake, retired from the U. S. Army in 2002, after a 25-year career, as a lieutenant colonel. He served as an aviator, Special Forces officer, and enlisted armor crewman, ending his career as Chief Historian of the National Guard Bureau. In 2005, the U.S. Army appointed Brother Fleek as the historian to record and to write the Army's official history of the reconstruction efforts in Iraq, then served in Iraq in early 2006. In May 2007, he became the first ever historian for Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2009, he was appointed the command historian for the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. Brother Fleek has also taught military history to cadets at West Point since 2013, and a graduate history course to Army officers affiliated with Columbia University's Teachers College. He retired in May 2023.

**When:** Saturday, 9 Nov 2024, 1900-2000 hrs (7-8pm)

**Where:** Winchester Stake Center, 399 Apple Pie Ridge Rd, Winchester, VA

Sherman Fleek retired from the U. S. Army in 2002, after a 25-year career, as a lieutenant colonel. He served as an aviator, Special Forces officer, and enlisted armor crewman, ending his career as Chief Historian of the National Guard Bureau. Lt. Col. Fleek joined the Army in 1973, serving in Mainz, Germany. Commissioned from the ROTC in 1982, he has also served in air cavalry, air assault, and fixed wing support units. He was commander of several units, served two joint tours, and served in combat arms units from platoon through division.

A native of Layton, Utah, he holds a B.A. in English from Brigham Young University and a Master of Arts degree in American History from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Idaho. He married Michel E. Johnson in July 1982, and has five children: three boys and two girls. As a historian, he has more than thirty articles published on military, frontier army, Mexican War and Civil War history in national periodicals and historical journals. In 2006, his first book appeared, the award-winning *History May be Searched in Vain: A Military History of the Mormon Battalion*; his second book, *Place the Headstones Where they Belong*, a biography of Thomas Neibaur, a World War I recipient of the Medal of Honor, appeared in 2008. He later published two historical novels on the Mexican War in the Far West, then *Saints of Valor: Mormon Medal of Honor Recipients*, was published in 2011. Fleek's magnum opus, *The Mormon Military Experience* was published by University of Kansas Press in 2023, an overview of Latter-day Saint military involvement.

He served from 2002-2005 as historian for a Civil War preservation foundation, telling the Civil War story in the Shenandoah Valley. In 2005, the U.S. Army appointed Mr. Fleek as the historian to record and to write the Army's official history of the reconstruction efforts in Iraq, then served in Iraq in early 2006. In May 2007, he became the first ever historian for Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2009, he was appointed the command historian for the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. Also, Fleek has taught military history to cadets at West Point since 2013, and a graduate history course to Army officers affiliated with Columbia University's Teachers College. He retired in May 2023. Lt. Col. Fleek's awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal,

Meritorious Service Medal and eight other decorations including the Master Aviator Badge, being qualified in several rotary and fixed-wing aircraft with more than 2,200 flying hours. He also received the Army Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Tab, and Air Assault Badge. In May 2016 Fleek received the Secretary of the Army Award for Valor for disrupting an armed robbery at a restaurant in California in May 2015.