



The “AZ-LZ”

VVA Convention-Spokane 2019

The VVA Convention held in Spokane Washington this past July 2019 was a huge success for all of the Vietnam Veteran personnel that showed up for it. To many of us, it was a huge opportunity to see how VVA operates during the convention. As well, it provided some good information on the Committees, Amendments, Resolutions and other “Vietnam Veterans” issues that have been dealt with for some time.

The reception and banquet was a wonderful time for all those that attended it. The dinner, entertainment, awards and special personnel that attended it was a real blessing.

We thank Vietnam Veterans of America National for duly providing a wonderful time for us all, it was marvelous.

Host of Thanks to Spokane State Council



Vietnam Veterans of America and all of the delegates, the AVVA group, the wives and friends would like to express their thanks to Washington State Council President **Francisco Ivarra** and all of the members of the Washington State Council and its Chapters.

The week was superb and we know you played a big role in helping out getting things set up, and making a lot of arrangements to ensure all went well and it did.

Everything was marvelous and very interesting and we all learned a lot, was able to visit with friends we sometimes see only every year or two. Once again, thank you for all you did and the work you put into this VVA 19th Convention for the hundreds that came out here to be a part of this. **You out did yourselves.**

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Special points of interest

- Vietnamese Speaker
- Archives of Records
- Our Special VP Marsha Four
- Gifts From Washington State
- Thanks to the Hotel
- The Final Elections
- Thank you VVA National
- Region, State Council and Chapter Awards
- Personal Awards
- Larry Mitchell, Chapter 432
- Korean-Vietnam Veterans
- Closing the Convention
- Dayton, OH in 2020
- Greensboro, NC in 2021

A Look At Spokane



The Spokane Davenport Hotel



The Davenport Hotel in Spokane, Washington was simply elegant. The employees made their guests feel right at home and provided a comfortable room, and scrumptious restaurant and of course one of the best STARBUCKS anyone would ever want. We thank the management for providing us with a nice time in Spokane, Washington.



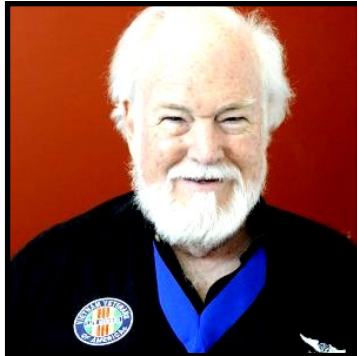
Wreath Laying Memorial



The first event of VVA's biennial 19th National Convention in Spokane, Washington, took place on Tuesday afternoon, July 16th when VVA's national officers lay a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, at 610 W Spokane Falls Blvd. *"It's traditional for VVA to honor local war dead before we get on to the business of our National Leadership Conferences and National Conventions,"* said VVA President John Rowan. *"It is something we take very solemnly and seriously. It is our honor to recognize those Americans from the Spokane area who paid the ultimate price in service to our nation. And we will honor our Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action."* Rowan was joined by Sharon Hobbs, President of AVVA, Mayor of Spokane, Allen Lynch, Miss Spokane and the Police Chief of Spokane.



Looking Back At The Past Years



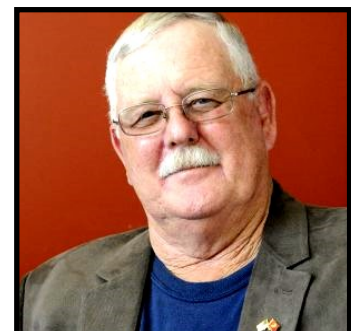
John Rowan is one man all of us look up to in the way he handles himself, the VVA organization and the issues and problems concerning the veterans of the Vietnam War. This being his 8th term should say something about him. We so appreciate the way he talks to the required personnel to discuss and cause an action when it comes to our health, the Vietnam War, others that served and others that made a difference in our lives. John, we thank you for all you've done.

When it comes to doing a job, there is no one I can think of that does it like she does. **Marsha Four** has held one of the most important positions within VVA National and that is to provide guidance, direction and assistance to those many employees of the Maryland office. She has got to be one of the most kind people one would ever get to know and we too, thank her for all she has accomplished and although she will be retiring from VVA National, she thank her for all she has done in her "VVA Career".



Any organization requires funds of some sort and there is no one better than **Wayne Reynolds** when it comes to keeping monies straight and honest for the various states, two foreign locations within America and elsewhere. He has brought VVA National far when it comes to managing the monies of earning and spending in a way that we (VVA) can make a true difference for all Vietnam Veterans throughout the country and to you Wayne, we thank you very much.

Bill Meeks is one man that is looked high upon when it comes keeping records for the entire VVA National organization. Reports, minutes, et al are an essential item when it comes to knowing what went on at any given meeting at any given time. As we age, it gets to be a bit tricky to know and remember those essential items discussed and Bill has provided those reporting mechanisms for all of us to re-read or visit for the first time. Bill, thank you for all you do in your job.



VVA Convention Auditorium



VVA Convention Registration



The VVA registration department of the VVA Convention in Spokane, WA was extremely efficient in getting the nearly seven hundred delegates registered and getting their packs, books and hopefully the banquet tickets issued.

For each convention or conference, everything seems a lot better and the cooperation of the men and women that attend and the employees that do the “hard work” are always very efficient and worthy of a big **THANK YOU** for doing all you did to make it enjoyable and pleasant for all of us.

Veterans In Convention Hall



Prayer, Honor Guard, Anthem



Welcome—2019 VVA Convention



President Rowan welcoming Veterans



Sharon Hobbs speaking on behalf of AVVA



Francisco Ivarra WA Council President



Plaque for WA State Indian Tribe—Yakama



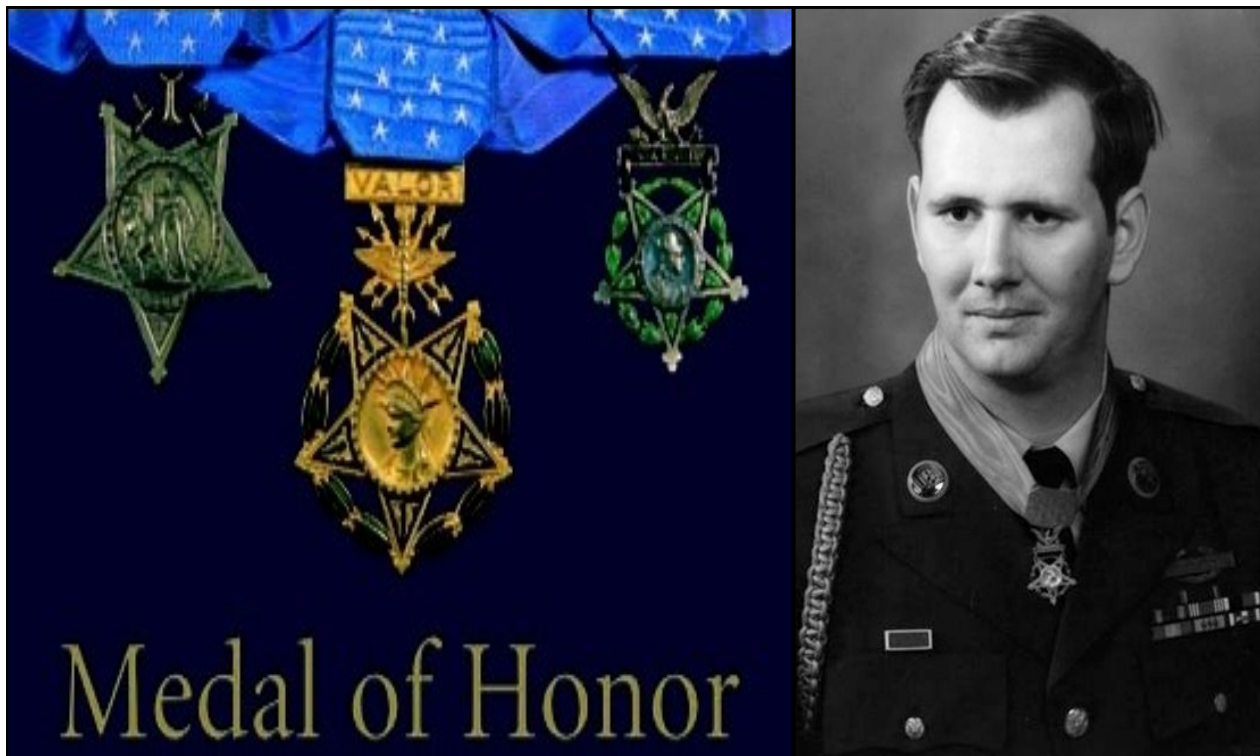
The Yakama people are similar to the other native inhabitants of the Columbia River Plateau. They were hunters and gatherers well known for trading salmon harvested from annual runs in the Columbia River. In 1805 or 1806, they encountered the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the confluence of the Yakima River and Columbia River. As a consequence of the Walla Walla Council and the Yakima War of 1855, the tribe was forced to cede much of their land and move onto their present reservation. The Treaty of 1855 identified the 14 confederated tribes and bands of the Yakama, including the "Yakama Tribe".

Medal of Honor—Allen Lynch

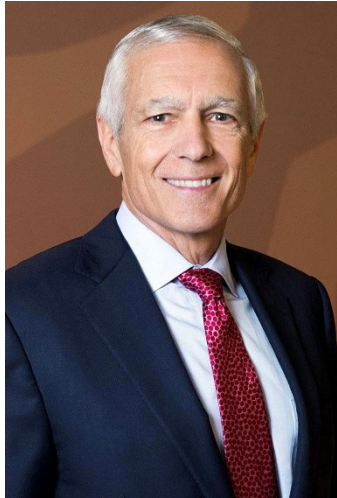


VVA Life Member **Allen Lynch**, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions while serving with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, delivered the Keynote Speech to close out the Opening Ceremonies at Vietnam Veterans of America's 19th biennial National Convention on Wednesday morning, July 17, at 9:00 a.m., in Ballroom 100ABC of the Spokane Convention Center, at 236 West Spokane Falls Blvd. On December 15, 1967, while serving as a radio telephone operator with Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), then SP4 Lynch distinguished himself when his unit became engaged with the enemy. Outnumbered, Lynch assessed the situation, providing his commander information

essential to the unit's successful actions. During the firefight on that day he rescued three wounded soldiers and stayed behind to protect them when the rest of the company withdrew. For two hours, using only his rifle and a grenade, he singlehandedly defended the wounded men against enemy attack. He crossed 70 meters of exposed terrain five times to carry his wounded comrades to a more secure area. *"Allen Lynch is a true American hero with an inspiring story to tell, and he is one of our own,"* said VVA National President John Rowan. *"I am sure his keynote will be one of the most memorable events of the Convention, and will get off to a rousing start."* More than 700 delegates from VVA local chapters across the nation joined hundreds of other Vietnam War veterans and guests in Spokane for the VVA Convention to listen to Allen's Lynch talk.



GEN. Wesley Clark



Gen. Wesley Clark, who retired from the Army as a four-star general in 2000, received the Vietnam Veterans of America Lifetime Achievement Award on Thursday, July 18, 2019 during VVA's 19th biennial National Convention in Spokane, Washington, before the more than 700 Vietnam War veteran delegates from VVA chapters across the country. *"It's difficult to envision a more accomplished resume than that of Gen. Clark,"* said VVA president John Rowan. "For starters, he graduated with a National Merit Scholarship from high school; he was first in the class of '66 at West Point; and he won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, where he earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in philosophy, politics, and economics. From May 1969 to February 1970, Gen. Clark served in the Vietnam War as the commanding officer of a 1st Infantry Division mechanized infantry company. His tour ended after he was shot four times in a firefight, an engagement for which he received a Bronze Star and a Silver Star, as well as the Purple Heart. After the war, he served as a White House fellow in the Ford administration in 1975-76. In the 1990s Gen. Clark commanded the First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood; he served as the lead negotiator for the Bosnian Peace Accords in 1995; then as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, and later of the U.S. European Command. His final military assignment was as NATO Supreme Allied Commander in Europe from 1997-2000. Today, Gen. Clark runs his own strategic consulting firm. He is the recipient of many awards: the Presidential Medal of Freedom; the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; honorary knighthoods from the U.K. and the Netherlands and Commander of the Legion of Honor from France, among others.

GEN Clark receiving the VVA Award from VVA President John Rowan. It is an honor to have a man like this in your presence and award them with something from you, a Vietnam Veteran. He has led an enriched life in his career.



Ernie Bergman, President of Chapter 547 of Marin County, CA is shaking hands with GEN Wesley Clark. An opportunity few of us ever get to do. Experiences like this are ones that we remember for a long time and will not forget that hand-shake coming from a man's man.

Experiences like this are ones that we remember for a long time and will not forget that hand-shake coming from a man's man.

VA Secretary—Robert Wilkie



The **Honorable Robert Wilkie**, VA Secretary provided a wonderful speech on the full support of Veterans from all walks of life and from all conflicts the United States has been involved in. The Mission Act and other forms of support will be provided for the Vietnam Veterans as they age and have them to live their life. It was a blessing to hear him speak on the various issues being addressed.

VA Medical Unit On Wheels



This particular “VA Medical Unit” on wheels provides care for the veterans that do not live close to a VA Medical Center or VA Hospital. Nearly all of the necessary care is on these four wheels with doctors and nurses and caregivers to help those veterans heal quickly.



VVA Delegate And Membership

Delegate Attendance

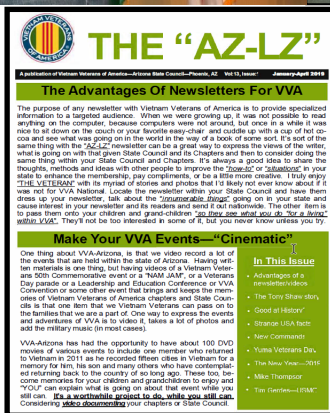
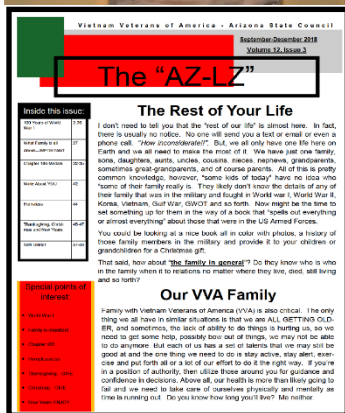
Region 1—	33
Region 2—	90
Region 3—	99
Region 4—	49
Region 5—	110
Region 6—	66
Region 7—	63
Region 8—	57
Region 9—	<u>101</u>
Total	668

Chapter Awards For New Membership

Members Chapter

025-050	Chapter 732	Ohio
051-100	Chapter 1084	Florida
101-200	Chapter 1044	Maine
201-300	Chapter 1048	Florida
301-400	Chapter 628	West Virginia
401-500	Chapter 1054	South Dakota
501-600	Chapter 1036	Florida
701-800	Chapter 862	Pennsylvania

State Council E-Newspaper Award



State Council E-Newsletter **Arizona** "The AZ-LZ" **Walt Schumacher**

The newsletter issues above are the specific ones submitted to the VVA National for review and VVA 2019 19th Biennial Convention award. This quarterly newsletter provides information about: personal, informational and statistical items. The content revolves around history, information and guidance for the families that read it.

VVA State and Chapter Awards



Beverly Stewart of MT State Council Incarcerated Chapter Ch 689, Louisiana



Chapter 899, NJ ">200 Members"
"Chapter Newsletter of the Year"

Chapter 35, Ohio "<200 Members"
"Chapter Newsletter of the Year"



Chapter 126 Manhattan, NY
"Chapter Website of the Year"

Colorado State Council
"State Council of the Year"

VVA Election Committee—2019



Election Committee Chairman Providing Guidance And Most Importance: WHO WON



Election Committee Hard At Work

Terry Nolan Holding All The Results

Which Ones Will Be Elected?





Prospective BOD Officers

Dottie Barickman	Felix Petersen	Dennis Howland	Dan Stevold	John Margowski	Larry Bramblett	Gumersindo Gomez
Kerwin Stone	Gene Crego	Richard DeLong	Sandie Wilson	Charlie Montgomery	Edward Oller	Dave Simmons

Prospective Regional Directors

Skip Hochreich Region 1	Ted Wilkinson-NY Region 2	Sara McVicker-DC Region 3	Jack Mattingly-KY Region 3	Spence Davis-GA Region 4	John Rilling-MI Region 5	Bob Grabinski-WI Region 6
Dennis Andras-LA Region 7	Allen Manue-LA Region 7	Francisco Ivarra-WA Region 8	Dick Southern-CA Region 9	Michael Marks-AZ Region 9		

Prospective National Officers

John Rowan President	Tom Burke Vice President	Jack McManus Treasurer	Bill Meeks Secretary

Red indicates elected

VVA National Officers



Vote Tally Sheet
VVA General Elections - July 19 , 2019

National Officers

Office	Candidate	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5	R 6	R 7	R 8	R 9	Totals
President	John Rowan	30	66	54	45	101	56	44	21	81	498
Vice President	Tom Burke	28	68	62	46	103	58	43	32	89	529
Secretary	Bill Meeks	27	72	66	44	99	61	46	32	86	533
											0
											0
Treasurer	Jake Barsottini	5	31	39	25	7	19	16	16	42	200
Treasurer	Larry Matika	11	5	13	2	8	10	9	11	23	92
Treasurer	Jack McManus	16	52	45	22	92	34	40	26	35	362

VVA National Board of Directors

Vote Tally Sheet
VVA General Elections - July 19 , 2019

National Board of Directors -- At Large

	Candidate	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5	R 6	R 7	R 8	R 9	Totals
1	Sandie Wilson	24	75	70	37	101	21	56	46	76	506
2	Felix (Pete) Peterson, Jr.	22	73	66	33	86	44	57	45	65	491
3	John Margowski	23	69	45	33	88	57	54	42	54	465
4	Kerwin Stone	17	71	74	38	80	26	61	25	61	453
5	Gumersindo Gomez	27	66	50	42	92	26	47	39	56	445
6	Dan Stenvold	21	74	47	34	69	55	40	35	62	437
7	Dottie Barickman	20	77	56	33	46	57	34	36	61	420
8	Simmons, Dave	20	74	61	36	74	13	42	26	50	396
9	Richard DeLong	25	34	42	40	75	10	49	27	51	353
10	Dennis Howland	16	39	48	38	43	14	52	29	64	343
11	Charles Montgomery	15	34	70	44	43	5	49	30	42	332
12	Gene Crego	14	38	26	37	55	13	40	29	74	326
13	Edward (ED) Oller	8	14	20	10	68	10	24	17	23	194
14	Larry Bramlett	3	22	21	7	26	5	12	14	71	181

VVA Regional Directors



Vote Tally Sheet

VVA General Elections - July 19 , 2019

National Board of Directors – Regional

	Candidate	Totals
Region 1	Skip Hochreich	31
Region 2	Ted Wilkinson	79
Region 3	Sara McVicker	72
	Jack Mattingly	23
Region 4	Spence Davis	44
Region 5	John Riling	98
Region 6	Robert Grabinski	62
Region 7	Dennis Andras	34
	Allen Manuel	30
Region 8	Francisco Ivarra	44
Region 9	Dick Southern	69
	Michael Marks	26

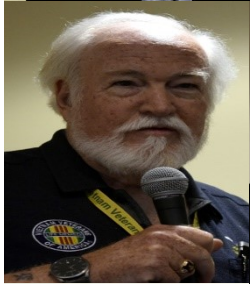
Region 9 Caucus Meetings



Ed Oller
Kerwin Stone



Dottie Barickman
Don Stenvold
Bill Meeks
Francisco Ivarra



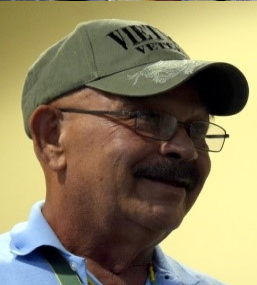
John Rowan
Richard DeLong
Sandie Wilson
John Margowski



Jacob Barsottini
Gene Crego
Tom Burke
Dick Southern



Dave Simmons
Jack McManus
Larry Bramblett
C. Montgomery



Felix Petersen
Dennis Howland
Michael Marks
G. Gomez

VVA Committee Chairs

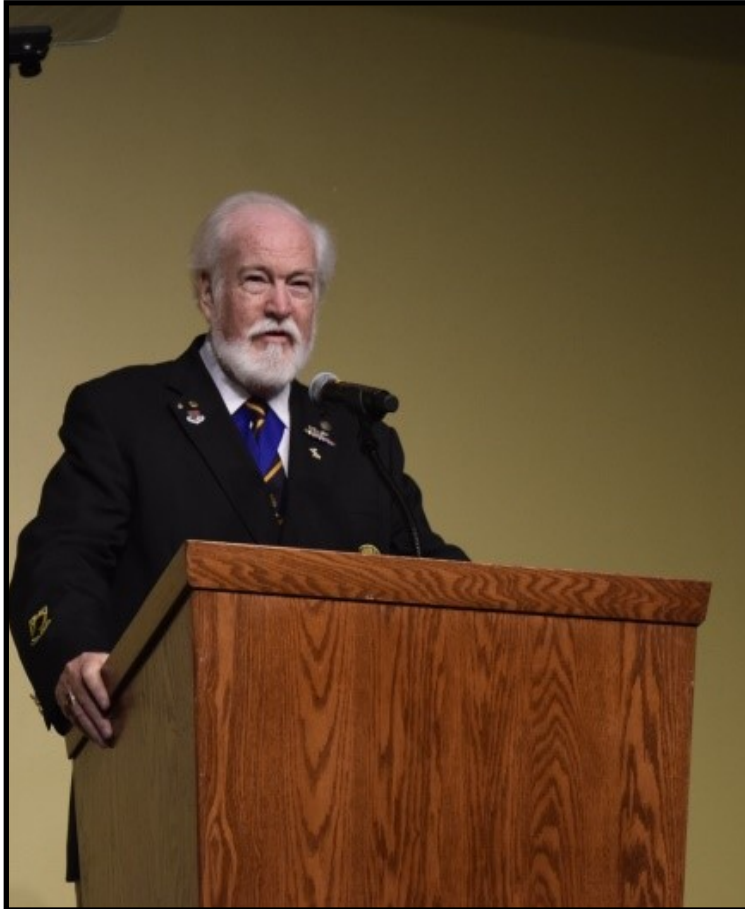


Committee	Chair
Agent Orange/Dioxin	Maynard Kaderlik
Constitution	Leslie DeLong
Credentials	Richard Lindbeck
Economic Opportunities	Frank Barry
Elections	Scott DeArman
Finance	Ned Foote
Government Affairs	Felix "Pete" Peterson
Homeless Veterans	Sandy Miller
Leadership Conf./Convention	Dan Stenvold
Membership Affairs	Dick Southern
Minority Affairs	Gumersindo Gomez
Nat'l Disciplinary	Al "Butch" Huber
POW/MIA	Grant Coates
PTSD & Substance Abuse	Dr. Tom Hall
Public Affairs	Dennis Howland
Resolutions	John Margowski
Rules	Joe Jennings
Veterans Against Drugs	Dave Simmons
Veterans Benefits	Tom Burke
Veterans Healthcare	Chuck Beyers
Veterans Incarcerated	Dominic Yezzo
Women Veterans	Kate O'Hare-Palmer

VVA Appointments

Appointment	Name
AVVA Special Advisor	Tom Burke
National Chaplain	Fr. Philip Salois
Chapel of 4 Chaplains	Dennis Beauregard
Sergeant-at-Arms	Grant Coates
Veterans Health Council	Col. Artie Shelton, MD (USA ret.), Executive Director

John Rowan—President of VVA



John Rowan was re-elected to an eighth term as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America on July 19, at the organization's 19th National Convention in Spokane, Washington. Rowan, who was elected to VVA's highest office in 2005, has served as the chairman of VVA's Conference of State Council Presidents, for three terms on the organization's Board of Directors, and as president of VVA's New York State Council. He served as a linguist in the U.S. Air Force's 6990 Security Squadron in Vietnam and at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, providing the Strategic Air Command with intelligence on North Vietnam's SAM sites to protect their bombing missions. Rowan was a founding member and the first president of VVA Chapter 32

in Queens, New York. He retired from city service as an investigator with the City of New York's Comptroller's Office. He lives in Middle Village, New York, with his wife, Mariann.

Thomas Burke of Springfield, Pennsylvania, was elected to serve as Vice President; **Bill Meeks, Jr.**, of The Woodlands, Texas, was reelected as Secretary; and **Jack McManus** of Flat Rock, North Carolina, was elected as VVA's Treasurer.

In addition, eleven (11) **National Board of Directors** were elected and they are: Dottie Barickman (IA); Richard C. DeLong (LA); Gumersindo Gomez (MA); Dennis Howland (UT); John Margowski (WI); Felix Peterson (OK); Dave Simmons (WV); Dan Stenvold (ND); Kerwin Stone (TX); Sandie Wilson (MI); and Jerry Yamamoto (CA).

The nine **Regional Directors** were elected to serve a 2019-2021 term are: Region 1, Skip Hochreich (MA); Region 2, Ted Wilkinson (NY); Region 3, Sara McVicker (DC); Region 4, Spence Davis (GA); Region 5, John Riling (MI); Region 6, Robert Grabinski (WI); Region 7, Dennis Andras (LA); Region 8, Francisco Ivarra (WA); and Region 9, Dick Southern (CA)

New Directors - 2019-21



From L to R

Dick Southern,
Felix, Johnson
Kerwin Stone
Dotty Barrickman
Dave Simmons
Dan Stenvold
John Margowski
Bob Grabinski



From L to R

Dennis Howland
Dick Southern
Felix, Johnson
Bob Grabinski
Dotty Barrickman
Dave Simmons



From L to R

Sandie Wilson
Dennis Andras
Jack Mattingly
Tom Burke
Bob Grabinski
Bill Meeks

AVVA Presents A Check



The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America presented this check for \$16,500.00 to the Volunteers of America

Group I and II Presentation



Corporation – Dissolution

- As a legal entity the VVA National Corporation's existence will be brought to an end eventually, regardless of anyone's wishes. The VVA National Corporation has a life span which will be ended by its dissolution (either voluntarily or involuntarily).
- An involuntary dissolution could result from the failure to file a required Government report, or perhaps an unpaid creditor could put the VVA National Corporation into bankruptcy or otherwise take all of its financial assets.
- A voluntary dissolution would allow the VVA National Corporation to control its end in a manner to perpetuate its legacy and continue to benefit those future generations of veterans. The VVA National Corporation can accomplish this by planning in advance for its voluntary dissolution.



Corporation – Dissolution (Cont.)

- Not later than one year prior to dissolution the VVA NSDD must commence the process of formal dissolution of VVA National Corporation by adoption of a *Plan of Dissolution and Distribution of Assets* addressing the desire of the VVA National Corporation and the distribution of assets not previously distributed, and by filing a *Petition for Dissolution* with the New York Appellate General or New York Supreme Court. This plan should not be confused with the *VVA Strategic Plan for Dissolution*.
- Upon approval of the *Petition for Dissolution* by the State of New York the *Plan of Dissolution* must be carried out within 170 days (distribute remaining assets and pay liabilities).



First Proposed Amendment

New Section and paragraphs as follows:

SECTION 12 - DISSOLUTION

The last date for membership eligibility was May 7, 1975, and the average age of the membership is increasing. As a result, at some point in the future the Corporation will legally dissolve, either as a final involuntary action, or as a planned action associated with the transfer of assets to one or more other organizations. To successfully conduct dissolution of the Corporation well planned and timely actions will be required by the VVA National Board of Directors.

A The national board, including the officers, shall actively manage the legal dissolution of the Corporation to include adopting, updating, and implementing a strategic plan for dissolution, and to take all actions necessary to accomplish the orderly dissolution of the Corporation.



Corporation – Government Affairs

- The work of VVA Government Affairs is considered by the general membership as one of the most vital functions to preserve the Founding Principle, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."
- Action: Two years before dissolution the VVA NSDD needs to identify a successor or existing organization(s), or consider the formation of a new organization able to continue that undertaking. This action may involve coordinating with other organizations to place currently VVA employed personnel in direct contact with counterparts in those organizations. Transfers need to occur in a timely manner with regard to legislative calendars and sessions, such that all transfers occur not later than one year prior to dissolution.



Corporation - Assets

- The VVA National Corporation has both tangible and intangible assets.
- The VVA National Corporation has substantial flexibility in transferring assets prior to the filing of its *Plan of Dissolution*, without having to be concerned about State oversight. The VVA should use that flexibility to identify its "legacy" assets, with a view toward transferring ownership (but not necessarily possession) to a successor or other selected organization(s) before filing the *Plan of Dissolution*.



Corporation – Assets (Cont.)

- For distribution of assets under a *Plan of Dissolution*, significant oversight by the State of New York is imposed, including filing of financial reports, affidavits, and governing documents of recipient organizations.
- When the VVA National Corporation dissolves, all of its remaining assets (after payment of all remaining debts) will, if not otherwise disposed of, be given to an organization which is tax-exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3), which is the legal form of charitable or religious organization, or 501(c)(19), which is specifically for veterans' organizations. If the VVA National Corporation has not designated any such organization(s), the State of New York will make that determination.



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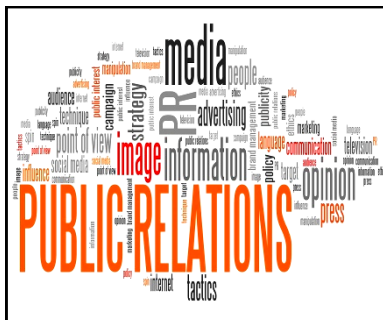
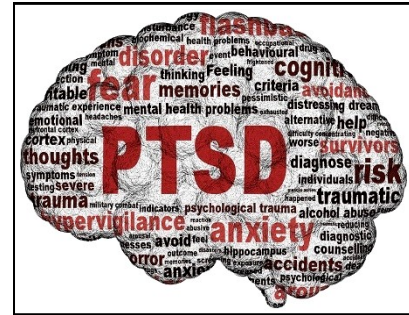
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VVA National Committees Logos



These fourteen VVA National Committees met with various personnel from all over the country to perform the duties of “the committee” for the sake of the veterans themselves. It is also for the betterment of our national organization to guide it.

VVA Committee Meetings



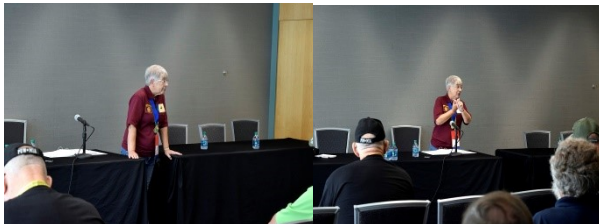
Agent Orange



Health Care



Homeless Vets



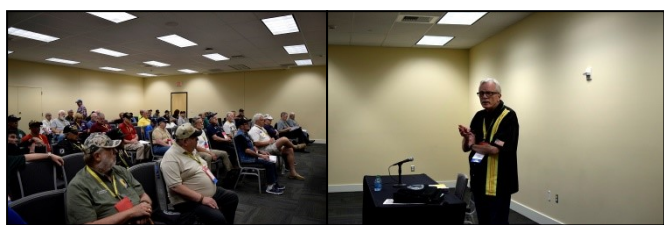
Membership



POW-MIA



PTSD



Public Affairs



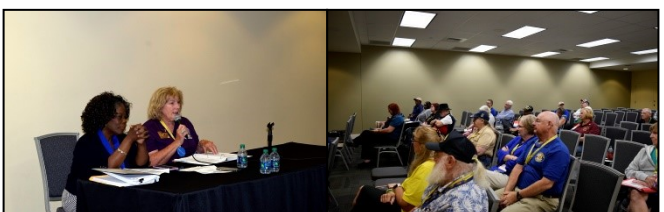
Veteran Benefits



Veterans Incarcerated



Women Veterans



The VVA Convention Committee Classes are of great value to those that don't or can't keep up with the issues going on with the Veterans Administration or other items within the "VVA World". It's important to **"stay on top of as much as you can"** because one day it will likely affect one of us when we least expect. We so appreciate all of the Committee Chairpersons for doing a good job in their position to bring us the news we need.

Gift To VVA National Delegation



Thank you to WA State Council President and Region 8 Director Francisco F. Ivarra for presenting this oval plaque to the VVA Delegation on behalf of Washington State and Region 8 personnel. It was an honor to hold the VVA 19th Convention here in Spokane Washington. This plaque will eventually be placed in the Harbison Room at VVA Headquarters in Silver Springs, MD.

VVA Delegates-Making A Difference



These are the Vietnam Veterans that make a real difference in their chapters and state councils in their state. We have some time left to make some real improvements for the Vietnam Veteran, to include those from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War and those in the Global War on Terror (GWOT).

Spokane Car Show



The car our "grandfather" likely had



The car "we wished" we had



This might be the one "we would like" now



The one that we "cannot afford"



The car that was "affordable" back then



The car that "we only dream" about



Who knew that this old 50's Chevrolet would ever be worth more than the car we now own?

Spoiling The One You Love



Well, gentlemen if you have been married any length of time, you truly might consider taking your sweet wife to a city you likely have not been to before. And do it before you're unable to travel. I think you know which one I am talking about and it is well worth it. However in the meantime, take her to a French pastry shop and enjoy the French goodies they have in there and by the way, it's all very non-fattening. ☺

Vietnam Veteran Motorcycle Rally



A ride, in honor of
VIETNAM VETERANS
Saturday • July 20, 2019

The ride will begin at the Spokane Convention Center Parking Lot at noon, and end by 3:30pm at Lone Wolf Harley-Davidson Dealership: 19011 E. Cataldo Ave, Spokane Valley, Washington. 99016

For more information contact Ted Langevin (509)413-9532



Vietnam Veterans and those “Motorcycle Riders” within the Spokane area took a short motorcycle ride throughout the city to honor those Vietnam Veterans who served fighting the Communist regime in North Vietnam. May they always be honored for what they did for fifteen years.





“Coffee Time” At The Convention



This is always a good time to enjoy with friends or people you don't even know.

And that is with a cup of coffee. Often times, we just run into that person or persons that have that very special “something in common with you” and the conversation strikes up about one thing or another and pretty soon, you have become “old friends”.



Well, at our age, that is the way it should be. As we age, one cannot have enough friends for our time is running short and it's nice to find that commonality in someone that lives far away or just around the corner.

Let's all make it a point to keep those friends close by and drop and email, text or even a phone call or visit.



With VVA in a differing stage in the next several years, it is imperative that we leave Vietnam Veterans of America in a perfect way so our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren truly see what it was that we spent so much time involved in. We will never regret it and leaving some history for them is imperative.

VVA Minority Award



The Minority Award Diversity Committee awarded this lady named **Louredas "Alfie" Alvarado-Ramos** with this plaque for her involvement in the minority and diversity section of this Committee. Color has no bearing on our person as we are all the same, simply different in the skin color, our language, culture, however made all the same by God Himself. May we all have that respect and graciousness for one another.

VVA Membership Awards



VVA 2019 Convention Reception



A good time was had by all as we joined in on the VVA Reception on the last night of the 19th Convention held here in Spokane, Washington.



Many of us had not been here before and to say the least it was an enjoyable time for all that attended the event.



The reception was a nice way to "start the end" of the special evening with each other and enjoy some Coca-Cola and pre-dinner treats.



This was our last chance to say *hello* and *good-bye* before the end of the evening.

VVA 2019 Convention Reception



Originally From Holland



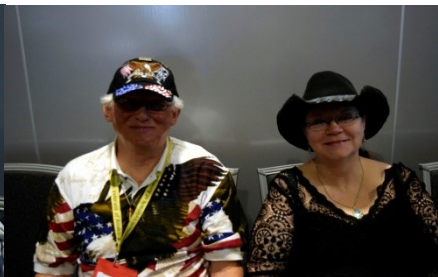
Dan And His Friends



A Very Sweet Couple



Married Just Six Months



Cowboy And Cowgirl



Been Married A Long Time



Our Lovely Vice President



Hubby And His Silly Wife



A Happy Couple



One Nice Guy From Ohio



Former President of AZ



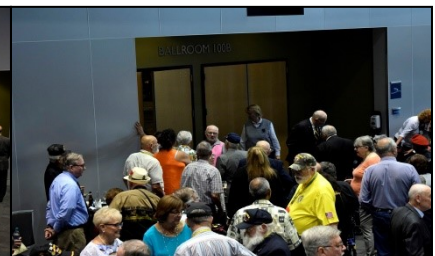
Glad To Be In Spokane



Three Older Guys



Waiting To Get Into the Banquet Room For The Dinner



VVA 2019 Convention Banquet



A wonderful time was had by enjoying a delicious banquet dinner with several hundred of our friends and acquaintances that we met for the first time or had known for many, many years and possibly served together in Vietnam in the 1960's or 1970's.

VVA 2019 Convention Banquet



The VVA 19th Convention Logo for 2019



“Special Friends” With “Special Friends”



A “Delicious Salad” To Start The Dinner



A “Superb Steak” To Remember



A “Non-Fattening” Dessert To Enjoy



“The Helpers” That Made It Right

This 19th VVA Banquet and Convention was one of the best yet. We thank John Rowan, his staff of scores of people that made it possible to present all of this for us: **THE VIETNAM VETERAN**. For some, this may be our last time, for others, we may not be able to travel, however we have our remembrances of this and may previous events that will cause us to recall our time in Vietnam and afterwards.



Dr. Elbert Nelson



Dr. Elbert Nelson, one of the nation's foremost experts in Obstetrical Gynecology, will receive the Vietnam Veterans of America Excellence in the Sciences Award on Saturday night, July 20, at VVA's 19th biennial National Convention in Spokane, Washington. Dr. Nelson, who served in the Vietnam War as a battalion surgeon from 1969-70 with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry of the U.S. Army's First Cavalry Division, is the Associate Residency Director of the Department of Women's Health of the Christ Hospital Health Network in Cincinnati. Dr. Elbert received his MD from Meharry Medical College in 1967. "Not only did Dr. Elbert serve his country in the Vietnam War, where at least on one occasion he operated on patients on a forward firebase during a massive ground attack, he continues to serve today," said VVA President John Rowan. A member of VVA Chapter 10 in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Nelson has received many awards for his medical and civic activities

including the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence and the Woodward and White's Best Doctors in America Award. In 2000, after 33 years in private practice, he became Director of the Department of Obstetrical Gynecology at Christ Hospital, where he serves as a mentor to younger doctors starting up in their profession.



Actor and Marine Jim Beaver



Jim Beaver, an actor and writer best known for his roles on HBO's *Deadwood*, the CW's *Supernatural*, and FX's *Justified*, will receive the Vietnam Veterans of America Excellence in the Arts Award on Saturday night, July 20, at VVA's 19th biennial National Convention in Spokane, Washington. Beaver, who joined the U.S. Marine Corps two months after graduating from high school in 1968, served in the Vietnam War from 1970-71 with the 1st Marine Division, most of the time as radio operator in the 1st Marine Regiment. After his honorable discharge, Beaver worked a series of jobs, graduated from college, and started appearing on stage, first in Dallas and Louisville, and then in New York.

Beaver moved to Los Angeles in 1983, and since then has made more than 130 appearances in movies and TV shows, including playing the part of a Vietnam War veteran in the 1989 movie, "In Country", opposite Bruce Willis--he was the only Vietnam vet in the cast of that movie that examined the legacy of the war among those who served there.

Beaver also has written a dozen works for the stage, as well as three books, including his highly praised memoir entitled:

"Life's That Way"



Morris Montgomery—“Recipe-ist”



Morris Montgomery had the wonderful honor of accepting this plaque at the VVA National Convention banquet for his role in preparing the recipe for of the tabasco sauce that we all, or most of us enjoy every day.

This young man provides a delicious flavor to the sometimes boring C-Rations and MRE's that we were **“encouraged to eat everyday”**.

In 1966 during the Vietnam war Brig. Gen. Walter S. McIlhenny, son of the 2nd company president of McIlhenny Company from his experiences with C-Rations as a soldier during World War II came up with the idea to send all soldiers copies of the Charlie Ration Cookbook filled with recipes for spicing up C-rations with Tabasco Pepper Sauce wrapped around two-ounce bottles of Tabasco Pepper Sauce along with a handful of a P-38 type can openers all in a waterproof canister. Enjoyable? You bet!



C-Ration And MRE "Cookbook"



THE CHARLIE RATION COOKBOOK

OR
NO FOOD IS TOO GOOD
FOR THE MAN UP FRONT



FRED
RHODES



Great battles have not only produced famous generals, but gourmet dishes as well. Chicken Marengo was named after the battle of Marengo, in which Napoleon Bonaparte defeated the Austrians on the 14th of June, 1800. This dish was first cooked on the battlefield itself by Dunand, chef to Napoleon. Bonaparte, who ate nothing until after a day's battle was

over, had gone forward with his general staff and was a long way from his supply wagons. Seeing his enemies put to flight, he asked Dunand to prepare dinner for him. All the chef could find were three eggs, four tomatoes, six crayfish, a small hen, a little garlic, some oil and a saucepan. He then and there created the Chicken Marengo. The dish was served on a tin

plate, the chicken surrounded by the fried eggs and crayfish, with the sauce poured over it, the water being laced with brandy borrowed from the General's flask. Bonaparte, having feasted upon it, said to Dunand, "You must feed me like this after every battle." The American fighting man today does not have a personal chef, but he does have his C-

FOX HOLE DINNER FOR TWO (Turkey and Chicken Poulette)

- Two spoons butter or oil or fat
- Two spoons flour
- *One can chicken and noodles
- *One can turkey loaf, cut up into pieces
- Three dashes TABASCO pepper sauce
- *Salt and pepper to taste
- *One can cheese spread
- *12 spoons milk
- *Crackers from one C-Ration can, crumbled

No one likes to dine alone, and this recipe is ideal to combine a variety of C-Ration Units.

Melt butter or oil or fat, add flour and stir until smooth. Add milk and continue to cook until sauce begins to thicken. Add cheese spread and cook until cheese melts and sauce is even. Empty cans of turkey loaf and chicken noodles into the cheese sauce. Season with Tabasco, salt and pepper to taste and continue cooking. Cover poulette with crumbled crackers and serve piping hot.

*This is from your Basic C-Ration

SOUP DU JOUR

- *One can ham and lima beans, mashed
- One equal can hot water
- *Salt and pepper to taste
- A generous dash TABASCO pepper sauce
- Three spoons green onions, chopped and sautéed in butter or oil or fat
- Two spoons butter or oil or fat for the onions
- Four spoons butter or oil or fat for the bread croutons or crumbled crackers

There is a soup du jour on every menu in every American restaurant from Maine to Frisco. There is no reason why the Armed Forces should be an exception. The front line fighting man has one advantage. He knows what goes into his soup du jour.

Mash the ham and lima bean mixture to a pulp. Combine with a can of hot water and bring to a boil, stirring briskly all the time. Add Tabasco and salt and pepper to taste. Serve piping hot, garnished with fried white bread croutons (pieces of white bread cut up into cubes) or crumbled crackers sautéed in butter or oil or fat.

*This is from your Basic C-Ration

BREAST OF CHICKEN UNDER BULLETS

- *One can boned chicken
- *One can cheese spread
- *Salt and pepper to taste
- One dash TABASCO pepper sauce
- *White bread
- Two spoons butter or oil or fat, if available

Breast of chicken under glass was never intended for areas where glass and shrapnel fly. This dish can be prepared in quick time, using only the Basic C-Ration.

Heat the can of boned chicken in a meat can. Melt the cheese spread. If butter or oil or fat is available, add two spoons. Season with salt and pepper and Tabasco. Cut loaf of white bread in half, trimmed if so desired. Place a mound of chicken over each half of white bread and cover each with the hot melted cheese sauce. This should stick to your ribs.

*This is from your Basic C-Ration

BATTLEFIELD FUFU (Chicken with Peanut Butter Sauce)

- *One can boned chicken
- *One can peanut butter
- Two spoons butter or oil or fat
- One spoon soya sauce
- Two dashes TABASCO pepper sauce
- *Two to three spoons milk

Ham slices or pork steaks may be substituted for the boned chicken. No matter what you do to it, though, it is still Battlefield FuFu.

Melt the butter or oil or fat and add the peanut butter. Stir until well blended. Add the milk and continue cooking until sauce is smooth. Now add the can of boned chicken, pulled apart, and the soya sauce and Tabasco. Continue cooking until hot and smooth. This may be served over boiled rice or crumbled crackers or with white bread.

*This is from your Basic C-Ration

HAM WITH SPICED APRICOTS

- *One can fried ham, sliced with juices
- *One can apricots with juice
- *One can jam
- Three spoons flour
- Three spoons butter or oil or fat
- One spoon lemon juice
- One spoon soya sauce
- Generous dash TABASCO pepper sauce
- *Salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter or oil or fat, add flour and stir until well blended. Add the jam and cook until melted. Now add the juices from the ham and the apricots as well as the lemon juice, soya sauce and Tabasco. Salt and pepper to taste. Con-



The Tabasco Sauce sent to Vietnam in those miniature bottles were certainly a hit with the soldiers in the field. It made the C-Rations and the newly created MRE's taste slightly better with a good taste. This page shows the recipe's for the C-Ration meals that were "enjoyed" by the troops.

Nancy Bonetti Ray



Although I never saw these young ladies on the Bob Hope Tour, I'm sure they were a blessing to the men and women that were in Vietnam at the time.

Between their music and entertainment to the soldiers in the area it was a real blessing to listen to them singing to the troops at the time.

Bob Hope then invited **Nancy Bonetti Ray** and other performers to join his USO Christmas Show in Vietnam in 1968, 1969 and 1970 to entertain active-duty troops. Nancy continues to be active in show business.



Nancy Bonetti Ray performs from time to time in her local community theatre in Texas and does some 'extra-background acting' on occasion.

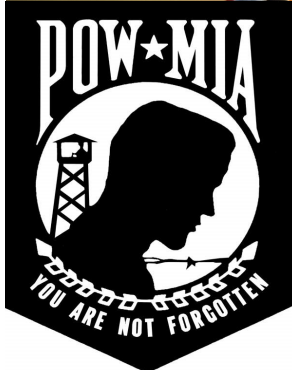


Kathryn Kalaijian



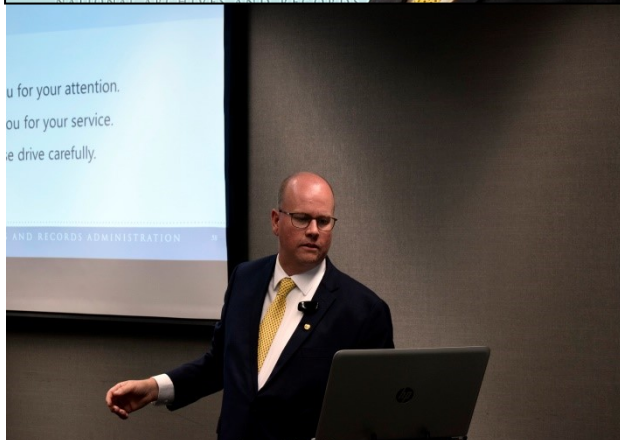
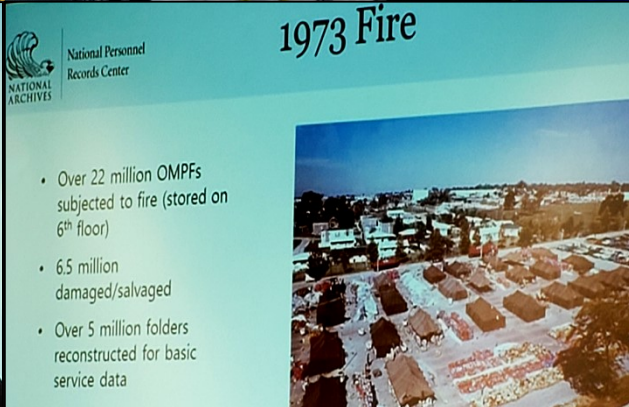
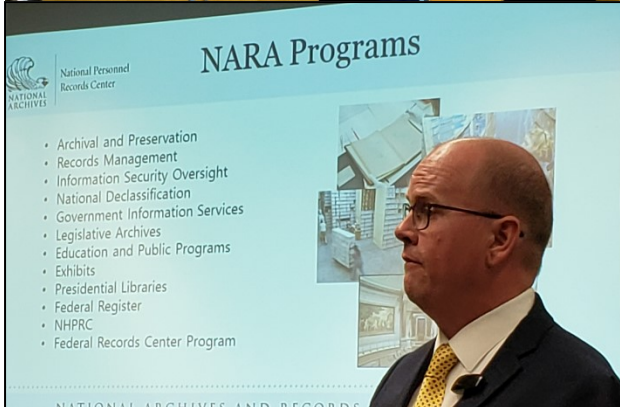
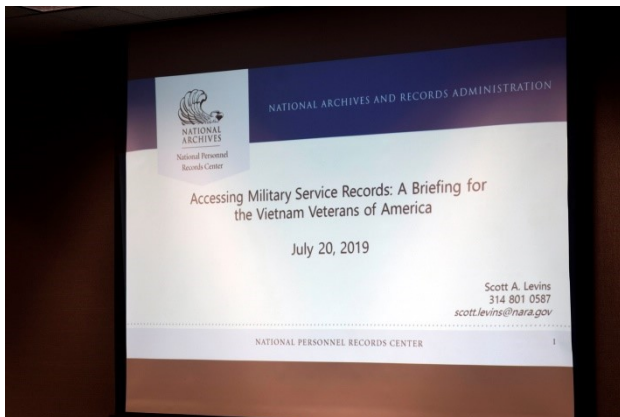
Kathryn Kalaijian was also one of the performers with Bob Hope in Vietnam during the late 1960's and early 1970's. She performed with several of the other ladies to the troops stationed there in various locations in South Vietnam. We appreciate her and the others very much.

POW-MIA Ceremony



"This is something we should look at **very seriously**". President John Rowan has commented on this frequently when it comes to those killed in action, wounded and of course when it comes to "**missing in action**" or a "**prison of war**", it really makes you wonder what it would have been like if it were us? There are likely several U.S. personnel that are still in enemy hands for all of these years that we are attempting to locate and what a way to spend the rest of your life. *May we remember them and their families for their quick recovery.*

Archiving Military Records



Scott Levens of the Archiving of Military Records in St. Louis, MO does something most of us did not know about. We can receive our own records free of charge, however, there is a charge for obtaining a relatives copy of their records. This is the time for all of us to obtain at least our own so we can leave them behind for our family so they see and understand **“what we did in the branch of service we served in, and especially our time in Vietnam”**.

Who Is This?



This is **James Davis** of Chapter 987 of Longview, TX as its Treasurer. Some will do anything to get "some attention". Hey, we all have to enjoy life in various ways and he is too.

Who Owns This Shoe?



This shoe seemed to make its way around the convention. Everyday we saw it and of course thought of Vietnam with the colors of yellow (people), green (tropical) and of course the three red stripes denoting the 3 Vietnam regions (Tonkin, Amman, Coca-chine), These are colors we should not forget and pass on to those that don't know anything about SE Asia. Thanks **Grant Coates**.

Who Is Playing?



We all have some real talents when it comes to music or writing but this gentleman provided some nice music to listen to by the photographer who took this photo. We thank folks like him who kept his talent and uses to bless others.. Meet **David Chung** a Vietnam Vet.



Marsha Four—A Wonderful Vice President



Enough cannot be said about this lady. **Marsha Four** is one person you have to respect. She has been the Vice President for Vietnam Veterans of America for 3 terms or 6 years and served as a Board of Director from 1999 to 2013. A total of 20 years.

On top of that, she provides guidance and administration for the entire Vietnam Veterans of America National staff in Maryland to and for President John Rowan.

This is a lady that everyone looks up to with her kindness, respect for her enthusiasm, her friendliness, her tenacity and knowledge of Vietnam Veterans and as she herself is one. She served as a nurse in Vietnam from July 1969 to August 1970.

Thank You Hotel & Convention Staff



Thank you to these hotel & convention staff for making the convention, meetings, the banquet a great time. Davenport Hotel out did themselves with service, friendly smiles, efficiency many great ways to spend the week. It's all about service and they came in first place,

“Hats Off” To The VVA Mall



Maggie & Caroline with CONNECT



Veterans providing blood for tests



Wives speaking with counselors



Mokie Porter talking with Marines

Thank You VVA National Staff



This is a **big thank you** to of the staff within VVA National that made it happen and may we mention a few of them such as:

Mokie Porter, Elizabeth Porter, Dan Stenvold, Wes Guidry, Marc Leepson.

Sean Webb, Maureen Elias, Dr. Artie Shelton, Alec Ghezzi, Joe Sternburg.

Sharon Hodge, Rick Weidman, Bernie Edelman, Deborah Johnson.

Felicia Mullaney, Rebecca Patterson, Alpie Williams, Samala Parker.

Joniece, Barnes, and Kristopher Goldsmith.

ALL of your efforts made this 19th Biennial Convention in Spokane, WA in July 2019 a wonderful success thanks to **ALL OF YOU**.

And Thank You “VVA Marshalls”



Looks better in his red jacket, all dressed up

Looks good in a full beard.

The Delegates and VVA National would like to thank the **VVA Marshalls** that were on duty in keeping the traffic of the delegates and visitors moving respectfully and properly. There were no incidents and we appreciate their devotion to keeping all of the veterans and guests well informed of events and what was going on when and where.

A Note From Dick Southern



Having been to many a convention and leadership conference since my time in Vietnam Veterans of America, I must admit this is one of best times I have had. They seem to be getting better and better. May I thank the staff of VVA National for the preparation they did for ensuring all was taken care of from the hotel, the rooms, the convention hall, the other facilities such as the restaurant and other locations and to include the banquet room. Needless to say, there is a lot of “prep work” that goes into events such as this and you no sooner end one and another one is about to begin many months later. We are very much in appreciation for the entire staff of VVA National that had a

role and I might add a large role in setting up and ensuring all went well, and in my mind it did.

The elections were interesting and I believe we have a good group of new National Officers and a wonderful Board of Directors and updated group of Regional Directors. Given that in our last few years, VVA will come to an understanding of the end result of Group I and Group II when the time comes in the next few years.

With the upcoming elections of State Council Presidents and some Chapter Presidents, this is the time to have all of those personnel get with chapter members and begin a process of fund raising to have those that have not attended the next Leadership Conference in 2020 in Dayton, OH and the next VVA Convention 2021 in Greensboro, NC..

We want to have all of our VVA members throughout the United States including the Philippine Islands and Guam truly be a part of VVA in its and our closing years. May I highly recommend that all State Council Presidents’ develop some encouraging and well thought plans to have us be remembered in the coming years such as a 50th Commemoration Dinner and events, raise funds for travel, get into schools and teach this and the next generations about Vietnam as many do not know much of it and lastly honor those men and women within your State Council for their efforts in their branch of service and within Vietnam Veterans of America.

Lastly, make it a point to take some time in your next State Council meeting and encourage those that did not attend the convention with “what went on”. Mention the end results of the amendments and resolutions speakers and awards. Speak of the Committee meetings, the regional caucus’s, the election, the reception and the banquet.

I thank the Vietnam Veterans of America National Organization, the staff at VVA, AVVA and those other countless people who worked very hard to provide all of us that attended the 2019 Biennial Convention in Spokane, Washington with a superb time in every event that we attended while in the great city of Spokane, Washington.

Larry Mitchell—VVA-AZ Chapter 432



Larry Mitchell of Chapter 432 in Phoenix received the VVA Commendation Medal from President Bill Messer with Randy Schriver and Paul Richenbach looking on.

Korean—Vietnam Veterans



These are South Korean soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War (1960-1975) and have subsequently gained citizenship and join Vietnam Veterans of America. These are hero's as the American's are.

These three gentlemen attended the Spokane 2019, 19th Convention and were certainly a part of it and were recognized as they should be. South Korea lent material and manpower support to their respective ideological allies during the Vietnam War, though the number of South Korean troops on the ground was larger. Then-South Korean president Syngman Rhee had offered to send troops to Vietnam as early as 1954, but his proposal was turned down by the U.S. Department of State; the first South Korean personnel to land in Vietnam, ten years later, were non-combatants: ten Tae-



kwondo type instructors, along with thirty-four officers and ninety-six enlisted men of a Korean Army hospital unit. In total, between 1965 and 1973, 312,853 South Korean soldiers fought in Vietnam; According to Korean sources, they killed 41,400 North Vietnamese Army soldiers and several thousand civilians. There were a few cases of proposed atrocities in which those that were revealed during the war were promptly investigated with the perpetrators punished.

Flag Transfer And Closing



This is the end of the 2019 19th Biennial Vietnam Veterans of America Convention held in Spokane Washington. Approximately 700+ veterans and delegates attended this event and the response from them was phenomenal when it came to the convention itself, the meals, the banquet, committee meetings and ultimately the newly elected officers.



This will be one we will not forget. Vietnam Veterans are passing fairly quickly, therefore, we must make the most of our time with family, friends and those Vietnam Veterans that we may served with in VVA or by chance in Vietnam. **Life is short and we thank all that made this possible for all of us to attend.**

Next Convention-Greensboro, NC-July 2021



The next VVA Convention to be held in July 2021 at **Greensboro, North Carolina**.

Next Leadership-Dayton, OH—August 2020



The next VVA Leadership Conference to be held in August 2020 at **Dayton, Ohio**

Veterans Day—November 2019



Most of us reading this knows what a veteran was like back when we were growing up. We also knew what they did back in World War II and Korea. They kept the world from Nazism and Communism. But, we need to pass onto our younger family members what we Vietnam Veterans did for the fifteen years in Vietnam. Not to mention those men and women that are currently dealing with the War on Terror. It is extremely important that the younger generations realize and fully understand how important veterans are in our land today.

All of the branches of service are critical in their role keeping America and even other countries safe from the terror that has struck the world for the past two decades. It will continue for some time and we need to thank those that are keeping us safe from harms way.



Let's **ALL** make it a point to personally locate the two oldest generations of military and that is those of World War II and Korea. They are in their last years and what a blessing it would be to find some through your local fraternal organizations and take them a challenge coin or a flag or certificate and telling them "how much they mean to you". Your father was in that situation at one time and coming up, "*we too will be there quicker than we realize*".

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year 2020



Thanksgiving Day is traditionally a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal. The meal often includes a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie, and vegetables. Thanksgiving Day is a time for many people to give thanks for what they have. Thanksgiving Day parades are held in some cities and towns on or around Thanksgiving Day. Some parades or festivities also mark the opening of the Christmas shopping season. But, I hope all of you reading this

newsletter, have two or three days of Thanksgiving and give thanks for what you have in the way of a family, meals, a roof over your head and friends. If you have no friends, then locate a homeless person and feed them or take some of your food down to a homeless shelter and provide some nice meals for those without any of those items mentioned just above. It's always nice to do something for someone that does not have what we have in our life.

Christmas is a religious and cultural day meant to **celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ**. Both Christians and non-Christians engage in this celebration because it has grown in popularity over the years as a time to make merry and to be with loved ones. Christmas Day is important because it reminds people of the day the savior of the world was born.



We also live with the idea that to give gifts during this Christmas season and while that is good, I ask that you purposely remember to give to those that do not have anywhere enough for themselves. A \$10.00 gift only costs \$10.00. A \$20.00 meal for their family only costs \$20.00. I would ask that you remember anyone that you run across accidentally or on purpose to remember them as well as your family during the Christmas season. Gifts are nice and important, however knowing Christ is the ultimate gift you can give anyone. We never know how much time we have left and to remember those families that do not enough to survive or barely get by will be a blessing for them and you.



The year 2020 is just around the corner and we trust you and all of yours will have a delightful New Year as we bring in the this new year of a time that seemed forever ago. And now, all of a sudden it is upon us.

Make the most of 2020 with family, new friends, a new challenge for this year as "YOU" (Vietnam Veterans) turn one year older. Enjoy the time.

The VVA-AZ State President

VVA CHAPTER

#095

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Prescott, AZ 86302

VVA CHAPTER

#106

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Tucson, AZ
85713

VVA CHAPTER

#432

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VVA CHAPTER

#835

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VVA CHAPTER

#975

P.O. Box 184
Kingman, AZ
86402

VVA CHAPTER

#1011

1042 N. Higley
P.O. Box 402
Mesa, AZ 85205

VVA CHAPTER

#1043

P.O. Box 1043
Sun City, AZ 85372

VVA Chapter

#1093

2871 Palmer Dr
Sierra Vista, AZ
85650

Well, this is almost the end of the year 2019 and we are quickly approaching a new time in our life with the year 2020 around the corner. I clearly remember when my grandfather was in World War I during 1917-1918 and here it is 100 years later.

The Spokane Convention was simply wonderful, very informative, we got a lot accomplished, new officers, new amendments, new resolutions, new committees and a lot to do this next two years before the new VVA Convention in Greensboro, NC comes about in 2021.

Elections for the Arizona State Officers and some chapters are coming within several months and we need to see about building back up the chapters that need assistance. We need to keep up with our health and that of others through the VSO program. We also need to see about building up our financial accounts for those desiring to go to the next convention back east and the Leadership Conference in 2020 in Dayton, Ohio. Below are some things we "need to do":

We need to see about recruiting more members before the eventual closing of Vietnam Veterans of America in the next several years. We need to discuss a final 50th Commemoration banquet and event sometime in the next few years to commemorate those that served our country from 1960 to 1975. We also need to gather our military records to pass them onto our family so they can have a permanent record of our military service. May I add that we need to get all of our records in order to archive as the closing of VVA is nearing and we need to preserve our own legacy. We also need to keep our own health check up by exercising, going to the VA, ensuring we have the right medicines before it is too late. We need to spend time with our families, our son's and daughters along with our grandchildren and great-grandchildren as they will grow up and be gone before we know it and have those last few years with them as little ones. We need to take those few trips traveling with our lovely wife of "a long time" before we cannot do it any longer. That trip to Paris, France, or London, England or Rome, Italy or even Saigon, Vietnam would be considered at the top of the list to be sure. You never know, she might like all of them and this is the time to go so "you can still walk around".

In the meantime, we thank VVA National for providing a superb time at the 19th Biennial Convention in Washington State and we look forward to what is ahead. Have a wonderful and Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and great and very Happy New Year. Make the most of the time we have.

