

MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Brother and Sister RVN vets:

The National VVA Vice President, Tom Burke, addressed our state council at our June council on the most recent plan to handle our legacy as we plan for our future. Basically it is for a new not for profit corporation to team up with three other similar veteran groups that would be known as the Vietnam Veterans of American Legacy Society Corporation. Our current 501 (c) (19) would be terminated and all the subordinate corporations (our state councils and chapters) would be let loose to either be on their own, in a state group similar to our National, be subsumed into the legacy society Corp, or some other similar grouping.

It seems from Burke's briefing lots of decisions still need to be made. And, of course, the delegates to the convention this August will need to pass generally on the program. So we need to figure out what we want. The legacy option keeps the lights on but the VVA would never be the same. We need to be very careful because money is involved with strong personalities leading the way. Do we really want to give it all up not knowing what our rights are? Does each member get a say or vote in the new program? The current officers would continue but would there be a vote? Just one unknown. First look at what the VVA does for us. Actually quite a bit. Aside from the camaraderie, we follow our mission in caring for other vets and do this in numerous ways. But the National VVA fronts us by accepting donations made for our benefit and solicits on our behalf. It speaks for us on a national and international manner. Our leadership is our face in the US. The proposed legacy organization could easily continue this. The issue is the grass roots. How will this benefit each RVN vet who is a VVA member.

First is our legacy. Not really something we can grab ahold of but something that demonstrates our character as developed by service to our Nation. Vietnam Veterans would continue to be known as stalwarts of our Nation who answered an unpopular call and sacrificed our all for the Nation we love. We would not be forgotten and our history would be as we define it. Not as others who were not there would like to think and report us as war criminals.

Next would be a body where we would be welcome in our senility without the burdens of administration. Our tenants of caring for others who have fought for the Nation also would be upheld.

What we have before us is some of this but the details are within our reach and from this corner, those details can be worked out now rather than passing them along to those who follow. Voting rights, financial issues, veteran benefits, etc. need to be resolved. We are close but we still need lots of work on this.

Very respectfully

Sam Brick,

SC VVA State Council Presidents

