

## **MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

There were many events throughout South Carolina on March 29, the day we remember leaving The Republic of Vietnam. We were joined with our SC Combat Vets at the State Memorial Wall in downtown Columbia in the morning at a combined event with Chapter 303 and a few days later at an 81st Readiness Division program produced by the 81st CG, MG Bob Harper. Both events were well attended and involved other organizations. The Order of the Purple Heart joined us as well as Chapter 303 and several other groups and also some RVN veterans who heard through the grape vine about the 81st RD program. MG Harper spoke of how much what we did affects the current military. I have heard the same thing from other active duty folks. We, citizen soldiers, drafted and joining during



an unpopular war stood up and promised to defend the Nation. We did and our actions showed the world that the US stood for democracy. Vietnam through all that is now a trading partner and quasi-democratic nation with elected officials although still considered communist. It loves trade and the people love to work, compete, and enjoy a capitalist life style. Tourism is a mainstay of its economy. Communism has not proliferated through the world. People are fighting for their lives and freedom from communism now as we all know.

Our chapters throughout the state are active and doing well. Our last state council meeting proved that. We adopted a resolution to thank our law enforcement brothers and sisters for their service. We feel they need encouragement because they may have some bad apples and understand why. Just like we experienced in RVN. We understood why. Most of us performed honorably. People thank us and it means a lot. Our resolution is to encourage others to thank our law enforcement folks and also many think we include our first responders. I agree. We also approved a state coin that Larry Miller and Charlie Davies designed. It is terrific and costs \$10. See your chapter to buy one. It is a legacy item.

The VVA corporation is facing some proposed changes. Must wait until the convention to see what, when, and how it may effect us. Not many contested elections. Of the officers only the treasurer office is contested. Only other contests are the At Large board directors. Ten must be elected out of 16 applicants. Most important part of the convention will be our future. Consider attending if you can. Orlando in early August. Look at the [VVA.org](http://VVA.org) web site for info.

**Very Respectfully**  
**Sam Brick**  
**SC State Council President and Conference Chair**

