

MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Summer is Here

Time seems to be flying by as we age. Keeping busy makes it a bit more tolerable but it certainly does not slow down the clock. Seeing all those D - Day vets and our WWII brothers gives us hope. At my college reunion we had one celebrating his 75th reunion. He spoke to us and was spritely and full of life. He was 99 and excited about celebrating his Centennial in January. At 82, I have a problem thinking it is only 18 years away. Difficult to contemplate and while we know there is an eventual demise, it is hard to face.

My wife (younger) asks me do I want to be buried or cremated. I do not want either now. Tough question. But I find myself going through old stuff and relics of my predecessors thinking of my legacy. What do I want my two year old grand daughter to know about me in 80 years? So legacy comes to the forefront. I started looking at my closet and took a photo of my old uniforms. I asked my kids if anyone wanted any. I was surprised that they all wanted my desert shield jacket that I used to wear on the beach as they were growing up. The camouflage shirts seem the most popular. Now to keep peace among the group, we have to find a fair way to avoid drama. So legacy is not easy.

As a group we know VVA history is meaningful. There are many Vietnam monuments throughout the state and each is meaningful. The Wall is a monument that heals. I have seen it. But that is for us more than being a legacy for our heirs.

So what an we do for our legacy for our children and heirs. One is using new technology and doing a brief video telling who we are and our military story. I am doing a life book that no one will read in 20 years. My adult grown kids want it but my teen age grands could care less. Something more permanent. My father's WW II story is fascinating to me but when I tell the kids he died from radiation poisoning by going to an atomic testing site, they yawn. They did not know him. But they all want to see my great grand father's Union medals from the Civil War. Go figure.

Each of you has his or her own story. Tell it and try to have your life memorable for those survivors and maybe a favorable inspiration to influence others in the years after in a good way. Have a great Summer. It soon will be Thanksgiving and that Centennial for our WWII in January.

Very respectfully

Sam Brick, SC VVA State Council President and Chair of the Conference of State Council Presidents.

