

MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I recently had the Honor of meeting and speaking at length to Major General, US Army (Retired) Todd B. McCaffrey, the Secretary of South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs. In Our discussion, the Vietnam Veterans of America became an extensive portion of Our conversation.

During our conversation, I asked Secretary McCaffrey if he had any idea of how many Vietnam Veterans live in the State of South Carolina. His answer was over 40,000 Vietnam Veterans, with that number growing yearly!! I must say that I was somewhat shocked at the actual numbers of Vietnam Veterans living in Our beautiful State.

That got me to wondering, how many of the 40,000 Vietnam Vets are actually in Our 10 Chapters across Our beautiful State? I am sure you will be as shocked as I was when I blew the dust off Our Chapter Rosters and began counting up all the Members for a total count!! 850 Members are in the Chapters, with 254 "At Large" Members assigned to the VVA South Carolina State Council. That's a total number of 1,104 Members actually in Our Organization (VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA)!! Brothers and Sisters, that's over 38,000 Vietnam Vets living in Our State that do not belong to Our Great Organization!!!

We as Members and Leaders of Our Chapters and State Council need to do a better job of Recruiting and selling the Vietnam Veterans of America!! One of the easiest ways to recruit, is for Chapters to develop business cards with your Chapter Name, address where and when you meet, time, and a contact name, email and phone number for more information. Each Chapter Member should be carrying these cards and when you meet a Veteran with a Veteran ball cap on, stop and talk to them, giving your Chapter Card to them, having a discussion about the VVA.

At Our State Council Meeting yesterday, 10/12/25, State Council Leaders discussed a new recruiting idea. The Council has 254 "At Large" Members assigned to the State Council, who are currently Members of the VVA, but do not belong to any of the 10 Chapters across Our State. Starting this month, the Council will release 12 pages (254 Members) that live throughout Our State, to each Chapter President for a recruiting effort. All the info is there, names, addresses and phone #'s. Increase your Chapter Members by contacting Members off this list. Get them to transfer to your Chapter "NOW" Our Council Secretary will forward a new list every six months to the 10 Chapter Presidents. Let's get busy and increase Our Chapter Memberships.

Larry L. Miller
President
SC State Council

