



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

VVA South Carolina State Council



Boot Tracks



NEWSLETTER – January – February - 2026

South Carolina VVA Council Officers/Committee Chairpersons

President	Larry Miler	miller.larry33@gmail.com
1 st Vice President	Charles Davies	tazzcd@aol.com
2 nd Vice President	Willard “Mike” Field	Willard.field@yahoo.com
Secretary	Zeke Cervantez	plough71@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jay Reynolds	jayreynolds45@gmail.com
POW/MIA	James Gregory	bikergunnv@msn.com
Chaplain	Davey Hare	ahare@homesc.com
Newsletter, Website	Charles Davies	tazzcd@aol.com
AVVA	Hope Summers	hopesu@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS - 2026

State Council Meeting June 14th, 2026, 11:00 PM. Meeting at the American Legion Post 130, 402 Naples Ave Cayce SC 29033.

South Carolina VVA Chapters/Contacts

303 (Col. Jack Van Loan) – Columbia, David Eisenhauer –	davidike44@gmail.com
523 Foothills – Greenville, Walter “Jay” Phares –	walterphares48@yahoo.com
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780 Low Country – Charleston, Janet Chisholm-Richards –	Janetcr14@gmail.com
828 Salkehatchie – Barnwell, Robert Birt –	roberthbirt@gmail.com
925 Grand Strand – Myrtle Beach – Rich Gregory –	rgreg12229@aol.com
960 – Manning, - William Rogers -	wgr1947@yahoo.com
1017 Roger Merck – Walhalla, - Ernest Riley –	gibson4956@yahoo.com
1049 Westmoreland – Spartanburg, Larry Miller –	miller.larry33@gmail.com
1145 Aiken – Reier ‘OLE’ Olson –	SCGATOROLE@att.net

Donations

If you wish to donate to South Carolina State Council there are two methods of payment, 1. Credit card, go to our website vvasc.org under donations using our PayPal account and follow the steps. 2. Checks, make it out to “South Carolina State Council and mail it to SC State Council, 71 Summerset Court, Alken SC 29803.

Thank you for your Support.



See Page 2 for SC State Council President’s Message”

MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

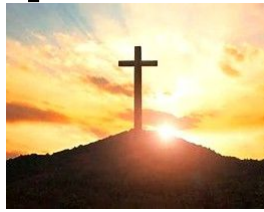
Hope everyone has survived the freezing rain, ice storm, and cold weather in the last couple of weeks that hit the majority of South Carolina. We are all looking forward to warmer weather.

Due to the weather conditions and road closures in the Upstate (Greenville/Spartanburg area), I could not attend the January National VVA Leadership Conference. But talking to a few State Council Presidents who were able to fly into Arlington, VA, not a lot was accomplished due to the lack of attendance. Though the National VVA Budget was passed and put in place for 2026/2027. Our State Council held Our First Meeting of the Year on February 8, 2026, at the American Legion Post 130 in Cayce, SC. We continue to move forward as Your State Council by adding Willard (Mike) Field being sworn in as the new 2nd Vice President of the Council!! Mike will hold this position until June 2026, filling this vacant position. Welcome aboard Mike and thanks for stepping up!! We also welcomed a new Chapter President, Janet Chisolm Richard for Chapter 780 and gave Her the Oath of Office, after Mike Hadbavny stepped down as of December 31, 2025, as Chapter 780's President. Mike was awarded the National VVA Achievement Award and a Letter of Appreciation from the SC State Council for his years of Service not only to the South Carolina State Council, but to His Chapter 780 (Charleston). Mike the South Carolina State Council, thank you for your dedicated service to the State and your Chapter. The Council approved three Member Election Committee to hold formal Council Leadership Election of Officers at our June 14, 2026, Meeting. All Senior Leadership of Your Council are up for Election for the next two Years. Any VVA Member in good standing from any of the 10 Chapters that are interested in running for a Council seat, please send a letter intent to the Chairman of the Election Committee: David Eisenhower, President of Chapter 303, email davidike44@gmail.com on or before June 1, 2026, providing your name, address, Chapter #, email address and position interested in. Please also include the Council Secretary, Zeke Cervantez, email plough71@gmail.com. I am also proud to inform You that Your State Council has adopted its first line-item Budget for 2026. A great achievement by the Council!! Chapter Presidents and Chapter Secretaries and Treasurers are reminded that all your reports are due by July 15, 2026, not only to the IRS, National VVA, but the SC State Council by regulation, ie: election report, financial report. If your Chapter does Raffles, remember that you need to register with South Carolina at charities@sos.sc.gov. A special note to all Chapter Members; at the October 2025 Leadership Conference, all State Council Presidents received an eight (8) page document from the National VVA Attorney titled "VVA CHAPTER TRANSITION STRATEGY". I have provided a copy to every Chapter President, if you have not seen it or read it, I suggest that you contact your Chapter Presidents and request a copy be presented to you. Your Chapter should keep this document in your files for the future. Every Chapter Member needs to be aware of this document. The next National VVA Leadership Conference that I will be attending in Arlington VA will be April 9th through April 13, 2026.

Your State Council is working extremely hard to represent Our Chapters and State in all matters concerning the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Larry L. Miller
President
SC State Council





Greetings comrades and sisters:

Well, here we are again, a new year, and probably New Year's resolutions ready to be broken. I pray that you all have had a wonderful holiday season and have settled in for a new year filled with new adventures.

The month of February brings with it the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a religious season which is usually observed by fasting, prayer, and self-sacrifice. This is usually done in preparation for Easter. I see the Lenten season as a time of reflection on what Easter really means, and I also see a lot of similarities between the reason Christ went to the cross, and the reason we, as veterans, went to fight for our country.

When I see the cross, I remember the sacrifice Christ made as he died for our sins. When I see the flag of our country, I remember the men and women who died protecting our freedoms. We as veterans should understand, better than most, the meaning of sacrifice. We know that the freedoms we fought for also include the freedoms of the draft dodger and the flag burner, to do what they do. Christ died on the cross for the forgiveness of the sins of the most hardened of criminals. We must remember that they have just as much right to his forgiveness, as any one of us. All anyone of us must do is ask.

The next time you feel hurt or disgusted over how our freedoms are being abused, try to think of how God must feel over the fact that so many of us have ignored the sacrifice that Christ made for our sins.

Your Chaplain,
Davey Hare



Wishing All the SC VVA State Chapters members a joyful New Year filled with peace, prosperity, and success.

VIETNAM MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

This was sent to us from a Vietnam Marine Vet touring the United States visiting and photographing Vietnam Memorials. If interested go to sunrisedetachment.org for the webpage showing all the memorials he has visited. Then click on Vietnam Memorial Tribute. Or go to our website vvasc.org under "DID YOU KNOW" to view these Vietnam Memorials, interesting!



Eligible veterans can receive no-cost flu shots at VA clinics or in community pharmacies, typically available from September through April eligibility and availability.

It is that time of year again! If you have not received your shot, see below.

1. VA Medical Centers & Clinics

- All VA facilities offer seasonal flu vaccines at no cost to enrolled Veterans.
- Availability typically runs from September through April.

2. In-Network Pharmacies (≈65,000 locations)

- Includes most major supermarket pharmacies and local drugstores.
- Must be part of the VA Community Care Network for the shot to be free.

3. In-Network Urgent Care Clinics

- Walk-in options available.
- No companionship if the visit is *only* for a flu shot.

Getting Your Flu Shot

- **Cost:** There is no cost or copay for the flu shot if your visit is solely for vaccination. If you receive the shot from a non-network provider, you may be responsible for the cost.
- **Types of Vaccines:** Various flu vaccines are available, including standard-dose shots and those specifically recommended for older adults. It is advisable to ask about the type of vaccine when you arrive for your shot.

Important Considerations

- **Timing:** Flu vaccines are available from September through April, with the best time to get vaccinated being by the end of October.

For more information or assistance, you can call the VA at 800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) or your local VA medical facility. It

is important to stay updated on vaccination recommendations to protect your health and that of others.

If you have not yet received your flu vaccination, it is advisable to consider doing so.



The Biggest Snowstorms in US History

This last snow here in Myrtle Beach got me thinking about the major snowstorms through the years. Back in 1989 we were here in MB just before Christmas and left. Right after they had 14" of snow. Talk about a white Christmas! When I was a knee-high to a grasshopper I do remember some major storms where we had to tunnel our way to reach the car. Here are a few of the major storms.



March 11-14, 1888 More than 120 winters have come and gone since the so-called "Great White Hurricane," but this whopper of a storm still lives in infamy. After a stretch of rainy but unseasonably mild weather, temperatures plunged and vicious winds kicked up, blanketing the East Coast in snow and creating drifts up to 50 feet high. The storm immobilized New York, Boston and other major cities, blocking roads

and wiping out telephones, telegraph, and rail service for several days. When the skies finally cleared, fires and flooding inflicted millions of dollars of damage. The disaster resulted in more than 400 deaths, including 200 in New York City alone. In the decade that followed, partly in response to the 1888 storm and the massive gridlock it wrought, New York and Boston broke ground on the country's first underground subway systems.



January 27-28, 1922, The Knickerbocker Storm battered the upper South and middle Atlantic United States for two days, dumping a record-breaking 28 inches of snow on Washington, D.C. But by the evening of January 28, the storm was winding down, and several hundred people ventured out to catch a showing of the silent film "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" at the Knickerbocker Theatre, the capital's largest and most modern movie house.

During the intermission, the theater's flat roof gave way under the weight of the wet snow, and concrete, bricks and metal rained down onto the audience. One of the deadliest in Washington's history, the disaster claimed 98 lives and gave the storm its name.



February 5-7, 1978, A week after Ohio experienced its worst winter storm in history, the Northeast got its own taste of nature's wrath. On February 5, when snowflakes did not materialize in the pre-dawn hours as meteorologists had predicted, many people chalked it up to faulty forecasting and went about their lives. Later that day, hurricane-force winds and whiteout conditions took them by surprise. The storm pummeled gridlocked highways, forcing drivers and passengers to abandon their cars or be buried along with them. Massive

snowdrifts trapped families in their homes and workers in their offices. In Massachusetts and Rhode Island, record snowfalls left residents without heat, water, or electricity for more than a week; roughly 10,000 took refuge in shelters. Meanwhile, severe flooding damaged or destroyed homes on the Long Island Sound and Cape Cod Bay. An estimated 100 people perished in this crushing nor'easter. How many of you remember this storm?



January 6-10, 1996, while not technically a blizzard, the "Blizzard of 1996" paralyzed an immense swath of the East Coast with three days of heavy, wet snow. It started in typical fashion, as cold air from Canada pushed down and collided with relatively warm winds from the Gulf of Mexico. On the evening of January 6, snow and sleet began hammering Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and surrounding areas. Over the next few days, the storm made its way northeast,

breaking records along the way. By the time it subsided, it had deposited between 17 and 30 inches of wind-driven snow on every city along the Eastern seaboard. Temperatures rose quickly in the wake of the nor'easter, and rivers and streams surged with the sudden meltdown. The 1996 storm claimed the lives of 154 people, many of whom died in car accidents, and the ensuing floods killed 33 more.



SC State Council Activities

On 8 February 2026, several events happen during the South Carolina State Council meeting. A new 2nd Vice President was sworn in. VVA Chapter 780 President stepped down, and a new president was sworn in.



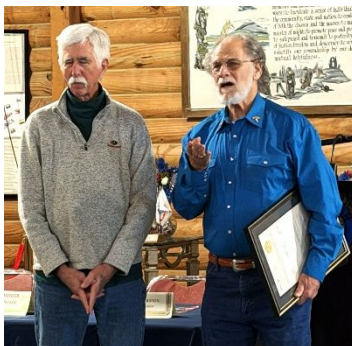
SC State Council President Larry Miller swearing Willard "Mile Field" as 2nd Vice President



SC State Council President Larry Miller swearing in Janet Chisholm-Richards as new VVA Chapter 780 President.



SC State Council President Larry Miller presenting Mike Hadbavny with VVA Achievement Medal for his exceptional dedication, leadership, and service to Chapter 780 and to South Carolina State Council. Mike was VVA Chapter 780 President. Larry also presented Mike with a Certificate of Appreciation from the SC State Council.



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Rich LaBarre:

In 1982, after attending the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in D.C., Rich became very instrumental in the formation of the South Carolina Vietnam War Memorial in Columbia, SC, which was dedicated on November 8, 1986. It is inscribed with 980 Names, Names of those from South Carolina (Listed by County) who were KIA.

The Vietnam Veterans of South Carolina, incorporated on May 3, 1983, represented a very thorough work process of representing Vietnam Veterans in South Carolina.

#1, Jay Reynolds, SC State Council Treasurer introduces Rich LaBarre. #2. A copy of the South Carolina State Charter. #3 Rich LaBarre gave a brief explanation about the SC Charter. #4 Rich LaBarre presenting the State Charter to SC State Council President Larry Miller.



Chapter 303

Chapter 303 activities included meetings ceremonies and annual events. Our monthly meetings begin at 1200 with lunch followed by a program; usually speakers from organizations outside VVA.



The November meeting featured Col. Claude H. Davis III USMC (Ret.), JROTC Senior Naval Science Instructor at South Aiken High School.

Mr. Timothy R. Frambes, Director, Veteran Services of the South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs, was the guest speaker at our meeting on 20 January 2026.



On 13 December 2025, several members of Chapter 303 attended the Wreaths Across America Ceremony and wreath laying at Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

L to R, Dick Walker, Al Hethcox, Mike Field, David Eisenhower, Ed Hogue

Chapter 780



VVA Chapter 780 long time members Walter Springer picture is on display at Patriots Point Road Mt. Pleasant SC on the way to the USS Yorktown, honoring Military Veterans.



Myrtle Beach Vietnam Veterans Memorial Update



On 10 February 2026, a site inspection was conducted at the proposed Myrtle Beach Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The area was cleared for construction of the memorial. The contractor is placing Rbar, getting ready to pour the concrete. Per the City of Myrtle Beach, the wall should be completed for Memorial Day 2026. However, the statues and other items may not be in place along with the site work. It is all up to Mother Nature!

Free Military Service Plaque



Free Military Service Recognition Plaque

A gift for the holidays! Together We Served is offering all Veterans a FREE, hi-resolution military service recognition plaque, ready to print and frame. Printable in 11 and 17-inch width sizes to suit any wall.

1. Use this link (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bulletins/3c57c7b>). This will get you into the VV newsletter. Or go to VVA State Council website vvasc.org, go to links if interested, see VA newsletter 12-11-2024 and use the button, it will pull up the VA newsletter. The link is on the first page. Just follow the instructions. It is a unique plaque to have.



Any Chapter who would like their departed members or Sick Call listed in the Newsletter, please send the information to me tazzcd@aol.com. Thank You Charlie Davies

Every month we are putting out Birthday wishes to all VVA and AVVA members in South Carolina.



Happy Birthday” to all of you with birthdays during the months of January - February



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 988 then and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.



Call or text the Women Veterans Call Center at 1-855-VA-WOMEN ([1-855-829-6636](tel:1-855-829-6636)) or use [the online chat feature](#). Women Veterans Call Center representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET, excluding federal holidays. If you contact the Women Veterans Call Center after hours and leave a message, you will receive a return call the next day the call center is open.

The “Boot Tracks” is the official publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America, South Carolina Chapters and is a bimonthly publication meant as a service to the members of the VVA and any other interested organization. The view expressed herein is those of the writers and does not necessarily reflect positions of VVA, Inc., the State Council, or other South Carolina VVA Chapters. All VVA members are invited to submit articles, pictures and opinions for publications on subjects that are of interest to veterans’ affairs. The publication committee and editor reserve the right to edit for length only and to reject any material that is libelous and obscene.





Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc

Application for Membership

Welcome to all Veterans who served during the Vietnam Era

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between *February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975*, or in any duty location between *August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975*.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Gender: _____

(OPTIONAL) Chapter Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

VVA has only one category of membership:

☐

Life Membership: \$50

ATTENTION New members:

You must submit a copy of your DD-214 form along with this application and dues payment.

Payment Method: Check Money Order Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Return the required documents and payment to:

Vietnam Veterans of America
PO Box 64299 • Baltimore • MD • 21264

Add Local Chapter information here



ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
8917 Colesville Rd • Silver Spring • MD • 20910 www.avva.org

NEW MEMBER:

State/Chapter: _____ At-Large? ☐
Name: _____ Phone: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Email: _____

RENEWAL:

Membership #, if known: _____ State/Chapter: _____ At-Large? ☐
Name: _____ Email: _____
Mailing Address: _____

DUES

☐ Annual Membership \$20 ☐ Life Membership Full payment \$100
☐ Life Member Time Payment Option : \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full

VVA Dual Membership:

☐ Life Membership: \$50

PAYMENT METHOD

DO NOT SEND CASH

☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover ☐ American Express
Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Card holder's signature: _____

Make your check payable to **AVVA**

Remit this application and payment to: **AVVA**

Sandy Spring Bank • 8401 Colesville Rd • Silver Spring • MD • 20910