



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

VVA South Carolina State Council



Boot Tracks



NEWSLETTER – September - October - 2026

South Carolina VVA Council Officers/Committee Chairpersons

President	Larry Miler	miller.larry33@gmail.com
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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 14 February 2027, 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 Eisenhower–	davidike44@gmail.com
523 Patrick Ramsey Memorial Greenville, Jim Stone -	jins4@yahoo.com
644 Piedmont – Union, John Gist -	johngist23@yahoo.com
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 -
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.

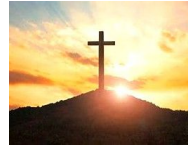
USAA has set up *The National Military Monument in Washington, D.C.*—a living digital tribute honoring every American who has worn the uniform of our nation. This monument recognizes service members from the Revolutionary War through the present day, preserving their names in a national display of gratitude. Through the link provided, you may enter the name of a Veteran, and their name will appear on the monument’s digital wall in Washington, D.C. This tribute will remain available through Veterans Day, offering families, friends, and fellow service members a meaningful way to honor those who served. Do it. Honor your Veteran. Share their names. Share their legacy. Ensure they stand among the heroes recognized in our nation’s capital. For easy access, you may also visit the South Carolina State Council website and click the link listed under “Links of Interest.” Take a moment to explore this tribute and celebrate the service of those who defended our freedom. Check it out.

<https://monument250.usaa360.com/tribute> (you need to enter the link manually)



There will be no Message this issue from the State Council President

Chaplain's Corner



I pray that everyone came through the hurricane OK. I had a lot of yard debris, but no damage.

In preparing this article for the newsletter, I was thinking about the hurricane and how storms affect our lives. There are many other storms in our lives that are not caused by 'Mother Nature'. There are storms of uncertainty, over money, over jobs, over marriages, or over children. There are also storms in our Christian lives. How well we are doing in the storms of our everyday lives might say a lot about how well we are doing in the storms of our Christian lives. How well are you doing with these storms? If you find yourself struggling in these storms, remember the One who can calm the storms. Jesus has told us in Matthew 11:28 & 29, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Greetings comrades and sisters:

Your Chaplain,

Davey Hare

Free Meta Smart Glasses for Blind and Low-Vision Veterans

Meta has partnered with the American Council of the Blind to provide Meta smart glasses at no cost to eligible veterans who are blind or have low vision. The Palmetto Council of the Blind, an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, is coordinating four distribution events across South Carolina.

MYRTLE BEACH

Tuesday, October 13,
2026

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Tidal Creek Brewhouse
3421 Knoles Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

COLUMBIA

Friday, October 16, 2026

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

South Carolina Commission
for the Blind
1430 Confederate Avenue
Columbia, SC 29201

GREER

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Fairview Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
1300 Locust Hill Road
Greer, SC 29651

NORTH CHARLESTON

Thursday, October 22, 2026

10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

South Carolina Vocational
Rehabilitation Department
4360 Dorchester Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

WHO QUALIFIES?

Recipients must:

- Be a U.S. military veteran
- Self-attest that they are blind or have low vision
- Provide proof of military service or veteran status
- Have a compatible smartphone capable of using the Meta AI app
- Attend a distribution event in person

WHAT SHOULD VETERANS BRING?

- Proof of military service, such as DD214, VA ID, military ID, or other official documentation
- The compatible smartphone they plan to use with the glasses



Free Meta Smart Glasses for Blind and Low-Vision Veterans Continued

Veterans are encouraged to download the Meta AI app before attending. Proof of military service will be viewed only to verify eligibility and will not be copied or kept.

Advance registration is strongly encouraged. Veterans can register and find additional information at:

<https://www.acb.org/glasses-blinded-veterans>

Glasses must be received in person and cannot be shipped. Only one pair may be provided to each eligible veteran. VVA chapters near the four event locations are also invited to take part by providing volunteers or hosting a resource table. This would be an opportunity to share information about VVA membership, benefits, programs, and other resources with veterans and their families.

If a chapter would like to volunteer, reserve a resource table, or ask questions, please contact me at 803-960-9977 or jennifer.h.bazer@gmail.com.

If anybody knows a Veteran that is blind or has low vision let them know about this deal. It sounds great. There's only little time left.

TAPS



Three members of Chapter 303 and 780 recently passed away this year, James “Doug” Ard, Robert Taylor, and Charles Wofford. Our condolences go out to their families for their lost. They will always be remembered.

God saw you were getting tired and a cure was not to be. So, he put his arms around you and whispered “Come with me” with tearful eyes we watch you and saw you pass away. God broke our hearts to prove to us “HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST.”

OCTOBER AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS



Agent Orange is a toxic herbicide used extensively during the Vietnam War. While deployed as part of a military operation aimed at defoliation, its legacy is a range of serious, service-connected illnesses affecting veterans and their families decades later. Awareness of these ongoing health impacts and the support available remains an important public health concern.

October is not the officially designated national observance month for Agent Orange awareness, though some organizations may conduct campaigns then. The official date recognized nationally is Agent Orange Awareness Day, which falls annually on August 10th. This date commemorates the start of aerial spraying of toxic herbicides in Vietnam in 1961, marking the beginning of a long-term health crisis.

HAPPY 251ST BIRTHDAY NAVY



On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, appointed a Naval Committee—Silas Deane, Christopher Gadsden, and John Langdon—to prepare an estimate of expenses and contract the fitting out of two sailing vessels to intercept British ships carrying munitions and supplies to troops fighting on shore. This resolution created the Continental Navy, the precursor to the U.S. Navy. After the war, the Navy was disbanded, but the U.S. Constitution (1787) gave Congress the authority to keep one. The Department of the Navy was formally established on

April 30, 1798, and the first six frigates, including the USS *Constitution*, were authorized by the Naval Act of 1794.



VVA South Carolina
CHAPTER 303 ACTIVITIES

September - October – 2026



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2



3



4



5



6

#1-32 Vietnam and 1 Korean War veteran on the Inaugural CSRA Honor Flight, dubbed Mission One. 5 members of Chapter 303 participated. #2- Chapter 303 members taking part in the 12 Sept CSRA Honor Flight presenting a \$500 donation check from Chapter 303 to Tim Mansell, Coordinator of CSRA Honor Flight. #3- Board Member and former Chapter 303 President Ron Hagell talks with Veterans at the Lake Carolina Veteran's Meet Up. Discussing his military time and the Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 303. #4-Chapter 303 Treasurer Mike Field presents our 2026 donation check to Fisher House Manager Katie Hanna September 2, 2026. #5- Chapter 303 Members attend the Military Appreciation Night at the USC Home Game 12 September 2026. VVA Chapter 303 was recognized. #6- A few of Chapter 303's brave souls who said "Da the heat, full speed ahead" and attended Military Appreciation night at the Columbia Fireflies game July 2nd**

Vietnam Veterans of America
COL Jack Van Loan Chapter 303
P.O. Box 2001, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202-2001

2026 Pistol Raffle

Ruger SR1911 .45 Auto
(Right Grip VVA)

In honor of our state's rich historical legacy, 303VVA and Historical Armory is proud to present the South Carolina State Pride 1911 Limited Edition. This pistol combines meticulous research, original artwork, and finely detailed engraving to celebrate the history of South Carolina. There will only be 100 South Carolina State Pride 1911 pistols produced.

The pistol comes in its own wooden engraved SC State Pride Presentation Case.

Cheques made Payable to "303VVA" Five Tickets for \$100

Tickets are only \$25 for a chance to win this exceptional limited edition rifle.

Tickets are on sale by members of VVA Chapter 303.

The winner will be drawn on December 8, 2026.

For more information send email to: vva303@gmail.com

Raffle rules are on the back of your ticket. Questions? Just ask us.



VVA Chapter will be having a 2026 Ruger SR1911 A5 Ruto Pistol Raffle, Including the "Presentation Case. Tickets are \$25.00 each or 5 tickets for \$100.00. for a chance to win this exceptional limited-edition Ruger SR1911 A5 Ruto (Right Grip VVA) pistol. Tickets are sale by members of VVA Chapter 303. The winner will be drawn on December 8, 2026. Checks made payable to "303VVA" Foe more information send email to vva303@gmail.com. Raffle rules are on the back of your ticket.



CHAPTER 925 ACTIVITIES

On 3 October 2026 Chapter 925 held a reunion for Army Veterans of the 31st Infantry, 4th Battalion at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Market Common, Myrtle Beach SC.



At the State Council Meeting on 11 October 2026, VVA Chapter 828 President Bobby Brit displayed the Quilts of Valor he recently received. This is a great honor to receive.



At the State Council Meeting on 11 October, SC State Council President Larry Miller presented VVA Chapter 960 President William Rogers with a handmade clock for all his dedicated work in trying to keep the chapter together. Good Job Bill!



FLU SHOTS AND COVID-19



It is Cold and Flu season is here again. Time to receive your FLU and COVID shots.

Veterans: Get Your Flu Shot at No Cost

All Veterans enrolled in VA health care can receive a free flu shot during flu season. This benefit is available through VA Medical Centers, VA outpatient clinics, in-network community providers such as CVS, Walgreens, Publix, Walmart, and many local pharmacies.

What to Bring

- A government-issued photo ID
- Your VA billing information card
- Tell the pharmacist or clinic staff: *"I am a Veteran enrolled in VA health care, and I want the VA-covered flu shot."*

Where You Can Go

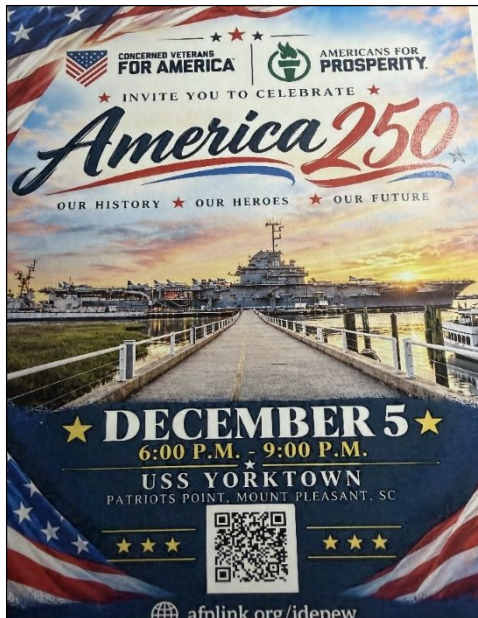
- Any VA facility
- Any in-network pharmacy taking part in the VA Community Care Network
- Urgent care clinics in the network (no copay if the visit is only for the vaccine)

Additional Notes

- Family members are not covered under this benefit
- Veterans may receive flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same visit
- Veterans age 60–75+ may also ask about RSV vaccination

If you have an auto immune disease or a major Health issue, you should not hesitate to receive your shots.





On 5 December 2026 the Market Common Veterans will be hosting an "*America 250*" event from 6:00 PM (1800) to 9:00 PM (2100) on the USS Yorktown located at Patriots Point Mount Pleasant SC. They will offer free transportation to and from the ship. To reserve a place, scan the QR Code and fill out the information. You should be notifying the place and time for pick-up location by email as the date gets closer.



If interested Horry County Schools will be hosting a salutes all who have served and continued to serve. "THANK YOU, VETERANS FOR BEING OUR HEROES" on 7 November 2026 9:00 AM at Conway High School Auditorium.



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 September - October



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential -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 are 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 send 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