

Vietnam Veterans of America. Inc. **VVA South Carolina State Council**





Boot Tracks



NEWSLETTER – July - August – 2025

South Carolina VVA Council Officers/Committee Chairpersons

President miller.larry33@gmail.com Larry Miler

1st Vice President **Charles Davies** tazzcd@aol.com

2nd Vice President Vacant

Secretary **Zeke Cervantez** plough71@gmail.com **Treasurer** Jay Reynolds jayreynolds45@gmail.com POW/MIA James Gregory bikergunny@msn.com **Davey Hare** ahare@homesc.com Chaplain Newsletter, Website **Charles Davies** tazzcd@aol.com AVVA **Hope Summers** hopessu@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

State Council Meeting October 12th 2025, 12:00 PM. Meeting at the American Legion Post 130, 402 Naples Ave Cayce SC 29033.





303 (Col. Jack Van Loan) - Columbia, David Eisenhauer - davidike44@gmail.com 523 Foothills - Greenville, Walter "Jay" Phares 644 Piedmont – Union, John Gist -780 Low Country - Charleston, Mike Hadbavny -828 Salkehatchie – Barnwell, Robert Birt – 925 Grand Strand – Myrtle Beach – Rich Gregory – 960 - Manning, - William Rogers -

1017 Roger Merck - Walhalla, - Ernest Riley -1049 Westmoreland – Spartanburg, Larry Miller –

1145 Aiken - Reier 'OLE' Olson.

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SCGATOROLE@att.net



Donations

If you wish to make a donation to South Carolina State Council there's 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

Brother and Sister RVN vets:

What Now? Who are We? Have We lost Our Identity? Where do we stand as an Organization? Have we become a new Organization called the Vietnam Veterans Of America Legacy Society or are we still the Vietnam Veterans Of America? These are only some of the questions that we all were asking prior to the 22nd National VVA Convention of August 5th thru 9th 2025.

Prior to the Convention, it looked like Our National Leadership had already determined that we were too old, loosing Membership annually and unable to function as an Organization due to our lack of desire to continue on our own. So the thought process was to dissolve and reincorporate by adding the Axillary of The Vietnam Veterans of America as a Co-Partner and rename Ourselves as the Vietnam Veterans of America Legacy Society!!

After the death of Our Beloved State Council President, Sam Brick on July 19, 2025, being next in line to succeed him as State Council President, I was placed on the email trail list for emails from not only All State Council Presidents across the US, but began receiving emails from some of the Regional Directors as well. It became very evident from the emails I was receiving, that there was a lot of feedback from State Council Presidents/Regional Directors that the majority of all were not ready to "give" up Our beloved Organization.

On the morning of the first day of the Convention, August 6, 2025 @ 08:30, 752 Delegates were sitting in their seats by States ready to determine the fate of the VVA!! Without going into great detail, by the end of the second day, August 7th, after "MUCH" debate and discussion, by vote of the majority of the delegates in attendance that we would remain the Vietnam Veterans of America, with "NO" changes to Our structure. The delegates determined that at Our next Convention in 2027 in the DC area, that another look would be taken as to the future of the VVA. In the meantime, National Leadership, At Large Board of Directors and the Regional Directors would further their discussion on Our Fate.

I would like to take a moment and thank the following State Council Board Members for their help and support in picking up the pieces and continuing the work that needed to be done after Sam left. This is not a one man show, through their tireless help in just two months, we were able to continue to move forward.

First Vice President Charlie Davies, Secretary Zeke Cervantez, Treasurer Jay Reynolds, Chaplain Davey Hare and all the Delegates of the ten (10) Chapters across the State of South Carolina. As your Leadership for the VVA South Carolina State Council, we pledge to you that we have your backs and will make decisions in the best interest of "ALL VETERANS."

Semper Fi Larry Miller President

Chaplain's Coner



Greetings Comrades & Sisters:

When I was in Vietnam, I was always concerned over who the enemy was. I heard many stories of women and children, posing as part of a janitorial crew, coming into camps with grenades and other weapons and killing American soldiers. This had me looking over my shoulder a lot, when I would see any Vietnamese in the camp.

These days I find that the enemy is still just as hard to see. He may be hiding behind a bad habit, greed, self-serving gratification, or an addiction, such as alcohol or other drugs. In any case the enemy must be overcome, if we are to have the kind of life that shows we have been good soldiers for the Lord.

To overcome these enemies, we must wage war against them. This war will have less casualties if we remember the words of Deuteronomy 20:1 "When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the Lord your God....will be with you."

Your Chaplain,

Davey Hare

SAMUEL T. BRICK



Recently our South Carolina State Council President Sam Brick had to resign from his position due to medical reasons. Sam has been with the South Carolina State Council President since August 2018. He has achieved many accomplishments while being in the military service and as the SC State Council President. While in the military he retired as a Colonel in the Army Reserve on June 2002. He was a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer and military judge, serving in various capacities including counsel for HQ Area Command in Vietnam and staff judge advocate for CENTCOM Rear Headquarters during the First Persian Gulf War. With over 30 years with the Department of Defense (DoD) in attorney-advisor

roles. His legislative roles included Director of Legislative Reference for the DoD and Chief Legislative Counsel for the Army. He was admitted to practice law before the Maryland Bar and various federal courts, including the Supreme Court. Army Reserve Ambassador for South Carolina from August 2014. While being the SC State Council President, he was elected to the Committee for State Council Presidents as chairperson. It is an Honor knowing Sam, he will be missed as our State Council President and all the good he has done for his fellow Vietnam Veterans.

SAMUEL T. BRICK CONTINUED











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Pictures from left to right, top row #1.On 3 July 2025 the SC State Council held a mini ceremony at Sam Bricks House. Pastor led us in prayer. #2. 2nd Vice President Charlie Davies reading the certificate of achievement that was given to him by National Headquarters of Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. #3. 2nd Vice President Charlie Davies presenting the certificate of achievement and medal to Sam from National Headquarters of Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. #4. 1st Vice President Larry Miller reading the inscription from the plaque that the South Carolina State Council presented to Sam for all his hours of dedication and hard work. #5. 1st Vice president presented the plaque to Sam. Bottom row -#6. The plaque that was presented to Sam. #7. Sam reading the plaque that was presented to him by the State Council. #8. Long time friend Tommy Olds, commander South Carilina Combat Veterans group said a few words on how he and Sam first met. #9. The South State Council left to right - Jay Reynolds Treasurer, Zeke Cervantez Secretary, Charlie Davies 2nd Vice President, Larry Miller 1st Vice President, and Sam Brick State Council President.

Taps



On 19 July 2025 Colonel Samuel T. Brick Jr. US Army (Ret) and the late South Carolina State Council President, passed away. He was 83 years young. 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. Sam will be Missed.

He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington DC. No date is scheduled as of yet.



National Durple Heart Day August 7th



The Purple Heart (PH) is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the president to those wounded or killed while serving, on or after 5 April 1917, with the U.S. military. With its forerunner, the Badge of Military Merit, which took the form of a heart made of purple cloth, the Purple Heart is the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is located in New Windsor, New York. The original Purple Heart, designated as the Badge of

Military Merit, was established by George Washington – then the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army – by order from his Newburgh, New York, headquarters on 7 August 1782. The Badge of Military Merit was only awarded to three Revolutionary War soldiers by Washington himself. Washington authorized his subordinate officers to issue Badges of Merit as appropriate. Although never abolished, the award of the badge was not proposed again officially until after World War I. In 2009 National Geographic estimated the number of Purple Hearts given as: [5]

World War I: 320,518, World War II: 1,076,245, Korean War: 118,650, Vietnam War: 351,794 Persian Gulf War: 607, Afghanistan War: 12,534 (as of 18 November 2018)^[16] Iraq War: 35,411 (as of 18 November 2018)^[16], Operation Inherent Resolve: 76 (as of 4 May 2020)^{[17][18]}, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in , ail, MINUSMA super camp attack: 2 (as of April 14, 2018)^{[17][18]}

Coast Guard Happy 235th Birthday

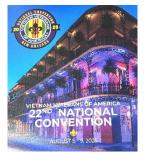


The United States Coast Guard, one of the country's five armed services, is a unique agency of the federal government. We trace our history to 4 August 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, we expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew. The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the Life-Saving Service. The nation then had a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the

nation's maritime laws. The Coast Guard began to maintain the country's aids to maritime navigation, including operating the nation's lighthouses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939. In 1946 Congress permanently transferred the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, thereby placing merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under our purview. The Coast Guard took over the administration of bridges over navigable waterways in 1967. The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 it served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Coast Guard protected the nation throughout its long history and served proudly in the majority of the nation's conflicts. The Coast Guard's national defense responsibilities remain one of its most important functions even today. In times of peace it operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard serves as part of the Navy Department.



Vietnam Veterans of America National Convention August 5th – 9th 2025



Vietnam Veterans of America - Twenty-Second National Convention was held in New Orleans, Louisiana from August 5th through the 9th, 2025. During this convention the VVA held their elections are as follows: Tom Burk of New Philadelphia Ohio was elected as VVA National President. John Riling III of Michigan was elected VVA National Vice President. Bill Meeks, Jr. of The Woodlands, Texas. elected as VVA National Secretary. Dottie Barickman of Council Bluffs Iowa was elected as VVA National Treasure. There were also 10 At-large Directors elected: Lize Cannon (NC), Gumersindo Gomez (MA), Charlie Hobbs (TN), Ken Holybee (CA), Dennis Howland (UT), Frederick Gasior (NY), Charlie

Stapleton (MO), Dan Stenvold (ND), Steve Williams (VA), and Sandie Wilson (MI). Charlie Montgomery was elected as Regional 3 Director.

Just a short scenario what was the key factors going on at this convention. It was to decide our future of the VVA on when this organization was to be dissolve on March 1, 2028, and the name change from VVA to Viernam Veterans of America Legacy Society, until it came to the "Future Plan: Resolutions". When they started to read and vote on the "Proposed Resolutions Relating to the Plan for Dissolution" it became a nightmare. It appeared that the Board of Directors was trying to pass this resolution which no Region Directors nor the Directors at large approved. This was the rumor what was going around on the floor. In this section under Resolved 1 through 8 they did not get pass #2 because of the wording. This went on for several hours playing with changing the wording. It got to a point the Board of Directors right hand does not know what the left and was doing it became a bit chaotic. Even the Delegates were confused. If they showed the power point presentation first, (Future Plan: VVA National Chapters & Stats Councils) a lot of questions may have been answered; but they refused to show this presentation, just an opinion! The DELEGATES VOTED IT DOWN because they wanted to remain VVA and not a Society. So, they are back on the drawing board till the 2027 convention on the future of the VVA.

However, there were Constitutional Amendments, and 2025 Convention Resolutions were adopted and some were retied.

Overall it was a good convention. There were 752 delegates attending the convention. Region 3 (South Carolina had 10 delegates attending) had 139 delegates











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1. The award SC State Council received, Newsletter of the year. 2,3,4, 5 Beginning of the ceremony with the Mardi Gras dancers, AVVA Chapter #203 members, Chattanooga Tennessee, giving out beads.





6, 7, 8 VVA Chapter 203 out of Chattanooga Tennessee Color Guard. 9 & 10 Over view of the convention floor 752 delegates from across the U.S. 11. SC State Delegates', 11. Front Charlie Davies (Chapter 925) 1st Vice President SC State Council, Next Row L – R - Michelle Holcomb Chapter 1049, (Vietnam Trauma Nurse), Jay Reynolds (Chapter 303) Treasurer SC State Council, David Eisenhauer Chapter 303 President, Mike Field, Chapter 303, Back Row, Adam (Davey) Hare, (Chapter 780) Chaplain SC State Council, Jim (Gunny) Gregory Chapter 780, Larry Miller (Chapter 1049 President) SC State Council President, Forest Stegelin Chapter 303. 12, 13, 14 SC State Council Delegates 15. Jack McManus welcoming all delegates. 16. Keynote Speaker Bill Broyles, author and researcher known for his work of the Sonoran Desert and a Vietnam Veteran. 17. Charlie Davies accepting the award for SC State Council Newsletter of the year. 18, 19, 20, Welcome Home Party, featuring NA, NA SHA, great band. Pictures of VVA members and wives. 21 Missing Man table, POW/MIA (Fallen Comrade Table). For additional photos go to our website vvasc.org.

Chapters Activities

Chapter 925







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On 14 August VVA Chapter 925 participated in the "A Salute to Veterans" held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Special Speaker Staff Sergeant (Retired) Johnny "Joey" Jones. VVA Chapter 925 Color Guard presented the colors at the Salute to Veterans. #1. 925 Color Guard with Johnny "Joey" Jones. #2. 925 member Ron Thornton manning the table at the event.

Chapter 303

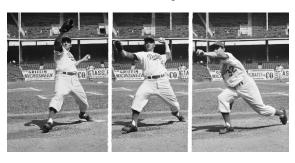




Treasurer and SC State Council Delegate Willard "Mike" Field received the Quilt of Valor on July 27, 2025. Mike was highly deserving of this honor for all he has done and continues to do for Chapter 303 and his selfless service to all veterans. The quilt was a surprise for Mike and the ceremony was attended by Mike's wife Julie and other family members as well as members of Chapter 303. Great Honor Mike!



Why Are Left-Handers Called 'Southpaws'?



Fogether...

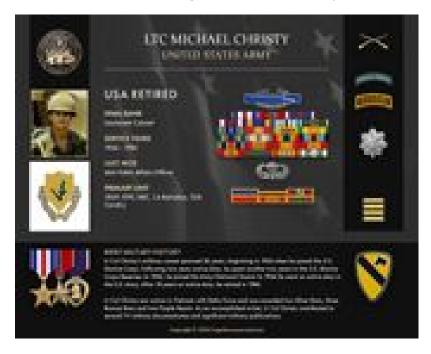
The "American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language" cites the conventional wisdom that the word "southpaw" originated "from the practice in baseball of arranging the diamond with the batter facing east to avoid the afternoon sun. A left-handed pitcher facing west would therefore have his pitching arm toward the south of the diamond." As the third edition of "The Dickson Baseball Dictionary" points out, however, that origin story is a little too simplistic. The earliest baseball mention of a

"southpaw"—as found by Tom Shieber, senior curator at the National Baseball Hall of Fame—appeared in the New York Atlas in 1858, but in reference to a left-handed first baseman, not a pitcher. Boston Globe baseball writer and former ballplayer Tim Murnane also recalled in a 1908 edition of Arizona's Bisbee Daily Review that a St. Louis newspaper had called him a "southpaw" in 1875 because he was a left-handed batter. Murnane adopted the term in describing pitchers "simply because they were lefthanded, and not because they pitched the ball towards the sunny south on certain grounds." As Murnane pointed out, numerous big-league stadiums were not oriented with the pitcher facing west. That was not the case, though, with Chicago's West Side Park, and it's theorized that Chicago News sportswriter and humorist Finley Peter Dunne or the Chicago Herald's Charles Seymour made the geographic connection by calling left-handed hurlers "southpaws" in the 1880s. John Thorn, Major League Baseball's official historian, told Wall Street Journal language columnist Ben Zimmer that he believes the term for lefties likely originated with a wholly different sport—boxing. In its coverage of an 1860 bare-knuckle prizefight, the New York Herald reported that left-hander David Woods "planted his 'south paw' under [his opponent's] chin, laying him out as flat as a pancake" in the ninth round. Even earlier, an 1848 political cartoon depicted Whig vice-presidential candidate—and future president—Millard Fillmore lying battered on the ground after being punched by the left hand of Democratic presidential candidate Lewis Cass and lamenting, "Curse the Old hoss wot a south paw he has given me!" The Whig ticket of Zachary Taylor and Fillmore, however, ultimately delivered the knockout punch at the ballot box that fall by defeating Cass for the White House.

VVVA is the extended family of VVA.

We are made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans and all persons who support Veterans' issues. AVVA is the extended family of VVA. We are made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans and all persons who support Veterans' issues

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.

There are two ways to obtain your plaque.

- 1. Use this link (https:content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bullentins/3c57c7b). this will get you into the VV newsletter.
- 2. 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 very unique plaque to have.

Taps



On 20 August 2025 Terence Cooper "Terry" Steer, passed away. He was 77 years young. Terry was a long time member of VVA Chapter 925

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.

Terry will be Missed.



Page 11

VVA South Carolina

July - August – 2025

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 Happy Birthday" to all of you with birthdays during the months of July - August



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential tollfree 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) 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 are those of the writers and do 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 veteran's 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.

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Mailing Address:				
City:			State:	Zip:
Email:				
Phone:			Gender:	
(OPTIONAL) Chapter N	lumber:	1.1	_Sponsor:	Ā
VVA has only one ca		Life Mer	mbership: \$50 New members: along with this applic	cation and dues payment.
Payment Method:	Check	Money Order	Credit Card (Visa,	MasterCard, American Express, Discover)
Credit Card Number: Signature:			00.876.000.000	*
Return the required do	cuments and	payment to:		
Vietnam Veterans o PO Box 64299 · Ba	of America Itimore · Mi	D · 21264	Add Local	Chapter information here
Revised: Nov 2018				



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