



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

VVA South Carolina State Council



NEWSLETTER – May – June – 2025

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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.

VVA National Convention August 9th 2025, New Orleans LA

South Carolina VVA Chapters/Contacts

303 (Col. Jack Van Loan) – Columbia, David Eisenhower– davidike44@gmail.com
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 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 – gibson4959@yahoo.com
 1049 Westmoreland – Spartanburg, Larry Miller – miller.larry33@gmail.com
 1145 Aiken – Reier ‘OLE’ Olson. – 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.

July – August issue of the newsletter will focus on the VVA National Convention concerning our future!

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



MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Brother and Sister RVN vets:

The National VVA Vice President, Tom Burke, addressed our state council at our June council on the most recent plan to handle our legacy as we plan for our future. Basically it is for a new not for profit corporation to team up with three other similar veteran groups that would be known as the Vietnam Veterans of American Legacy Society Corporation. Our current 501 (c) (19) would be terminated and all the subordinate corporations (our state councils and chapters) would be let loose to either be on their own, in a state group similar to our National, be subsumed into the legacy society crop, or some other similar grouping.

It seems from Burke's briefing lots of decisions still need to be made. And, of course, the delegates to the convention this August will need to pass generally on the program. So we need to figure out what we want. The legacy option keeps the lights on but the VVA would never be the same. We need to be very careful because money is involved with strong personalities leading the way. Do we really want to give it all up not knowing what our rights are? Does each member get a say or vote in the new program? The current officers would continue but would there be a vote? Just one unknown. First look at what the VVA does for us. Actually quite a bit. Aside from the camaraderie, we follow our mission in caring for other vets and do this in numerous ways. But the National VVA fronts us by accepting donations made for our benefit and solicits on our behalf. It speaks for us on a national and international manner. Our leadership is our face in the US. The proposed legacy organization could easily continue this. The issue is the grass roots. How will this benefit each RVN vet who is a VVA member.

First is our legacy. Not really something we can grab ahold of but something that demonstrates our character as developed by service to our Nation. Vietnam Veterans would continue to be known as stalwarts of our Nation who answered an unpopular call and sacrificed our all for the Nation we love. We would not be forgotten and our history would be as we define it. Not as others who were not there would like to think and report us as war criminals.

Next would be a body where we would be welcome in our senility without the burdens of administration. Our tenants of caring for others who have fought for the Nation also would be upheld.

What we have before us is some of this but the details are within our reach and from this corner, those details can be worked out now rather than passing them along to those who follow. Voting rights, financial issues, veteran benefits, etc. need to be resolved. We are close but we still need lots of work on this.

Very respectfully

Sam Brick,

SC VVA State Council Presidents



Chaplain's Coner

Greetings comrades and sisters:

I Corinthians 12:12-27 tells us that, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body... If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body...

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

I think of this scripture a lot when I think of organizations, like the VVA, because each one of us plays a part in the operation and running of them. We are not all meant to be leaders; there needs to be those who will cook, take out the garbage, wash dishes, take up money, run errands, etc. I know that I wouldn't take the Presidents position, even if it were a paying position, because that is just not who I am. Cooking is not my thing either. I believe that we are better off without me trying to cook! I try to find things that I can do to help in other ways. I think all of us have something to contribute, and we need to be aware of our own unique talents so that we can make our chapters grow.

This scripture should remind us all that we are many parts of the one body, the VVA, and if we work for the common good of the body, we can do much to help our fellow comrades, sisters and their families.

Your Chaplain,
Davey Hare

Flag Day



Flag Day is a holiday celebrated on June 14 in the United States. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution stated "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

Flag Day was first proposed in 1861 to rally support for the Union side of the American Civil War. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation that designated June 14 as Flag Day. On

August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was officially established by an Act of Congress. On June 14, 1937, Pennsylvania became the first state to celebrate Flag Day as a state holiday, beginning in the town of Rennerdale. New York Consolidated Laws designate the second Sunday in June as Flag Day, a state holiday.

Flag Day is not an official federal holiday. Federal law leaves it to the discretion of president to officially proclaim the observance. Title 36 of the United States Code, Subtitle I, Part A, Chapter 1, Section 110 is the official statute on Flag Day. The United States Army also celebrates its birthday on this date.



Army Happy 250th Birthday



The United States Army (USA) is the primary land service branch of the United States Department of Defense. It is designated as the Army of the United States in the United States Constitution. It operates under the authority, direction, and control of the United States secretary of defense.¹ It is one of the six armed forces and one of the eight uniformed services of the United States. The Army is the most senior branch in order of precedence amongst the armed services. It has its roots in the Continental Army, which was formed on 14 June 1775 to fight against the British for independence during the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783). After the Revolutionary War, the Congress of the Confederation created the United States Army on 3 June 1784 to replace the disbanded Continental Army. The

United States Army considers itself a continuation of the Continental Army, and thus considers its institutional inception to be the origin of that armed force in 1775. The U.S. Army is part of the Department of the Army, which is one of the three military departments of the Department of Defense. The U.S. Army is headed by a civilian senior appointed civil servant, the secretary of the Army (SECARMY), and by a chief military officer, the chief of staff of the Army (CSA) who is also a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is the largest military branch, and in the fiscal year 2022, the projected end strength for the Regular Army (USA) was 480,893 soldiers; the Army National Guard (ARNG) had 336,129 soldiers and the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) had 188,703 soldiers; the combined-component strength of the U.S. Army was 1,005,725 soldiers. The Army's mission is "to fight and win our Nation's wars, by providing prompt, sustained land dominance, across the full range of military operations and the spectrum of conflict, in support of combatant commanders". The branch participates in conflicts worldwide and is the major ground-based offensive and defensive force of the United States of America. *See Army 250th Birthday video on our website vvasc.org.*

Memorial Day 2025



Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States. It is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in national cemeteries. Others such as family and friends will also come to lay flowers and grieve on the graves of those who

died in the US military. The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as *Decoration Day* and observed on May 30, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. This national observance followed many local observances which were inaugurated between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate" with flowers. Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The world wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1968, Congress changed its observance to the last Monday in May, and in 1971 standardized its name as "Memorial Day". Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day, which is earlier in May, an unofficial U.S. holiday for honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day on November 11, which honors all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.



D-Day June 6th 1944



D-Day was the name given to the June 6, 1944, invasion of the beaches at Normandy in northern France by troops from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries during World War II. France at the time was occupied by the armies of Nazi Germany, and the amphibious assault—codenamed Operation Overlord—landed some 156,000 Allied soldiers on the beaches of Normandy by the end of the day. Despite their success, some 4,000 Allied troops were killed by German soldiers defending the beaches. At the time, the D-Day invasion was the

largest naval, air and land operation in history, and within a few days about 326,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles and some 100,000 tons of equipment had landed. By August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and in spring of 1945 the Allies had defeated the Germans. Historians often refer to D-Day as the beginning of the end of World War II.

What does D-Day stand for?

The term 'D-Day' was military code for the beginning of an important operation, with the first 'D' being short for 'Day.' This means that D-Day actually stands for 'Day-Day.' According to the Royal British Legion, the phrase 'D-Day' was used fairly often before the Allied invasion in June 1944. After this, however, the two became synonymous, and now D-Day is commonly understood to refer to the beginning of Operation Overlord.

Girl Scout Cookies

It's that time again, Girl Scout Cookies! On 02 May 2025, members from several area Veterans organizations within Myrtle Beach met at the storage area to help the Blue Star Mothers to unload about 900 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. These cookies will be distributed to various local veterans organizations.

Picture taken by Charlie Davies, member Chapter 925, 2nd Vice President SC State Council.



Area Veterans unloading and stacking boxes of cookies



Carol Dion President of Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina, (center) with several helpers putting the final boxes of Girl Scout cookies in place.



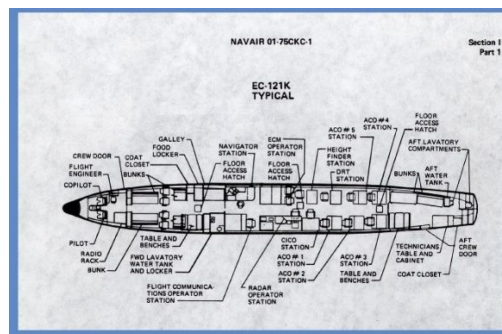
IN MEMORIAM OF ARNOLD E. COLLINS Presented to Leslie Bell by Carol Rich

Arnold Edwin Collins, 77, passed away at home unexpectedly on March 24, 2025. Born on February 3, 1948, in Chesnee, SC, he was the son of the late Troy Collins and Elsie Collins Lawter.

Arnold graduated from Chesnee High School with the class of 1966. He was a veteran of the US Navy during the Vietnam War, and he retired from the R.R. Donnelley Plant.

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Leslie and Billy Bell; three grandchildren:

As an Aviation Electrician with the Fleet Airborne Reconnaissance SQDN (VQ-1), Arnold Collins was stationed at NAS Atsugi, Japan. The Squadron's involvement in the war started characteristically, at the very beginning, when a Sky Warrior crew was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for their role in the Gulf of Tonkin Incident (August 2-5, 1964). For the Next 9 years, VQ-1 would operate from Da Nang, NAS Cubi Point, Bangkok, and aircraft carriers on patrol in "Yankee Station" and other bases in Southeast Asia. VQ-1's air crews supported countless air strikes and are credited with assisting with the destruction of numerous MiG aircraft and Komar patrol boats. A little-known fact about VQ-1 on April 15, 1969, an EC-121 M of VQ-1 on a reconnaissance mission was shot down by North Korean MiG-21 aircraft over the Sea of Japan. All 31 Americans (30 Navy & w Marine) on board were killed, which constitutes the largest single loss of US Aircrew during this period



The above was requested by Carol Rich, for a memoriam of Arnold Collins. She made a donation to the S.C, State VVA to have this memoriam published in the VVA State council newsletter.

VVA Chapter Activities

Chapter 925



On 24 May 2025 VVA Chapter 925 participated in the City of Myrtle Beach Military Appreciation Days Parade held at Market Common. VVA Chapter marching down Farrow Parkway. Pictures 1 & 2 -L to Right Ron Thornton, Glenn Olson, Gary Mc and Charlie Zweigle. #3 Rich Fritz, Dennis Thornton, and Jamie Lleras.

Memorial Day tribute to the fallen – Conway SC 2025. The Honor Guard explains the 13 folds of the American Flag symbolize specific meanings, honoring various aspects of patriotism and Nation's history. Each fold is a tribute, from life to the nation's motto and culminates in a tri-cornered hat, a symbol of the Revolutionary War soldier For the Video go to [vvasc.org](https://www.wevideo.com/view/3815593644) under "Chapter Activities-3 or <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3815593644>.



Chapter 1049

On May 26, 2025 @ 11:30 am all the Military Organizations from Spartanburg, SC held Memorial Day Services to include wreath posting. Two of Chapter 1049 Spartanburg Members (Felice Vigil and Michelle Holcomb) presented Our Chapters Wreath. There were over 200 Veterans and Community Members that participated. Over 20 Members of Our Chapter 1049 helped Honor Our Fallen Brothers and Sisters. 21-gun salute and taps ended the Ceremony!!



Chapter 1049 Spartanburg, SC continues to sell raffle tickets for our rifle and pistol raffle, with drawing to be held June 30, 2025

Chapter 303

Here are some photos of the many events and activities of Chapter 303 during February, March, April and May 2025. Monthly membership lunch meetings often include a program provided by guest speakers from organizations outside Chapter 303. Ceremonial events are usually conducted with other Veteran Organizations and active-duty military personnel stationed at Fort Jackson. The following list is a snapshot of some of our events and activities but does not include many recurring veteran assistance and support functions.

February 18th LTC Lindsay Dudley PMS USC Army ROTC

March 18th Sallie Wallace Lead Physical Trainer Fort Jackson

March 29th National Vietnam War Veterans Day with SC Combat Vets

April 15th Annual VVA Meeting Daniel Wrightsman Op. Dir. SC Veterans Affairs

April 24th JB McEntire SC Army Air National Guard

April 29th Annual Last Person Out Dinner

May 26th Memorial Day Ceremony - Kevin Shwedo Col. US Army (Ret.) -Exec. Dir SCDMV



Why Are There 19 Statues in the Korean War Memorial?



Since Memorial Day has passed, I ran across this article about the Korean War Memorial. How many of you know why there are 19 steel statues at the Korean War Memorial?

The 19 steel statues in the Korean War Memorial represent both a literal, and symbolic tribute to those who fought in 'America's Forgotten War. The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., which was dedicated in 1995, commemorates the sacrifices and efforts of a diverse

group of American, Korean and other United Nations forces who fought for three years in what many in the U.S. refer to as the "Forgotten War." The memorial's design was chosen from among some 500 submissions in a national competition, announced in 1988. The winning design, created by four Penn State professors, is made up of five deeply symbolic components, but perhaps the most salient theme of the Korean War Veterans Memorial is the number 19. This is the number of statues that are positioned throughout "the Field of Service," the triangular green area that is flanked on both sides by the walkways leading towards the inner part of the memorial. The 8-foot-tall steel statues weigh around 800 pounds each and represent a cross section of the service members who fought in the war. Among those depicted are 12 Caucasian, three African American, two Hispanic, one Asian and one Native American. The statues also represent the four branches of the military that fought in the war. They include 14 Army, three Marine, one Navy, and one Air Force member. "The design aims to reflect the inclusivity of all Americans who served," says Michael Emrich, a veteran and former member of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans. The statues are scattered throughout the green area to evoke an advance party trekking out from the tree line and wading through the landscape of Korea. The statues are surrounded by patches of Juniper bushes and the ground is punctuated by polished granite strips that represent the rice paddies of Korea. The troops are dressed in thick ponchos which are sculpted as if they are fluttering in the cold winds of Korea.

Reflections of 19 Statues Are Key to Tribute

But why 19? The explanation lies in the fact that the soldiers' reflections are also a key feature of the memorial. The 19 statues in the Field of Service, plus their reflections equal a total of 38 visual representations of soldiers.

This total, says Emrich, is "a symbolic reference to the 38th parallel, the line that divides North and South Korea, which remains a potent symbol of the war and its unresolved status." Thirty-eight also references the total months of fighting that made up the conflict. By The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., which was dedicated in 1995, commemorates the sacrifices and efforts of a diverse group of American, Korean and other United Nations forces who fought for three years in what many in the U.S. refer to as the "Forgotten War." The memorial's design was chosen from among some 500 submissions in a national competition, announced in 1988. The winning design, created by four Penn State professors, is made up of five deeply symbolic components, but perhaps the most salient theme of the Korean War Veterans Memorial is the number 19.

By Minhae Shim Roth published 10/18/2024, last update 5/27/2025.





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/bulletins/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.



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 May - June



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 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*.

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**

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