



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

South Carolina VVA State Council

Veterans Voice

NEWSLETTER – May - June- 2024

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

State Council Meeting October 13th 2024, 12:00 PM. Meeting at the American Legion Post 130, 402 Naples Ave Cayce SC 29033.

National Leadership Conference August 20-24 2024 Reno, NV.

South Carolina VVA Chapters/Contacts

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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.

Newsletter Name

At our last State Council Meeting I requested the Council to have our newsletter name "Veterans Voice" to be changed because it is too close to the VVA "The Veteran" magazine. If you have some ideas for a catchy or creative name, please send it to me at tazzcd@aol.com. The Name will be picked at our next State Council meeting in October, 2024.

See Page 2 for SC State Council President's Message



MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**Summer is Here**

Time seems to be flying by as we age. Keeping busy makes it a bit more tolerable but it certainly does not slow down the clock. Seeing all those D - Day vets and our WWII brothers gives us hope. At my college reunion we had one celebrating his 75th reunion. He spoke to us and was spritely and full of life. He was 99 and excited about celebrating his Centennial in January. At 82, I have a problem thinking it is only 18 years away. Difficult to contemplate and while we know there is an eventual demise, it is hard to face.

My wife (younger) asks me do I want to be buried or cremated. I do not want either now. Tough question. But I find myself going through old stuff and relics of my predecessors thinking of my legacy. What do I want my two year old grand daughter to know about me in 80 years? So legacy comes to the forefront. I started looking at my closet and took a photo of my old uniforms. I asked my kids if anyone wanted any. I was surprised that they all wanted my desert shield jacket that I used to wear on the beach as they were growing up. The camouflage shirts seem the most popular. Now to keep peace among the group, we have to find a fair way to avoid drama. So legacy is not easy.

As a group we know VVA history is meaningful. There are many Vietnam monuments throughout the state and each is meaningful. The Wall is a monument that heals. I have seen it. But that is for us more than being a legacy for our heirs.

So what an we do for our legacy for our children and heirs. One is using new technology and doing a brief video telling who we are and our military story. I am doing a life book that no one will read in 20 years. My adult grown kids want it but my teen age grands could care less. Something more permanent. My father's WW II story is fascinating to me but when I tell the kids he died from radiation poisoning by going to an atomic testing site, they yawn. They did not know him. But they all want to see my great grand father's Union medals from the Civil War. Go figure.

Each of you has his or her own story. Tell it and try to have your life memorable for those survivors and maybe a favorable inspiration to influence others in the years after in a good way. Have a great Summer. It soon will be Thanksgiving and that Centennial for our WWII in January.

Very respectfully

Sam Brick, SC VVA State Council President and Chair of the Conference of State Council Presidents.



A little Triva



To all of you who responded to the question, many thanks. Yes, it's a "Flechette" and they used it in artillery. However, the answer I was looking for was the Bee Hive round for the M79 grenade launcher. This was used in close range fighting, two styles of M79 rounds were developed. The first was a flechette or Bee Hive round (so named for the sound the flechettes made while in flight) that fired 45 10-grain steel flechettes. It was replaced by the M576 buckshot round. I had a couple of these rounds and it

was interesting!

JUNE 6TH 1944 D-DAY



The Normandy landings were the landing operations and associated airborne operations on Tuesday, 6 June 1944 of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during World War II. Codenamed Operation Neptune and often referred to as D-Day, it is the largest seaborne invasion in history. The operation began the liberation of France, and the rest of Western Europe, and laid the foundations of the Allied victory on the Western Front. The invasion began shortly after midnight on the morning of June the 6th with extensive aerial and naval bombardment as well as

an airborne assault—the landing of 24,000 American, British, and Canadian airborne troops. The early morning aerial assault was soon followed by Allied amphibious landings on the coast of France ca. 06:30 AM. The target 50-mile (80 km) stretch of the Normandy coast was divided into five sectors: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Strong winds blew the landing craft east of their intended positions, particularly at Utah and Omaha.



Happy 249th Birthday. America's Revolutionary War began on 19 April 1775 with exchanges of musketry between British regulars and Massachusetts militiamen at Lexington and Concord. As their fellow citizen soldiers from New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island responded to the alarm, a state of war existed between the four colonies and the British government. Called the Army of Observation, a force of New Englanders surrounded Boston and had the British troops who occupied it under siege, but they needed help. They appealed to delegates who represented all thirteen colonies to join them in the struggle for American liberty. When the delegates to the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia on 10 May, they soon learned that armed men commanded by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold had captured the British forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain in New York. The constitutional crisis, in which Americans sought a redress of grievances from the British king and Parliament, had become open hostilities. The delegates realized that even though many desired reconciliations, they would now have to address the new military situation. The Congress took the next step that eventually transformed a local rebellion into a war for independence when it established the Continental Army: the force we know today as the U.S. Army.

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. 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



FLAG DAY JUNE 14TH 2024



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. The United States Army also celebrates the U.S. Army birthday on this date, as Congress adopted the American continental army after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day. On August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. Flag Day is not an official federal holiday. Title 36 of the United States Code, Subtitle I, Part A, CHAPTER 1, § 110 is the official statute on Flag Day; however, it is at the president's discretion to officially proclaim the observance. 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.

TUN TAVERN, TRADITIONAL BIRTHPLACE OF THE MARINE CORPS, SET TO GET REBUILT



When the Marine Corps turns 250, Marines may get to raise a pint to the Corps in the place where it supposedly all began. The nonprofit Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation announced in a news release Monday it has acquired land to rebuild “an



authentic reproduction” of the tavern where, as legend has it, the few and the proud got their start. The plan is to establish the reconstructed Tun Tavern in time for the Marine Corps’ 250th birthday in November 2025, according to Sue Hamilton, a spokeswoman for the foundation. Retired Lt. Gen. Charles Chiarotti, president and CEO of the Marine Corps Association, said in the release, “With the Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation leading the way, Marines of past, present and future will have their rightful gathering spot in the very city where the Marine Corps was formed.” In November 1775, when Samuel Nicholas was tasked with raising two battalions of Continental Marines, he headed to Philadelphia’s Tun Tavern, according to traditional Marine Corps lore. Though Tun Tavern was destroyed in 1781, it has enjoyed a long afterlife as a symbol of the Marine Corps’ birth. Tun Tavern has retained its title as the traditional birthplace of the Marine Corps despite doubts raised by one prominent Marine historian about in which bar, exactly, Nicholas launched his recruiting efforts. In his 1974 book “The United States Marines: A History,” Brig. Gen. Edwin Howard Simmons, then the director of Marine Corps history and museums, asserted that the Conestoga Waggon — a tavern owned by the Nicholas family — was more likely where Nicholas snagged his first recruits. The Marine Corps is not the only organization that regards Tun Tavern as a hallowed site in its history. Tun Tavern also is the birthplace of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania. The St. George, St. Andrew and Friendly Sons of St. Patrick societies were founded or held meetings in the tavern, according to the foundation. And Tun Tavern “purportedly” is where John Adams and the Naval Committee met in 1775 to write the documents structuring what is now the Navy, the foundation said in the release. The Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation plans to create a functioning tavern and restaurant, with historical exhibits and special events geared toward educating visitors about the establishment’s history.



TUN TAVERN CONTINUED

. Profits will go to the causes of the organizations founded at the tavern, according to the news release. The land sits at 19 South 2nd Street in Philadelphia's Old City neighborhood, within 250 yards of the original Tun Tavern site. Acquiring the land was the first step, Rob Brink, the foundation's board chair and deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Free and Accepted Masons, said in the release. The next step is fundraising. Funds are coming from private donations, corporate partnerships, foundation support, and federal and state grants, according to the release. The foundation plans to hold a groundbreaking ceremony in November 2024, according to the release. The above is based on an article appeared in "Marine Times" on April 28, 2024 by Irene Loewenson.

Note the above architect's rendering (left side) is the reconstruction of Tun Tavern, would serve as a Functioning tavern and restaurant, per Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation Inc. The right side it a photo of the old Tun Tavern prior to 1775.

MEMORIAL DAY 2024

REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MADE THEIR ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR FREEDOM

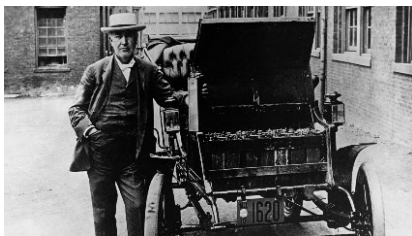


As Memorial Day draws near, we reflect on how grateful we are for those who serve to protect us. Thank you for having served, and for continuing to serve our communities! A few years ago I released an abridged version of my Memorial Day piece, Arlington, recorded with the LA Master Chorale. Later on, I released the full unabridged Arlington with music and video. To Watch the Video go to the VVA South Carolina State Council website vvasc.org It's a very powerful video.

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.^[2] From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer. The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, 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 Civil War. This national observance was preceded by many local ones 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 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May. 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.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES HAVE BEEN AROUND SINCE THE 19TH CENTURY



Electric vehicles were some of the earliest automobiles ever invented—and, unlike early gas-powered cars, they didn't require a crank to start the engine. Of the 160 automobiles on display at that first car show in 1900, a full third of them were electric. (Compare that to 2023, when electric cars and trucks only captured 7.6 percent of total vehicle sales in America.) That's because electric vehicles were some of the earliest automobiles ever invented, and they held distinct advantages over their

gas- and steam-powered competitors. Below is a timeline of 19th-century milestones in the development of electric vehicles. **1832: Robert Anderson Invents the First 'Electric Carriage'** Not much is known about Scottish inventor Robert Anderson other than the well-documented fact that he was the first person to build a “horseless carriage” powered by an electric motor. Batteries were quite primitive in the 1830s, so Anderson's electric carriage couldn't have traveled very fast or very far. But if you're looking for the birth of the electric car, this is it, says Kevin A. Wilson, author of *The Electric Vehicle Revolution: The Past, Present and Future of EVs*. “[Anderson's invention] qualify as a vehicle, although you can argue that it doesn't qualify as a car,” says Wilson. “It is an electric vehicle capable of moving itself forward, so that's significant.” **1859: Gaston Planté Makes the First Rechargeable Battery.** The development of electric vehicles in the 19th century closely tracks the evolution of battery technology. Anderson's electric carriage wasn't practical, because its battery was only good for one charge and then needed to be replaced. That changed in 1859, when French chemist Gaston Planté came up with a lead-acid battery that could be recharged indefinitely. Planté demonstrated his lead-acid technology for the French Academy of Sciences in 1860. Not only did the battery deliver a more powerful charge than previous batteries, but the flow of electrons could be reversed to recharge the battery from an outside electrical source. Even today, the standard 12V car battery in gas-powered vehicles is a lead-acid battery. “Without the ability to recharge, there's no battery that's going to last long enough to be useful in an electric vehicle,” says Wilson. “The only modern electric vehicle that used a disposable, non-rechargeable battery was NASA's lunar rover.” Who would ever think they would be thinking about electric cars back in those days? Although the gas companies would never allow them to produce this type of vehicle because they would lose money!!

Military ID Cards, Just a **Reminder**

The Department of Defense is now in the process of relacing all military ID cards by end of 2024 including VA 100% and retirees. This includes indefinite cards with no expiration date. To schedule an appointment to replace your existing card go to <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/> on your browser. When you open the site there are four boxes. Click on the far-left box for appointments. Select the closest base and follow the prompts. Read the material and make sure you bring enough additional ID's. Just to give you heads up!!



MEMORIAL DAY 2024 CHAPTER ACTIVITIES CHAPTER 925



Memorial Day weekend 2024. Top pictures left to right: Chapter 925 Color Guard participated in the 2024 Military Appreciation Day Parade Market Common. The girl in the center of the color Guard was the Grand Marshall Caitlin Basset, US Army Veteran and actress on the TV SHOW Quantum Leap she is also the first female combat veteran in Hollywood. Chapter 925 Color Guard prior to the start of the parade. Bottom pictures: Chapter 925 Marching in the Military Appreciation Day Parade, Chapter 925 folding the American Flag and reading the names of fallen veterans at Vietnam Memorial in Conway.

CHAPTER 1049



Mike Owensby and Dan Smith of VVA Chapter 1049 presented Our Chapters Wreath during the Ceremony Memorial Day May 27, 2024 at Duncan Veteran's Park, Spartanburg, SC



CHAPTER 303 ACTIVITIES

Chapter 303 biannual elections were held at the conclusion of the membership meeting on 16 April, 2024. Chapter members elected six Officers, eleven Directors, two State Council Delegates and two alternate State Council Delegates. David Eisenhauer was elected President. Zeke Cervantez and Jeff Cain were elected 1st and 2nd Vice President respectively.



On 29 April, 2024 we held our annual Last Person Out Ceremony and Vietnamese Dinner. This event was attended by a total of 35 Veterans and family members.



We held a Red Poppy Drive fundraiser on the 8 May, 2024 Family Day at Fort Jackson. This event produced a record \$1058 in donations during four hours at the Post Exchange, Commissary and Class 6 Store locations. Volunteer Chapter 303 members reported an enjoyable experience working with fellow members at this event.



South Carolina Combat Veterans Group held their annual Vietnam Remembrance Ceremony at the South Carolina Vietnam Memorial Wall. Three Chapter Offices attended this event. Chapter 303 Memorial Day Ceremony was held at the South Carolina Vietnam Memorial in Memorial Park in Columbia, SC. MG Robert D. Harter, 81st Readiness Division, Commanding attended and made brief remarks. The 81st Readiness Color Guard posted the Colors. Tommy Olds, Commander of the SC Combat Veterans spoke and a commemorative wreath was laid by President Eisenhauer, 1st VP Cervantez assisted by MG Harter.



CHAPTER 303 ACTIVITIES CONTINUED



Preparations are being made for the Raffle of a Commemorative Vietnam 30-30 Henry Rifle. We will begin to sell tickets for this raffle before 1 July, 2024.



AVVA ACTIVITIES



On 9 June 2024 at our Annual South Carolina State Council Meeting, Chapter 1145's AVVA member Cheryl Ard administering the oath to Hope Summers as the South Carolina State AVVA Representative.

CHAPTER 1145 ACTIVITIES



Chapter President Donald P. Jenkins Jr. and VVA Member Cheryl Ard represented VVA Chapter 1145 in the 2024 Aiken County Memorial Day Parade.



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**

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 1-800-273-8255 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 “Veterans Voice” 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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