



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

VVA South Carolina State Council



NEWSLETTER – September - October – 2025

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2025/2026

State Council Meeting February 8th 2026, 12:00 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
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1049 Westmoreland – Spartanburg, Larry Miller –	miller.larry33@gmail.com
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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.

Revised 10/19/2025

See Page 2 for SC State Council President's Message"

MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I recently had the Honor of meeting and speaking at length to Major General, US Army (Retired) Todd B. McCaffrey, the Secretary of South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs. In Our discussion, the Vietnam Veterans of America became an extensive portion of Our conversation.

During our conversation, I asked Secretary McCaffrey if he had any idea of how many Vietnam Veterans live in the State of South Carolina. His answer was over 40,000 Vietnam Veterans, with that number growing yearly!! I must say that I was somewhat shocked at the actual numbers of Vietnam Veterans living in Our beautiful State.

That got me to wondering, how many of the 40,000 Vietnam Vets are actually in Our 10 Chapters across Our beautiful State? I am sure you will be as shocked as I was when I blew the dust off Our Chapter Rosters and began counting up all the Members for a total count!! 850 Members are in the Chapters, with 254 “At Large” Members assigned to the VVA South Carolina State Council. That’s a total number of 1,104 Members actually in Our Organization (VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA)!! Brothers and Sisters, that’s over 38,000 Vietnam Vets living in Our State that do not belong to Our Great Organization!!!

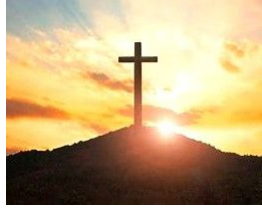
We as Members and Leaders of Our Chapters and State Council need to do a better job of Recruiting and selling the Vietnam Veterans of America!! One of the easiest ways to recruit, is for Chapters to develop business cards with your Chapter Name, address where and when you meet, time, and a contact name, email and phone number for more information. Each Chapter Member should be carrying these cards and when you meet a Veteran with a Veteran ball cap on, stop and talk to them, giving your Chapter Card to them, having a discussion about the VVA.

At Our State Council Meeting yesterday, 10/12/25, State Council Leaders discussed a new recruiting idea. The Council has 254 “At Large” Members assigned to the State Council, who are currently Members of the VVA, but do not belong to any of the 10 Chapters across Our State. Starting this month, the Council will release 12 pages (254 Members) that live throughout Our State, to each Chapter President for a recruiting effort. All the info is there, names, addresses and phone #'s. Increase your Chapter Members by contacting Members off this list. Get them to transfer to your Chapter “NOW” Our Council Secretary will forward a new list every six months to the 10 Chapter Presidents. Let’s get busy and increase Our Chapter Memberships.

Larry L. Miller
President
SC State Council



Chaplain's Corner



Greetings comrades and sisters:

With the month of November approaching we will be celebrating two very important days, Veteran's Day on the 11th and Thanksgiving Day on the 27th.

Veteran's Day will be a day of honoring the men and women who have served in our armed services, and those that have made the ultimate sacrifice, so that we today might enjoy the freedoms we have. We must also remember that it was for 'God and Country' that we served, and that God's son, Jesus Christ, also made the ultimate sacrifice, for our sins.

Thanksgiving Day should be a day of counting our blessings and giving thanks to God for those blessings that we sometimes take for granted. As it is written in Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Hoping you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Your Chaplain,
Davey Hare

VVA Membership Update

The August membership numbers are in, and we continue to increase our membership beyond the 93,191-member mark in July. As of August 2025, the VVA has 93,303 members, including 1,502 women veterans. In August, the VVA welcomed 123 new members and reported 64 deceased members. The new member count is below our average, but that could be attributed to the fact that the National convention in New Orleans took up a lot of time. We have all made an effort to sign up new members. \$50 for a Life membership is a bargain. While some Regions and States experienced declines, the overall trend is positive, with notable increases in several key areas. Regions 9 and 6 had significant numbers, with 27 and 14 new members, respectively, while Region 4 had 9. The States of California, Colorado, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania got into the top four spots for State Membership growth. Florida 1036 is still number one in the top 25 chapters with 1,043 members. The average number of members in a chapter stays at 128. 6.6 million Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad (served on Active-Duty Nov 1, 1955 - 7 May 1975 at any location) 16% of U.S pop 65+, 44% male = 23 million, 1 in every three males 65+ years of age = Vietnam veteran (2.1% of total U.S. population ... based on 2020 U.S. Census data & VA's VetPop2020) Many Vietnam veterans are unaware of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Let's remember to offer them membership in VVA. Look to recruit those veterans in the 65 to 69 age group. Chances are, they have never heard of Vietnam Veterans of America. Introduce them to VVA by getting a membership application for them. Look for those ball caps. Based on an email from Membership Affairs Committee Report August 2025. For further information go to our website vvasc.org.



September 11, 2001



The September 11 attacks, also known as 9/11, were four coordinated Islamist terrorist suicide attacks by al-Qaeda against the United States in 2001. Nineteen terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners, crashing the first two into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the third into the Pentagon (headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense) in Arlington County, Virginia. The fourth plane crashed in a rural Pennsylvania field (present-day, Flight 93 National Memorial) during a passenger revolt. In response to the attacks, the United States waged the global war on terror over multiple decades to eliminate hostile groups deemed terrorist organizations, as well as the governments purported to support them. The attacks killed 2,977 people, injured thousands more and gave rise to substantial long-term health consequences while also causing at least US\$10 billion in infrastructure and property damage. It remains the deadliest terrorist attack in history as well as the deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement personnel in American history, killing 343 and 72 members, respectively. The crashes of Flight 11 and Flight 175 were the deadliest aviation disasters of all time, and the collision of Flight 77 with the Pentagon resulted in the fourth-highest number of ground fatalities in a plane crash in history. The destruction of the World Trade Center and its environs, located in Manhattan's Financial District, seriously harmed the U.S. economy and induced global market shocks. Many other countries strengthened anti-terrorism legislation and expanded their powers of law enforcement and intelligence agencies. The total number of deaths caused by the attacks, combined with the death tolls from the

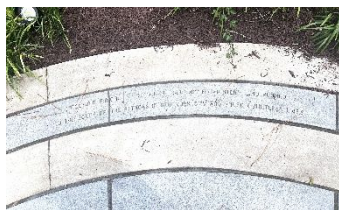


conflicts they directly incited, has been estimated by the Costs of War Project to be over 4.5 million. Picture was taken from Liberty State Park in Jersey City New Jersey, late 1900's ***LET'S NEVER FORGET!***

On September 9, 2025 the City of Myrtle Beach held a "September 11 Remembrance Ceremony at Unity Memorial Warbird Park within Market Common. There was several guest speakers from the New York fire Department that was involved with the rescue crews at the twin towers. Their stories were very precise on what the first responders went through in finding people within the collapsed towers. Below are several pictures of this ceremony.



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September 11, 2001 Continued

Pictures left to right #1. Monument with a piece of a beam from the World Trade Center located within Warbird Park. #2. Inscriptions of events and how many people perished, encircled the monument. #3 Members of the Myrtle Beach Fire stand guard at the 9-11 monument prior to the Presentation of Wreaths. #4 Members of the Myrtle Beach fire Department Honor Guard. #5. Welcome and Recognition of guest, City of Myrtle Beach. #6. Poem given by Bo Bryan, Myrtle Beach Poet Laureate. #7 Remarks on the 24th Anniversary, William Hargrove, Retired NY Police Emergency Service. #8 Dan Tompkins, retired Ladder Company 42, Fire Department of NY. #9 Michael Schenck, Retired Master Gunny Sgt. USMC, Myrtle Beach Police Officer. #10 MB Fire Depart. Honor Guard march off after Presentation of colors. #11. City of MB Mayor Speaking to a member of MB Fire Department. #12. Coastal Carolina Shields Pipes and Drums playing “Amazing Grace”

Happy 250th Birthday Navy



The Continental Congress's resolution to procure two armed vessels, adopted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 13 October 1775, was the original legislation out of which the Continental Navy grew. Within a few days of that vote, Congress established a Naval Committee, which directed the purchasing, outfitting, manning, and operations of the first ships of the new Navy, drafted naval legislation, and prepared rules and regulations to govern the Navy's conduct and internal

administration. Philadelphia was also the port where the purchase and outfitting of the first four vessels of the Continental Navy took place. Because the Continental Navy began in Philadelphia on 13 October 1775, the Navy claims that date as its birthday. A logical corollary would be to recognize Philadelphia as the Navy's birthplace. The Navy, however, also honors the significant naval roles that many other towns played in the American Revolution and does not recognize any as its sole place of origin.

Happy 78th Birthday Airforce



The birthday of the United States Air Force is observed annually on September 18. It commemorates the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as a separate branch of the country's armed forces.

The history of the U.S. Air Force can be traced back to the establishment of the Aeronautical Division of the United States Signal Corps on August 1, 1907. The Division procured its first powered military aircraft in 1909 and established the first flying unit in the United States military, the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, in 1913. In 1926, the Air Service was renamed the United States Army Air Corps. Shortly before the entry of the United States into World War II, the Army Air Corps was reorganized into the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF). Although the USAAF was a *de jure* component of the United States Army, it was the *de facto* aerial warfare service branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. With the enactment of the National Security Act of 1947 on September 18, 1947, the United States Air Force officially became a separate branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The day of its establishment as a separate branch is considered the official birthday of the U.S. Air Force. Since then, the Air Force has participated in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the NATO intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the war on terror, and other military operations, as well as in major humanitarian operations.



POW-MIA Recognition Day



In the United States, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). It is most associated with those who were POWs during the Vietnam War. National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29, the date in 1973 when the last US combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam.

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is different and separate from National POW/MIA Recognition Day. National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is April 9. It was officially designated by Congress in 1988, Public Law 100-269 [Sen J Res 253 100th Congress], as a Presidentially-proclaimed observance. National Former POW Recognition Day commemorates the April 9, 1942 surrender of approximately 10,000 United States military personnel and 65,000 Filipino soldiers on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines by Major General Edward P. King to the invading Imperial Japanese Army headed by General Masaharu Homma. Bataan, thereafter, is distinguished as the largest mass surrender in United States military history. The surrender was followed immediately by the infamous Bataan Death March. By law, the President of the United States must issue annually a proclamation. ***YOU ARE NOT FORGITTON!***

UPDATE - Henry Gerald (Jerry) Gish, U.S. Air Force, after 57 years SSGT Gish's remains have been recovered and identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in Hawali and are being returned home for final rest on 18 September, 2025. On 11 March, 1968 while assigned to the USAF Det. 1 1043 Radar Evaluation Squadron performing duties at Lima Site 85, a secret tactical Air Navigation radar site atop the Phou Pha Thi Mountain in Laos' Houaphanh Province, the site was attacked and overrun by North Vietnamese Commando. Gish along with 10 other Airman were unaccounted for and listed a Missing in Action (MIA). Little history.

Please Note the picture with all the SC MIA's are honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but their remains are not recovered.



We are proud to announce that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency closed out Fiscal Year 2025 with 231 identifications—a record-breaking milestone made possible by the unwavering dedication of our civilian and military researchers, field teams, laboratory experts, AFMES-AFDIL, and the Service Casualty Offices. Each identification is more than a scientific achievement—it is the fulfillment of a sacred promise to families and to our nation. This accomplishment reflects America's enduring commitment to honor those who gave their lives in service and to ensure they are never forgotten.

The above is based on information supplied by James (Gunny) Gregory.



Chapters Activities

Chapter 925



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Members of 925 Honor Guard presented the colors at Legends in Concert “Salute to Veterans” on 20 September 2025. #1. Chapter 925 Honor Guard l to R – Gerry Nugent, M.J. Hayes, Ron Thornton, Gary McCormick, Frank Radosion, Charlie Zweigle, Jeff Barlet, Rich Fritz, and Bob McCann. #2. Honor Guard getting ready to present the colors. Frank Radosion playing reveille for the start of presenting the colors. #4. Honor Guard presenting the colors prior to the start of the show. Patriotic saying Pledge of Allegiance.

Chapter 1049

VVA Chapter 1049 Spartanburg monthly meeting on Sept 13, 2025, Claude Schmid was our Guest Speaker. Claude spoke about his organization (Veterans Last Patrol) on how they Honor Veterans in Hospice and Nursing Homes. We donated \$500 to help his organization continue their great work. Felice Vigil (Chapter Secretary) and I also Honored Retired Army Colonel Schmid for his dedication to Hospice and Nursing Home Veterans.



Chapter 1049 Spartanburg, participated in a flag waving Ceremony with Members of American Legion on 9/11 from 9 am to 11 am on overpass of Interstate 85 and Rt 9 Boiling Springs, SC



Chapter Activities Continued

VA Chapter 1049 Spartanburg was a Vendor at the car show that Vets Helping Vets held at USC Spartanburg National Guard Armory on September 1, 2025. We held a New Membership Drive to help gain New Members into Our Chapter. The Day was a success.



Field of Flags



Field of Honor at New Memorial Site
700 - 900 US Flags at Warbird Memorial Park
Myrtle Beach, SC

What is the field of flags, is a touching display honors our country's brave veterans and brings attention to their meaningful sacrifice. While there's no specific time to create this eye-catching exhibit, it's common to see them on military holidays like Memorial Day and Veterans Day. This Veterans Day Myrtle Beach will put on display "Field of Flags" located in Market Common next to Warbird Park.



Field of Flags Continued



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On 15 October a group of Veterans help put together the flage that will be placed at an open fiels located within Market Common on Veterans Day. The flage start from the first flag by Besty Ross showing the thireteen colonies to presnt. Pictures from left to right 1. Some of the veterans being shown how to put together the flags 2. Chris Aranda from the Vet Center showing what the flag should look like when finished. 3. Charlie Davies, 1st Vice President SC State Council (Chapter 925) installing the gold ball at the top of the staff. 4. Ron Thorton, chapter 925 folding the finished product. The group put together 150 flags in two hours.

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 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 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 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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