



# ***Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.***

## ***South Carolina VVA State Council***

**PO Box 2001**

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**Office: (803) 546-4895, Fax: (803)546-4895**



## **Veterans Voice**

**NEWSLETTER – March - April- 2023**

### **South Carolina VVA Council Officers/Committee Chairpersons**

President	Samuel Brick	<a href="mailto:sbrick2011@gmail.com">sbrick2011@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Larry Miller	<a href="mailto:miller.larry33@gmail.com">miller.larry33@gmail.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Charles Davies	<a href="mailto:tazzcd@aol.com">tazzcd@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Zeke Cervantez	<a href="mailto:plough71@gmail.com">plough71@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Jay Reynolds	<a href="mailto:jayreynolds45@gmail.com">jayreynolds45@gmail.com</a>
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AVVA	Hope Summers	<a href="mailto:hopesu@aol.com">hopesu@aol.com</a>

### **UPCOMING EVENTS 2023**

State Council Meeting June 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 lunch 12:00 Meeting starts 13:00 (1:00 PM)

American Legion Post #6 200 Pickens Street Columbia SC 29205

VVA National Convention August 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 Orlando FL

Vietnam Veterans Memorial traveling Wall Scheduled to visit Spartanburg SC November 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2023

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall scheduled to visit Market Common, Myrtle Beach SC May 26<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup> 2023

National Vietnam War Veterans Day March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

14 revolutionary soldiers being buried in Camden on April 22? VERY Big SC state historical event: <https://www.scbattlegroundtrust.org/camden-burials> Some of the National Fife & Drum Corps (3rd Infantry) from D.C. will be there and the Governor too... the funeral in Camden will have 14 horse-drawn Caissons with 18th Century coffins ... ..some of us will be volunteers there...

### **South Carolina VVA Chapters/Contacts**

303 (Col. Jack Van Loan) – Columbia, Ron Hagell –	<a href="mailto:vvachapter303@gmail.com">vvachapter303@gmail.com</a>
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960 – Manning, Larry Reit	<a href="mailto:Reitld@yahoo.com">Reitld@yahoo.com</a>
1017 Roger Merck – Walhalla, Dave Bertges –	<a href="mailto:gibson4959@yahoo.com">gibson4959@yahoo.com</a>
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Happy Easter to all of you and your Families, especially the troops are in foreign lands.

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

## **MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

The Republic of Vietnam. We were joined with our SC Combat Vets at the State Memorial Wall in downtown Columbia in the morning at a combined event with Chapter 303 and a few days later at an 81st Readiness Division program produced by the 81st CG, MG Bob Harper. Both There were many events throughout South Carolina on March 29, the day we remember leaving events were well attended and involved other organizations. The Order of the Purple Heart joined us as well as Chapter 303 and several other groups and also some RVN veterans who heard through the grape vine about the 81st RD program. MG Harter spoke of how much what we did affects the current



military. I have heard the same thing from other active-duty folks. We, citizen soldiers, drafted and joining during an unpopular war stood up and promised to defend the Nation. We did and our actions showed the world that the US stood for democracy. Vietnam through all that is now a trading partner and quasi-democratic nation with elected officials although still considered communist. It loves trade and the people love to work, compete, and enjoy a capitalist life style. Tourism is a mainstay of its economy. Communism has not proliferated through the world. People are fighting for their lives and freedom from communism now as we all know.

Our chapters throughout the state are active and doing well. Our last state council meeting proved that. We adopted a resolution to thank our law enforcement brothers and sisters for their service. We feel they need encouragement because they may have some bad apples and understand why. Just like we experienced in RVN. We understood why. Most of us performed honorably. People thank us and it means a lot. Our resolution is to encourage others to thank our law enforcement folks and also many think we include our first responders. I agree. We also approved a state coin that Larry Miller and Charlie Davies designed. It is terrific and costs \$10. See your chapter to buy one. It is a legacy item.

The VVA corporation is facing some proposed changes. Must wait until the convention to see what, when, and how it may affect us. Not many contested elections. Of the officers only the treasurer office is contested. Only other contests are the At Large board directors. Ten must be elected out of 16 applicants. Most important part of the convention will be our future. Consider attending if you can. Orlando in early August. Look at the [VVA.org](http://VVA.org) web site for info.

**Very respectfully,  
Sam Brick  
SC State Council President and Conference Chair.**



***DID YOU KNOW***

WOW, I bet you would never guess the first of March is the NEW YEAR for ancient Romans. Wonder how they celebrate this day? They did not access to fireworks back in those days. Probably had the gladiators fighting in the Colosseum and the wine was flowing

Oh yes March is the start of “March Madness” It all started back in 1939. The term “March Madness” was first used in reference to Basketball by an Illinois high school official Henry V. Porter. However; the NCAA tournament back in 1982 by Brent Marburger.

Beware the IDES of March, it actually means, on the Roamn calendar, the midpoint of every month was known as the “Ides”

And then came the Irish on Saint Patrick’s Day. “The Luch of the Irish” and all the green beer. Have a few Guinness and it does not matter what nationality you are; you will become Irish !

For all you Sweet Potato lovers, April 1 is Sweet Potato Day!

Yes, this is a good one April 6 is International Pillow Fight Day. Enjoy your Pillow Fight

On April 7<sup>th</sup> is National NO Housework Day!

Did you ever want to say to someone “Go Fly A Kite” Will on April 21<sup>st</sup> is that day.

Just a little trivia

***AVVA is the extended family of VVA.***



**Together...**

***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.***

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## **The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall**

The traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Scheduled to visit Spartanburg SC November 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2023. Also will be at Market Common Athletic Fields, Myrtle Beach, May 25<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup> 2023. They are looking for Volunteers, if interested contact Chris Aranda, 843-232-2441

## **Military ID Cards, Just a Reminder**

The Department of Defense is now in the process of relacing all military ID cards by 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!!







Vietnam Veterans Day is annually observed on March 29. It commemorates the hardships suffered and sacrifices made by nine million Americans during the Vietnam War. However, the holiday does not only honor the former soldiers but also their families who supported them before and after the war.

## Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Merchant Marines

The U.S. Merchant Marine Corps was officially founded on March 15, 1938, chaired by Joseph P. Kennedy (father of President John F. Kennedy). The United States Merchant Marine are United States civilian mariners and U.S. civilian and federally owned merchant vessels. Both the civilian mariners and the merchant vessels are managed by a combination of the government and private sectors, and engage in commerce or transportation of goods and services in



and out of the navigable waters of the United States. The Merchant Marine primarily transports domestic and international cargo and passengers during peacetime, and operate and maintain deep-sea merchant ships, tugboats, towboats, ferries, dredges, excursion vessels, charter boats and other waterborne craft on the oceans, the Great Lakes, rivers, canals, harbors, and other waterways. In times of war, the Merchant Marine can be an auxiliary to the United States Navy, and can be called upon to deliver military personnel and materiel for the military. In the 19th and 20th centuries, various laws fundamentally changed the course of American merchant shipping. These laws put an end to common practices such as flogging and shanghaiing, and increased shipboard safety and living standards. The United States Merchant Marine is also governed by more than 25 (as of February 17, 2017) international conventions to promote safety and prevent pollution. As of October 1, 2018, the United States merchant fleet had 181 privately owned, oceangoing, self-propelled vessels of 1,000 gross register tons and above that carry cargo from port to port. Nearly 800 American-owned ships are flagged in other nations. During World War II, nearly 250,000 civilian merchant mariners served as part of the U.S. military, transporting supplies and personnel. Between 1939 and 1945, 9,521 merchant mariners lost their lives, a

per capita casualty rate greater than those of each U.S. Armed Forces branch. The GI Bill Improvement Act Of 1977 P.L. 95–202, granted veteran status to Women Airforce Service Pilots and "any person in any other similarly situated group" with jurisdiction granted to the Secretary of Defense, and delegated to the Secretary of the Air Force. Merchant mariners who served in World War II were denied such veterans recognition until 1987 when a federal court ordered it. The Court held that the Secretary of the Air Force wrongfully denied active military service recognition to American merchant mariners who participated in World War II.

## Women in the Vietnam War

Since March is Woman History Month, thought this would be interesting. Women in the Vietnam War served as soldiers, health workers, and in news-gathering capacities. Though relatively little official data exists about female Vietnam War veterans, the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation estimates that approximately 11,000 military women were stationed in Vietnam during the conflict. Nearly all of them were volunteers, and 90 percent served as military nurses, though women also worked as physicians, air traffic controllers, intelligence officers, clerks and other positions in the U.S. Women's Army Corps, U.S. Navy, Air Force and Marines and the Army Medical Specialist Corps. In addition to women in the armed forces, an unknown number of civilian women served in Vietnam on behalf of the Red Cross, United Service Organizations (USO), Catholic Relief Services and other humanitarian organizations, or as foreign correspondents for various news organizations.



## **WOMAN IN VIETNAM, VIETNAM Continued**

### **U.S. Army Women in Vietnam**

The great majority of the military women who served in Vietnam were nurses. All were volunteers, and they ranged from recent college graduates in their early 20s to seasoned career women in their 40s. Members of the Army Nurse Corps arrived in Vietnam as early as 1956, when they were tasked with training the South Vietnamese in nursing skills. As the American military presence in South Vietnam increased beginning in the early 1960s, so did that of the Army Nurse Corps. From March 1962 to March 1973, when the last Army nurses left Vietnam, some 5,000 would serve in the conflict. Five female Army nurses died over the course of the war, including 52-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Annie Ruth Graham, who served as a military nurse in both World War II and Korea before Vietnam and suffered a stroke in August 1968; and First Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane, who died from shrapnel wounds suffered in an attack on the hospital where she was working in June 1969. Lane was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Bronze Star for Heroism. Colonel Graham is one of eight women whose names are listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, a monument designed by 21-year-old female college student Maya Lin.

Did you know? In November 1993, the Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. in front of a crowd of some 25,000 people. The centerpiece of the memorial is a bronze statue by Glenna Goodacre, which depicts three female nurses assisting a wounded soldier.

Early on, the U.S. Army resisted sending women other than nurses to Vietnam. The Women's Army Corps (WAC), established during World War II, had a presence in Vietnam beginning in 1964, when General William Westmoreland asked the Pentagon to provide a WAC officer and non-commissioned officer to help the South Vietnamese train their own women's army corps. At its peak in 1970, WAC presence in Vietnam numbered some 20 officers and 130 enlisted women. WACs filled noncombat positions in U.S. Army headquarters in Saigon and other bases in South Vietnam; a number received decorations for meritorious service. No WACs died during the conflict.

### **Women in the U.S. Navy, Air Force and Marines in Vietnam**

Members of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps also played an important role in the conflict beginning in 1963. Five Navy nurses were awarded the Purple Heart after they were injured in a Viet Cong bombing of an officers' billets in downtown Saigon on Christmas Eve 1964; they became the first female members of the U.S. Armed Forces to receive that award in the Vietnam War. Apart from nurses, only nine Navy women—all officers—served in Vietnam, including Lieutenant Elizabeth G. Wylie, who worked in the Command Information Center on the staff of the Commander of Naval Forces in Saigon beginning in June 1967; and Commander Elizabeth Barrett, who in November 1972 became the first female naval line officer to hold command in a combat zone.

Women also served as members of the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps and the Women's Air Force (WAF) during the Vietnam conflict. Captain Mary Therese Klinker, one of the eight military women killed in Vietnam, was the flight nurse on the U.S. Air Force C-5A Galaxy that crashed April 1975 near Saigon.



## **WOMAN IN VIETNAM, VIETNAM Continued**

(The plane had been on a mission for Operation Babylift, which placed Southeast Asian orphans with families in the United States; some 138 people were killed in the crash, including many Vietnamese children and a number of female civilians working for U.S. government agencies.) Klinker was posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism and the Meritorious Service Medal

. The U.S. Marine Corps had a more limited female presence in Vietnam, as until 1966 only 60 female marines were permitted to serve overseas, with most of those stationed in Hawaii. From 1967 to 1973, a total of 28 enlisted Marine women and eight officers served in Vietnam at various times.

### **Civilian Women in Vietnam**

In addition to the U.S. military women who served in Vietnam, an unknown number of female civilians willingly gave their services on Vietnamese soil during the conflict. Many of them Life Organizations (USO), Peace Corps and various religious groups such as Catholic Relief Services. Other American women traveled to Vietnam as foreign correspondents for news organizations, including Georgette "Dickey" Chappelle, a writer for the *National Observer* who was killed by a mine while on patrol with U.S. Marines outside Chu Lai in November 1965. According to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation, 59 female civilians died during the conflict.

The above is based on an article appeared on Histor.com dated 03/05/2020

## **How St. Patrick's Day Took on New Life in America**



Every March 17, the United States becomes an emerald country for a day. Americans wear green clothes and drink green beer. Green milkshakes, bagels and grits appear on menus. In a leprechaun-worthy shenanigan, Chicago even dyes its river green. Revelers from coast to coast celebrate all things Irish by hoisting pints of Guinness and cheering bagpipers, step dancers and marching bands parading through city streets. These familiar annual traditions weren't imported from Ireland, however. They were made in America. In contrast to the merry-making in

the United States, March 17 has been more holy day than holiday in Ireland. Since 1631, St. Patrick's Day has been a religious feast day to commemorate the anniversary of the 5th-century death of the missionary credited with spreading Christianity to Ireland. For several centuries, March 17 was a day of solemnity in Ireland with Catholics attending church in the morning and partaking of modest feasts in the afternoon. There were no parades and certainly no emerald-tinted food products, particularly since blue, not green, was the traditional color associated with Ireland's patron saint prior to the 1798 Irish Rebellion. Boston has long staked claim to the first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the American colonies. On March 17, 1737, more than two dozen Presbyterians who emigrated from the north of Ireland gathered to honor St. Patrick and form the Charitable Irish Society to assist distressed Irishmen in the city. The oldest Irish organization in North America still holds an annual dinner every St. Patrick's Day. Historian Michael Francis, however, unearthed evidence that St. Augustine, Florida, may have hosted America's first St. Patrick's Day celebration. While researching Spanish gunpowder expenditure logs, Francis found records that indicate cannon blasts or gunfire were used to honor the saint in 1600 and that residents of the Spanish garrison town processed through the streets in honor of St. Patrick the following year, perhaps at the behest of an Irish priest living there.





## How St. Patrick's Day Took on New Life in America Continued

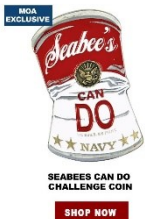
Ironically, it was a band of Redcoats who started the storied green tradition of America's largest and longest St. Patrick's Day parade in 1762 when Irish-born soldiers serving in the British Army marched through lower Manhattan to a St. Patrick's Day breakfast at a local tavern. The March 17 parades by the Irish through the streets of New York City raised the ire of nativist, anti-Catholic mobs who started their own tradition of "paddy-making" on the eve of St. Patrick's Day by erecting effigies of Irishmen wearing rags and necklaces of potatoes with whiskey bottles in their hands until the practice was banned in 1803. After Irish Catholics flooded into the country in the decade following the failure of Ireland's potato crop in 1845, they clung to their Irish identities and took to the streets in St. Patrick's Day parades to show strength in numbers as a political retort to nativist "Know-Nothings." "Many who were forced to leave Ireland during the Great Hunger brought a lot of memories, but they didn't have their country, so it was a celebration of being Irish," says Mike McCormack, national historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians. "But there was also a bit of defiance because of the bigotry by the Know-Nothings against them." McCormack says attitudes toward the Irish began to soften after tens of thousands of them served in the Civil War. "They went out as second-class citizens but came back as heroes," he says. As the Irish slowly assimilated into American culture, those without Celtic blood began to join in St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The meal that became a St. Patrick's Day staple across the country—corned beef and cabbage—was also an American innovation. While ham and cabbage were eaten in Ireland, corned beef proved a cheaper substitute for impoverished immigrants. McCormack says corned beef became a staple of Irish-Americans living in the slums of lower Manhattan who purchased leftover provisions from ships returning from the tea trade in China. "When ships came into South Street Seaport, many women would run down to the port hoping there was leftover salted beef they could get from the ship's cook for a penny a pound," McCormack says. "It was the cheapest meat they could find." The Irish would boil the beef three times—the last time with cabbage—to remove some of the brine. While St.



Patrick's Day evolved in the 20th century into a party day for Americans of all ethnicities, the celebration in Ireland remained solemn. The *Connaught Telegraph* reported of Ireland's commemorations on March 17, 1952: "St. Patrick's Day was very much like any other day, only duller." For decades, Irish laws prohibited pubs from opening on holy days such as March 17. Until 1961, the only legal place to get a drink in the Irish capital on St. Patrick's Day was the Royal Dublin Dog Show, which naturally attracted

those with only a passing canine interest. The party atmosphere only spread to Ireland after the arrival of television when the Irish could see all the fun being had across the ocean. "Modern Ireland took a cue from America," McCormack says. The multi-day St. Patrick's Day Festival, launched in Dublin in 1996, now attracts one million people each year. The Irish is now adopting St. Patrick's Day traditions from Irish America such as corned beef and cabbage, McCormack says. There are some American traditions, however, that might not catch on in Ireland, such as green Guinness. As McCormack says, "St. Patrick never drank green beer."

## Happy 81<sup>st</sup> Birthday Seabee's



Almost forgot! Since March 5, 1942, the United States Navy has employed an elite cadre of construction battalions, more commonly known as Seabees. Over the years the Seabees have served in all major American conflicts, supported humanitarian efforts, and helped build communities and nations around the globe. Seabees young and old now celebrate the birthday of their unique organization today. However, March 5 has not always been recognized as its birthday. From its beginning during World War II until 1954, the Seabee anniversary was observed on December 28 as this was the date Admiral Ben Moreell requested authority from the Chief of the Bureau of

Navigation to recruit enlisted personnel to serve in a naval construction force. In the early 1950s, Rear Admiral John R. Perry, recognizing the current Seabee birthday fell at a hectic time of the year and many Seabees were on leave as it fell during the week between Christmas and New Years', made the decision to find a new date suitable for the celebration of the Seabee birthday.





March 13 is K9 Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifices made by American military and working dogs throughout history. Thank you to all past, present, and future K9 veterans and their trainers!

During the first World War, the United States took notice of the European use of canines as message carriers, sentries, and for several other functions. Dogs for Defense was a program initiated by Arlene Erlanger. Along with the American Kennel Club and a handful of breeders, this group aimed to train dogs for military use.

By November 1942, the first Dogs for Defense were prepared for duty in North Africa.

While gun shy at first, they proved to be well trained. As the war progressed, Service Installations Divisions took over training of the dogs because Dogs for Defense was unable to keep up with the demand.

Over the years the military, police, and rescue have developed a variety of training methods for K9 units. Their training is tailored to meet the demands of the job and each handler and animal carries out his or her duties to the fullest. National K9 Veterans Day is celebrated on March 13th, the official birthday of the United States Army K9 Corps which was formed in 1942.

We must not forget all the K9's Veterans and their trainers who lost their lives in combat saving service personal lives! Out of all the Veterans Groups and being in the Military I never heard of this day!

## **Farmer in Vietnam Finds Marine's Dog Tag Lost 57 Years Ago. Now Finally Returned to Family in the US**



Farmer in Vietnam Finds Marine's Dog Tag Lost 57 Years Ago—Now Finally Returned to Family in US BY Louise Chambers | TIME - March 17, 2023 The family of a Vietnam War veteran has been reunited with a piece of their loved one's history that was lost in a rice field 57 years ago. The late U.S. Marine Cpl. Larry Hughes lost his dog tag while serving in Da Nang in 1966. Decades later, on a Vietnam field trip with 20 University of Notre Dame students in October 2022, professor Michael Desch and Jim Webb, a former Virginia senator and ex-Marine, ran into a local farmer who approached them with the lost tag. "[The farmer] said he had found

this dog tag when he was working his fields," Desch told The Epoch Times. For the entire story go to [vvasc.org](http://vvasc.org), under section "Did You Know". *Interesting Story after, 57 years the Dog Tag was uncovered by a Vietnamese farmer and finally returned to his family in the U.S.*

## **Chapters Actively**

### **Chapter 303:**



The chapter is planning to add the new Fisher House facility at Dorn VA Hospital to our on-going donation support. Others are invited to help support this excellent new facility to house families of those hospitalized at Dorn who live far away from Columbia. A major rewrite of our Bylaws has been written and should be approved in April. The chapter plans to hold two raffles this year. One will be a money split in the spring and we plan to raffle off a replica Henry rifle in the autumn. These raffle tickets will be sold for \$25 each and be offered to all comers. We have been asked to promote this year's Veteran Experience Action Center (VEAC) event. This event on March 23-25 at the Bluff Road Armory will aid vets and dependents for new and existing VA claims or appeals. The chapter will begin again to hold fundraising Poppy Sales in a local mall

and possibly also at Ft. Jackson. Members were told of the death of our member COL Gene Powell. Tributes to Gene were given by Sam Brick and Ron Hagell. His visitation and funeral arrangements were given. The PGR will conduct a motorcade and flag line from Shandon Baptist Church to Ft. Jackson National Cemetery at 1 pm on March 29. Chapter members and other local vets have been invited to a Vietnam Veteran honor event to be held by the CG of the 81<sup>st</sup> Readiness Division at Ft. Jackson on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM A memorial event at our State Vietnam War Memorial will be held at 9:30 AM, March 29, with the SC Combat Vets Group as a salute to our fallen on this the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the troop withdrawal from RVN.

**Go to our website [vvasc.org](http://vvasc.org) for more information on this event.**





**VVA Chapter 1145 Vietnam Remembrance Day 2023**

The Above Pictures (Left) were taken by Bill Bengtson [bbengtson@aikenstandard.com](mailto:bbengtson@aikenstandard.com) with the Aiken Standard 03/29/2023 at Aiken County Veterans Memorial Park was the scene of a March 29 gathering orchestrated by local Daughters of the American Revolution and Vietnam Veterans of America chapters, making the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of U.S. combat operation in Vietnam. The picture to the right is VVA Chapter 1145 Members (Left to Right) Bruce Campbell, Jay Reynolds (Treasurer), Ralph Wainright (Chapter President), Wallace Busby, and Dennis Lockhart. Photo by the Henry Middleton chapter of the DAR. **Go to our website [vvasc.org](http://vvasc.org) for more information on this event.**



**Mallory Holly SVP/Director of Marketing and Community relations at Security Federal Bank  
Presenting a donation check to Jay Reynolds  
Treasurer of VVA Chapter 1145**



## South Carolina State Council Challenge Coin



The South Carolina State Council has approved and made an official challenge coin to represent all VVA Veterans within the State of South Carolina. State Council sent out notices to Chapter Members to contact their Chapter Presidents if they wish to purchase one or more coins at a cost of \$10, If the coins are mailed there will be a shipping and handling charge. The Chapter Presidents will contact one of us State Council members as to the number of coins needed. Charles Davies, [tazzcd@aol.com](mailto:tazzcd@aol.com), will be the contact person for Chapters 780 Charleston, 925 Myrtle Beach; Jay Reynolds [jayreynolds45@gmail.com](mailto:jayreynolds45@gmail.com), will be the contact person for Chapters 303 Columbia, 1145 Aiken, 960 Manning, 828 Salkehatchie; Larry Miller [miller.larry33@gmail.com](mailto:miller.larry33@gmail.com), will be the contact person for Chapters 523 Greenville, 644 Piedmont (Union), 1017 Walhalla, 1049 Spartanburg. Should there be any questions contact one of the members listed in your area

*Any Chapter who would like their departed members or Sick Call listed in the Newsletter, please send the information to me [tazzcd@aol.com](mailto: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 March and April*



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.

*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](http://www.avva.org)

**NEW MEMBER:**

State/Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ At-Large? ☐  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**RENEWAL:**

Membership #, if known: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ At-Large? ☐  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES**

☐ Annual Membership \$20      ☐ Life Membership Full payment \$100  
☐ Life Member Time Payment Option: \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full

**VVA Dual Membership:**

☐ Life Membership: \$50

**PAYMENT METHOD**

**DO NOT SEND CASH**

☐ Check      ☐ Visa      ☐ Master Card      ☐ Discover      ☐ American Express  
Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card holder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to **AVVA**

Remit this application and payment to: **AVVA**

**Sandy Spring Bank • 8401 Colesville Rd • Silver Spring • MD • 20910**