



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

South Carolina VVA State Council

PO Box 2001

Columbia, South Carolina 29202-2001

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



Veterans Voice

NEWSLETTER – March - April - 2024

South Carolina VVA Council Officers/Committee Chairpersons

President	Samuel Brick	sbrick2011@gmail.com
1 st Vice President	Larry Miller	miller.larry33@gmail.com
2 nd Vice President	Charles Davies	tazzcd@aol.com
Secretary	Zeke Cervantez	plough71@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jay Reynolds	jayreynolds45@gmail.com
POW/MIA	James Gregory	bikergunny@msn.com
Chaplain	Davey Hare	ahare@homesc.com
Newsletter, Website	Charles Davies	tazzcd@aol.com
AVVA	Hope Summers	hopesu@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

State Council Meeting June 9th 2024. 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

303 (Col. Jack Van Loan) – Columbia, Ron Hagell –	vvachapter303@gmail.com
523 Foothills – Greenville, Duane Kelley –	duane_kelley@yahoo.com
644 Piedmont – Union, John Gist	johngist23@yahoo.com
780 Low Country – Charleston, Mike Hadbavny –	mhadbavny92@gmail.com
828 Salkehatchie – Barnwell, Robert Birt –	roberthbirt@gmail.com
925 Grand Strand – Myrtle Beach – Rich Gregory –	rgreg12229@aol.com
960 – Manning, Larry Reit	Reitfld@yahoo.com
1017 Roger Merck – Walhalla, Dave Bertges –	gibson4959@yahoo.com
1145 Aiken – Donald P. Jenkins Jr.	donaldusmcd@hotmail.com
1049 Westmoreland – Spartanburg, Larry Miller –	miller.larry33@gmail.com

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.

I know that there will be some new presidents within the SC Chapters. I have some but will revise the president's names in our next issue of the Newsletter/website,

On 11 February 2024 the State Council had elections, the results as follows: SC State Council President - Sam Brick, 1st Vice President - Larry Miller, 2nd Vice President - Charlie Davies, Secretary, - Zeke Cervantez, Treasurer - Jay Reynolds.

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



MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow vets.

March Madness has passed and madness it ever was. The exciting finishes and close finishes were fun to watch. My bracket predictions were busted early. I had Kentucky winning the whole thing, not going out right away. Maybe next year. A fun time.

Now preparing for the April VVA Conference of States Council Presidents and National Board meetings two weeks off from this writing. Last VVA actions until the Leadership Conference in Reno in August and the next routine National meetings in October. My tenure as CSCP Chair is over in August or October. I am not running for re-election. The VVA Constitution with the recent change to four conferences a year is not clear on the date so our upcoming meeting should clarify that. Either is ok with me. The VVA has a new chief Congressional lobbyist, James L. McCormick II, retired Army. He has a Silver Star and numerous other combat and civilian award and is a recent veteran. He is former Commander of the National Order of the Purple Heart with a great resume. Our Congressional activities are at the heart of our operations so this is of major importance.

Jack McManus recently testified before the Joint Congressional Veterans' committees and related among other things the VVA's push for the VA to abide by all areas of the Pact Act and, among other things, to pass current legislation to authorize combat vets to receive compensation for disabilities and federal benefits concurrently. (See Below Page 3) Another interesting action is to authorize incarcerated vets to get VA payments over 10% placed in a trust so they can get them after release. A complete listing is elsewhere on our Web Page. The CSCP also is looking at stolen valor. There is an individual who falsified his DD 214 to get membership. He wears several silver star and numerous other unearned awards at VVA events. He did not serve in Vietnam. His fraud does not include any claims for monetary benefits so criminal action may not be available but our folks are taking action. Whatever, I find it most distasteful for folks to use the VVA as a vehicle to proclaim false heroism or bravery. The CSCP also will look at fidelity insurance for our officers. Our constitution requires chapters and councils paying unless individually absolved. The VVA in the meantime has provided such insurance across the board. We do not need to do this. A change to the constitution is in the works for our New Orleans convention in 2025. Remember if you have an event there is event liability insurance. The event must be reported in advance. Not routine meetings but special events. Information for this is on the web site. See Information and Resources and in the Area for State Council Information and Forms, the bottom item called Liability insurance.

Finally, the CSCP will look at the Board's approval of stopping all our VA claims appellate work. The VVA has authorized the movement of our appellate attorneys to a private law firm with some payments to that firm to close out our ongoing claims appeals. This, in consonance with the shrinking of our ability to process claims throughout the US, is a harbinger of shrinking our corporate VVA activities as we age.

Have a great spring in our beautiful state. In the Midlands, Easter weekend was magnificent with blooming azaleas and dogwoods. Enjoy and as seniors get state park passes. We recently visited beautiful Edisto Beach Park. Too cold for swimming but the beach was uncrowded and fun. The hanging moss on the oaks on the beautiful drive to Edisto is worth the trip.

Be safe and be sure to take advantage of your annual Medicare health exam.

Very respectfully

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



A little Trivia



I found this the other day, it's something I carried beside the M60 in Vietnam. How many of you know what it is? I know most of you will say it's a penny! I put a penny next to it to show the size in relationship to the penny. If you know what the object is drop me a line tazzcd@aol.com with the answer. I'm curious to see how many of you know what it is? I will post the answer in the next issue of the newsletter.

IN-COUNTRY



MONSOON SEASON...VIETNAM'S ANNUAL BATH!

Oh yes, the good old days when it's time to take a bath! Hygiene was very important back in those days. Especially being in the field for weeks at a time!



Below is a synopsis of the March 13th Press Release on Jack's testimony. Our new Government Affairs Director (Our Chief Lobbyist) will meet us at our upcoming CSCP. He appears awesome. A simplified listing of what Jack testified to in March follows for your info. Synopsis of VVA Legislative Program that President Mc Manus testified to before the Congressional Veterans' Affairs See the April 3d Press Release (No. 24-2) for fuller descriptions.

VVA Legislative Program as President Mc Manus testified before the Congressional Veterans' Affairs

1. Fully fund the Defense POW/MIA Agency to account for the 1,577MIA's.
2. Honor Tom Corey by naming the West Palm Beach Medical Center after him.
3. Pass Donut Dolly Congressional Gold medal.
4. Hold an oversight hearing of Toxic Exposure with the VA Secretary as star witness.
5. Amend Blue Water Act to extend the 12-mile limit to include Marines and Navy personnel who were assigned to the RVN Theater of combat ops or who got the Vietnam Service Medal.
6. Research pre-Gulf War burn pit use. This would also fix the PACT Act that excluded vets in locations other than Middle East and West Asia.
7. Close oversight of implementation of the Pact Act for review of how funding is used and to ensure it is for veterans and their families.
8. Get the VA to execute the Fort McClelland epidemiological study under the Pact Act.
9. Pass the Major Richard Star Act to allow combat disabled to receive both retired pay and disability pay simultaneously.
10. Reinstate the 48-hour review for VA disability claims.
11. Authorize VA disability compensation for incarcerated vets with balance due over 10% put in an escrow fund until the vet gets released.
12. Get South Korea to agree for payments so the Korean American Valor Act can get started.
13. Amend the Puerto Rican Tax Code to get more healthcare workers. 63.9% of PR vets are over 65 and need healthcare.
14. Order the VA to reinstitute physician assistants as mental health treatment providers at VA hospitals.

The above also appears on our website vvasc.org on the home page section.





The Vietnam War was a lengthy and costly conflict between Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. It occurred from November 1, 1955, to April 30, 1975 — a total of 19 years before the fall of Saigon. As Vietnam's principal ally, the participation of the U.S. significantly determined the fate of the war. In 1961, former U.S. President John F. Kennedy sent a team to Vietnam to report their conditions. It was found that there was an American buildup of economic, military, and technical aid to Ngo Dinh Diem to defeat the Viet Cong. Due to the "domino theory," which suggests that if one Southeast Asian country falls, the others will follow, Kennedy increased the American aid in Vietnam. By 1962, the U.S. military presence in the country reached up to 9,000 troops. By March 1965, U.S. aid continued in Vietnam with the support of Lyndon Johnson, Kennedy's successor. By June of the same year, American troops reached 82,000. A month later, 100,000 more troops were delegated, and 100,000 more a year later. By November 1967, the number of U.S. troops reached 500,000: however, 15,058 were killed, and 109,527 were wounded. On November 5, 1969, there was a massive anti-war movement in Washington. More than 250,000 Americans participated, calling for the withdrawal of military troops from Vietnam. On March 29, 1973, U.S. President Richard Nixon officially withdrew the American combat forces from Vietnam. A year later, the first Vietnam Veterans Day was held. WELCOME HOME!!



Merchant Marines were founded March 15, 1939. Happy 85 years young. The U.S. Merchant Marine Corps was officially founded on March 15, 1938, chaired by Joseph P. Kennedy (father of President John F. Kennedy). Cadet training was initially given aboard the government's subsidized ships. The United States Merchant Marine refers to either United States civilian mariners, or to 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 cargo and passengers during peacetime; 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. Merchant Marine officers may also be commissioned as military officers by the Department of Defense. This is commonly achieved by commissioning unlimited tonnage Merchant Marine officers as Strategic Sealift Officers in the United States Navy Reserve.



Happy 82nd Birthday. 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.



Together...

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



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 June, 2024.

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!!

Region 3 Conference – February 27th thru March 1st 2024

The 35th George C. Duggins Region 3 Conference was held at the Double Tree by Hilton, Asheville-Biltmore, 115 Hendersonville Road, Asheville, North Carolina from February 27, 2024 thru March 1, 2024. According to Liz Cannon, The North Carolina State Council President, there were about 80 VVA Members in attendance at the Conference. The number of Attendees only account for VVA Members signed up for the Conference and does not include Staff from Charles George VA Hospital (Guest Speakers); Our VVA Native American Brothers from Cherokee, NC; Other Guest Speakers; and VVA Members from North Carolina who volunteered to work behind the scenes to ensure a proper Conference was held. VVA Members who attended Conference were from SC, NC, VA, WV, MD, KY, and TN. Every State in Region 3 had Members in attendance. Also Representatives from Our National VVA from Silver Spring were in attendance; IE: President Jack McManus, VP Tom Burke, Treasurer Wayne Reynolds, Region 9 Director Dick Southern, Constitution Chair Leslie DeLong, plus all VVA Region 3 Directors to include Region 3 Director Rossie Nance Jr.

The Guest Speaker was Susan P. Hunter (an Author) who has written several books about Vietnam Veterans. She provided a challenge coin to those in attendance and offered a book she wrote "77 Letters, Operation Morale Booster Vietnam. She has a web site: "Honor Your Veteran.com", She also has an Agent Orange Medal that she offers, a very nice Medal that she pays for and gives to Vietnam Veterans, which you can go online at "orange heart medal.org" You can go on this site, fill out the brief paperwork and she will send you your medal. I will also have the forms with me when We attend Our next State Council Meeting in June Dick Southern from National VVA spoke about the newer New Member Application form that Chapter Secretaries should be using dated September 22. He also spoke about a new PO Box # that is to be used for submittal of New Membership Applications (he said it was on the VVA.Org Site) He also spoke about Chapters gaining new Members monthly, and how Chapters can contact their State Councils to get Names of Members in the Chapters Regions who are At Large and not in a Chapter. He spoke about the Election Reports and Financial Reports having to be sent in ASAP once Chapters have held their Elections and completed their Financial Reports to National VVA. Forms are available on the National VVA site at VVA.Org. Wayne Reynolds (National VVA Treasurer) spoke about budget year 2025 as being the last year that funding to support States and Chapters with the present \$ amounts per Member IE: \$9 per Member for Chapters and \$11 per Member for States. Wayne said that the National VVA Leadership needs to figure out how the National Organization will continue to support the States and Chapters. He was pretty sure that some \$ support would continue after 2025, but it currently has not been decided as of yet. Wayne also informed us that "ALL" the National VVA Attorneys have been let go, saving the National VVA approximately \$500,000 a year. The Attorney Firm of Bergmann & Moore have been hired and used on a as needed basis, saving several thousands of dollars per year.



Region 3 Conference – February 27th thru March 1st 2024 Continued PTSD

The VA now has recognized that there is another type of PTSD called PTSD 2, which is a Veterans Spouse most likely has PTSD as well from living with their Veteran. The VA is working on what type of Service or Help that might be provided to the Veterans Spouse in the future!! *This Should have been thought about many years ago!* *Plus, it's going to help the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.*

Fluke Worm

Rossie Nance, Region 3 Director talked about a fluke worm that he contracted while in Vietnam and passed on to his Wife years later. Urging all Vietnam Veterans if they feel ill for no reason, be tested at a VA Hospital to ensure they do not have this fluke living in their bodies. Medicine will help get rid of it. *Another Problem that never was thought about or maybe it was but no one ever said anything!*

The Veterans Treatment Court was discussed by Honorable Judge Marvin Pope and His Director Kevin Rumley from Asheville, NC and how Judges that are willing to help Veterans who have gotten into trouble with the Law now have a program whereby Veterans can enter a guided program and between the Judge and the Director, they provide support for the Veteran through helping find work, places to live, guidance and Counselling etc. This program is new and not all areas and or States have adopted it as of yet.

Caregivers Support for Veterans is available at caregiver.va.gov, VA caregiver support line is 855-260-3274, also contact your VA Primary Care Giver Dr. and there is a Primary Care Social Worker assigned to each Primary Care Giver Dr., who works with the Primary Care Dr. and You to help support the Veteran. VA Form 10-10CG The Attorney Firm of McGuire, Wood & Bisette Law Firm, Attorneys Andrew Atherton and Phoebe Bulls talked about Aging Veterans and their Families should begin to think about Estate Planning, Wills, Powers of Attorney, Trusts and Elder Law for aging Veterans. This Firm is in Asheville, NC and will travel to do a presentation at your Chapter or State Council Meeting.

It was discussed, voted upon and decided that The Region 3 Conferences would continue with the State of Virginia being the next State VVA to hold the next Region 3 Conference.

The above notes were taken by Larry Miller 1st VP SC State Council Also President of Chapter 1049. Some remarks edited by Charlie Davies which are underlined.

Region 3 Conference – Photos 02/27 to 03/01/2024



Region 3 Conference – Photos 02/27 to 03/01/2024 Continued



Chapter Activities

Chapter 303

Chapter 303 is having our annual March 29 Vietnam Veterans Day event at the SC State Vietnam War Memorial, the wall of names of our fallen by county in Memorial Park in Columbia.

Each year we gather at this wall with the SC Combat Veterans Group and conduct a “Welcome Home” hand shaking line. This year Major General Harter CG of the 81st Readiness Division at Fort Jackson will give a few remarks about our 50th year anniversary of the RVN troop withdrawal.

In addition, the April meeting on the 16th is the biannual election date when our administration completely turns over. The new President will be David Eisenhauer and Zeke Cervantez will be 1st VP. So far, they are running unopposed.

Chapter 1049

Members of VVA Chapter 1049 Celebrated Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, 2024 having lunch at the Grapevine Restaurant in Boiling Springs, SC!!



Chapter 1145



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

Chapter 1145- Vietnam Veterans of America Hosted the March 29, 2024 Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Ceremony at Aiken County Veterans Memorial Park.

Pictures left to right (1) Robin Verenes - NS DAR State District III, who spoke at the ceremony , underlining the continuous support by DAR to all veterans. (2) Chapter 1145 President - Donald Jenkins, (3) Bruce Campbell - Director – was a Standard flag Bearer, (4) Ole Olson - 1st Vice President, Kevin Joy – Director, Bruce Campbell, Director, Guest speaker Linda Caldwell, Don Jenkins, Chapter 1145 President, and Jay Reynolds – Treasurer.

For the video that was taken by WRDW Channel 12 of the 29 March 2024 ceremony is posted on our website vvasc.org under “Chapter Activities 2” if you would like to watch it. Great Job!

Who Invented Baseball



Since the boys of summer is starting up, did you ever wonder who invented baseball? You may have heard that a young man named Abner Doubleday invented the game known as baseball in Cooperstown, New York, during the summer of 1839. Doubleday then went on to become a Civil War hero, while baseball became America’s beloved national pastime. Not only is that story untrue, but it’s also not even in the ballpark. Baseball’s real origins date

back way further, to at least the 18th century. Doubleday, who was born to a prominent family in upstate New York in 1819, was still at West Point in 1839, and he never claimed to have anything to do with baseball. Instead, he served as a Union major general in the American Civil War and later became a lawyer and writer. In 1907, 16 years after Doubleday’s death, a special commission created by the sporting goods magnate and former major league player A.J. Spalding was set up to determine baseball’s origins—namely if it was invented in the United States or derived from games in the United Kingdom. The commission used flimsy evidence—the claims of one man, mining engineer Abner Graves, who said he went to school with Doubleday—to come up with the origin story, which managed to stick. Cooperstown businessmen and major league officials seized on myth’s enduring power in the 1930s, when they established the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in the village. As it turns out, the real history of baseball is a little more complicated

Who Invented Baseball Continued

than the Doubleday legend. References to games resembling baseball in the United States date back to the 18th century. Its most direct ancestors appear to be two English games: rounders (a children's game brought to New England by the earliest colonists) and cricket. By the time of the American Revolution, variations of such games were being played on schoolyards and college campuses across the country. They became even more popular in newly industrialized cities where men sought work in the mid-19th century. In September 1845, a group of New York City men founded the New York Knickerbocker Baseball Club. One of them—volunteer firefighter and bank clerk Alexander Joy Cartwright—would codify a new set of rules that would form the basis for modern baseball, calling for a diamond-shaped infield, foul lines and the three-strike rule. He also abolished the dangerous practice of tagging runners by throwing balls at them. Cartwright's changes made the burgeoning pastime faster-paced and more challenging while clearly differentiating it from older games like cricket. In 1846, the Knickerbockers played the first official game of baseball against a team of cricket players, beginning a new, uniquely American tradition. Hope that clears things up ?



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 March - 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

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