



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 – September - October - 2022

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	Davie Hare	ahare@homesc.com
Newsletter, Website	Charles Davies	tazzcd@aol.com
AVVA	Hope Summers	hopesu@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

State Council Meeting February 12th 2022 lunch 12:00 Meeting starts 13:00 (1:00 PM)
 American Legion Post #6 200 Pickens Street Columbia SC 29205
 November 11th 2022, VVA event 40th Anniversary of the Vietnam Wall Washington DC
 at 1300 PM (1:00 PM)

South Carolina VVA Chapters/Contacts

- 303 (Col. Jack Van Loan) – Columbia, Ron Hagell – vvachapter303@gmail.com
- 523 Foothills – Greenville, Duans 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 – Reitld@yahoo.com
- 1017 Roger Merck – Walhalla, Dave Bertges – gibson4959@yahoo.com
- 1145 Aiken – Ford Burgess – fordwburgess@icloud.com
- 1049 Westmoreland – Spartanburg, Larry Miller – miller.larry33@gmail.com



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

MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

We are now preparing for the Massing of the Flags at the Wall on Veterans Day and celebration of the 40th Anniversary of that Wall. South Carolina is sending the Myrtle Beach VVA Chapter 925 Honor Guard to represent us at the Wall. Of 46 VVA state councils, about 35 will participate. There will be additional events by the Vietnam Veterans Wall Foundation, the Secretary of the Veterans Administration, and our AVVA. Many of us are pessimistic that we will be able to celebrate the 50th so we are making this one big. Not sure I will be able to hop and skip in ten years but I hope I will be around to try.

Aging was an emphasis of the just passed Leadership Conference. We had medical professionals tell us our skin is thinner and getting more so each year. They say our bodies cannot process certain drinks like they were able to 20 years ago. They note our bones are more brittle and our balance not so good. In other words our bones cannot handle falls as we lose balance. And we cannot see the variances in the side walks and curbs so we trip and cannot hear approaching vehicles as we walk. We are more susceptible to colds and the flu and our grandchildren want to hug as and sneeze all over us. So life is great being retired but we are tired and have a rough time getting out of the chair. But as you all have heard, it is better than the alternative. So we should not give up. Exercise. Do games that make you think. Get plenty of sleep. Set a goal and work to meet it. If you do not make it, don't worry and stop altogether. A few down days do not hurt. Avoid excuses. Recent studies show that some down time is not all bad. But all down time is not good. Eat well. And eat good stuff. You know what stuff is good. Doughnuts are not good. I tell my grandkids I am not allowed them. They say why not? I ask them if they want some whiskey. They say, I'm not allowed that. See! Basically enjoy life, socialize, get out, and live each day. Do not eat the Halloween candy.

Life is great. It is tough and some of it hurts but have a happy attitude. Do not be a Debbie Downer complaining all the time. An upbeat attitude is healthy. Do not let it bother you if you forget where you parked the car, it is part of aging. Laugh it off and be happy.

I apologize a bit of repeating what I am sure you have heard before but I love my RVN brothers and sisters and wish you all happiness and safety.

Very respectfully,

Sam Brick

SC State Council President and Conference Chair.



DID YOU KNOW

Did you know, before Labor Day was a federal holiday, it was recognized by labor activists and individual states. After municipal ordinances were passed in 1885 and 1886, a movement developed to secure state legislation.

Everyone knows September 11th (9/11) is Patriot Day

For all you dog lovers, September 11th is National Hug your Hound Day

September 17th is Constitution Da, we celebrate the adoption of the US Constitution which Occurred on 09/17/1787.

Here's a goon one Five years prior to the Constitution the "The Old Farmer's Almanac was founded WOW!!!

Another one for all you cat lovers September is National Happy Cat Month

On September 19th talk like a Pirate Day Aaaaarrgh!!

OK for all you late for work, September 24th is National Punctuation Day!!

October 4th is international Ships-in-Bottles Day Now that's a Special day to remember!!

On October 6th is National Noodle Day!!! Another Special Day to remember!!!

October's full moon, known as the Hunter's Moon, arrives on Wednesday, October 20th. The Hunter's Moon is closely tied to the autumnal equinox.

Last ne least October 30th Halloween, traditionally called "All Hollows Eve," celebrated on the evening before the Christians holy day of All Hallows' day or All Saints Day (November 1).

Just a little trivia

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.



Happy 75th Birthday U.S. Air Force September 18, 1947



The United States Air Force (USAF) is the air service branch of the United States Armed Forces, and is one of the eight uniformed services of the United States. Originally created on August 1, 1907 as a part of the United States Army Signal Corps, the USAF was established as a separate branch of the United States Armed Forces in 1947 with the enactment of the National Security Act of 1947. It is the second youngest branch of the United States Armed Forces^[a] and the fourth in order of precedence. The United States Air Force articulates its core missions as air supremacy, global integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, rapid global mobility, global strike, and command and control.

Top Gun Founder



There are no doubt fans of "Top Gun" were thrilled with Maverick's silver screen comeback. But the real-life story behind that elite fighter pilot school is mind-blowing in equal measure. Or maybe way more mind-blowing. The Navy's Advanced Fighter Weapons School (or Top Gun) was spearheaded in dire times during the Vietnam War by Dan Pedersen, 86, the "Godfather of Top Gun." It started from nothing—no classroom, no funding, no mechanics or aircraft of their own—just a few top-notch pilots he hand-picked, and a tight deadline. Their

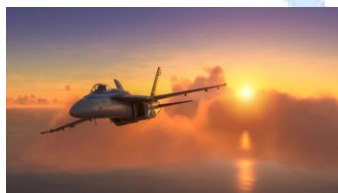
mission? To reclaim air superiority from the Soviet-trained North Vietnamese, who knew how to tangle in the skies. Pedersen's book "Top Gun: An American Story" sets out that riveting backstory. The Hollywood blockbuster, he told The Epoch Times, is "great public entertainment" but "very unrealistic about Top Gun, how it existed years ago, and as it is today." Now 53 years on, Top Gun is "still going strong," he added. As Maverick and Goose were tasked with taking on Russian MiGs over the Atlantic in 1986, Pedersen faced a grave situation in Vietnam: American fighter pilots were being shot down—killed—at a staggering rate. One American was lost for every two enemy.



Top Gun Founder Continued



The North Vietnamese were adept at pushing the limits of their vastly outdated Russian MiGs in air-to-air combat—what fighter pilots call “dogfighting.” The Americans were basically training aviators to use equipment, sending them into battle, then expecting to see victories. “We lost 11 guys in 17 days,” Pedersen said of his stint on the USS Enterprise. They would go to dinner and see empty chairs at the table. Mentored by WWII ace Eugene Valencia, Pedersen, then 31, was called to turn the tide. He picked eight elite fighter pilots—all in their twenties—including his righthand man, Mel Holmes, and set about literally rewriting the book on air combat at the Naval Air Station in Miramar, California. It was experimental, serious, and dangerous. “We were given 60 days,” he said. “This was a graduate school. ... This had to be something we knew would win. “When Top Gun was formed, in the beginning, all of us had made two combat cruises on carriers to Vietnam. It was very serious what we were doing.” Nobody was going to furnish them new planes with greater capabilities; they relied on what they had: the F-4 Phantom, a “great airplane” with “two very reliable high-powered engines,” said Pedersen. “I’ve flown that plane 2.47 mach. ... At that point, the airplane would come apart due to heating.” Pushing the F-4 to the very threshold, they outlined new tactics. “There’s not a MiG pilot in the world that’s going to follow you through that aura,” said Pedersen. “It’ll go up to 40,000 feet like that. And there’s nothing in the MiG stable airplane that’s going to be able to do that. “That fits into a comprehensive “flying in the egg” tactic, traversing a colossal, vertical circuit culminating in an apex upside-down at the “top of the egg,” the enemy fully visible below, then swooping down from behind for the kill. “If you can’t get a good shot, you pull off,” Pedersen explained. “If you missed, you went right straight vertical again, right straight up and upside-down on the top of the egg. “While you’re down there shooting, the other guy, your wingman, is up on top keeping track of the fight watching out for others.” You could wind up tangling with two, three, or even six enemy planes in one raucous, hairy dogfight. Within



weeks, they were ready to rejoin the war. A tight nucleus of new, cutting-edge know-how was dispersed throughout the United States military, and by the war’s end, that kill ratio of 2 to 1 became 24 to 1. What made this comeback successful was the pilots’ “pushing the envelope,” exceeding safety limits set by the manufacturer; the F-4 could do *way more* than first thought. “The safety factor that was built into that airplane was fairly large,” said Pedersen. “The airplane was capable of a whole lot more than we had been flying it the first five years of that war.” So, what did top brass think of their shattering safety protocols? “Success speaks for itself,” said Pedersen. “When you win to that degree and you go to 24-to-1 kill ratio, nobody would take us on. “We actually won the air war in Vietnam, who’s going to argue with you? “Nobody in Washington is going to make an argument.” The world now has “Top Gun: Maverick.” It’s also seen breathtaking new advancements in aircraft technology, with the F-35 and its vertical takeoff and landing and stealth-capable F-22 Raptor. In the film, pilots fly the now mightily respected F-18 Super Hornet. Has all this new sophistication changed the rules for dogfighting? A man of simplicity, Pedersen says no. “It only takes one bullet to bring you down, Russia right now.” A decade after founding Top Gun, in 1980, he became captain of aircraft carrier USS Ranger, in command of 5,000 sailors with an average age of 19.5 years. Numerical superiority in easily serviceable jets, Pedersen says, far outstrips the technological superiority of ultra-expensive weapons that are hard to maintain. “Sometimes, a \$300 million airplane isn’t the answer,” he said. “I personally like to have 8 or 10 lightweight fighters that are maintainable, you got to be in the 98 percent reliability. “The ‘magic missiles’ [of today] ... somebody’s making a lot of profit off this stuff,” he said. “I tend to believe in simplicity. Having flown the MiGs, which were an older generation, the guns work 98 percent of the time.” The legacy of Top Gun today is as important as it was in Vietnam. They continue to train the top 1 percent of fighter pilots, who pass their knowledge on to their squadrons—with a great deal of confidence. Their results speak for themselves. “We rewrote tactical aviation worldwide, it still is the standard,” said Pedersen, who now gives credit where credit is due—they were all young mavericks, as Top Gun still is today. “Not just me, but my eight guys and some senior people who made me bulletproof—that’s a pretty risky trying to do, something like this in 60 days. “So when we pulled it off, and the kill ratio is 24 to 1, I wanted to make sure the story is told accurately.”





The Semper Fi and American's Fund expanded our mission to care for Veterans from all U.S. military branches who are catastrophically wounded, ill, or injured from combat operations in Vietnam. These items including: scooters, lift chairs and electric lifts for your vehicle for free. Contact Kim McCabe at (937)733-0927, McCabe Outdoor Mobility, Eaton Ohio. These people were at the Vietnam Veterans National Convention in Greensboro North Carolina last year.

If you meet the following :

- Eligibility Criteria
- Blind/Legally Blind
- ALS (Lou Gehrig Disease)
- Amputation (loss of any limb or extremities)
- PTSD (Combat related – 70% or greater VA rating)
- Paralyzed (Paraplegia, quadriplegia, Hemiplegia)
- TBI (Cannot Function independently)
- Severe Illness linked to Agent Orange (Recognized by VA)

Documents Required

- Copy of your DD214
- Photo ID (front & back)
- Application (They can email you the application)
- VA rating decision letter and/or signed note from medical provider stating Diagnosis

This Fund may also provide Assistance in the following areas:

- Housing grant (adaptive housing, home modification/repair, rent, mortgage, utilities)
- Transportation grant (adaptive transportation, vehicle modification/repair)
- Medical Care grant (not covered by insurance, Medicare, or the VA)
- Funeral/Cremation Expense

I know several Veterans who received “free of charge” scooter within weeks from their approval. Hey, if you need a device to get around and meet the requirements, it's worth a try. This is not an ADVERTISEMENT for this company nor the American & Semper Fi Fund, they are out to help Veterans. Check it out!!!

Camp Lejeune water contamination health issues, All you Marines



Many veterans have reached out regarding the Camp LeJeune provision ([Section 804](#)) of the recently passed PACT Act.

Please be advised that there is an offset of VA disability benefits with any settlement that may be received through a lawsuit. Veterans are encouraged NOT to sign any contracts to participate in lawsuits until VA clarifies how the settlements will affect service-connected benefits and care. VA regulations on this are expected in the coming months. For clarification on the impact to your current or future VA benefits, contact an accredited service officer near you. Be careful who you contact, the lawyers are charging up to 50% for their fee's.

Military Discounts

Just to give you heads up on the military discount. Not sure if you know about the changes. They have changed their policy on their military discounts. I was at Lowe's the other day to purchase a water filter for the refrigerator (for you old timers “ICE BOX) when I applied the military discount it took it but nothing was taken off. I asked the attended why the military discount did not apply. **She explained, they have a new policy and for large appliances, appliance accessories, certain garden items, lumber, and several other items where the military discounts do not apply.** Before you buy something at Lowe's first check to see if the discount applies. This is also true for Home Depto. With Home Depto you must go through a mess to get their scan bar. Also, if your Veteran Discount is accepted, you must now show an ID to prove you are the veteran. Also no Military discount on lumber!!





The Few, the proud, the drunk: Meet America's revolutionary yet "ungentlemanlike" troops of 1776 (*Give me Liberty or Give me a Bar Tab*)

This might be an obvious statement, but armies like to drink. That's true now, and it was true nearly 250 years ago when the Continental Army fought in the American Revolution. It's the Fourth of July weekend and soldiers, veterans and Americans around the country are celebrating the founding fathers, the revolution and all of the related elements tied up in the holiday. But it's also worth remembering that the original American soldiers liked to drink. A lot. So much so. This isn't an exaggeration. The *Journal of the American Revolution* looked into the documented cases of the Continental Army not only getting its hands on booze, but going overboard and getting into trouble thanks to it. That ranged from enlisted soldiers beating an officer, drunken gambling on days of rest and other forms of insubordination. The soldiers were considered "ungentlemanlike" for their actions. Soldiers would raid captured officers' stores of alcohol, threaten store owners for more than their daily ration and get into fights with one another while plastered. At the time the American Revolutionary War started, alcohol was both a part of military life – alcohol rations were a common practice – and booze such as beer was considered safer to drink than many sources of water. George Washington himself tried to make soldiers avoid alcohol with threats of punishment, but an army of young revolutionaries gathered together and away from home found ways to not only get their hands on alcohol but get large amounts of it, as part of the fight against the British. And it was a wide range of drinks. The Continental Army and Patriot militias might not have Navy grog, but it had regional beer, pilfered wine, cider, whiskey, applejack and other spirits. Hey, Samuel Adams was a brewer, remember? It wasn't just the camp activities the Continental Army engaged in that were "ungentlemanlike." The soldiers even factoring in the universal love soldiers have for booze into tactical plans. As *War on the Rocks* notes, George Washington's army expected the British-employed Hessian mercenaries in Trenton to drink heavily for Christmas celebrations. American beer being different and more potent than that in Europe, Washington was counting on the Hessians to be utterly wasted and hungover, if they were even awake at dawn. When the Continental Army attacked and routed the Hessians at Trenton on Christmas Day, the soldiers were unexpectedly sober. It might not be cases of cheap beer on base to wash down a day of Rip It, but for a hard-scraped army often struggling with morale, supplies and funding, and going up against the much more resourceful British army, the Americans' ability to source and consume booze is impressive. And if you're thinking this was just the enlisted soldiers, it went up to the commanders as well. In 1787, George Washington and several of his friends from the Army were celebrating the signing of the U.S. Constitution and decided to, what else, get drunk. At least 55 people, but definitely no more than 100, bought dozens of bottles of wine, jugs of beer, alcoholic punch and cider for good measure. Seriously, there's the receipt to prove it. According to adjustments, that bill today is more than \$17,000. It's unlikely that the call of "Remember Valley Forge" was to bring up memories of a bad hangover. But a few revolutionaries probably had those thoughts. So, if you're enjoying a drink this Fourth of July weekend, know that the original American army also liked its drink. And could likely drink you under the table. Drink responsibly – the revolutionaries apparently didn't. Article appeared in "Task & Purpose" dated July 5th 2022. This is just a follow up to an article appeared in the newsletter "BEER IN VIETNAM" last year. I bet there were a lot of MARINES in this crowd!!



Military ID Cards

The Department of Defense is now in the process of relacing within the next several years, all military ID cards 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!!

9-11 Remembrance Patriot's Day Ceremony



Members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 925 participated in the 9-11 Remembrance Patriot's Day Ceremony held on September 11, 2022 at St. Michael's Church and School located in Garden City SC. Chapter 925 Color Guard posted the flags if various Military branches. They also did a 21-gun salute to honor all the first responders who lost their lives on this tragic day. Members of the rifle squad from front to back Ron Thornton, Rick Powers, Bob McCann, and Rich Silker. Job well done!!

Honorary Member Chapter 1149



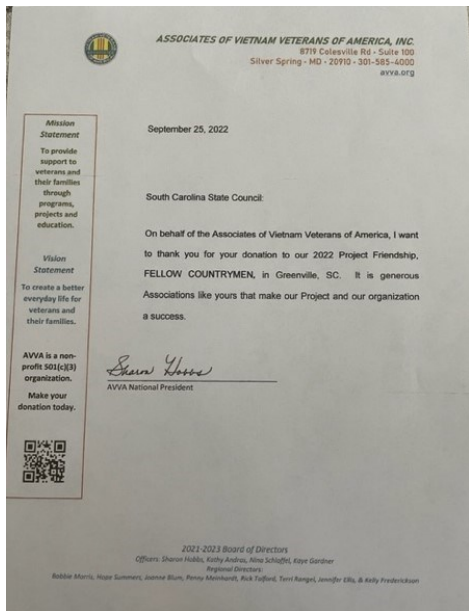
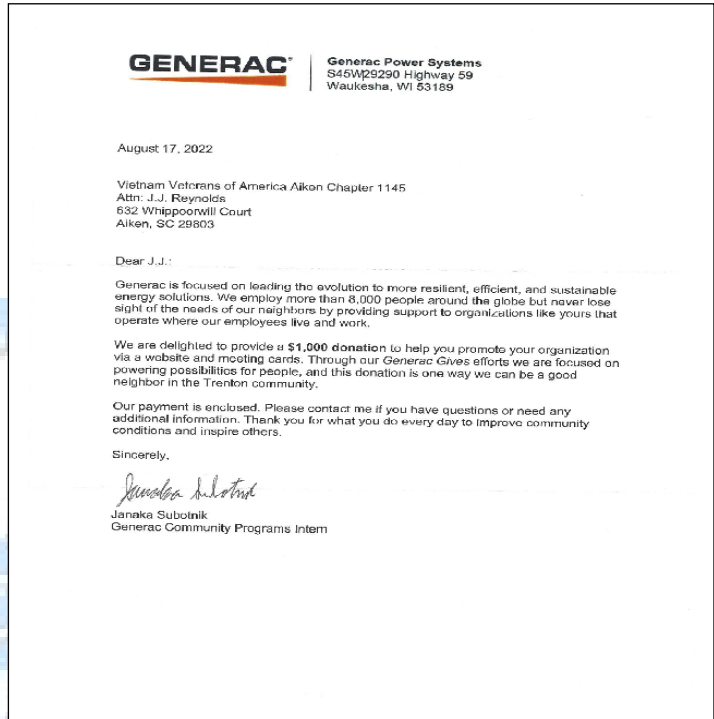
At the regularly meeting of Chapter 1149 on September 10th 2022, the members of the chapter voted to make Captain Bounchone Nhouibanditih and Honorary Member. Captain Nhouibanditih is a Vietnam Veteran who served from 1961 thru 1975 in the Laotian Army and helped rescue POW's and downed US pilots during the war. He was also captured and became a POW himself. After several years as a POW, he made his way to the United States and became US Citizen. Chapter 1149 was honored to have him as a member.



Chapter 1145



Left to Right: Robert Shirley, Jay Reynolds (Treasurer Chapter 1145 & SC State Council Treasurer) Ford Burgess (Chapter President 1145) Allison Watts and Joey Jones (Publix manager) presenting a donation check to Jay Reynolds on 09/19/2022



Thank you letter to from the AVVA to the State Council for our contribution to the 2022 Project Friendships



At our last Council Meeting on 06/12/2022 we donated monies towards these houses. A site inspection was conducted on 10/01/2022 to check on the status of the veterans housing. Work continues on the 40 tiny houses for the homeless. Will provide up updates as construction progresses.



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 and 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 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