

# INTERCHANGE ONLINE



THE OFFICIAL ONLINE NEWSPAPER OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL

Vol. 33 Issue 03 Veteran's News that needs to be Read FALL 2023



In Memorial—May They Rest In Peace



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Please forward your deceased members  
with photo, obituary, cause of death to:

Secretary@nyvietnamvets.org

membership@vva.org

Lin4456@msn.com

Rev. Phil Salois at National

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Mark Donahue

Robert LeBlanc

Thomas Monk

James Moore

Daniel Nussbaum II

Donald W. Neelson

### VVA Chapter #268

Robert Spencer

### VVA Chapter #421

Nicholas Mazzella

Stephen Saporito

### VVA Chapter #803

Frank Nasakaitis

Charles Siple, Jr.

### AVVA #377

Holly Hollingsworth

“Oh Allah, forgive our living and our  
dead, those present and those ab-  
sent, our young and our old, our  
males and our females. O Allah,  
whom among us You keep alive,  
then let such a life be upon Islam,  
and whom among us You take unto  
Yourself, then let such a death be  
upon faith.



**VVA-NYSC Meeting Dates 2024**  
 January 5, 6, 7  
 April 5, 6, 7  
 June 14, 15, 16  
 September 27, 28, 29

**On-Line INTERCHANGE** is the Bimonthly publication of the VVA-NYSC. Comments and contributions are encouraged and can be sent to: **VVAINTERCHANGE@AOL.COM**  
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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of this organization. Individuals with different viewpoints and opinions are invited to submit them to the VVA-NYSC by the **deadline**. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, grammar and reject any libelous or obscene material.

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**President's Report**

Ned D. Foote

Summer is gone already. Not really a good one. I guess we need to talk about our National Convention. There were some glitches along the way but for the most part it turned out ok. I was a bit disappointed in New York's turnout with only 38 delegates. We normally have 65 to 70 and we could have used more.

The amendments and resolutions moved along fine and the ones I thought would be debated a lot did not have much on them. I will not go into them as they will be reported in other parts of the Interchange.

I am proud that our state received some awards. Chapter 11 and 77 were recognized for new members joining VVA. Our Mr. Grant T. Coates was awarded Member of the Year! Very much deserved and should be more than one year. He is well respected at National and us to say the least.

Then our Ted Wilkinson, Region 2 Director received the VVA Commendation Medal. That is the highest award from VVA and took way too long for Ted to receive. Thanks to Grant and Ted.

Now the hard part for me at convention and will explain my thoughts and disappointment. As you know I have been a member of VVA since 1981 serving all levels wherever I am needed. I have been State President for 18 years now and do attend all National meetings. In January of 2022, Kerwin Stone the elected BOD member had to resign because of health. To replace him the National BOD had to nominate and vote for his replacement. I was asked and accepted and won that election due to my experience in VVA and knowledge.

At this convention I ran for re-election and campaigned on my experience. Region 3 who has the most votes questioned me as to why I am not an AVVA member. I'm not and explained that I am a Vietnam Veteran who has worked 40+ years for VVA and not see any reason to belong to Associates but does not mean I do not support them. Also, I am not a member of VFW, American Legion, Purple Hearts, or Marine Corps League. I'm devoted to VVA.

I did not think much of that but an VVA member from region 1 heard what I said in region 3 she needed to tell her Region, so they only voted 5. So, I believe that was the biggest reason I lost my bid and maybe I did not present well. -Another part of my disappointment after serving 40+ years they elected a new person who has never been to a national meeting. I have no clue who he is, but he is out of region 3 and now that region has 3 BOD members not counting Region Director. Region 2 only has Ted. So, you see the politics that go on.

So, you guys got me as I will continue to serve NY. I will no longer participate with National. I might stay on as a member of the Benefits Committee as I need to stay in tuned to changes within our program.

Thanks for hearing me out and thank you for all the support you have shown me over the years.

**Definition of Independence Day by Pay Harvey**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zSdinITJ\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zSdinITJ_w)

**VVA National President Jack McManus Reelected to Second Term;  
VVA Reaffirms Commitment to Seeking Justice for All Veterans**

(Washington, D.C) – Jack McManus was reelected to serve as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America at the organization’s 21st National Convention, held in Orlando, Florida. “In keeping with VVA’s founding principle, ‘Never again will one generation abandon another,’ the delegates convening in Orlando have resoundingly reaffirmed the strength and commitment of our membership,” said McManus. “Vietnam Veterans of America remains at the forefront in the ongoing battle to seek just and equitable services and benefits for all of America’s veterans, now and into the future. We have a wealth of experience amongst our elected leadership and look forward to a highly productive and effective two-year term as we continue, in service to America.”

Jack McManus was first elected VVA national president in 2021. In 1995, he was elected to serve as VVA treasurer and was reelected to the position in 1997 and 2019. McManus joined the Air Force in 1965, where he served until 1969. Between 1967 and 1968, he was assigned to Operation Ranch Hand in Vietnam.

Thomas Burke of New Philadelphia, Ohio, was reelected to serve his third term as VVA National Vice President, following multiple tours on the VVA National Board of Directors. Burke volunteered for the U.S. Navy in 1963. In his final year, he served aboard the U.S.S. Hancock.

Bill Meeks, Jr., of The Woodlands, Texas, was reelected to his seventh two-year term as VVA National Secretary. Meeks served with the U.S. Marine Corps for almost three years. During his 1968 tour of duty in Vietnam, he served as a squad/platoon radioman and received three Purple Heart medals for battlefield injuries.

Wayne Reynolds, of Athens, Alabama, was reelected to serve his sixth two-year term as VVA’s National Treasurer. A U.S. Army veteran, Reynolds served in Vietnam in 1968-1969 with the 95th Evacuation Hospital and the 22nd Surgical Hospital.

In addition, 19 National Board of Directors were elected: Ten At-Large and nine Regional. The At-Large directors are Dottie Barickman (IA) Incumbent; Charlie Hobbs (TN) Incumbent; Ken Holybee (CA) New; Gumersindo Gomez (MA) Incumbent; Dennis Howland (UT) Incumbent; Richard Lindbeck (WI) Incumbent; Charlie Montgomery (VA) Incumbent; Dan Stenvold (ND) Incumbent; Steve Williams (VA) New; and Sandie Wilson (MI) Incumbent.

The nine regional directors elected to serve a 2023-2025 term are: Region 1, Justin Lantini (MA); Region 2, Ted Wilkinson (NY); Region 3, Rossie Nance (NC); Region 4, Spence Davis (GA); Region 5, John Riling (MI); Region 6, John Margowski (WI); Region 7, Terry Courville (LA); Region 8, Francisco Ivarra (WA); and Region 9, Dick Southern (CA). They all ran unopposed for this position.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Region 2



Email: yankeeted@aol.com  
 Ted Wilkinson (585) 322-6722

Vietnam Veterans of America's 21st convention was another success as usual and very well attended with over 700 delegates. Region 2 was well represented, delegates, members, and guests literally arrived in Orlando, Florida by way of plane, train, and automobiles with only a few problems. Apparently the airlines could not manage to come up with enough pilots or crew to get us all down there without having a delay of a day or two, but in the end everything worked out.

I cannot say enough how proud I am to represent such a fine group of veterans as those that make up region 2 and appreciate being reelected as region two director and will always strive to do my best for the best region in VVA.

Three region 2 chapters receiving membership growth awards. Congratulations go to chapter 11, chapter 77, and chapter 1105.

Two region 2 members we were given the Vietnam Veterans of America's Commendation Medal (Which is the highest award given by VVA). Congratulations to Ted Wilkinson the Region II Director, and Carlton Rhodes the New Jersey State Council Secretary.

Grant Coates was named Vietnam Veterans of America's Member of the Year. I will add that this was your America's 21st convention with another success as usual and very well attended with over 700 delegates reaching to his well represented and also very much deserved award!



(L—R) VP VVA-NYSC Grant T. Coats & National VVA President Jack McManus Awarded VVA National Member of the Year



(L-R) VP VVA-NYSC Grant T. Coats & Region II Director Ted Wilkinson

Wilkinson received VVA Presidential Award

We are Very Proud of both of them in receiving these awards from the National VVA office.

**CONGRATULATION**

## Veterans Incarcerated and In the Justice System Committee Report

Nicholas C. Valenti - Chair

The crochet squad at the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Service Facility located in Auburn, New York has received a yarn shipment to help replenish their storage supplies. Thanks to the generous donation of VVA Chapter 268, out of Lockport, NY, we were able to go out and purchase skeins of yarn for use in Auburn Correctional. This donation was augmented by a donation from a local crocheting/sewing group. In total we ended up giving 135 skeins of yarn and 30 small plastic crochet hooks to the resurging crochet squad at the Auburn Facility. Even though this has occurred they remain in dire need of yarn in order to continue functioning. As I reported in an earlier report when the squad is in full operation they can use as many as 60 skeins per week. If you have yarn you wish to donate you can call my home phone at 315-252-4535. If no one answers simply leave a voice message or email me at [nickvalenti46@yahoo.com](mailto:nickvalenti46@yahoo.com). If that doesn't work for you there is a third-way we can do this. Just bring your yarn donation to the State Council meeting at Tioga Downs this upcoming meeting. This would be September 30<sup>th</sup> in Nichols, New York. Just give me a heads up that there will be yarn there. I have made almost every Council meeting for the past decade. If you cannot make the September meeting there will not be another until 2024.

The ability of the successor veteran organization to VVA Chapter #205 – the Veterans Group of Auburn (VGOA) – has been seriously compromised by their inability to produce items for their annual giveaway. This group, in order to function, could use as many as sixty (60) skeins per week. The items they produce include toys, stuffed animals and baby blankets to name a few. In 2022 there was no giveaway program at Auburn Correctional. It remains to be seen if the same fate awaits the program in 2023. A real shame given its decades of community service unbroken until COVID struck. I have been working with incarcerated veterans in Auburn and attending the giveaway program longer than I can successfully recall. I am looking forward to picking up the pieces from here on out. If we can get supplies donated to the crochet squad, they in turn will produce the items to be donated for the 2023 Giveaway Program. Just as a reminder to all, the **BAN** colors are BLUE, BLACK, GREY, ORANGE and MULTICOLORED yarn.

It has been a long, rough time for all New York State Correctional Facilities. Overcoming the pandemic and cessation of so many socially interfacing groups like veterans' organizations and group initiatives like the crochet squad – giving back to local communities – have had a negative impact on those incarcerated who are attempting to do something more with their lives other than mark time. At least the reinstatement process has begun. At least we can see things developing in a very positive manner. Locally, the Auburn Facility is moving forward steadily in an attempt to get their programs back on track. Progress is being made. The more time it takes, the harder it becomes. The best we can do is to keep going forward and continue to be a force for our veteran brothers and sisters who are incarcerated. Our motto remains intact: "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."

On the National level there was a proposed resolution discussed at the Veterans Incarcerated and in the Justice System Committee. The proposed resolution was not adopted by the Committee. Neither was it endorsed by a Chapter, or a State Council. After some discussion, the proposal that called for the repeal/revised/amended section of 38 USC 3.665,5513 was withdrawn. There being nothing on this resolution to pursue the meeting turned in general discussion of veterans and deserved benefits based on "sonofsam" law. The restoration of withheld benefits of incarcerated veterans took front and center with everyone participating.

**Central District Report****Nick Valenti****VVA Chapters #85, #103, #377, #480, #704, #708, #803, #827, #896, #944**

Since our April 2023 State council meeting, veterans associated activities have increased in our District. Enthusiasm has led to momentum. The governing bodies from the Chapter to the Board of National Directors finds itself shaping the mind set of a grateful Nation and recognizing that we needed to do what we did in order to help ourselves and future generations of warriors. Our purpose, "NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER."

The talk of the town at the National Convention was the topic of "Dissolution." At the 2021 National Convention we, the delegates of VVA approved GA 23, making us a "LAST PERSON STANDING ORGANIZATION. Toward that goal there was a proposed constitutional amendment and two proposed resolutions presented to the delegates. The proposed Constitutional Amendment discussed giving the National Board the ability to implement a strategic plan for the future of the VVA, the State Councils and the Chapters. The amendment was adopted after vigorous discussions as to the wording. Finally, it was determined that it would read as follows: THE NATIONAL BOARD SHALL IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE VVA INC., THE STATE COUNCILS AND THE CHAPTERS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES.

The Resolutions that followed included establishing a Legacy Task Force to perform the duties as described in VVA Strategic Plan for Dissolution. After some debate as to the final wording the resolution was fine-tuned and adopted. The second and last Dissolution Resolution Amendment was meant to set the date of Dissolution for February 29, 2023. This was widely discussed and amended to read "a date to be determined."

On the National front I am in receipt of a "Take Action Now" memo dated August 12, 2023. The announcement stated that Senator Mike Braun, (R-IN) has introduced The Korean American Valor Act S.2648, companion bill H.R. 366, that passed the House on May 22, 2023, which amends Title 38 of the U.S. Code to treat certain individuals who served in the Vietnam War as members of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea in the Armed Forces of the United States for the purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Approximately 3,000 Korean American Vietnam War Veterans who are naturalized citizens are not afforded access to VA healthcare. Despite falling ill from the same diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins these veterans are not receiving adequate healthcare. The announcement further states that Vietnam Veterans of America fully supports the passage of Senate bill S.2648. The call to action? – contact your Senator and request that they join their lawmakers and endorse S.2648.

ON THE CENTRAL DISTRICT LEVEL:

VVA Chapter 944, Utica has a wide range of activities keeping everyone in the chapter busy and fully engaged. Whether it is the purchasing of a new bench by the chapter for the Vietnam Memorial in Utica, or visiting the approximately 250 veterans in nursing homes during the holidays, everyone

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seems busy. The networking doesn't stop there. America Legion Posts 1376 and VVA Chapter 944 are discussing co-sponsorship of seminars for veterans, their spouses, next of kin on topics ranging from survivor benefits to discussing the Honor Flight Syracuse. Such joint efforts by New Hartford Legion and #944 exemplifies the cooperation needed to outreach and touch the veteran community. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Gold Sponsorship by the Rome VFW Post 2246 to the Patriot Run/Walk along with Gold Sponsorship by NYSCOPA. President Buono and the legion along with ICAN are leading the way showing all of us how much we can improve our community by working together to make this world a better place. Thank you #944.

VVA Chapter #377 hasn't stopped running since President Napieracz took over as President several years ago. They are so active they produce a quarterly newsletter that is informative, engaging and full of community service. If anyone wants to get a copy of the newsletter just send your contact information to me and I will pass it on to their producer. If you are in Central District I will forward it to you in my weekly course of responsibilities, however you can receive your own directly. Gerri Smith the producer will add your contact information to her contact list. Your call.

VVA Chapter 704 has announced The Wall That Heals will be on exhibit from September 14<sup>th</sup> thru September 17<sup>th</sup> (2pm) at Falcon Park in Auburn, NY.

A brief itinerary is as follows:

- \*Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> Caravan from Groton, NY arrives at Falcon Park, Auburn, NY at approximately 2:00pm.
- \*Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> Prepare exhibit for display. Volunteers needed - [Volunteer | CC VVA Chapter 704 | \(cayugacountyvva.org\)](https://www.cayugacountyvva.org/vva-chapter-704)  
Volunteer training 6PM.
- \*Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 8:30am opening ceremony.  
9:00am 24/7 viewing open to the public.  
9:00am – 3:00pm School Tours are available.
- \*Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 24/7 open public viewing continues.  
9:00 am – 3:00pm School Tours are available.  
7:00pm Performance "Vietnam...through my eyes." – Cayuga Community College.
- \*Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 24/7 open public viewing continues.  
7:00pm Performance "Vietnam...through my eyes."
- \*Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30am closing ceremony.  
2:00pm The Wall That Heals is closed.  
Volunteers needed for breakdown.

**POW/MIA/Veteran Initiative Report**

Grant T. Coats—Chair

As of August 14, 2023, the number of Americans missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is 1,578. The countries are Vietnam - 1,238; Laos—285; Cambodia-48; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters—7. These numbers fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced on August 9, 2023, that U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Ralph J. Chipman, killed during Vietnam was accounted for Aug. 2, 2023.

On December 27, 1972, an A-6A Intruder, call sign “Tiny 05”, took off from Royal Thai Air Base Nam Phong, Khon Kaen Province, Thailand, carrying Chipman and co-pilot/bombardier navigator Ronald W. Forrester on a night combat mission over North Vietnam. The Intruder was last heard from when an airborne controller received a radio transmission indicating “Tiny 05” was beginning it’s entry into the target area in the Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province. Chipman’s aircraft ceased radio communications and never returned to base.

Captain Ralph Jim Chipman, born 15 August 1943, was from Orem, Utah. He was a graduate of Texas A&M in 1969. He was assigned to the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 (VMFA(AW)-533).

On July 30, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency’s (DPAA) underwater recovery team completed joint field activity 23-3VN in Vietnam, which was from June 18 to July 10, 2023. DPAA worked together with the U.S. Army’s 7th Engineer Dive Detachment, U.S. Coast Guard Regional Dive Locker West and Pacific, along with the support of the Vietnamese Office of Seeking Missing Persons, DPAA’s Detachment 2 Vietnam and U.S. Embassy in Hanoi to conduct the special underwater recovery mission off the coast of Vietnam. Their combined efforts spanned over 75 days to search for four Americans unaccounted for in Vietnam. DPAA’s underwater recovery team traveled back to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on July 30, 2023, on a U.S. Air Force C-17 after completing the joint field activity in Vietnam.

VVA’s Veterans Initiative Program needs your help. Objects taken from the battlefields of Vietnam are more than souvenirs or war trophies. Maps, stories, after-action reports, pictures, and military items may have a story that could result in finding the location of missing war dead.

Contact the Veterans Initiative at:

Veterans Initiative Program

Vietnam Veterans of America

8719 Colesville Rd., Suite 100

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

[vi@vva.org](mailto:vi@vva.org) (Cont. pg. 10)

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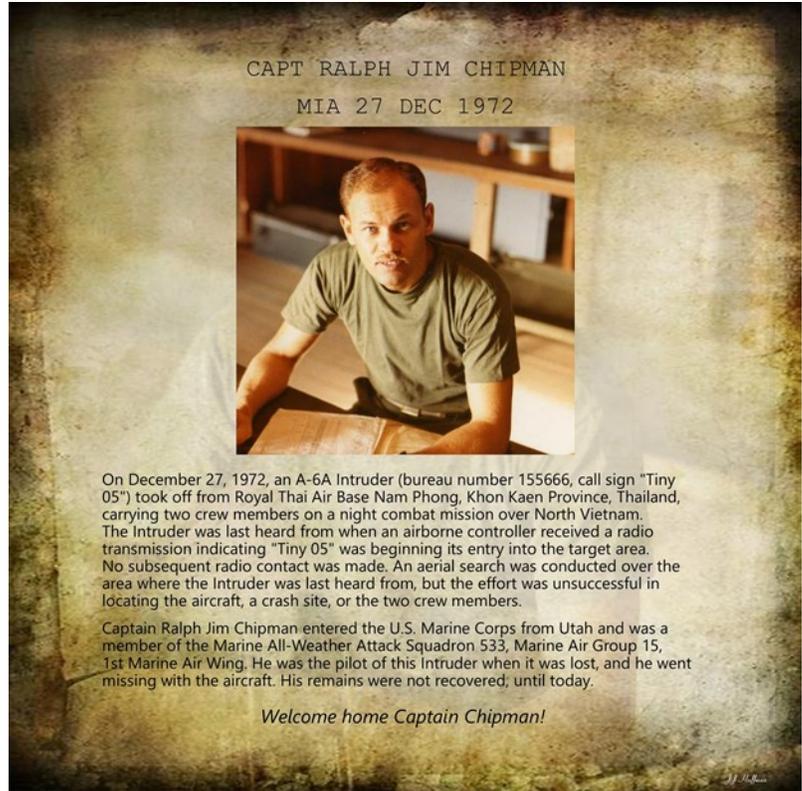
During the convention, The POW/MIA Committee did not have any new or modified resolutions to present. During the scheduled committee hearing time

a presentation was given on the veterans Initiative's 30th mission to Vietnam, a brochure of the mission was passed out to attendees, and a general question and answer session was held.

The following link can be used to download the brochure - <https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/VI-in-Vietnam-23-Brochure-2.pdf>

Also attached is info on returned, identified and announced MIA Chipman. Current number missing is 1,578.

Always Onward  
Grant



**2023 VVA Convention Orlando, Florida**  
**Nick DeLeo VVA NY State Council Treasurer**

The 21<sup>st</sup> VVA Convention held at the Rosen Center in Orlando, Florida began on Wednesday August 8<sup>th</sup> with the opening ceremony. After the colors were posted by members of the local VVA Chapter, service flags were brought forward in the biannual tradition. However, when the Army flag started down the center aisle the song wasn't "The Army Goes Rolling Along". This confused delegates who weren't sure if they should stand and clap to this song. There was another mistake with the Marine Corps Hymn when this flag was coming down the center aisle.

An excuse was provided that the person operating the sound board wasn't ever in the military, but it means in the future this should be rehearsed before the opening ceremonies at the next convention in New Orleans, Louisiana in 2025. I've been to every convention since 1999 and it was the first time for these logistical errors. This was an embarrassing moment for everyone. Space Force was included for the first time. It had a black flag. It made me think of Darth Vader.

VA Under Secretary Josh Jacobs was the first speaker during the opening ceremonies and cited VVA's Founding Principal "Never Again Will a Generation of Veterans Abandon Another". Even though he called it our motto his point was to inform the delegates about 100 Vietnam veterans showing up to greet a now VA colleague upon his return from an Iraq tour in 2003. He lamented the fact that Vietnam veterans were not provided this type of welcome home from their tours.

Homer Hickam was the keynote speaker during the opening ceremonies, is a bestselling author and wrote a memoir "Rocket Boys" about growing up in a coal mining town in West Virginia. It was a Hollywood movie called "October Sky." He has written 19 books, fiction, and nonfiction. In 1967-1968 he did a tour of duty as a young Lieutenant with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and may have been part of the Battle of Dak To in October 1967, since his unit had over 40% casualties. He received the VVA Excellence in Arts Award and signed copies of his most recent book "Don't Blow Yourself Up" The further true adventures and travails of the Rocket Boy of October Sky. It includes a tribute to the men who he served with. Homer was wounded during his year tour. Unfortunately, I was unable to locate Homer after the session ended to buy his latest memoir.

When the agenda was being presented for acceptance, it was bought up there were no copies at the registration for delegates, but there was an adequate number of Special Rules of Order for Considering Resolutions. It included a couple of Resolution Amendment Forms. This was the first time this form was provided at a VVA convention. Agendas were distributed on Thursday morning to allow delegates to approve it. VVA staff has had several turnovers in the past year.

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When President Jack McManus started reading Strategy for the Future of Vietnam Veterans of America National Organization and VVA State Councils and Chapters several delegates went to the microphones in the main meeting room and asked why this document wasn't provided to everyone. There was no clear explanation as to why it wasn't given to the delegates present. This document was from the Special April 23, 2023, National Board of Directors meeting to address the future of VVA. It used the Working Group I Strategic Plan for Dissolution as a guideline for VVA at all levels. State Councils and Chapters can determine their own future.

When a proposed date of dissolution of February 29, 2028, was included in the outline being presented by President McManus it caused a heated discussion by several delegates after they claimed this date was never included at the 2021 convention and how delegates passed a last man resolution for VVA. Since there was a time constraint this topic would be discussed on Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> after hearings Wednesday afternoon on proposed Resolutions and Constitution amendments. Plans for dissolution will be presented at the 2025 convention.

There was a concern expressed about the number of delegates listed on August 9<sup>th</sup> that was higher than the total of delegates on August 10<sup>th</sup>. This discrepancy was due to the number of delegates registered versus the number of actual delegates who picked up their packages.

There were problems with the audio system due to the inexperience of the contracted staff operating the sound system that created problems with delegates being unable to hear Jack McManus and those using microphones set up in the main meeting room. Another SNAFU.

During the hearing the proposed date of dissolution of February 29, 2028, was removed and replaced with a date to be determined. This was due to a vocal faction among delegates who want to kick the can down the road by not providing an actual date. This above date was from the Strategic Plan for Dissolution in 2018 since it was 10 years away. It was the average age of Vietnam veterans at that time being 73 years old. Closing when most are 83 was reasonable.

There was a Constitutional Amendment written by 2 current At Large Board members about changing how the Board of Directors replaces a vacancy for an At Large Board member. They believed the current method of the Board of Directors voting to fill the vacancy wasn't good enough and stated it should be the 11<sup>th</sup> candidate who wasn't elected by the delegates, the highest authority in the VVA Constitution. This amendment was passed by the VVA delegates. NY State Council President Ned Foote was elected by the National Board in April 2022 after a vacancy when Kerwin Stone passed away. Ironically Ned was the 11<sup>th</sup> candidate for an At Large Board position and if there's a vacancy in the next 2 years, he will fill the remainder of the term.

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There POW/MIA table wasn't placed in the front of the main meeting room until Friday morning August 11<sup>th</sup> and there was no POW/MIA ceremony that morning at 0700 as listed in the agenda. Another problem for those who want to keep VVA operational without a definite closing date is the fragility of certain VVA members and their significant others as at least 12 people fell inside the Rosen Center at various locations during the convention. This is being ignored by delegates.

There was additional audio problems at the banquet dinner on Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> especially when Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, AKA "The Wall" couldn't accept his VVA Lifetime Achievement Award, the audio when he spoke near "The Wall" didn't work for about the first 10 to 15 seconds. Just one more SNAFU by the inexperienced audio-visual staff.

### Western District Report

Bill Paton

VVA Chapters #20, #77, #193, #268, #459, #865, #978

#### Western District Director Report

Bill Paton

As the Western District Director, I do not normally devote my column to one subject. I will be this time.

It was extremely warm outside, but not inside at the Convention. There were some high points, mostly, in my opinion low! I'm sure the planning went well; it was the actions of the participants that probably either didn't like the plan or just had their own agenda.

After the opening ceremony our current President Showed a Plan of Dissolution, that I believe took the delegates by surprise. This plan was done by the previous Board in a small room. If you were a Board Member and you were not there by a certain time, you could not enter the room. You could observe, but you had no input. That is what happened to our State President Ned Foote and another State Council President. After a bit it was said that this quickly changed the way it was presented as an example.

One of the high points was going through the resolutions. Leslie DeLong did an OUTSTANDING job of being on the right tab, page, resolution number, etc. All the resolutions were completed in one day without the shouting at the previous convention.

Another High point were the resolution seminars. Agent Orange. If you haven't applied, suggest you see your Service Officer. The resolution Committee and Government Affairs Were also presented very well.

What bothered me the most was the election of the new Board. I have been involved in Politics in WNY

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for the last 25 years or so. I heard the term bubbleheads from someone. A bubblehead is someone who will tell you what you want to hear to get elected. There were a few of those. One person, running for director, I just wanted to ask where he docked his yacht!

It seems that 40 years of experience and speaking the truth and knowing the history of the VVA isn't enough to get you elected. One region didn't like what our State President had to say, and it cost him his seat on the Board. The VVA started in New York. This year there is no representative from our state on the Board. Ned Foote came in 11<sup>th</sup> and Fred Gasior 12<sup>th</sup>. There are 10 seats on the Board. If a seat opens up within the next two years both would advance one space. Ned on the Board and Fred 11<sup>th</sup>.

So, because of one territory there is a balance of Southern Directors over Northern. What does that mean? I believe it's not going to be good, but we'll just have to wait and see!

### **VVA Chapter 77 Report, August 2023**

Tom Thompson—President

We have gained three more members since our last newsletter. When we receive the paperwork verification by national it will bring us up to 713 members. We received a certificate of recognition from the National VVA at the August convention. Bill Paton stated there will be a plaque to follow.

The June 3<sup>rd</sup> chicken barbeque and the hot dog sales at the Pist-N-Broke Car Sows in June and July by Chapter #77 were all successful in raising funds. All funds go toward operational costs, the food pantry and donations by the chapter.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> three of our 77 members, Lee Chase, Tom Kontak and Greg Mish also members of the Wheatfield Veterans Inc. sponsored an event at the town of Wheatfield Veterans monument in order to make the public more aware of veterans and their sacrifices. Their monument includes a Huey Medevac chopper that the organization refurbished. Other 77 members attended to show support.

At the June meeting Chapter member Russ Ward asked for and received a donation to the Order of the Purple Heart. They are trying to spread the word to the young in schools and the public, the meaning, gravity and sacrifice involved in receiving the Purple Heart Medal. The donation also goes toward the production cost of Purple Heart Plaques that they donate.

The chapter provided an honor guard carrying the colors and a pickup truck with vets riding, walking and handing out 2000 American flags to spectators at the Tonawanda and North Tonawanda Canal Fest parade on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

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**(Continue on pg. 16)**

The Elks Lodge 0860 next to us sponsored the Tonawanda soccer league with T- shirts and asked us to provide our hot dog sales crew at their first event. This event was very successful. We in turn made a generous donation back to the fledgling soccer league. We donate back in gratitude for the community support.

The chapter had a truck at Chestnut Ridge Park for the annual 10K KIA Road March on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The entrants carry a ruck sack filled food donations that are dispersed to several food pantries including ours.

On Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> the Classics on the Niagara car show will be sponsored by VVA Chp. 77 and Legion Post 264. The event is come as you are rain or shine. On Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> the annual VVA golf tournament/luncheon will take place at Deerwood golf course. Our last chicken barbeque fund raiser will be on Sept.16. Please see the flyers in the chapter newsletter.

The Remembering Vietnam monument at Veterans Park, Tonawanda, N.Y. is getting some upgrade work. A solar panel system is being installed to supply power to the flight lights on the Cobra AH-1. The shrub bed mulch is being replaced with ground matting and river rock. This will reduce maintenance cost and labor each year. Both projects will be done by early October.

We only had three representatives at the National Convention in August in Orlando, Fl. Thank you Bill Paton our 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Western N.Y. director and to Joe Rajnisz our Secretary and to Bill Palmatier a long time member. Tom Thompson and Ed Bodine had all intension to attend but some temporary medical difficulties arose. Hopefully we will have better attendance at the next National Convention in New Orleans, L.A. 2025. Lori Paton attended the Convention. She is both the AVVA chp.77 and State president. She was just elected to Assistant Director Region 2 AVVA. Congratulations Lori!!

Our first fall meeting after the members break is Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. The 2023 Convention attendees will report at this meeting. The next and last 2023 State Council meeting will be on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.

Please feel free to come to the Chapter any Wednesday or Saturday 8:00 am- 12:00pm. and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. for the monthly meeting. We serve free Pizza and wings after the meeting.

I hope to see a rise in attendance at our September meeting.

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**VVA #268 Chapter Report, Western District**

Gordie Bellinger,

Rocky Bleier keynote speaker Sunday 6 August 2023 as new Purple Heart memorial is unveiled in Niagara County, New York.

A new Purple Heart memorial in front of the Niagara County Courthouse in Lockport was unveiled at 1 p.m. 6 August 2023.

The new granite memorial features the etched names of 468 Purple Heart recipients from Niagara County, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 268 made it possible for Rocky Bleier to be the keynote speaker at this event.

**Secretary's Report**

Francisco Muñiz III

They finally got a dinner for me!. Ned said it was road kill instead of chicken. Unfortunately not many Chapters sent in their delegates and we had a few who canceled due to surgery or sickness. This was a very important Convention in that the future of VVA was to be addressed. A lively discussion on the future of Vietnam Veterans of America occurred on the floor when a file was presented that even some Board members had not seen or were involved in the write up of it.

VVA-NYSC had only 38 delegates at the convention and the total for Region II was only 82, while Region III had 160 delegate votes. But VVA-NYSC had a plethora of awards presented to its members. VP of VVA-NYSC Grant T. Coates was presented with VVA Member of the Year award; VVA-NYSC Treasurer Nick DeLeo was presented with VVA National Achievement Certificate and Medal for his work on the Dissolution Plan., and Region II Director, Ted Wilkinson was presented with the VVA Presidential Medal for his work in VVA. Congratulations AVVA NYS President Lori Paton on being elected as Asst. Director for Region II. I would like to thank all those Chapters and delegates who submitted a summary on the Convention.

Be on the alert about COVID as hospitalizations go up and some places bring back masks! Currently circulating variants don't necessarily cause more severe acute infection than previous variants, but there is still a risk of long-term effects from COVID. A new vaccine booster targeting the variants is expected to be available mid-September. We're still seeing offshoots of the original omicron variant dominantly circulating, including XBB lineages and EG.5. A new highly mutated variant that's been discovered in several countries and a few states – BA.2.86 – was just discovered for the first time in Texas

There are three infections that we need to take of: RSV, Flu and new variant Covid. Get your shots ASAP! We had a few cases of COVID after the Convention. Check yourself!

**Dates for the VVA-NYSC meeting in 2024** at Tioga Downs Casino Hotel in Nichols, NY are the following:  
**January 5, 6,7 April 5, 6,7 June 14, 15, 16 September 27, 28, 29**

**Eastern District Report  
Sam Hall**

**VVA Chapters #8, #49, #79, #140, #333, #541, #869**

Sam Hall, welcome new President of Chapter 140, and reported that 5 Eastern District Chapters are present, Chapter 8 could not make it, health issues. he did acknowledge all Chapter accomplishments, highlighting Chapter 333.

**VVA Chapter #140 Report**

William (Bill) Long—President

Labor Day is a great holiday. It's picnics and beaches and end of summer for many people. Labor Day was made a national holiday in 1884. It's also a good time to acknowledge the extraordinary work done by our active-duty service people to maintain a save America. It's one of the reasons we can all enjoy a holiday weekend.

We should also acknowledge the work of our veterans, their service and sacrifice. The great effort of VA professionals, who give everything they have and more to make sure veterans receive the care they need, must be honored as well. Take time to enjoy and reflect on this holiday.

**VVA Chapter #333 Report**

Roy Thsudy

Chapter 333 held our first fund raiser today at the Pearl River Shoprite due in large part to chapter member Rocky Graziano who initiated the agreement with the store manager and our chapter. Beginning just prior to the 08:30 start of this venue, many chapter volunteers were present with a few others joining in during the day.

After performing many fund raisers over the past years, doing so at the Palisades Mall, Street fairs, Golden Gloves Boxing events, Pig Roasts and other venues as well, today was by far the most successful fund raiser of any of the above...by far!

It should be noted that chapter member Rocky Graziano spearheaded this event by coordinating with the store manager who was most gracious in allowing us to participate in the outside area. Chapter president Ray Furlong welcomed the many members of 333 who volunteered their Sunday from early on until later in the afternoon. To all members who did give up their personal time to assist the chapter this day, each of you deserve a heartfelt thank you.

Continuing on what has been established from the chapter onset, fund raising being a large part of our brotherhood, giving and sharing is what makes us, chapter 333 the best chapter in this country despite what the national VVA. voted upon in Orlando and by the way, SHAME ON THE AWARDS COMMITTEE for not recognizing chapter 333 as THE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR!

The people of Pearl River who did their food shopping were not only magnanimous in giving funds \$\$\$,

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(Continue from pg. 17)

but in addition for the courtesy and respect directed to our members throughout this event. Today, our chapter in six hours raised a total of \$2,622.00! (Pending the official count from Susan Palmero who is John's wife and Boss!) Our next chapter fund Raiser will be at the Nyack Street Fair on Sunday September 10th with another on October 15th in the Village of Suffern.

The month of November will be two more Fund Raisers at the Palisades Mall on the 17th and 18th followed by our last two of the year in December the 22nd and 23rd.

As noted, chapter 333 is second TO NONE, we lead in ways others could only hope and wish to, a true brotherhood of Vietnam veterans. Thanks to all, Roy

At the Bowline Watchfire last year a young EMT from the Haverstraw Ambulance Corp took the attached picture from behind the flagpole at Bowline. She gave a copy to a friend of mine. He had the picture framed and gave it to me last Tuesday at Bowline.

He also had a framed copy made for the young lady and it was dropped off at the Haverstraw Ambulance building.



**Southern District Report**  
**John Rowan**  
**VVA Chapters #11, #32, #72, #82, #126, #421**

**Vietnam Vets Group Proud of its Work**

When veterans came home from their predecessors from World War II and Korea, they did not get a parade or a welcome. It was a time of apathy and indifference. Vietnam veterans were called "baby killers."



When veterans came home from Vietnam, unlike their predecessors from World War II and Korea, they did not get a parade or a welcome. It was a time of apathy and indifference. Vietnam veterans were called "baby killers."

This was made worse by many earlier veterans' disdain for their service because most Vietnam vets were required to serve only one year in the combat zone. Ironically, the actual time in combat in one year was often more than some World War II veterans served.

The Vietnam veterans' life back home was further complicated by high unemployment, mental health issues — later identified as post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD — and cutbacks in the G.I. program that provided so many prior veterans with benefits, including education and housing.

Given these problems and the lack of assistance from their predecessors, Vietnam veterans organized in 1978 as the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). After creating U.S. chapters, they gathered in a convention in 1983 to establish a national organization with a constitution, officers and membership criteria.

The past 40 years, VVA has tried changing benefits provided to vets. This week, we commemorated our 40th anniversary with a four-day convention in Orlando, Florida, that ends Saturday night.

In 1983, one keynote speaker, former Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.), drew a strong response from delegates to his phrase that soon became our motto: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." We've worked hard to live up to that motto, mostly by working with Congress and the Veterans Affairs bureaucracy.

Our best achievements include getting society to understand and provide assistance for PTSD and creating the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans,

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providing a way to get justice for those applying for benefits and reinstating generous education packages similar to the ones for World War II veterans and 9/11 first responders.

The most important change, however, was getting Congress and the VA to accept that Vietnam veterans and those who followed have been severely afflicted by exposure to toxic substances such as Agent Orange and those in burn pits.

As we came together this year and begin to fade away, the VVA can be proud of its accomplishments and know that we have lived up to our motto. Hopefully, the men and women who have followed us will continue our work. — **Southern District Director—John Rowan**, Middle Village, Queens

### **VVA Chapter #72 Report**

Danny Friedman—President

VVA Chapter 72, Brooklyn is now meeting permanently at VFW Post 107 in Gerritisen Beach. Our mailing address remains the same.

We continue with our primary mission to support the hospitalized and homeless veterans of Brooklyn and respond to tragedies that befell our brothers and sisters elsewhere.

In May we participated in a Memorial Day program at the Brooklyn VAMC and presented a wreath at the VVA Veterans Memorial we erected there several years ago. We also rode on a float in Brooklyn's 157<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade, the longest continuous Memorial Day Parade in the USA. After the Parade we marched in review and laid a wreath at the ceremony outside Fort Hamilton. We provided the veterans who are rehabbing at the VAMC's Ward 15-West, with a pizza party on Memorial Day.

In June we participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Street Fair, interacting with thousands of residents and merchants, and raised money to help us continue our mission. Also in June we approved the purchase of over \$1000.00 in new clothing for homeless and hospitalized veterans. We attended and participated in Congresswoman Malliotakis' Veterans' Round Table where issues relevant to the Brooklyn VAMC were discussed. We purchased care packages for veterans who have experienced miscarriages, distributed through the CDCE.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we provided a pizza party for a new group of veterans rehabbing on 15-West.

In August we again participated in the Heroes of the Hudson event which provided a canoeing experience for wheelchair veterans. We also participated in the Agent Orange Memorial Service at the NYC Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Going forward in September, we will be participating in the 9/11 Memorial Service at Fort Hamilton. We will be having a major fund raising event at the Greenwood Park Beer Garden on September 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be participating in the opening ceremony for The Wall That Heals on September 28<sup>th</sup>. We will participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Street Fair on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## VVA Chapter 82 Report

Rich Guevara

On July 1, 2023, at Point Lookout event we provided the color guard.

On July 11, 2023, we provided the color guard at the Tobay Beach event honoring our veterans. At this event one of our members, Vincent Morreale, was given a lifetime achievement award for his volunteer work.

On July 13, 2023 – Chapter 82 along with the Air Force Association participated in a Vietnam Medal Ceremony at the Shootout for Soldiers soccer tournament that recognized approximately 30 Veterans for their service in Vietnam. We provided the color guard for the event, gave each recipient a gift and welcomed them home.

On August 5, 2023, we provide the color guard at the Salute to Veterans ceremony in Eisenhower Park.



### A report of the Convention's process & Committee hearing

Donald Walton, delegate, Chapter 82 VVA

First of all, I have never attended a VVA convention. My experience at the Orlando, Florida convention was much different than any other convention that I have previously attended. So, I have no other experience to compare this VVA convention, to any other VVA Convention.

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### Committee Meetings that I Attended

On Wednesday, August 9, 2023, I attended the Veterans Benefit Committee at 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM in Salon 1 and 2. The Committee explained Veteran's Benefits in some detail but, did not yield anything new that has not been available to any member either on line or in print.

Benefits of the Pact Act were emphasized for members who were not previously aware of the benefits available to them. Hypertension was talked about and how (if) you were diagnosed with hypertension and awarded a 10% disability rating, it would be non-compensatory.

It was explained, how you can file for a disability, with the VA, and that there were representatives from the DAV in the Veterans Mall. They would consult with you and start the process of filing a claim.

On Wednesday, August 9, 2023 I attended the Membership Affairs Committee at 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM in Salon 3 and 4. The main topic was whether to allow those members who fought for the Korean Army, in Vietnam, and have since become American Citizens, and now want to become members of the VVA. After much discussion, it was decided that because they were not members of the United States of America forces at the time between 1962-1975, they would not be allowed to join the VVA. This discussion referred back to the "Last Man Standing" provision which was in the Constitution of the VVA. However, those men who fought for the Korean Army, and who are now U.S. citizens, may join the AVVA as "Honorary VVA Members.

Also, there was a discussion on the current age groups currently within the ranks of the VVA. It was disclosed that: There are 10 VVA members who are in the age group of 60 to 64 YOA; 3,177 VVA members in the 65 to 69 YOA group; 21,299 VVA members in the 70 to 74 YOA group; 46,837 VVA members (or 65%) in the 75 to 79 YOA group; 11,703 VVA members in the 80 to 85 YOA group; 2,371 VVA members in the 85 to 89 YOA group and 923 VVA members in the 90+ YOA group. 3,941 Members whose ages are not known, because of a clerical error when they joined the VVA. **A total of 90, 261 members of the VVA.** The discussion continued with the fact that **the VVA is growing almost every month, in the last year.** Why then, dissolve the VVA, in potentially, four years????

The last committee I attended was The Constitution Committee at 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM in salon 9 and 10. Much of the discussion dealt with the process of how to vote For or Against a forthcoming constitutional amendment, OR how to amend a proposed constitutional amendment which will be discussed on Wednesday, August 10, 2023 starting at 9:00 AM, and would consume the entire day.

All of these committees I attended were respectively argumentative, and members respected each other, whether they agreed or disagreed with the discussion at hand.

The result of each committee, I felt, was orderly and DID have a positive outcome. It may have been a raucous discussion but, that's why differences of opinion need to be exposed in a forum like the VVA Nation Convention.

**VVA Chapter #126**

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 126 in conjunction with the United War Veterans Council

**Had an Agent Orange Day - A Day of Remembrance, Honor, and Awareness at Vietnam Veterans Plaza, 55 Water Street - lower Manhattan on Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 6 to 8 PM**

**Why:** (1) To honor those who have died and those suffering from illnesses related to their exposure to Agent Orange by lighting orange candles in their honor at the monument.

(2) To bring awareness and public attention to the devastating effects of Agent Orange and other deadly toxins used in military procedures.

(3) To promote more research and medical care for these veterans and their affected children for generations to come.

Over 58,000 Americans died in combat during the Vietnam War, but more than 400,000 Americans and 400,000 Vietnamese have died from Agent Orange exposure related illnesses after the war ended. We must never forget their sacrifices.

Thanks to all who came to attend this day of remembrance, honor, and awareness

**VVA Chapter #421**

Salvatore Napolitano



This year, the FDNY donated a truck for the Memorial Day Parade:

Chapter President Gene DeGiacomo addressing members:

Please add to our interchange for those who may be interested:

[Day of Remembrance 2023 Video - YouTube](#)

[VVA Chapter 421 Day of Remembrance 2023 SLIDESHOW - YouTube](#)

[independence day 2023 \(Video\) - YouTube](#)

[Independence Day 2023 Slideshow - YouTube](#)



**VVA Chapter #421 Report**

Convention Reaction – First time delegate.

As a first-time delegate, I was excited to attend the convention. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans. My flight was cancelled and my arrival was late Wednesday. I was unable to attend any of the committee presentations and hearings. I was, however, able to attend the At-Large candidates information session.

I was disappointed that President McManus did not arrive and address the region. We had waited approximately 30 minutes, only to find that he was not in the building.

The awards, recognitions and introductions were well delivered and received.

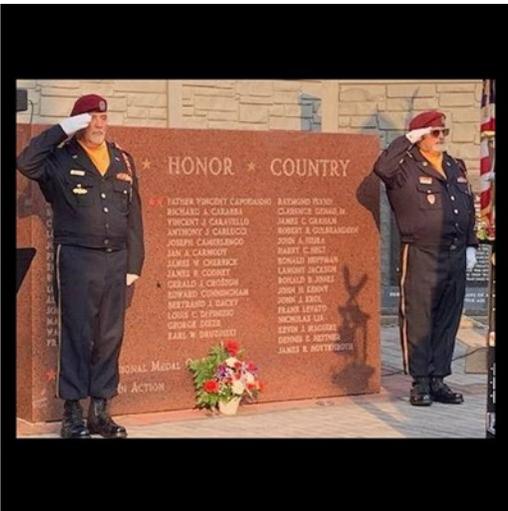
The voting process was a little cumbersome and lines were extremely long. I understand that planning these events for 700 people is an extremely onerous task. [However, giving regions a select time slot, or some method other than the one used would be helpful and more efficient, in my opinion. To just line up and get called to the front of the line, only to wait 15 minutes, while there is no one at the region table, is frustration and a waste of time.](#)

As for the At-Large Director voting, someone said to me, he heard that some CHAPTERS had 2 candidates. I explained to him that it was the REGION, not the Chapter. Ned Foote and Frederick Gasior both ran for the position and lost by 10 and 11 votes, respectively. With a better turnout, we probably could have elected both. By my count, we had 123 eligible delegates, but only a handful showed. For the entire region, we only had 53 delegates out of a possible 82.

Chapter 421 events:

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we had our annual parade:







Our Day of Remembrance ceremony honoring and remembering the 58 Staten Island Veterans who gave all. A great turnout attended by elected officials and families.

Upcoming events will include POW/MIA Ceremony on September 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Chapter's 35<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

### VAVS/CDCE Report – September 2023

Danny Friedman—Chair

No new reports from any other VAVS Reps. As previously reported, VAVS has been renamed and re-branded as CDCE which is Center for Development and Community Engagement. NY Harbor's CDCE Chief has still not been replaced, as well as so many other key staff.

Tim Graham is the new director for NY Harbor. We met with during the summer him at our quarterly Zoom CDCE VSO Meeting at which time we brought up multiple urgent issues. He seemed receptive but we will be watching. Our next Zoom meeting in scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup>.



**Homeless Committee Report**

Jay Book - Chair

VA Homeless Programs

**[VA Programs For Homeless Veterans](#)**

VA's specialized programs for homeless Veterans serve hundreds of thousands of homeless and at-risk Veterans each year. Independently and in collaboration with federal and community partners, VA programs provide Veterans with [housing solutions](#), [employment opportunities](#), [health care](#), [justice- and reentry-related services](#) and [more](#). Learn more about these programs below and at [VA's Programs for At-Risk Veterans and Their Families page](#).

**[Housing](#)****[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\)](#)**

This collaborative program between HUD and VA combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

**How It Works**

Through public housing authorities, HUD provides rental assistance vouchers for privately owned housing to Veterans who are experiencing homelessness. VA case managers may connect these Veterans with support services such as health care, mental health treatment and substance use counseling to help them in their recovery process and with their ability to maintain housing in the community. Among VA homeless continuum of care programs, HUD-VASH enrolls the largest number and largest percentage of Veterans who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness.

**[Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\)](#)**

For very low-income Veterans, SSVF provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home or identify a new, more suitable housing situation for the individual and his or her family; or to rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without this assistance.

**How It Works**

Through referrals and direct outreach, nonprofit agencies and community cooperatives use SSVF funding to quickly house Veterans and their families who are homeless and keep others from slipping into homelessness by providing time-limited supportive services that promote housing stability. Case management includes help securing VA and other benefits such as educational aid and financial planning. On August 1, 2019 VA announced \$426 million in SSVF grants for FY 2020, providing access to SSVF services in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. During FY 2019, SSVF assisted over 105,000 individuals, including more than 70,500 Veterans, as well as over 20,600 children in over 10,500 households. SSVF also assisted nearly 9,500 women Veterans, or 13.4 percent of all Veterans assisted. 82 percent of those discharged from the SSVF program obtained permanent housing.

### Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program

State, local and tribal governments and nonprofits receive capital grants and per diem payments to develop and operate transitional housing and/or service centers for Veterans who are homeless.

#### How It Works

VA funds an estimated 600 agencies that provide over 14,500 beds for eligible Veterans. Grantees work closely with an assigned liaison from the local VAMC. The VA GPD liaison monitors the services the grantees offer to Veterans and provides direct assistance to them. Grantees also collaborate with community-based organizations to connect Veterans with employment, housing and additional social services to promote housing stability. The maximum stay in this housing is up to 24 months, with the goal of moving Veterans into permanent housing. In FY 2019, over 23,000 Veterans entered GPD transitional housing, over 13,000 homeless Veterans exited GPD to permanent housing, and over 30,000 Veterans were served by GPD grants. Additionally, VA awarded approximately \$30 million in fiscal year 2019 for a new GPD case management grant and VA awarded about \$2.4 million to renew 11 special need grants for support services for homeless Veterans who have chronic mental illnesses, women Veterans and Veterans who must care for dependents under age 18.

### Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) Program

This program encompasses residential care for sheltered and unsheltered Veterans with multiple challenges, illnesses or rehabilitative care needs. DCHV provides a structured setting to foster Veterans' independence and mutual support.

#### How It Works

Either on VAMC grounds or in the community, participating Veterans receive interdisciplinary clinical care that includes medical, psychiatric, vocational, educational or social services. There are more than 2,400 beds available through 47 sites.

### Employment

#### Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES)

Under this program, each VA Medical Center (VAMC) has received funding to hire new vocational development specialists who are serving as Community Employment Coordinators (CECs) to boost employment outcomes for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

#### How It Works

CECs work out of each VAMC to forge partnerships and create relationships with local community organizations and employers who have the ability to hire Veterans. CECs work with and pre-screen Veterans who offer a variety of skills and come from all education levels, and are backed by VA's entire network of services and providers. Employers can also proactively reach out to their local CEC by visiting the [CEC contact information page](#). In FY19, approximately 9,325 Veterans exited homeless residential programs with competitive employment (i.e., Grant & Per Diem (GPD), Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR), Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV), Low-Demand Supportive Housing (LDSH), and Healthcare for Homeless Veterans – Contract Residential Services (HCHV-CERS)). Additionally, employment rates for Veterans housed through HUD-VASH exceeded the national target by more than 5 percent in FY19.

### **Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)**

CWT is comprised of the transitional work and supported employment program, which assists homeless Veterans in returning to competitive employment.

#### **How It Works**

Veterans in CWT are paid at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is the higher.

### **Health Care**

#### **Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)**

This program offers outreach, case management and residential treatment services to help Veterans transition from living on the street or in institutions to stable housing situations.

#### **How It Works**

Operating out of many VAMCs nationwide, clinically trained providers locate Veterans who are living in precarious situations and connect them with VA bridge housing, health care and case management services that promote safe, stable living arrangements. In FY 2019, nearly 6,300 Veterans exited HCHV CRS programs to permanent housing and 64 percent of Veterans exiting CRS programs engage in VA mental health services and 79 percent receive ongoing VA medical services. Also in FY 2019, HCHV programs supported over 350 stand downs providing outreach to over 81,000 Veterans, provided outreach services to over 139,600 total Veterans, and provided case management services to over 10,900 Veterans.

#### **Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACTs) Program**

Located on the campuses of VA medical centers (VAMCs), community-based outpatient clinics and Community Resource and Referral Centers, HPACT clinics provide a coordinated “medical home” tailored to the needs of homeless Veterans. They integrate clinical care, social services, enhanced access and community coordination.

#### **How They Work**

HPACTs co-locate medical staff, social workers, mental health and substance use counselors, nurses and homeless program staff. This team provides Veterans with comprehensive, individualized care, including services that lead to permanent housing. Veterans can walk into HPACT clinics without an appointment and receive medical care, case management services, housing placement supports, substance use and mental health treatment, community referrals, triage services, benefits counseling and even hot showers and clean clothes. HPACT has expanded to 60 VAMCs nationally and is currently actively serving almost 19,000 Veterans. It is estimated that over 25,000 Veterans are served by an HPACT annually. HPACTs are showing promise in improving health and other outcomes among participating Veterans compared with non-HPACT patients. The HPACT model is extensively evaluated through multiple research studies and evaluations. Studies show that Veterans in HPACTs are housed faster, use less acute care services, and receive more specialty care services they need as compared to Veterans not enrolled in an HPACT.

#### **Homeless Veterans Dental Program**

This other important resource provides Veterans who are homeless with dental treatment through programs such as Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment, VA Grant and Per Diem, Compensated Work

Therapy/Transitional Residence, Health Care for Homeless Veterans (contract bed) and Community Residential Care. VA is working to expand dental care to all eligible Veterans.

**Justice- and Reentry-Related Services**

**Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) and Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV) Programs**

VJO aims to prevent homelessness by helping justice-involved Veterans who have mental health or substance use issues access needed VA clinical services. HCRV specialists work with Veterans to ease their transition from prison back into the community.

**How the Programs Work**

VJO specialists provide direct outreach, assessment and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails and help them navigate the justice system. Every VAMC has at least one VJO specialist. HCRV specialists meet with incarcerated Veterans before they're released and assist them in planning for reintegration into the community by accessing VA and community services as well as housing and employment opportunities. In FY 2019, HCRV served more than 9,700 Veterans and VJO provided services to over 48,600 justice-involved Veterans. Furthermore, VA provided support to 551 Veterans Treatment Courts and other Veteran-focused court programs as well as partnered with legal providers to offer 170 pro-bono legal clinics to Veterans on site at VA medical centers.

**Membership *Affairs Committee***

Ted Wilkinson, Chair

VVA Region 2 Director-DE,NJ,NY,PA

Email: [yankeeted@aol.com](mailto:yankeeted@aol.com)

Phone 585-322-6722

**Monthly and Yearly Growth Percentages**

**New York State VVA**

**National VVA**

Monthly Growth	Oct2022	Nov2022	% +/-	Monthly Growth	Oct 2022	Nov2022	% +/-
	6218	6231	0.20%		89,180	89,318	0.16%
Yearly Growth	Nov2021	Nov2022	% +/-	Yearly Growth	Nov2021	Nov2022	% +/-
	6267	6231	-0.57%		89,104	89,318	0.24%



(Continue on pg. 31)

**Membership Affairs Committee  
Fall 2023 Report  
Ted Wilkinson, Chair**

**Membership and delegates numbers**

000 at-large	1047	11
008 Albany	66	2
011 Suffolk	524	11
020 Rochester	618	13
032 Queens	231	5
049 Westchester	374	8
072 Brooklyn	176	4
077 Buffalo	712	15
079 Glen Falls	68	2
082 Nassau	334	7
085 Oneonta	41	1
103 Syracuse	193	4
126 Manhattan	110	3
140 Orange County	117	3
193 Warsaw	156	4
268 Lockport	121	3
333 Rockland	213	5
377 Finger Lakes	95	2
421 Staten Island	255	6
459 Dunkirk	39	1
480 Owego	81	2
541 Putnum/Dutchess	34	1
704 Auburn	44	1
803 Elmira	251	5
827 Herkimer	23	0
865 Jamestown	150	3
869 Dutchess/Columbia	31	1
944 Utica	170	4
978 Frewsburg	36	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6310</b>	<b>128</b>

**Top 24 VVA Chapters In Membership**

Rank	Chapter	State	Members
1	172	MD	971
2	0203	TN	942
3	0862	PA	880
4	1036	FL	900
5	154	MI	807
6	<b>77</b>	<b>NY</b>	<b>712</b>
7	1067	AL	661
8	<b>20</b>	<b>NY</b>	<b>617</b>
9	391	CA	609
10	451	MD	535
11	<b>11</b>	<b>NY</b>	<b>524</b>
12	1054	SD	482
13	941	ND	457
14	317	MO	439
15	137	TX	400
16	165	WA	395
17	1048	FL	387
18	227	VA	374
19	<b>49</b>	<b>NY</b>	<b>373</b>
20	299	IL	372
21	WV	628	369
22	12	NJ	363
23	295	IN	352
24	47	CA	347

**Editor's Note:** VVA Chapter #11 was awarded a Certificate Award for growth of Membership

## VETERAN NEWS

**Vietnam Veterans of America fully supports the passage of the Korean American VALOR Act S. 2648**

There are approximately 3,000 Korean American Vietnam War Veterans who are naturalized citizens. Unlike our allies in World War I and II, these veterans were not afforded access to VA healthcare. As a result, they are falling ill from the diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins and are not receiving adequate care.

During the course of the Vietnam War, the government of South Korea sent approximately 350,000 military personnel – a military presence second in size only to U.S. forces during the conflict. Nearly 11,000 Korean servicemembers were injured.

Senator Mike Braun, (R-IN) has introduced *The Korean American VALOR Act S.2648*, **companion bill to H.R. 366, that passed the house on May 22, 2023**, which amends Title 38 of the U.S. Code, to treat certain individuals who served in the Vietnam War as members of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea in the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This bipartisan legislation, when enacted into law, will provide veterans who served between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, and became U.S. citizens during or after such service, access to hospital and domiciliary care and medical services through the VA. This is especially significant for Korean American veterans, many of whom suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, disability, and toxic exposure.

VVA fully supports the passage of the *Korean American VALOR Act S. 2648*.

**Take Action Now**, please contact your Senator and request that they join their lawmakers and endorse *S.2648, The Korean American VALOR Act*.

**COLA ADJUSTMENT 8.7%**

On June 14, 2023, our president signed into law S. 777, the Veterans Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2023. “This bill authorizes a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans receiving VA disability compensation, clothing allowance, and survivors receiving dependency indemnity compensation (DIC) payments.” “Later this year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will announce the exact percentage of increase.”

**Tuberville Blockade Over Abortion Policy Threatens Top Military Promotions**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/10/us/politics/tuberville-abortion-joint-chiefs.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

**House Committee on Veterans Affairs****House Veterans Affairs Committee passes 11 bills**

H.R. 4278, Restore Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability Act (Chairman Bost)

H.R. 3848, HOME Act (Rep. Chavez-DeRemer)

H.R. 3943, Servicemember Employment Protection Act of 2023 (Rep. Franklin)

H.R. 3874, Veterans Education Assistance Improvement Act (Rep. Rosendale)

H.R. 3933, TAP Promotion Act (Rep. Van Orden)

H.R. 4461, Modernizing Department of Veteran Affairs Disability Benefit Questionnaires Act (Rep. Luttrell)

H.R. 3581, COPE Act (Rep. Kiggans)

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H.R. 1767, To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that educational assistance paid under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs to an individual who pursued a program or course of education that was suspended or terminated for certain reasons shall not be charged against the entitlement of the individual, and for other purposes (Rep. Ramirez)

H.R. 3981, Veterans Education Oversight Expansion Act (Rep. McGarvey)

H.R. 542, Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023 (Rep. Brownley)

H.R. 984, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act (Rep. Levin)

Source:<https://veterans.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=6242>

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#### Special Links:

**The Vietnam War at 50: The POW Experience with Dr. Hal Kushner**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxisuX8HPy>

**Hello VietNam | Bảo Trâm |**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_HNStGDsek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_HNStGDsek)

**Smoke on the water | Mekong River Rats**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQNH2vTZx0>

Military Tribute

<https://mail.aol.com/d/list/referrer=newMail&folders=1&accountIds=1&listFilter=NEWMAIL/messages/AHI40cgRBUmaZK3qJgR4iGe9vvg>

#### CONVENTION PHOTOS:

**Laurel Lea Schaefer-Bozoukoff**, who, as Miss America 1972 spent three weeks headlining a USO tour of Vietnam and Thailand in August that year, will receive the VVA President's Award for Supporting the Troops in Vietnam at the Saturday night Awards Banquet.

A 1971 graduate of Ohio University where she studied theater arts and music, she performed in scores of musicals and plays around the country after her reign as Miss America and appeared on many TV shows, including a recurring role on "Falcon Crest."

In recent years she has continued her support of active duty service members and veterans as a Regional Educational Coordinator for DOD's Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center of Excellence. In that capacity, she has worked with Marines and Sailors at Camp Lejeune diagnosed with TBI, helping them with life coping strategies. In 2016, she became a certified brain injury specialist.

Her awards include the American Academy of Achievement's Gold Plate Award, Ohio University's Outstanding Alumni Award, the Tom Dooley Humanitarian Award, and New Jersey and Ohio Woman of the Year Awards. She is the author of the forthcoming book, *The Last Miss America in Vietnam*.

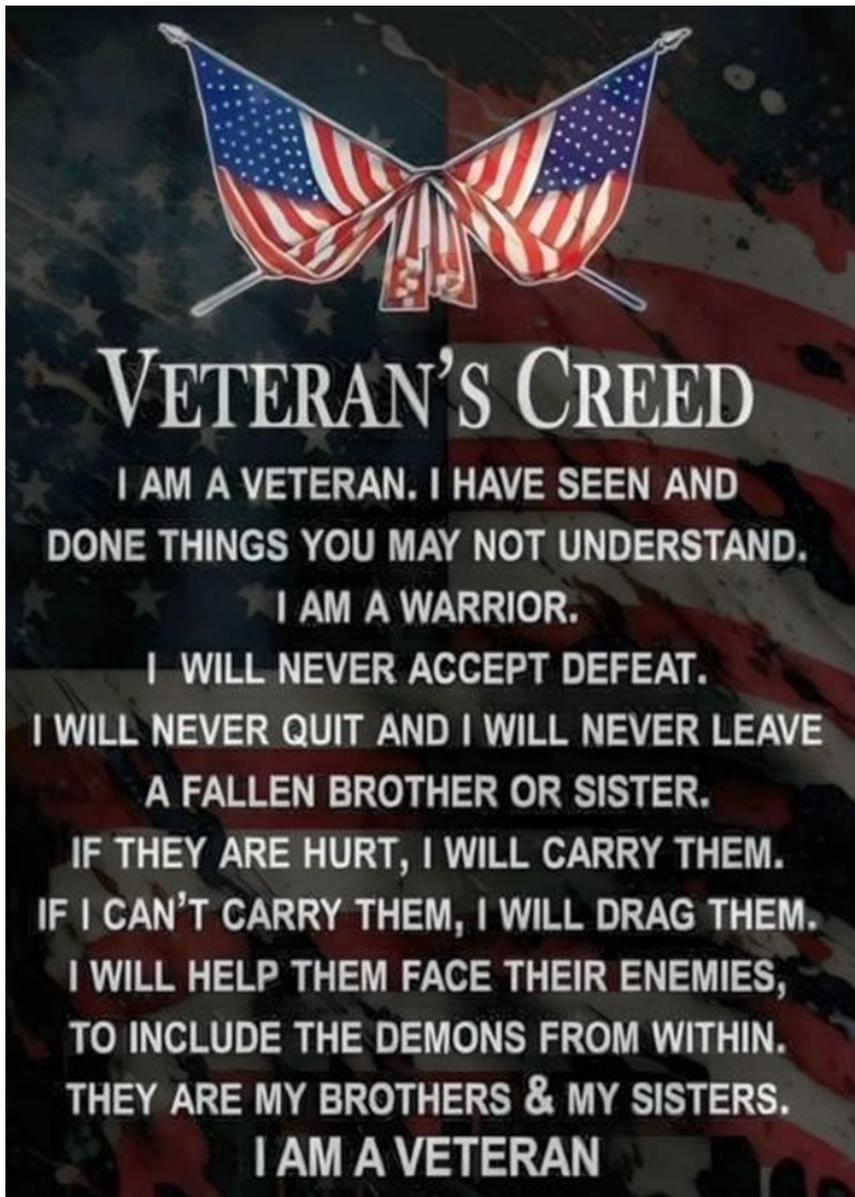


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**(L-R) Grant T. Coats, VVA-NYSC Vice President  
Receiving from National President Jack McManus the  
Vietnam Veteran of the Year Award**

**(L-R) Region II District  
Director Ted Wilkinson receiving  
VVA Presidential Medal from Na-  
tional President Jack McManus.**



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**Bury Me With Soldiers by Charles R. Fink - 199TH Light Infantry**

I've played a lot of roles in life;  
I've met a lot of men.  
I've done some things I'd like to think  
I wouldn't do again.  
And though I'm young, I'm old enough  
to know some day I'll die,  
And to think about what lies beyond,  
beside whom I would lie.

Perhaps it doesn't matter much;  
still, if I had my choice,  
I'd want a grave 'mongst soldiers when  
at last death quells my voice.

I'm sick of the hypocrisy  
of lectures of the wise.  
I'll take the man, with all the flaws,  
who goes, though scared, and dies.

The troops I knew were commonplace  
they didn't want the war;  
They fought because their fathers and  
their fathers had before.  
They cursed and killed and wept---  
God knows  
they're easy to deride--

But bury me with men like these;  
they faced the guns and died.

It's funny when you think of it,  
the way we got along.  
We'd come from different worlds  
to live in one no one belongs.  
I didn't even like them all;  
I'm sure they'd all agree.  
yet I would give my life for them,  
I hope; some did for me.

So bury me with soldiers, please,  
though much maligned they be.  
Yes, bury me with soldiers, for  
I miss their company.

We'll not soon see their like again;  
we've had our fill of war.  
But bury me with men like them  
'till someone else does more.

**VVA Constitutionnal Amendments APPROVED at the 21<sup>st</sup> Biannual Convention****Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 01**

Section Affected: Article 1 National Provisions Section 3 - Membership, Paragraph A

**Proposed. Change: Strike the words indicated by the strike through..**

A Membership in the Corporation is open to any veteran of the military service of the United States of America, who served on active duty during the dates established by federal law for the Vietnam War, paying, in advance, dues set by the national board, and conforming to, and complying with, this Constitution, bylaws, and rules of the Corporation now or hereinafter in effect. The national board shall have the right to set rules for waiver of dues in situations it deems appropriate. Members shall file with their chapter, or with the Corporation, if they are not affiliated with a chapter, a DD Form 214, or other proof of qualification for membership.

Related Articles/Sections/Paragraphs Affected:

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

DD-214's are no longer required to be kept at the chapter level and all DD 214's are filed with the Corporation by the member or by the chapter.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 02**

Section Affected: Article 1 National Provisions Section 4 - National Board, Paragraph B, 3,

**Proposed Change: Strike the words indicated by the strike through Jnd insert the bold underlined words.**

3 At-Large Directors - There shall be ten at-large directors, who shall be elected for terms of two years by a plurality of the delegates at the national conventions.

a To qualify for election, or appointment (in the event of a vacancy as provided in paragraph C of this section), a candidate must have been a member of the Corporation, in good standing, for a continuous period of not less than the twelve months immediately preceding the opening of the national convention at which candidate seeks election; or

b in the event of appointment for the purposes of filling a vacancy, not less than twelve months immediately prior to the date of such appointment; and

ob a candidate must have held an elected position at the national, state, or chapter level, for any continuous period of twelve months prior to the date of the opening of the national convention or the date of appointment.

c At-large candidates not elected shall be alternates, ranked by the number of votes received, and who shall fill, in turn, any vacancy occurring in the office of at-large director.

Related Articles/Sections/Paragraphs Affected:

Article I, Section 4 -National Board, Paragraph C

C A vacancy on the national board shall arise on the death, resignation, inability, refusal of a director to serve, or a regional director no longer maintaining their physical residence in the region they were elected to represent. The unexcused absence of a director from attendance at two board meetings is deemed as a resignation from the national board. Arty- A vacancy among the at-large members of the national board shall be filled by an alternate at-large director for the remaining term thereof by the majority vote of the remaining directors. A vacancy in the position of a regional director shall be filled by the alternate regional director.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

This amendment ensures that the member filling a vacancy in the office of at-large-director has been accepted by the election committee and therefore is qualified to fill the position and has addressed the delegates at the biennial convention. Members will know in advance who the alternates are that will fill the vacancies in the at-large director positions.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 03**

Section Affected: Article 1.National Provisions Section 4, National Board, New paragraph B

**Proposed Change: Add a new paragraph B**

B. The National Board shall have full power and authority to implement the a "strategic plan for the future of the WA Inc,, the State Councils, and the Chapters" adopted by the delegates.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

This amendment gives the National Board of Directors the authority to carry out the "strategic plan for the future of the VVA, the State Councils, and Chapters" after a plan is presented to the delegates and adopted at a biennial convention. This amendment gives the Board the authority to implement the plan for the future of WA, the state councils and the chapters AFTER the delegates at a biennial convention have adopted it.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 04**

Section Affected: Article 1 National Provisions Section 6 - National Conventions, Paragraph C, 1

**Proposed Change: Strike the words indicated by the strike through and insert the bold underlined words.**

C The delegates, and their voting rights as concerns the business before the convention, shall be as follows:  
 1 Each chapter shall be entitled to one vote for its first twenty five fifteen members. A chapter that has fifty members shall be entitled to a second vote at the Convention. For each full block of fifty members thereafter, the chapter shall be entitled to one additional vote. In the event that a chapter shall have less than twenty-five ?? members, the chapter shall receive no vote, but the members thereof shall be included in the number of non-affiliated members for representation by the state council, as set forth below. Chapter delegates to the convention must be selected from the chapter membership or from the membership of the state in which the chapter is located.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

It takes fifteen members to start a chapter and that chapter should have the same right to a seat at the convention as any other chapter many of which no longer have twenty-five members.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - O5**

Section Affected: Article 1 National Provisions Section 11, Conference of State Council President's Meetings, Paragraph B

**Proposed Change: Strike the words indicated by the strike through and insert the bold underlined -wo-rds.**

B The Corporation shall ensure that the conference has the opportunity to meet, not less than twice per year, before each regularly scheduled quarterly national board meeting to share information and to discuss matters of common concern. The conference shall be entitled to issue such opinions and recommendations to the national board as the conference deems desirous or advisable, and the national board shall, at the next regular meeting thereof, address such opinions or recommendations.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

The Conference of State Council Presidents is a direct link between the membership and its members. Each state has an equal voice through the chair to the National Board. It discusses major items of concern regarding the membership and its continued participation in the Corporation. Especially in this period in which the Corporation is facing dissolution, the methods and effects of proposals and concerns of the individual states are important and deserve consideration. Currently the council presidents attend only three of the four board meetings. They need to be present and heard at all board meetings. Their participation and parochial concerns have considerable value for the entire board, not just through the chair but by their ability to join in board proceedings. Having this change will allow the Corporation to fund the costs of such participation. This extra meeting would cost less than 2.5% of the proposed FY 24 Corporation Budget.

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This personal attendance will provide an accurate understanding of the corporate functions and board-related actions with regard to corporate activities related to corporation dissolution and the myriad issues involved such as possible reduction in its At Large members and in possible consolidation of corporate regions. It would provide the National board with unfettered advice regarding member concerns and positions. While meeting at the time the National board does, the state council presidents could debate freely among themselves concerns and mutually beneficial opportunities with one another in state council presidents' conferences scheduled at the same time. This is an invaluable National program that lets our governing board understand what is needed and wanted by our local leaders and members with regard to the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam Veteran, the first stated purpose of the organization in its Constitution.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 06**

Section Affected: Article 2 State Provisions Section 7 Meetings

**Proposed Change: Add a new Paragraph C**

C Five voting delegates of the state council shall constitute a quorum for any state council that is unable to obtain a quorum at two consecutive meetings. This quorum will continue until the bylaws are amended to meet the needs of the council.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

There are state councils that are unable to obtain a quorum because of the council bylaw requirements, and the inability to obtain a quorum prevents amending the bylaws to resolve the issue. This amendment, which supersedes any council bylaw, allows the council to resolve the issue.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 07**

Section Affected: Article 2 State Provisions Section 8 - Committees

**Proposed Change: Insert the bold underlined words.**

The state council may establish the standing committees defined in Appendix II to this constitution and may establish such special committees as are necessary or proper to the conduct of the business of the state council. If established by a state council, an Election Committee shall consist of 3 members whose duties shall be to receive nominations up to and including the day of any election, submit a slate of candidates before an election and serve as tellers at the election. Each of the standing committees shall perform the functions ascribed to it in Appendix

II. The president of the state council shall appoint the chair of all such committees, who shall then appoint the members of said committees, subject to the approval of the state council. The committee chair may nominate qualified non-members to serve as non-voting special advisors to the committee.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

The Election Committee is not a standing committee and the WA constitution is silent on this issue. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (12th ed.) offers multiple suggestions on this topic, there is no right or wrong opinion. If adopted this language will clarify that the SC president has the authority to appoint this chairman as well as all the other committee chairs, subject to the approval of the SC delegates. If the SC delegates are not in agreement with the appointment, they have the power to disapprove.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 08**

Section Affected: Article 3 Chapter Provisions Section 4 Meetings of Chapters

**Proposed Change: Add a new Paragraph H.**

H Five voting delegates Members of the chapter shall constitute a quorum for any chapter that is unable to

obtain a quorum at two consecutive meetings. This quorum will continue until the bylaws are amended to meet the needs of the chapter, but not later than the next annual meeting.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

There are chapters that are unable to obtain a quorum because of the chapter bylaw requirements, and the inability to obtain a quorum prevents amending the bylaws to resolve the issue. This amendment, which supersedes any chapter bylaw, allows the chapter to resolve the issue.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 09**

Section Affected: Article 4 General Provisions Section 3, Electronic Meetings, New Paragraph C

**Proposed Change: Add a new paragraph C.**

C Subject to any limitations established by rules adopted by the national board, state councils or chapters, members not present in person may be permitted to participate fully in meetings through an internet platform following the requirements listed in paragraphs A and B.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

To permit members who are not present in person at a meeting to participate fully by internet platform, be recognized in roll call, and vote on all motions brought before the national board, state council, or chapter if not restricted by the bylaws or by a special rule of order.

**Resolutions will be posted on the National website at VVA.ORG**

**(Continue from pg. 33) Veterans News**

The Wall That Heals, program of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Founder of the Wall will be coming to Tanner Park, Kerrigan Rd. Copiague, NY on October 5—8, 2023

**Why Did It Take 55 Years To Award This Medal**

**President To Award the Medal Of Honor to VVA Member Larry Taylor**

On September 5, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., will award the Medal of Honor to Captain Larry L. Taylor, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry. On June 18, 1968, near the hamlet of Ap Go Cong, Republic of Vietnam, then-First Lieutenant Taylor was serving as a team leader of a helicopter light-fire team deployed in support of a long-range reconnaissance patrol that had been surrounded by an enemy force. First Lieutenant Taylor and his wingman arrived at the contact site and, once overhead, Taylor radioed the patrol team and asked the four Soldiers to mark their location with flares. Using the illumination as a reference point, he and his wingman strafed the enemy with mini-guns and aerial rockets. Braving intense ground fire, the two Cobra gunships continued to make low-level attack runs for the next 45 minutes.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/09/01/president-joseph-r-biden-jr-to-award-the-medal-of-honor-3/>

**CONGRATULATION CAPTAIN LARRY TAYLOR**

New York Vietnam Veterans Foundation



We provide grants to Vietnam Veterans of America-New York State Council, (VVA-NYSC) a veteran’s service organization that advocates for legislation at the State and Federal level of government to provide housing, education, health and mental care services to veterans and their families.

We provide funding for VVA-NYSC Veteran’s Service Officer program that assist veterans with their military disability compensation and pension claims from the Veterans Administration.

We advocate for better Federal and State veteran’s benefits and veteran preferences in government employment. VVA Chapters within New York State, assist widows, widowers, and orphans of our veterans. The organization organizes programs that enrich the lives of Vietnam veterans, as well as veterans from past, current wars, and their families.

We have an active Agent Orange committee that helps Vietnam veterans receive up to date information on prostate cancer, diabetes, and other chemically-related diseases.

We have an updated database of agencies that provide:

- Listings of Veteran Job Fairs offered by county or veteran service organizations;
- Counseling for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);
- Outreach programs that support returning veterans’ reentry into civilian life;

For disabled veterans, this can be even more difficult than a tour of duty.

We do this all year long, but without your gift and the gifts of other supporters, nothing can be done to help those that are so deserving of it. However, we have much more to accomplish.

We, the New York Vietnam Veterans Foundation, have a mission to keep advocating for and helping these veterans. We ask you to join us in our mission to provide assistance, guidance, training, and education to all veterans of past, present, and future military conflicts.

So let us continue to work together to ensure our national heroes receive everything that they are entitled to receive for their sacrifice and service to our nation.

President	Francisco Muñiz III	Vice President	Ned D. Foote	Treasurer	Grant T. Coates
Secretary	Nick Valenti	Directors	Sam Hall		Stan May

You can send your tax deductible donation, to the extent allowed by law, directly to the Foundation at NY Vietnam Veterans Foundation, 48 March Lane, Westbury, NY 11590-6302.

**NOTE:** The Foundation has lost its fundraising contract and is in need of funds to support our Service Officer’s Program. Please send donation to the above address.

<b>COMMITTEES</b>	<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>
<b>Agent Orange/Dioxin &amp; Other Toxic Exposure</b>	<b>Bill Patton</b>	bllpaton36@gmail.com
<b>Constitution</b>	<b>Grant T. Coates</b>	gcoates@stny.rr.com
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Charles Tipton</b>	ctipton237@yahoo.com
<b>Government Affairs</b>	<b>John Rowan</b>	jrowan6990@hotmail.com
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Ted Wilkinson</b>	Twilkinson.vva.org
<b>POW/MIA &amp; Veterans Initiative (VI)</b>	<b>Grant T. Coates</b>	gcoates@stny.rr.com
<b>PTSD &amp; Substance Abuse</b>	<b>Tom Harris</b>	bkrdad@aol.com
<b>Veterans Affairs</b>	<b>Sam Hall</b>	Sammyjh49@yahoo.com
<b>Veterans Health Care &amp; Aging Veterans</b>	<b>Tom Harris</b>	bkrdad@aol.com
<b>Veterans Incarcerated Committee &amp; In Justice System</b>	<b>Nick Valenti</b>	nickvalenti46@yahoo.com