



NEWS AND VIEWS



VOLUME 19

ISSUE 9

September 2017

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS

Odds & Ends

Veteran's Driver License

By Whit Patterson

Did you know the state of California is offering to add a veteran's ID to your driver's license? You can choose to have this added when you renew your license or, if you want, you can request a new license with the veteran designation on it. You need to know, however, when you are getting a license renewal, there is a onetime charge of \$5 (in addition to the renewal fee of \$33), and if you request a new license with that designation, there is a cost of \$27 plus the onetime \$5 veteran's designation charge (\$32 total).

You also need to know they will only add the veteran's designation if you have a form, VSD001, at the time you are getting the new license. This form is available at the Sonoma County VSO on Westwind Blvd (off Airport Blvd). They will need to fill it out and sign it before you take it to the DMV.

One of the advantages of having the designation added to our license is for veterans advocate to prove to the State of California how many veterans live in California and where, and to support legislation that help all veterans. Another reason might be to remove one ID card, issued by the VSO, from our wallets.

Member, Mark Weston from his email to me.....

Did you know that member Mark Weston has again been quoted in a book, the book is HAMBURGER HILL., by Samuel 2 written by James Wright. Mark served on Hamburger Hill with the 2/501st, 101st Airborne and he is a founding and life member of 223.

Working group 2

By Ken Holybee

During this year's national convention Reverend Bob Lewis reported out the mission of the two working groups looking at the future of VVA. As a member of the working group this is our mission.

"VVA will lead in the formation, chartering, funding and empowering a new veteran's organization to perpetuate our legacy and assure the tomorrow of all veterans. This task will be completed and presented to the general membership for approval at a future national convention."

We will be presenting where we are at the next national Leadership and Education conference in Palm Springs California in 2018. Until that time the working groups will work as autonomous groups and will not be giving any real information but will be asking a lot of questions to not only our membership but veterans that do not belong to any group. This is probably the most important task we have been given in many years. You will hear rumors about what we are doing but no report will be given until next year. We do not have answers to any questions at this time, since we are gathering information.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter, just keep looking!!!

Vietnam Veterans of America Redwood Empire Chapter 223

Santa Rosa, California

Office (707) 526-4218

Officers

President: Ken Holybee – holybee@comcast.net - 707-887-8891

Vice President: Lou Nuñez — scso610ret@gmail.com — 707-291-5314

Secretary: Alan Dalton — papadal@sbcglobal.net - 707-538-0428

Treasurer: Bill Burke — bbburke@pacbell.net — 707-576-1218

Board of Directors

John McGivney - mcgivney@pacbell.net— 707-575-5261

Joe Chowela—— skosh@sonic.net —707-486-0699

Kate O'Hare-Palmer—kateoharepalmer@gmail.com — 707-775-4123

Whit Patterson—dwpat2@yahoo.com—707-539-4665

Dave Richey—beardave@sonic.net

AVVA Representative— Sonja Holybee-saholybee@gmail.com—707-887-8891

The Chapters new EMAIL ADDRESS IS: vva223vva@gmail.com

Committees

Chaplain: Bob Cheadle

Clinic Coffee Cart: Lou Nuñez

Color Guard:

Dinner/Dance: Lou Nuñez

Education: Robert Kreyer

Finance: Pat Christen

Food Give-A-Way: John McGivney

Legislation: Ken Holybee

Membership: Robert Kreyer

Newsletter: Ken & Sonja

Scholarship Fund: Sunny Campbell

UVC: Ken Holybee

Veterans Building: Lou Nuñez

Website: Bill Burke

If you would like to purchase an Business Card sized ad to put in our NEWSLETTER, Please call the chapter office. Phone number is: 707-526-4218

Contributors to the News and Views: Ken Holybee, Kate O'Hare-Palmer, Bill Burke and Lou Nuñez and Whit Patterson. Thanks to all. Would like to see more articles next month. Support the chapter. I don't write articles, I just put it together. There are a lot of interesting stories out there, send them to Ken and he will forward them to me. Or so they don't get lost in Ken's MILLIONS of emails send directly to me. My email is up above as your AVVA Rep.

NOTICE

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of VVA,INC., National, State or Chapter 223 or the newsletter staff, but those of the corresponding party. All articles by the Chapter have permission for reprint in all Vietnam Veterans of America newsletters. Anything else permission must come from the original source.

Who enlists in the All-Voluntary Force (AVF)? *

Sent by Kate O'Hare-Palmer

*Source: DoD Population Representation in the Military Services: Fiscal Year 2013 Summary Report. These statistics refer to the enlisted force not officers.

High quality, drug-free, law-abiding, smart and educated young men and women enlist to serve our nation in a time of war to be part of something greater than themselves.

Enlistment standards are stringent. Only 17% of 17-24 years old (does not include full time college students) are qualified to enlist without a waiver (Office of Accession Policy (OUSD-AP) sponsored a recent study to estimate the "qualified military available"). An applicant may be disqualified for many reasons including not graduating high school, low enlistment test scores (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery-ASVAB), not medically or physically qualified, too many dependents, disqualifying tattoos, history of criminal activity, or testing positive for disqualifying drugs. **It's harder to get accepted into the military than it is for most secondary education institutions. Colleges only screen for diplomas and mental aptitude.**

The U.S. military has a high-quality enlisted force compared with the civilian population. Nearly all enlisted Service members in the AVF have traditional high school diplomas and 9% have earned college credits. About 79 percent of them test in the top half of the mental group ability distribution; compared to ~ 50 percent of the civilian population.

~15% of the enlisted force are women compared to ~18% of the officer ranks

Service members in Combat Arms occupations (infantry, artillery, combat engineers, tanks, etc) have some of the highest quality metrics.

Veterans receive world class training that benefits civilian employers

Service members receive significant ethics and leadership training that facilitate intangible soft skills that employers are seeking.

Challenging and purposefully high stress training.
Technical military occupational specialty training.
Professional military education courses and academies.

The following Military Skills translator resources are available to assist employers in matching Military Occupation codes (MOCs) to specific job requirements. It is important to understand that while translators will help you understand what someone did in the military, it should not be used as an indicator of an individual's key competencies and career aspirations in the civilian world.

For assistance in translating civilian jobs titles into military occupation codes, refer to the following Military Skills Translator Resources located <http://www.careeronestop.org/businesscenter/civilian-to-military/civilian-to-military-translator.aspx>.

For assistance in translating military occupation codes into civilian jobs titles, refer to the following Military Skills Translator Resources:

The O*NET program is the nation's primary source of occupational information. Central to the project is the O*NET database, containing information on hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors. The database, which is available to the public at no cost, is continually updated by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation. <http://www.onetonline.org/crosswalk/>
O*NET OnLine has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers, and more.

My Next Move for Veterans is located at www.MyNextMove.org/vets and includes information from an enhanced crosswalk study done for 68 of the military occupations with the largest numbers of Service members across all services.

President's Message

Ken Holybee

Returning from the 18th VVA national convention, I will be reflecting on all that has gone on in my view. This was my 14th convention. I was running for director at large on the national board. I did not achieve this goal. At this time I am one for four on getting elected. I don't know if I am putting out the wrong message or if I am not the right person for the job. I do believe that I have a lot to offer to the leadership. I am still active on national committees and have a lot of members of the board that I keep in contact with. Looking at the makeup of this term's board members, there are no at large members from the western states.

During this convention Lou Nunes and Kate O'Hare Palmer received our second highest award, the National Achievement Medal. They received this award at the region 9 caucus on Wednesday evening. Other awards given to California chapters were, chapter newsletter of the year, chapter 933 Fresno, State Council Newsletter of the year and membership growth awarded to chapter 368 Sanora. Congratulations to all for their hard work. I think that being honored at a national convention is the highest honor we can receive.

During the convention, we saw a preview of the upcoming documentary "Vietnam". This is a very powerful show and will probably bring a lot of emotions to some veterans. We should all know the number for the VA hotline 1-800-273-8255 then PRESS 1. We need to stress that they press 1. We have often wondered why they did it this way. They are the government, need I say more? We should also know the schedules of support groups in your area. Our newsletter goes out to a lot of areas and I do not have that information on the tip of my tongue.

Next month, September meeting, we will be hosting a speaker from CalStar, Reach. They are offering a discount rate for signing up for your family to ride if needed in a medivac flight at no extra charge. They also have rates for transport from one hospital to another at no extra charge. These low rates are being offered to us as members of VVA. This is good in

many states. It is like an ambulance insurance that for their low rate you can afford not to use it, but it is hard to say you cannot afford it. See you at the September general meeting.

Our dinner dance fundraiser is coming fast, Saturday September 9th at the Santa Rosa veterans building. This is supposed to be our biggest fundraiser of the year and an event to raise funds to help veterans. I understand that most of us no longer dance. I quit dancing when I quit drinking, as I think a lot of us did. I know it is painful to watch the moves that some still try to attempt and don't realize that women and children may be watching. But it is a worthwhile cause. We are trying to make a difference in the lives of young veterans. Most just need a hand to keep their family fed and their self-esteem in check. A lot of us have been in their position. Most of us had family to help us out. Some of us had family and on organization, like VVA, to restore these most valued of things, self-esteem and self-worth. We as veterans can do a lot in these areas. Stop, listen, don't criticize and know that we can offer some guidance in these areas.

We can still use some help in the chapter office. I have been informed that there may be some fear in taking on a task like assisting people. We can work with you in learning where we have the resource guides that we use to assist people. We need to make sure we have the correct information or at least the way to find the correct information. Give us a call, you can even call my home and ask what it takes to assist in the office. There are some days that you will not see a person in the area, some may like that, we have a computer and a lot of information that is accessible.

The Vet to Vet group that I attend has moved to the veterans building. This group meets on Thursday evenings from 4:30 till 6. We are using the conference room at this time. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in attending this group, or have any other questions about it, feel free to call me. We moved this group from the VA clinic to try to make it easier to access and to take it away from VA oversight. We do not have a clinician in the group. Some of our members have been trained as facilitators to meet the VA guidelines. Continued on page 8

Governor's Veto

From Pete Conaty's office

Veterans: We need your help. SB 725; pretrial diversion, having passed out of the Assembly and Senate, is now headed to the Governor, where he can sign or veto the bill. SB 725 is one of the top veterans bills this year and is supported by all of the major veterans organizations.

Fact sheet is attached. Please pass this on to all of your fellow veterans.

Please contact the Governor's office and ask him to sign the bill. This is top veterans bill for this year.

To email the Governor: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail/index.php>

To snail mail:

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

To phone: [\(916\) 445-2841](tel:(916)445-2841)

To fax: [\(916\) 558-3160](tel:(916)558-3160)

Should one non-serious civilian DUI arrest destroy an otherwise honorable military career?

SB 725 will stop this from occurring by correcting a conflict in California law which does not allow active duty military who are charged with DUI's to benefit from the military diversion statute even after successful completion of 18 months of treatment for their military-related mental health condition.

The vast majority of those affected service men and women have never been in trouble with the law before, even after 3-4 stressful combat tours overseas. Their alcohol usage stems from self-medication to curb trauma caused intrusive thoughts of combat, sexual assault, and traumatic brain injuries, not because they like to party and use bad judgment.

SB 725 will better protect the public by ensuring these service men and women get 12-18 months of federally funded treatment for the underlying causes which lead them to self-medication with alcohol.

Without diversion, they will simply plead guilty to a DUI, pay a fine and, most likely, serve 1-2 days in jail and go back out and reoffend because they have not treated the underlying cause.

SB 725 clarifies that active duty military (and veterans) who suffer from military related traumatic mental health conditions and are before the court charged with violations of Vehicle Code sections 23152 and 23153 dealing with DUIs are and have always been

eligible for military diversion under Penal Code section 1001.80. This legislation is to correct an oversight in the statutory language to avoid a prolonged period of confusion while differing opinions of Court of Appeal divisions work through the appeals process to the California Supreme Court.

This controversy arose when most California courts interpreted the plain language of Penal Code Section 1001.80 referring to "a misdemeanor" as including Vehicle Code sections 23152 and 23153 misdemeanor offenders, while other courts relied on a 1981 enacted statute Vehicle Code section 23460 as denying any form of diversion on these offenses.

Currently, in San Diego County, more than thirty cases involving offenders charged with Vehicle Code sections 23152 misdemeanors are awaiting resolution of this issue. The majority of which remain on active duty and many have served multiple tours in the war zones since 9/11. Their careers are ended if criminal proceedings are not timely resolved. When they are convicted, they will be terminated from the military due to their civilian misdemeanor DUI conviction. They will be given Other than Honorable (OTH) discharges regardless of how many years of honorable service. This OTH discharge bars them from VA healthcare at a time when they need it most. It will also make them ineligible for many federal benefits that require an honorable discharge such as GI Bill educational benefits and VA home loans. This also shifts their treatment and assistance from the federal government onto state and local county healthcare and assistance programs.

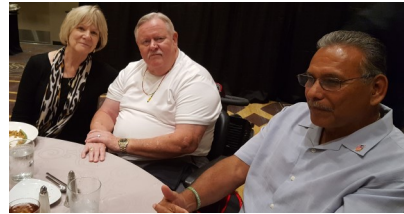
Data today shows that at least 1/3 of all persons who seek military diversion are charged with violations of Vehicle Code section 23152/23153. [Report on Military Diversion Program,

PC1001.80, of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego January 1, 2015-December 31, 2016) DUI's make up the most common offenses committed by veterans with mental health conditions – which is expected since self-medication is widely known to be connected to symptoms of mental health conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Any incentive that gets the veteran into treatment helps protect the public safety. The near zero recidivism rates for those who have completed veterans' treatment court and other diversion programs bear this out. (San Diego VTRC Pilot Program 3-year Cumulative Report) In counties with a large active duty military population, nearly half of those seeking diversion are still on active duty. {*supra* Report on Military Diversion}.

(IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE WHOLE BILL
EMAIL ME OR GO ONLINE TO SEE IT.)



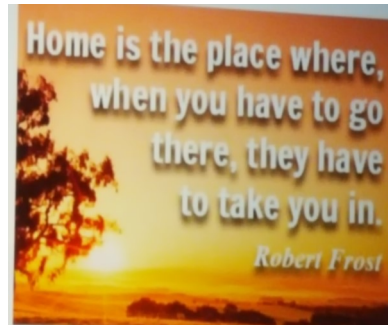
Kate and Penny
with the
"Golddiggers"
at Convention



Kate said this is "Grumpy and
Sleepy" But I don't know
which is which!!!!



Bruce Waxman, President of VVA Chapter 227,
in Virginia, Sharon Hodge from the National
Office, and our own Kate



From Dr Figley's Speech



Some of Ca's Delegates.. Above to
the left and below.



Dean Gotham, 1st
VP of State Council,
accepting the award
for state Newsletter
of the year.
"Zephyr" from Presi-
dent John Rowan



All photos thanks to Kate or Kates camera "phone"



AVVA and VVA members at the Project Friendship Facility in New Orleans. President Sharon Hodge in black and white striped shirt.

2017 AVVA Project Friendship. Volunteers of America.

Kate O'Hare-Palmer.

On August 7, 2017 our AVVA group toured the VOA 40 bed Homeless Veterans program on Napoleon Ave in New Orleans, LA. They have 20 more beds off site. Our taxi ride there took us through the Garden District. We had an upfront view of some the many historic and stately homes in the area. We arrived at a building that is nestled near the neighborhood park and on a street that hosts the Mardi Gras parade every year.!

The VOA offers three programs to help male veterans: Veterans Transitional Housing, Homeless Veterans Reintegration, and Supportive Services for Veterans Families. The VA of New Orleans refers the veterans to the program. New Orleans was the first city in the country to reach functional zero homelessness for veterans. This program accepts only those that are drug and alcohol free. We met with some of the program directors and one of the veterans in the program. This site has morphed from an original shelter program for the indigent at the turn of the 19th Century. "Chief" Gerald gave us a tour of the facility and a background of what the program has accomplished. This is definitely one that is concerned with the true transition of helping the veteran grow into permanent off site hous-

ing. They have a 79% success rate(20% above the other programs average in the area.) the veterans can stay up to two years while attending programs for job reintegration as well as mental health and substance abuse assistance. Chief Gerald told a story of a former program client that came to them with just the clothes on his back...and three years later is now buying up land lots in the city to turn them into agricultural working farms for the city.

It is through the many donations of the city of New Orleans, the businesses in town and from programs like our Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America that keep this program funded. We will be presenting this VOA with a check at the end of the conference to help with this great program.



AVVA crowd after packing back packs for convention.



Steve Mencher

News Director

Steve_mencher@krcv.org
707-584-2012

Creator and lead producer of the CPB/AIR *Localore: Finding America* project at KCPT in Kansas City. The “Beyond Belief” multimedia effort led with digital and broadcast video about faith communities coming together despite differences, while examining issues of community and equity. Radio producer at NPR, the University of Pennsylvania and the Library of Congress. Created arts education website ArtsZone for OVATION TV, and worked at Carnegie Hall and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.



Steve came by our Chapter #223 meeting Tuesday night to introduce himself and to announce that KRCB will be hosting a viewing of the Ken Burns Vietnam War Series at a Sebastopol theater during Veterans Day Events in Sonoma County this year. He is interested in putting a panel together of veterans for discussion after the movie. Steve has just relocated here with his wife from Maryland(D.C.) area and looking forward to being on the west coast.

I would like to welcome Steve Mencher to our community. Steve is the new news director for KRCB, North Bay Public Media, TV channel 22 and radio 91.1. Steve attended our chapter meeting to tell us about the upcoming event with the Ken Burns documentary “Vietnam”. Since our local Public channel is a small demographic they will be showing the film at a later date than other channels. Because of this they will be hosting a preview at the Rialto Theater in Sebastopol in November. They will be hosting a panel to discuss the film and will be looking for people to join

them.

Steve and his wife have just moved here to take on this new adventure. We wish them well and hope this can be the beginning of a good friendship. As veterans we know the importance of a good relationship with the media.

Ken Holybee

Working group 2

Ken Holybee

During this year’s national convention Reverend Bob Lewis reported out the mission of the two working groups looking at the future of VVA. As a member of the working group this is our mission.

“VVA will lead in the formation, chartering, funding and empowering a new veteran’s organization to perpetuate our legacy and assure the tomorrow of all veterans. This task will be completed and presented to the general membership for approval at a future national convention.”

We will be presenting where we are at the next national Leadership and Education conference in Palm Springs California in 2018. Until that time the working groups will work as autonomous groups and will not be giving any real information but will be asking a lot of questions to not only our membership but veterans that do not belong to any group. This is probably the most important task we have been given in many years. You will hear rumors about what we are doing but no report will be given until next year. We do not have answers to any questions at this time, since we are gathering information.

President’s Message continued

We are open to all veterans and there is no cost to attend. I do, however, get updates and input from the VA coordinator for the Vet to Vet program. Don’t forget to check the calendar for these and other upcoming events. Lou Nunes, Brian McKeown and I recently attended an event at the Palms. They are improving and the program is becoming a lot better. Since no one in the area had ever attempted this type of housing project it took a little time to get some of the bugs out. Contact your supervisor and your Santa Rosa city council and thank them for going out on a limb with Catholic Charities on this project to help the homeless.

Check out our new web site and tell Bill what you think about it. There is a place there where you can contact the board members and tell them they are doing a great job.

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 POKER setup begins @ 4:30 Japan Formally Surrenders (V-J Day)
3	4 LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Global War on Terrorism begins 2001	12 Board Mtg 1 PM	13	14	15 National POW Recognition Day US Forces land at Inchon 1950	16 IS Eighth Army Breaks out of Pusan Perimeter 1950
17	18	19 General Mtg 6 PM — Dinner 7PM—Mtg	20	21	22	23 Newsletter Articles DUE Breeze Baker Memorial, Petaluma
24	25 Copy Newsletter	26 Food Distribution Contact John McGivney 575-5261	27 UVC Meeting 7 PM	28 FOLD Newsletter at 10 AM	29 YOM KIPPUR (at Sundown)	30 Berlin Airlift Ends 1949

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Poker start set-up at 4:30 pm
8	9	10 Board Meet- ing begins at 1:00 PM	11	12	13	14 ADDING NAMES to California Vietnam Me- morial
	16	17 General Mtg 6 PM — Dinner 7PM—Mtg	18	19	20	21 Newsletter Articles DUE
22	23 Print News- letter	24 Food Distri- bution Con- tact John McGivney 575-5261	25 UVC Meet- ing 7 PM	26 FOLD Newsletter at 10 AM	27 CSC MEET- ING Fresno	28
29 End CSC Meeting →	30	31				

707-584-8401
MON.-SAT. 8:30AM-5:30PM

BATAEFF SALVAGE CO.
WE BUY SCRAP METAL
COPPER • BRASS • ALUMINUM • STAINLESS STEEL

GEORGE BATAEFF, JR.
CORY BRIANS

250 Mountain View Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Stripe 'N' Seal, Inc. dba Aaron Paving

Contractor's License No. 308128

Engineering Solutions To Pavement Since 1971

Paving ♦ Asphalt Repair ♦ Grinding ♦ Overlays
37-2 Slurry Seal ♦ Asphalt Base Seal Coat ♦ Cracksealing
Striping ♦ Signs ♦ Bumpers

(707) 528-3377 (707) 224-3377 (415) 499-9060
Santa Rosa, CA Napa, CA San Rafael, CA

P.O. Box 7347 • Santa Rosa, CA 95407

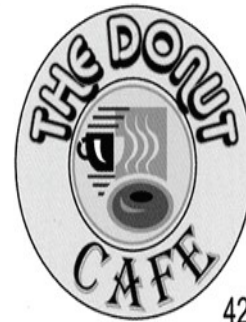


**Construction
Company,
Inc.**

3510 Brooks Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
General Engineering

(707) 586-0500
Fax (707) 586-0900
License # 479227

FINE DONUTS & PASTRIES, GOURMET COFFEE DRINKS



Frank & Champa
(707) 326-9181
fwhigham@hotmail.com

4275 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 539-2416

**Town &
Country**
• PROPERTIES •

Residential • Land • Vineyards • Investment Properties



Robert J. Moreiko, Jr.
Broker

5212 Old Redwood Highway • Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Cell: 707-477-9020 • Office: 707-566-3980

E-mail: bmoreiko@comcast.net • Lic. #01022418

**E&A CARPET CLEANING
AND JANITORIAL**
Carpet Cleaning, Auto, Upholstery & Janitorial

**The Best
Carpet Cleaning
You Have Ever Seen!**

(707) 849-0890 ☎ (707) 953-8289
PO Box 14422, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

*Servicing
Siskiyou
County*

Residential • Commercial • Interior • Exterior



Frank Wright, Owner
2289 Fulton Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Lic. #638773

Cell: (707) 328-6117
Office: (707) 579-6035
Fax: (707) 591-9664
Email: empirepainting@comcast.net

DAN MCCASKELL, Ph.D.
C.R.C., C.V.E.
SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANT REPRESENTATIVE

529 Davis Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

VIETNAM
12/67 to 2/69

707-528-4003

dangmccaskell@aol.com
www.danmccaskell.com

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Fax 707-528-4045



NON PROFIT ORG
NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
Santa Rosa CA 95402
Permit #679

Address Service Requested

News and Views

Volume 19, Issue 9 September
2017

A Publication of:

Vietnam Veterans of America
The Redwood Empire Chapter 223
1351 Maple Avenue
PO Box 1583

Vietnam Veterans of America of Membership Application

Redwood Empire Chapter #223

Membership is open to US armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____, STATE_____, ZIP_____

PHONE_____, E-MAIL_____

DATE OF BIRTH_____ GENDER MALE FEMALE

1 Year— \$20.00 3— \$50.00 Life — \$100.00 Signature_____

Submit to: VVA Membership Chapter 223, PO Box 1583, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

JOIN VVA OR AVVA

IF YOU ARE A VIETNAM-ERA VETERAN YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN VVA OR JOIN AVVA AND SERVE YOUR VETERAN COMMUNITY