



2015 VVA Candidate Statements

17TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

NATIONAL OFFICERS

John Rowan

President



I can't believe it has been almost ten years since I was first elected President. I want to thank you all for having faith in me over these years.

A number of improvements have been implemented. *The Veteran* under Mike Keating has undergone a magnificent transformation and is now an award-winning newspaper, for which we are very proud.

Our Membership Department has gone through changes, but thanks to our IT consultant, Ms. Frankie Pressley, and our staff, along with our Membership Affairs Committee and National Secretary Bill Meeks, more improvements are on the way as technology enables our members to renew online as well as allow Membership chairs to access their membership list in real time.

Our Government Affairs Department has been extremely busy given the VA's issues. At the same time, we're working on new legislation for our children and the newer veterans. This has culminated with the introduction of S901 and HR1769, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. Next we will introduce the Toxic Wounds Act of 2015, which continues the work of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 expanding it to include the veterans of the Persian Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan. I want to thank Rick Weidman, Bernie Edelman, Sharon Hodge, and our consultants Carl Tuvin and Jim Kuhn for their work. Our lobbying effort was enhanced by our officers and my new Special Advisor, former National Treasurer Jack McManus.

The Finance Department, the Administration Department, the IT staff, and our Household Goods Program also keep our organization running efficiently. I want to thank them for their efforts.

Our Communications Department, headed by Mokie Porter, has brought us into the digital era with Facebook, Twitter and other outlets, while getting our message out to the print and video media.

The Veterans Health Council and its web site, www.veteranshealth.org, has been a great success. Tom Berger has been able to work with many health care affiliates to inform them about the health problems faced by veterans. I am proud to have been able to solicit donations to support this valuable program, especially from the Fisher Brothers Foundation.

Over the last two years the Officers have complemented each other, enhancing our operations. Secretary Meeks keeps our meetings and records in order and has been busy working with Chapters and State Councils to mitigate any disciplinary

problems. Treasurer Reynolds has worked with several Chapters and State Councils to insure that their finances are in order, while keeping our contracts in order.

Vice President Four has been a great addition. She works closely with the staff and was a great ambassador to Vietnam with our Veterans Initiative trip. She coordinates our Strategic Working Group on VVA's Future, including our Service Representatives' operations.

Our success would not have been possible without the Board, Committees, State Councils, Chapters, and members. I thank all of you for your support and hope that you will allow me to continue to serve you as your President.

Marsha Four

Vice President



If not for joining Vietnam Veterans of America in 1987, like many of you, my life would have been very different. I joined the military in 1968; served as an Army nurse in Vietnam; was discharged; came home and tried to melt back into my "old" life. It took me years of unrest to really discover who I was...a Veteran. I found VVA in 1987 and joined Chapter 67, Delaware County, PA. As an active member of my chapter I have also worked on the Pennsylvania State Council level. My national level involvement began as a Chapter delegate to the 1989 VVA National Convention in Chicago. Overwhelmed, energized and intrigued by the work that was being done for Veterans, I plunged into the fray and haven't looked back. I have participated on national committees since 1992; serving on the National Board from 1999 to 2013; wrote and delivered Congressional testimony; delivered presentations, held workshops, and served twice as VVA's representative on the VA Advisory Committee for Women Veterans.

I was employed for seventeen years by the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, a non-profit that worked exclusively with veterans. I retired in 2013 as its Executive Director. I was now able to commit a greater portion of my time to VVA and was fortunate to be given that opportunity by being elected Vice President in 2013.

Examples of my work over the past two years include: liaison to the national office staff and the national AVVA; chair the Strategic Working Group; chair to the national committee of chairs; meeting with VA leadership; actively assisted with legislative advocacy; and contributed to congressional hearings and legislative meetings. Working with other organizations (Special Forces Organization and Rolling Thunder) has increased our outreach and VVA information to additional veterans. I frequently traveled to the national office holding meetings for staff and de-

partment directors, providing staff development presentations and enhanced inter-departmental communication. Last August I represented VVA as host to a Vietnamese delegation and in January led the Veterans Initiative delegation to Vietnam. It has been an honor to represent and speak on behalf of VVA at meetings and seminars. Much work still remains.

I believe that integrity, balance, and trust are essential ingredients for a strong and responsive Leadership. These elements invite healthy, thought-provoking dialogue, vital to providing strength to the organization, committee and department functions, and ultimately our membership, to whom we are responsible. I believe there is much I can continue to contribute to our national organization. I ask that you review my credentials and determine my strengths as a capable candidate for the office of Vice President and that you will consider giving your support to my re-election as your Vice President. Much remains to be done and I hope to continue in this capacity.

I reside in Springfield, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia and am married to Tony who I met and served with in Vietnam. We have three grown sons and five grandchildren.

Charlie Montgomery

Vice President



Who's Charlie? Where's Charlie?

It's more to him than his Flowery Shirts.

Since joining Vietnam Veterans of America in 1987, I have devoted much of my time and energies to serving this organization at all levels, our community and veterans in many capacities. I became a Life Member of this organization in 1988. I have served as President of my former Tidewater Chapter 48 as well as other positions within Chapter 48. I am also one of the founding members of Chapter 969 of Virginia Beach, Virginia. We wanted to grow our membership within our area of Hampton Roads.

I am serving my tenth term as the President of the Virginia State Council, served as Director At Large and Region 3 Director for Vietnam Veterans of America. During my years on the National Board I have served as the National Membership Chair and also was a member of the National Membership Committee from 1995-97. Membership has always been my passion because I feel our membership is important to us. I have also served as a member on the Veterans Initiative Task Force. I am serving my fifth term as the Chair of the Conference of State Council Presidents. I also served on the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund (VVAFF) for two terms which is

known as today the Veterans Support Foundation (VSF).

I feel with my involvement, experience and knowledge gained through the many years with Vietnam Veterans of America, I can now be a stronger leader to serve our membership as our National Vice President. I have worked with the present and past leaders in VVA for the last twenty plus years. I believe we should continue to pull together as a veterans organization to become a much stronger and more vocal voice on "The Hill."

There are many topics within Vietnam Veterans of America that are really important to us veterans and members of this organization. We need to have a stronger voice on "The Hill," we need more Service Reps throughout the country helping the veterans with their claims (Veterans helping Veterans) to what is due to them, Veterans Health Care, PTSD and Suicide prevention, Membership Growth and care to our Women Veterans and their needs and keeping the Vietnamese Government to full accountability of our POW/MIA's.

In closing, I pledge to you I will serve our National organization with honor, dedication and enthusiasm as I have in all the positions which I have held since becoming a member of this great organization. If elected as your next National Vice President, I promise you true transparencies throughout the organization. There is one reflection I have from one of our past National Presidents who told me, "Be true to yourself and be true to the ones you serve." This is what Vietnam Veterans of America needs—leadership stepping up to the plate instead of being behind the plate.

I am Charles R. Montgomery Jr. running for the position of VVA's Vice President.

Bill Meeks

Secretary



As the proud grandfather of Laci who is my youngest granddaughter, I am very thankful she is healthy and a normal active 4 year old because I served with the Marine Corps as a platoon radioman for Bravo Company, 1st Bn 27th Marines in 1968 in I Corps in Vietnam. Since joining VVA in 1992 I have held numerous elected or appointed positions at the chapter, state council and national levels. I am married to Suzie, we have three children, eight granddaughters, one grandson and one

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NATIONAL OFFICERS

great-grandson. I am employed by Van De Wiele & Vogler Engineering for the last twenty-five+ years.

As your elected National Secretary since August 2011, I have insured that all National Board of Directors meeting minutes have been distributed within three (3) to five (5) days after each meeting. In an effort to make our membership more aware of upcoming VVA business I have prepared the National meeting agendas and provide these on a continual basis until the meeting date. With the creation of the VVA BOD Motions and Policies Reference Guides, our membership has a better understanding of what policies and motions are in place for the National Board of Directors to conduct VVA business properly.

By posting all of the approved National Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from 2010 to present on the VVA web site, I have made each member aware of what VVA business took place during these meetings, and this move has provided easy access for members to get a better understanding of VVA National's operation. The VVA National Disciplinary Policy Flow Chart by the Numbers was created to assist members working on disciplinary actions and keep the disciplinary process flowing properly. The VVA Secretary Notification of BOD Action Form has provided a record that the VVA Membership Department has notified the chapter members of a

National BOD action and the database has been documented to show chapter revocation or voluntary disclosure of chapters.

I will continue to work with our membership to improve communication and the distribution of correspondence from VVA National. I would appreciate your vote for Secretary at the convention.

Wayne Reynolds

Treasurer



I am running for re-election as National Treasurer because I want to continue the progress we have made in improving our financial management. I am a proven leader who can work with all levels of VVA. I promised to make VVA's finances transpar-

ent and, with the help of the Finance Committee, we have accomplished that. Now I am asking for your support so I can continue to work with everyone to achieve VVA's goals.

This has been a very busy 2 years. I have met with the contractor who supplies ads for *The VVA Veteran*. As a result, we are receiving more revenue for fewer ads (which leaves more space for content) and the editor of *The VVA Veteran* is still in control of advertising content. Our contract for implementation of the iMIS software, which VVA purchased, has continued to improve our membership and financial operations. As Compliance Officer, I review our contracts to ensure that we are receiving cost-effective services.

I am assigned the task of working closely for oversight of our Information Technology and Finance Departments. We have streamlined our financial reporting to make it more understandable and to reflect actual expenditures.

I have also been active in using my contacts in Congress to promote legislation that will assist veterans. The Agent Orange commitment from VVA has increased, and I have been an active Congressional lobbyist for VVA and our Agent Orange Legislation. We have increased VVA's financial commitment to AO.

I have been able to assist Regional Directors and State Council Presidents by making presentations at their meetings. I am available to assist at all levels of VVA.

VVA SERVICE: Life Member of VVA. I served 3 years as President of Chapter 511 and have been Alabama State Council President for 17 years. I was also the National Treasurer from 2001 to 2003. I have served on the following National VVA Committees: Finance, Public Affairs, Veterans Healthcare, PTSD and Substance Abuse, and Constitution. I also am a former Secretary of the Conference of State Council Presidents. As a member of the Board of the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund for 4 years, I assisted in raising funds for the Service Officer Program and other VVA supported projects.

MILITARY SERVICE: I served in Vietnam with the 95th Evacuation Hospital and 22nd Surgical Hospital in 1968-69.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT: I hold a Master's Degree in Finance from the University of Georgia and a Doctor of Education Degree from Auburn University. I am a retired Public School Superintendent and currently am a Registered Nurse. For the past 16 years I have been the owner and CEO of a government contract consulting business.

PERSONAL LIFE: I am the oldest of twelve children and my father was a World War II and Korean War Veteran. I have been married to Carol Reynolds for 45 years and we have two children. Paige is a DOD Engineer and Wesley is a Neurologist in the Air Force. We have two grandchildren. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE

Dottie Barickman

Board of Directors, At-Large



My Mission Statement: "My highest priority and commitment is to ensure that the Veterans who served for us; will be served by us."

My Goal: My goal is to advocate on behalf of all veterans in need; to report out on relevant activities during my term as At Large Director (if elected); and to ensure the transparency of the At Large Director position.

VVA National Level: held positions as member of the Finance Committee, Constitution Committee, Women Veterans Committee and PTSD Committee

VVA Council of State Council Presidents: held positions as 1st Vice Chair and Committee Chair of the Political Action Committee

VVA Region 6: held positions as alternate Region 6 Director

VVA Nebraska State Council: held positions as President and Delegate for Chapter 279

VVA Chapter 279: held positions as Vice-President and Secretary

VVA Member: since 1987

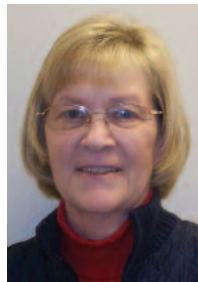
Other organizations: held positions as alternate to Nebraska Veterans Home Board, Nebraska Veterans Council and Governor's Round Table

Events and functions: facilitated play "A Piece of My Heart" in Omaha, Nebraska and Women in Military Service Association in Washington DC, partnership with the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration, Offutt Air Force Base Open House committee, VVA Region 6 workshops host, keynote speaker for

veterans events, advisor for veterans projects and testified for Nebraska veterans Legislative Bills.

Linda Blankenship

Board of Directors, At-Large



For Linda Blankenship, last September marked her 40th year of helping veterans and their families. Linda joined the Women's Army Corps in 1973, during the Vietnam War. She served as a medic in the physical therapy clinic and burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. The soldiers she treated suffered from severe burns, amputated limbs, and painful long-term injuries.

She kept working in the medical profession and earned Bachelor's degrees in healthcare and education; certifications in non-profit management and fundraising, and an Administrator's license for Alzheimer and Dementia care. Her work experience includes Assisted Living Administrator, Medical Instructor, Healthcare Provider, and Veterans Upward Bound Advisor.

Linda has served VVA as a Director At-Large since 2013, as Alabama State Council Secretary from 2009-2011, Chapter 511 Secretary from 2007-2011, and she is a life member. She serves us on Healthcare, Homeless Veterans, PTSD, and Women Veterans Committees.

Linda has represented VVA at VA Medical Treatment Facilities, Veterans Coalitions, and Senior

Healthcare Conferences since 2006. She attends town hall meetings and community events speaking with politicians and business leaders—advocating for our benefits. She is a strong advocate and voice for VVA.

Richard DeLong

Board of Directors, At-Large

Allen Harvey

Board of Directors, At-Large



I served in the 1st Marine Division from 1966-69. While in Vietnam, I served with the Marine Advisory Corps (1968).

I've been a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America since 2000 and a life member

of AVVA since August 2005 in memory of my late wife Lois Harvey.

In 2006 I was elected President to the GA State Council. I also served as VP of GA State Council. In 2009 I was elected Vice President of my Chapter 671 in Savannah GA. The office positions I hold today are President of Chapter 671 VVA in Savannah GA from 2011 to present.

LIST OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1. Vol. with the USO with deploying and returning troops from war at Army Hunter Air Base.

2. Active member of the Marine Corps League Chapter 1326, Detachment West Chatham.

3. Working with the Tybee Island Veterans Memorial in recognition of all veterans from all wars. At present I hold position of VP.

4. Member of the National League of POW/MIA Families since 2005 and Vice Coordinator to the Region II Coordinator. I sit on VVA's POW/MIA Committee since 2006.

7. VVA representative to Chatham County Veterans Council since 2002.

I am married to the former Susie Stephens Ragan whose brother-in-law has been missing in Vietnam since 1967.

I would appreciate your vote so I can bring a fresh set of ideas to look at all the programs that VVA sponsors. We need to sit down and listen to our members.

Charlie Hobbs

Board of Directors, At-Large



I joined the Army in February 1967 and eighteen weeks later landed in Vietnam. After serving one year in-country with the Americal Division based in Chu Lai as a Military Policeman, I returned to Fort Devens, MA, to finish my commitment. I joined VVA in July 1991; I have served as President of Chapter 203 in Chattanooga for a combined total of ten years; I served as the Tennessee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE

State Council President for four years. Sharon and I have been married for forty years; we have three daughters and five grandsons.

For the past eight years I have attended the Board meetings in Silver Springs: four years as a State Council President; four years as the National Membership Affairs Committee Chair; and, the last two years as a Director-at-Large as well. During these past two years I have been faced with making hard decisions at times; but I voted my conscience and considered all the facts presented which was what you elected me to do.

If reelected, I will continue to work for better processes and outcomes concerning our membership. I will continue to learn the facts on all matters that come before the Board; and I will continue to consider the impact that my vote will have on the membership. I thank you in advance for your support.

Ken Holybee

Board of Directors, At-Large



I was born in Oakland California in February 1949, and raised in Petaluma California where I graduated from high school in 1967. I went to work for my father driving trucks, and then joined the Army in January 1969. I attended basic training in Ft. Lewis Washington and then went to Ft. Ord, California, for AIT. In June of 1969 I arrived in Vietnam and served in the 528th Quartermaster Company (Petroleum Supply) as a driver and mechanic and spent time on a gun truck and gun jeep. I left Vietnam on September 2, 1971, with the rank of Specialist E-5. When I returned home I began driving trucks in the family business again.

I joined VVA in 1987 and became a life member in 1990. During this time I have served on the Board of Directors of Santa Rosa VVA Chapter 223, and on the board of the California State Council. I have served two terms as State Council President, one term as Vice President and three terms as a board member. I have attended twelve national conventions as a delegate.

On the national level I have served on the VVA Constitution Committee for over ten years and currently serve on the Agent Orange and the Public Affairs Committees. I have served as a national board member, 2011 to 2013, and was elected to fill a vacancy in 2014.

Joseph A. Jennings III

Board of Directors, At-Large



My name is Joseph A. Jennings III, from Columbus, OH, a graduate of Bishop Hartley High School "Class of 65." I entered the U.S. Army Dec 1967 received Basic Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, after

that my AIT (Advanced Individual Training) as a Meteorological Observer for R&D and Ballistics was completed at Ft. Monmouth, NJ. I was then stationed at White Sands Missile Range, NM and eventually Song Be, RVN (pronounced Song Bay). After my military service I entered corporate America with Huntington Bank Shares, Borden Inc, and finally Century Link. I'm a member of VVA since March 87, a Life Member since February 3, 1996, first elected to Chapter Delegate to the Ohio State Council in 94, appointed interim VVA Ohio State Council Secretary in April 96 and elected to 3 consecutive terms until my formal resignation in April 2001 to be hired as Executive Director of VVA, Buckeye State Council.

In 2002 I earned my VVA and Department of Veterans Affairs accreditation as an NSO. I have been a member of the VVA National Minority Affairs Committee and since 95, the National VVA Veterans Benefits Committee/State-Chair of Veterans Benefits Committee since 2002. At the VVA 15th National Convention I was elected Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. National Director At Large. I now ask for your support once again.

Bill Kiefer

Board of Directors, At-Large

Joe Kristek

Board of Directors, At-Large



I am seeking reelection as an At Large Board of Director.

My current assignments are serving on the National Veterans Benefits Committee as well as the Service Officer Grant Review Committee. I also serve on the National Membership Committee. I was appointed to Chair the Membership Committee for the NC State Council. I accepted the opportunity to serve on the Strategic Working Group directed by the National Vice President.

I previously held offices in two different Chapters (480/803) in NY State. I was appointed as the Central District Director for the NY State Council and held that position for nine years.

I relocated to North Carolina in 2005 and started Chapter 966 and served as president, four years. I was elected as the North Carolina State Council President 2008-2014.

In 2013 I ran for National Director At Large and got elected.

I joined VVA in 1989 and became a Life Member in 1993. I attended the VVA Service Officer school in 1995 and still serve the veterans community in that capacity.

I joined the Army in 1965, took basic training at FT Dix and after, attended Signal School at FT Monmouth (MOS36H20). Received orders for Hanau, Germany. Returned home in August of 1968.

Married to the same woman for 46 years, have four sons, two are career military (Navy Seabee and Marine).

Retired from IBM/Lockheed Martin after 40 years.

Buster Newberry

Board of Directors, At-Large



I joined the United States Marine Corps on January 20, 1966 to January 19, 1970. I received the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Medal, and Navy Unit Commendation.

I served in Vietnam in 1967. I joined the Texas National Guard for 9 years and was a commissioned officer. I was a Company Commander of a Mechanized Infantry Company. I am 100% disabled from the effects of Agent Orange.

I am currently the President of the VVA Texas State Council and have held that position for going on six two-year terms. I have also held the following positions with the TSC—Vice-President, 2 years, Finance Committee Chair, 2 years and Treasurer, 4 years. I serve on a National Agent Orange Committee and a National Minority Affairs Committee. I have served as Treasurer of VVA Chapter 404 for over 25 years. I also serve on the VVAFT and I am a charter member. I received VVA National Achievement Medal and VVA Commendation Medal.

I have been married to my wife, Percilla, for 49 years. We have three children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

I believe I can provide teamwork and communications with experience, integrity of responsibilities and foremost the desire to meet the expectations of the National Board of VVA and all veterans. My goal is to spread the information to as many veterans as possible throughout the country about Agent Orange and the benefits they deserve.

Jim Pace

Board of Directors, At-Large



Born at Fort Lawton Army Hospital in 1950, I grew up in Everett, Washington and attended school. After graduation from High School in 1969, I joined the U.S. Army and served in Germany with the 3/84th Artillery (Pershing Missiles). From Germany, I went to Vietnam and served at Hue-Phu-Bai combat base with HMS 2nd Maintenance Bn. from Sept 70-71. I was one of four members of my family that served in Vietnam.

After being discharged from the Army, I used the G.I. Bill to attend college and get a BA degree. I worked in private business for a number of years before turning my efforts towards helping veterans attain VA Benefits. For 24 years I have been a VA Veteran Service Officer. As a Senior Veteran Service Officer I oversee the training of new VVA Service Officers in our State. I served as the Washington State Council President for two terms and am now serving as Vice President. On a National level, I am currently serving as Vice-Chairman of the Veterans Benefits Committee, member of the Finance Committee and Member-

ship Committee and currently serving as National At-Large Director

I am married to Virginia Pace and we have three children and two grandchildren.

We live in Birch Bay, Washington and enjoy boating in the San Juan Islands.

Daniel T Penzien

Board of Directors, At-Large



Born in Detroit November 1949. Drafted in the Army in Aug 1969. I took Basic training at Fort Knox, Ky, AIT in Fort Polk, La, and Jungle Training in Panama Canal. I served in Vietnam 1970-71 with the 1st Cav 2/8 Airmobile Division. I

was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, C.I.B., Army Commendation Medal with "V" for Valor, Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Honorable Discharge. My MOS was 11B40 (INFANTRY). Received the rank of E-5 Sergeant.

Joined VVA Chapter 154 in 1991. I received Member of Year Award and Life Membership in 1993. Held offices of President, Treasurer and Board of Directors. I served as treasurer for VVA Michigan State Council 2002-2007. In 2010 I started a Chapter of Vietnam Veterans in Polk County, Florida and received the Charter from National on October 28, 2010. I serve as President and Membership Chair and I am deeply devoted to helping Veterans in any way possible. Taking them to the VA Clinic in Lakeland or the VA Hospital in Tampa. I am in a wheelchair due to health conditions from exposure to herbicides and Agent Orange.

I attend meetings with VVAFSC where I serve as the Membership and POW/MIA Chair. I have attended 11 National Conventions and 9 Leadership Conferences.

Felix (Pete) Peterson

Board of Directors, At-Large



I am running for reelection for the position of Board of Director-at-Large. Currently, I serve as the Chair of the Government Affairs Committee and serve on the Minority Affairs Committee, the National Convention

Committee and the Veterans Benefits Committee. As the Chair of the 2012 Leadership Conference, we changed the focus and name of the conference to the Leadership and Training Conference. On the state level, I serve as the Chief Service Officer for the State of Oklahoma and the Chairman the Oklahoma Veterans Council.

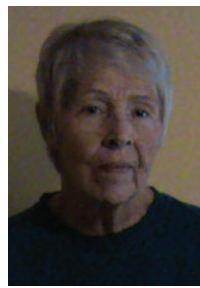
I belong to several veterans organizations and serve on Representative Tom Cole's and Senator Jim Inhofe's Veterans Task Forces.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE

I was drafted into the Army in April 1962 and served enlisted tours with Special Forces and the Army Security Agency. In 1966, I attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and was commissioned in April of 1967. My officer assignments include: Battery Commander and Battalion Commander. I have two tours of duty in Vietnam, three tours of duty in Germany, a tour of duty in Korea and numerous tours stateside and special assignments. My military education includes the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. I have a BS in Business Management from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and a MA in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma with post graduate work at the University of Oklahoma. I retired at the rank of Colonel. My wife Joan and I reside in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Carol E. Schetrompf Board of Directors, At-Large



I was in the Navy in 1965, after a break in service (due to pregnancy). I joined the Army Reserves in 1974, and in 1980 went back on active duty in the Army. From 1980 to 1992, was stationed in various locations. My last duty station was Fort Clayton, Panama from 1987 to 1992. In 1992, joined the Georgia Army National Guard. In 2004 was medically discharged. I have a total of over 30 years in the military. I wasn't in country during Vietnam, but was in combat during Just Cause in 1989 in Panama. Some of my military awards include a Meritorious Service Medal and an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Operation Just Cause).

I was the Chapter 789 Secretary from 2003 to 2007, 2011 to 2013, a chapter board member for two years, 2007 to 2009, Georgia State Vice President from 2004 to 2006, and from 2007 until 2011, Region 4 Director, Chapter President, State Council Secretary 2014 to present, in March was elected as Chapter Secretary (again). I have been a committee member of the National Finance Committee, Scholarship Sub-Committee Chair, the Membership Committee. I am still a member of the National Membership Committee. I feel that I can bring experience and an understanding of the problems at the chapter and state levels.

Both my husband and I are Life Members of Chapter 789, Hinesville, Georgia. My husband and I have six wonderful grandchildren, and our three children aren't bad either.

Dave Simmons

Board of Directors, At-Large



I joined VVA in February 1994, and was a Delegate to the VVA National Convention in 1995. I have attended every National Convention since Houston as a Delegate. It has been very rewarding to serve as President of VVA Chapter 37, and when VVA Chapter 985 was formed in my home town, I then became Vice-President for that Chapter.

Seven years ago, I became the West Virginia State Council President, and have had the privilege of serving with a dedicated group of fellow officers. We have been able to develop meaningful programs and find funding for those same programs that have helped many Vietnam Veterans and other veterans in my home state.

A strong and motivated team that works together can accomplish many goals and I would like to be a part of the VVA National Board of Directors and to work on programs that benefit a larger part of the VVA membership.

Raised and educated in Maryland, I enlisted in the US Army in 1969. I served in Vietnam, first with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, then with the 71st Assault Helicopter Company.

I am honored to be the recipient of both the VVA Achievement Medal and the VVA Commendation Medal.

I have served as the Task Force Chair for VVA's Veterans Against Drugs Program for nine years. I also serve on both the Incarcerated Committee and the Minority Affairs Committees.

I am married to my Junior High School sweetheart and we have four children and seven grandchildren.

Dan Stenvold

Board of Directors, At-Large



Mayor Dan would like to have your vote for the 4th term as your National Director.

3 tours in Vietnam, 1969, 1970 & 1971 all with the Army artillery on 155 MM guns. Started out with M-109's attached to the 11th Cav and ended up on towed 155s that were air lifted wherever we were needed.

State Council President of North Dakota since 1999. North Dakota Coordinating Council since 1999.

In 2013 and again in 2015, we received a \$50,000 grant from our state legislature for Agent Orange education and outreach. To date, we have had Agent Orange roundtables in 29 of our 53 counties. We also have 3 14'X60' billboards along our I-highways that state: VIETNAM VETERANS—AGENT ORANGE IS KILLING OUR CHILDREN. These have been a huge success!

Life member of VVA, VFW, DAV, AMVETS, Canadian VVA and an annual member of the American Legion.

Last year, I missed my 1st meeting in 6 years on the board. I had a city meeting with engineers on city projects that saved my city \$1.1 million. I was

excused by the National President but I still feel bad about missing the meeting.

National Committees I serve on: Public Relations, Chair of the National Awards Committee, PTSD Substance Abuse Committee, Chair of the Convention and Leadership Planning Committee.

I am serving in my 9th year as Mayor of Park River, North Dakota, a city of 1,700. The budgets I work with in the city along with our municipal utilities and landfill total in the \$6.7M to \$7.1M each year.

100% disability from Agent Orange and PTSD.

I promise to give you 110% for 2 more years if re-elected! Use me or lose me!

Kerwin B. Stone

Board of Directors, At-Large



I have been practicing law in Beaumont, Texas, since 1978. My practice includes corporate law, contracts, banking, and real estate. My two sons have blessed me with four marvelous grandchildren. My older son is a fighter pilot, and my younger son is a Methodist pastor. I am a Christian and an active member of my church.

I earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in mathematics from Southern Methodist University, and then entered the Air Force in 1970. I was assigned to Ko Kha AS, Thailand, in 1972. I visited other scenic locations throughout SEA, including Vietnam, until my tour ended in 1973. I separated as a Captain in 1975 and went to law school at The University of Texas on the GI Bill.

I joined VVA as a life member in 1993. From 1999 to 2005, I was treasurer of Chapter 292, and have been its President since 2005. From 2010 to 2014, I was Secretary of the Texas State Council; I have been Vice President of TSC since 2014. I have also been Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Foundation of Texas since 2010. I am an Agent Orange victim. VVA is both a family and a passion for me.

I have formed hundreds of organizations. I have served on the Boards of many companies (both for-profit and nonprofit), and as a school board Trustee. I believe in the traditional American values we grew up with. My experience can help to make VVA a better organization.

Sandie Wilson

Board of Directors, At-Large

Herb Worthington

Board of Directors, At-Large



When I first came home from Vietnam in December of 1970 after spending just under twelve months there, all I wanted was "let me get on with my life." I went back to work as a layout artist for JCPenney. I've worked

as an illustrator, Production Manager, Art Director, Marketing Director, and owned my own ad agency. After 9-11 and our troops going into Iraq, I became an accredited service officer with VVA. I did that for almost six years.

I have been a Chapter President (779 in NJ), State Council President and Task Force Chair (Vets Against Drugs and Violence). For the past four years I have been the Region Two (DE, NJ, NY & PA) Director and sat on the National Board of Directors for VVA. I also serve as the National Chair of the Agent Orange/Dioxin and Other Toxic Substances Committee which has become a hot topic for Vietnam Veterans. Both for the Blue Water Navy Vets and those that had Boots on the Ground. It has also affected our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and we are also fighting for the Iraq and Afghanistan vets who were exposed to Toxins and their children. I am the Assistant Chair for the Public Affairs Committee, and I sit on the Benefits Committee as well as the Government Affairs Committee.

I am married to Angela Sorrentino for almost 47 years and have two Children, Mike and Karen. Mike has two children, Zachary and Isabella.

Jerry Yamamoto

Board of Directors, At-Large



I've been working very hard the past ten years as an At-Large Member of the National Board of Directors to support programs that will ensure the continuity and growth of Vietnam Veterans of America. I support our board's work at exploring new funding sources, such as soliciting advertisers for our website and *The VVA Veteran*, and partnerships in the business world, due to the possible reduction of funding from our Household Goods Donation Program. I am a strong supporter of our Veterans Health Council, which outreaches to health professionals who don't know they are treating veterans and to veterans who may not be aware of their eligibility for VA benefits. I endorse our legislative programs that support the military and veterans' rights and benefits with the VA.

As Chair of the National Minority Affairs Committee, I have been working at obtaining new members by outreach to our under-represented veteran populations in the American Indian, Asian American/Pacific Islander and Black communities, with recruiting at community events, conferences and at the national congressional ethnic caucus conferences.

Personally, I'm focusing specifically on veteran issues, such as ensuring the continuity of VVA, working extensively on legislative issues such as toxic exposures, homeless and drug treatment programs, employment issues, and permanent housing for veterans at the West Los Angeles VA Hospital. I support living the VVA founding principle of "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another." ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REGIONAL

John Miner

Board of Directors, Region 1



My name is John J. Miner, I am running for re-election to Region One Director.

Born: Bennington Vermont Feb 22, 1948.

Married: for 37 years (lost my Wife June 14, 2009, have three children, two boys

and a daughter.

Joined the Army right out of High School, July 1966, found myself in Vietnam on Dec 10, 1966 spent a year in-country and then went to Fort Bragg, NC in Jan 10, 1968, left to go back to Vietnam in June 10, 1968 for another tour. Come home in June 10, 1969 and left the military.

Come home had a lot of problems, finally in 1972 got married and the rest is good. Since 1990 I have been active with VVA. I have been a Chapter President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. I started a State Council in Vermont 1996 and became the President for 17 years also spent time as VP. In 1999 I ran for Region One Director and was elected and did that until 2003.

A few years ago I ran for Region One Director again and won and have been in the position since. I have sat on some important National Committees. One being the Financial Committee and I learned the nuts and bolts of our Org. Also have sat on the Government Affairs, Public Affairs which all play a very big role in VVA.

What I can offer you is almost twenty-five years of service to my brothers and sisters in this org.

Michael King

Board of Directors, Region 1



I was born, raised and educated in the Wolverine State (Michigan). After High School I volunteered for the Army in August of 1966.

I served in Vietnam from July of 67 to July of 68. I was assigned to the 92nd Military Police

Battalion in the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut/Cholon area. TET of 68 added additional duties throughout III & IV Corps. After Vietnam I served at Fort Bliss, Texas as the Assistant Training NCO for the Redeye Gunner School. I was Honorably discharged on my 21st birthday, August 22, 1969.

I worked in the Franchised Food business and supervised 5 stores with over 150 employees. I entered the Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning Trade in 1983 and remain self employed in the HVAC Industry today. Currently I live in Epping, NH, with my wife and 2 college age children.

I am a member of numerous Veterans Organizations, VFW, American Legion, DAV and VVA. As an at-large member since 1988, I became a Charter Member of 992 in 2007. In 2009, I was elected Chapter VP and selected to represent my Chapter

as a Delegate to the National Convention and State Council. I have attended 3 National Conventions.

Chapter 992 is very active in our State and is currently the largest Chapter in New Hampshire. I also edit the Chapter Newsletter "Chapter Chatters."

I believe our time to connect with our fellow Veterans is now. If elected, I will work with the State Councils to insure our VVA Legacy.

Ted Wilkinson

Board of Directors, Region 2



I am seeking to be elected as the Region 2 Director. As a life member of VVA for over sixteen years I have served ten years as a chapter vice president, two years as a chapter secretary, and am currently on my ninth year as a New York

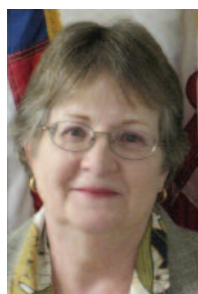
State Council director. In the thirteen years that I have served the New York State Council as either a delegate or director I have never missed a meeting. I am familiar working at the National level having served four years as the Alternate Director for two different Region 2 Directors. I continue to serve for the past eight years on our national POW/MIA Veterans Initiative Committee and the past six years on the national Veterans Against Drugs Task Force.

I served 2 tours in Vietnam, enlisting in the US Army in 1969 receiving among others, two Bronze Stars with valor and the Army Commendation Medal. In 2012 I was inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame. I am very active in veterans legislation and serve on the advisory council for US Congressman Chris Collins and the advisory council for Veterans Affairs Healthcare system in Western NY.

Warsaw NY has been my home for decades. I'm very pleased to say that Nyla, my wife of 36 years, has helped me with my veterans advocacy all these years and fully supports my candidacy for region 2 director.

Sara McVicker

Board of Directors, Region 3



I am seeking re-election as Region 3 Director so I can continue to work for the interests of our members, the Chapters and the State Councils. Over the two terms that I have served in this position, I have kept you informed, asked for and

represented your opinions, listened to your concerns, and been available to help you. I will continue to do so if re-elected. Because I believe that an informed membership is essential to sustain our organization, I send all Chapters an update report after each National Board meeting and make my e-mail address available for questions and concerns.

In addition to my responsibilities as a Regional Director, I serve as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee. I also serve as Chair of the Budget Oversight Subcommittee which monitors VVA's expenditures and provides the Finance Committee with reports. If re-elected, I will continue to ask questions and to insist on financial accountability.

VVA's growth is because of the work of Chapters and State Councils in our communities. It is essential that that the views and opinions of the membership are sought and considered before major decisions about our future are made, and that decisions are made with input from the entire National Board of Directors, the State Council Presidents, and our members.

It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve you and I ask for your continued support and your vote.

Ben L. Humphries

Board of Directors, Region 4



We can make a difference. We need to have a voice that represents Region 4 not just a select few. Working together we will address any and all complaints or problems in our Region and improve where we need to. One of the

first projects I want to do is to have a Region 4 Conference where we will have seminars to provide the information and tools to be a better leader, Chapter and Council to help our fellow veterans and their families. Working with Council Presidents we will put together Agent Orange Town Hall meetings, and Veteran Treatment Courts where we can.

I have served in leadership capacity on the Chapter and State level. I currently serve as President Florida State Council. I served as Director Vietnam Veterans Assistance Foundation 1998 (now known as Veterans Assistance Foundation). Have served and founded various 501c3 Foundations dealing primarily with veteran issues. Have been active with VVA National on committees over 20 years.

Being your voice and vote on the National BOD I want to insure VVA continues its focus on veteran issues and taking care of our dependents.

National Directors are responsible to you the member. I will serve you to the best of my ability and will take my responsibility as Region 4 Director seriously. I want to insure we live up to our motto "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another". I am asking for your vote for Region 4 Director. "Together Then, Together Now."

Craig Tonjes

Board of Directors, Region 4



My name is Craig Tonjes. I'm running for Director of Region IV. I was born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1949, and spent most of my childhood in Northwest Ohio. After high school graduation in 1967, I spent a year and a half at The Ohio State University,

and the University of Toledo, before entering the Army in the summer of 1969. I did basic at Fort Jackson, AIT at Fort Eustis (Cobra Crew Chief), and 6 months at Fort Hood before being sent to Nam. With A 227th, 1st Calvary, I crewed a Huey UH-1H, flying missions over III Corp out of Lai Khe, and II Corp from Camp Holloway, serving from August, 1970 to April, 1972. After the military, I returned to Ohio State, earning a BA in History in 1974. In 1975, I married my wife Becky. We raised three boys, giving us at least 8 grandchildren! I have been appraising real estate since 1977, currently out of my home. I've been self-employed since 1988.

I am a member of the VFW, American Legion, 1st Calvary Association, VHCMA, and VVA. I have served as Vice President and President of my chapter, and as Treasurer, Secretary, and President of the Florida State Council. I served on the National Constitution Committee, and two National task forces, heading one. My mission statement is quite simple: to serve VVA, Region IV, all members, and all Veterans, in our quest for that which we have earned.

Dennis Cohoon

Board of Directors, Region 5



Dennis was drafted December 2nd, 1965. He was a graduate of Radio Operator School, NCO School, Officers Candidate School, Airborne Training, and Special Forces Training. He went to Vietnam, September 26th, 1967, and was a rifle platoon

leader until January 10, 1968, when he was promoted to 1st lieutenant and reassigned as a ranger company platoon leader until DEROS on September 26th, 1968.

Dennis graduated from Ferris State College on November 21st, 1977, with a Bachelor of Science in Business (Accountancy). He became a partner in the James E Jones Certified Public Accounting firm. In May 1985 Dennis became Owner/Broker of Century 21 Suburban with 2 offices employing 84 sales agents. In January 1992, because of his strong leadership skills, he was recruited by a large dealership to be their manager. He remained there until his retirement in 2009.

Joined Chapter 267 Dearborn, Michigan in November 2009 and has been the Treasurer since 2010. He has been the Michigan State Council Treasurer since 2012. In 2013 Dennis was elected as your Region 5 Director and presently serves on the Convention Planning Committee, Constitu-

(continues)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REGIONAL

tion Committee, Veteran Benefits Committee, Government Affairs Committee, PTSD and Substance Abuse Committee, and Membership Affairs Committee.

Dennis has been married 31 years and has 2 children.

Dennis has always given his all for those who depend on him and will continue to do so, in all his endeavors.

Mike Demske

Board of Directors, Region 6

Allen J. Manuel

Board of Directors, Region 7



My name is Allen J. Manuel: I am running for Region 7 Director. Married 57 years to my wife, Norma, and have 2 Sons, 1 one deceased 4 Daughters, 14 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Retired from Amoco Prod.

Life member of VVA, A.V.V.A., D.A.V. and American Legion. Enlisted in US Army in 1956 until 1966.

I am a Charter member Chapter 632, Chapter Treasurer from 1994-98. Louisiana State Vice-President 1996 to 2000. Elected Region 7 Director in August 1999 till present. I am on the National Finance Committee since 2003. I will continue giving awards to each state for Chapter of the year, Point man and the Region 7 veteran of the year

I am a member of Chapter 689 of Angola, La. I have attended every National Convention and Leadership since 1995. In 2001 I was inducted in the Chapel of Four and in 2008 I received the Humanitarian Award from the Chapel of Four Chaplains

In 2002 I received VVA Achievement Medal and in 2007 was awarded the VVA Commendation Medal. I am very proud of my Region to continue working for the membership and assist all veterans.

I serve on the advisor board at the VA hospital since 1996. I traveled with SDIT to Vietnam in March 2003 where they returning to battlefields for the first time where their Fathers died.

I pledge to you I will serve Region 7 with Honor, Dedication, and enthusiasm as I have done for the last sixteen years.

Dennis J Andras

Board of Directors, Region 7



My name is Dennis J Andras, United States Army retired. I served in Vietnam in the 101st Airborne Division with the 2/502 Inf. from 1969 thru 1971. I'm married to Kathy Andras for 42 years and have two sons, one of which is an Iraqi war veteran.

I have served as President of Louisiana State Council 2006-2012, Vice President of Louisiana State Council 1998-2006, Louisiana State Council finance committee, Chapter 553 President, Chapter Vice President.

Currently I serve on two National Committees which are Agent Orange Committee as assist vice chair and Economic Opportunities Committee also on a task force, Veterans against Drugs. I have also lobby on Capitol Hill on behalf of Veterans issues.

At State level I'm the Constitutional Chair, President of our State Foundation and Board of Director for Chapter 553. Also I'm a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America and Life member of Associate of Vietnam Veterans of America. I'm also a Board of Director of the Louisiana Medal of Honor Park. I have been honor by the Governor of the State of Louisiana and the Plaquemine Parish President for my work on behalf of Veterans affairs and issues.

I believe that there should be lines of communications and information sharing between the general membership and the Region Seven Director. When elected I will work to insure that the general mem-

bership and Chapter Office along with State Council Officers in Region Seven are kept informed on a regular basis.

Ron Morgan

Board of Directors, Region 8

Tom Owen

Board of Directors, Region 8



1966 HS graduate. Enlisted in US Army Oct. 1966. Trained at the Como School, Ft. Gordon. Deployments: 1/68 to 6/68 2ND ID Korea. 7/68 to 7/69 36 sig. bn. Camp Evans RVN.

School at Eastman Kodak, worked 3+ years in printing industry. 1974 moved to Oregon, purchased 30 acres of timberland, hand built custom log home that Nadine and I still call home. Worked 17 years as forestry contractor providing forest management planning, tree planting and selective logging using draft horses to minimize environmental impact.

1990 licensed Realtor and continue to practice with Nadine, awarded the distinction of being in top 4% of all Coldwell Banker agents nationwide.

Community service: Originated/chaired "To Your Health" Summer Concert Series for Community Hospital/Chamber of Commerce—12 years. Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation Board—4 years. City of Lebanon Planning Commissioner—12 years. City of Lebanon Technical Advisory Board for Planning and Zoning—3 years.

VVA: VP Chapter 585—4 years. President Chapter 585—6 years. Originated scholarship endowment that distributes yearly scholarships to Veterans/family members. Oregon State Council VP—2 years. Oregon State Council President—2.5 years. Region 8 Director—4 years. Vice Chair National AO Toxic Substance Committee—1.5 yrs.

Chair Oregon AO Toxic Substance Committee—2 yr. Assisted with/participated in 12 AO town halls serving over 1700 veterans/family members in last 12 months including first international event/first Veterans Hospital event. Currently 5 more scheduled.

Dick Southern

Board of Directors, Region 9



My name is Dick Southern and I am seeking re-election to the Region 9 Director position with Vietnam Veterans of America. I served in the Army as a Specialist 4 and a Hospital Ward Technician in B Co. 5th Medical Battalion of the

Support Command of the 5th Infantry Division (Mech) from July 1966 to January 1968. I have been a member of VVA since 1996. I am a Life Member of VVA. I was elected Secretary of Chapter 391 in 1997 and still serve in that position.

I have been a California State Council delegate to the last 7 VVA Conventions. I was elected to the office of the California State Council President in June of 2002 and then to Second Vice President in 2004. I have served on the VVA National Membership Affairs Committee since 2001. I have been a member of the VVA National Veterans Benefits Committee since 2005. I was elected Region 9 Director in 2007.

I will continue to bring input from Region 9 to the National Board of Directors and let the members in Region 9 have a more active role in the decisions that are made. I strongly believe that "Communication is the key."

I ask for your vote and promise that you will continue to have an advocate to the many issues of the Vietnam Veterans of America with me as your Region 9 Director. ■

CANDIDATE SUBMISSIONS: The Elections Committee asked candidates to submit biographical statements with photos to *The VVA Veteran*. The rules were simple: 500 words for officers; 250 words for Board of Directors candidates. The statements are printed as is, without editorial review.

