



# “VVA 970 WELCOME HOME NEWSLETTER”



## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



### CHAPTER 970 NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS



**AUGUST  
2018  
VOLUME VIII**

**NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS  
ABANDON ANOTHER**

**UNTIL THEY  
ALL COME  
HOME**

### VVA 970 MEMBERSHIP



National Chapter Membership 104

89 Life Members    15 Individual

7 Inactive Members

### NEXT CHAPTER MEETING 10 SEPTEMBER 2018

**Monday - 7:00 PM**

**Spouses Welcome**

Dawson County Professional Development Center  
30 Main Street Dawsonville

### VSO Cindy Hayes Will Be In Dawsonville

19 September 2018    Third Wednesday

Cindy will be at the Dawsonville City Hall  
Wednesday 10:00AM to 2:00PM 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

### FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

### VVA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Congratulations to all.

A new membership milestone, 84,000+

### VVA 970 CHAPTER PICNIC

Saturday    29 September 2018    2:00 PM

Home of Linda Moore

203 Brights Way    Dawsonville 30534

BBQ and Hot Dogs

Please bring “sides” and “sweets”

[gunvols@aol.com](mailto:gunvols@aol.com)    706-300-7034

### DR. LARRY ANDERSON NAMED MASTER PRECEPTOR AT NATIONAL MEETING

### VVA 970 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

**October 26 - 28, 2018**

**Friday – Saturday - Sunday  
Downtown Dawsonville, GA**

**SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER  
MEET THE CHALLENGE**

### BUNKER SCUTTLEBUTT

**JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST**

**FRIDAYS 7:30 AM**



All  
Veterans  
and  
Friends  
Welcomed

**Billie's Country Kitchen**  
731 GA 9 N. Dawsonville, GA

**R.O.M.E.O.**  
Retired Old Men Eating Out

Cash and credit cards accepted  
Thank You, James & Michelle



## VVA 970 CHAPTER SUPPORT GROUP

### "FAMILY FIRST PROGRAM"



Chapter Chaplin Vic Wallace

### THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

#### SICK CALL

Patti McGuirt	Bill & Judy Sexton
Ken Justice	Kimball & Linda Schenck
Matt Pesce,	Hezzie & Sue Patrick
Jim Clark	Cindy Alvey - Steve's Sister
Jane Day	Louise Sparks –
Paula Harris	Ray Sparks' Mother
Pam	Don Gage - Having carpal
Hamalainen's	tunnel and trigger finger
son	surgery

Our Chapter, all veterans, and friends  
Please keep these member and families in your  
thoughts and prayers

Let Vic know of any updates or needs within  
our Chapter Family

Contact Vic to join the support group  
[VWallace2@msn.com](mailto:VWallace2@msn.com) 706-265-4913

Thank you to those serving with the  
Chapter Support Group

### OFFICER REPORTS

**POW/MIA** - Larry Harris  
There was no change in status

POW/MIA Day Service 21 Sept 2018 – Georgia  
Vietnam POW/MIA's remembered.

North Korea returns 55 cases of missing  
veterans remains

**Public Relations** - Wayne Watkins  
Nothing new to report

**Secretary Report** - Don Brown  
Don read the July meeting minutes with no  
additions or corrections.

**Treasurer Report** – Not present

## OUR FAMILIES SERVING IN THE MILITARY



US ARMY

Cpt. Ceara Riggs  
Wisniew  
Cpt. Dorn Majure  
Maj. John Veneza  
Maj. William Anderson  
Col. Mike Wallace



US NAVY

Sean Parrish  
Chelsey Kukendall  
Lt Cmdr Jason Nowell



US MARINES

Jason Ardeneaux

**PLEASE REMEMBER THEIR FAMILIES.**  
**They Are Serving, Too**



### MILITARY HUMOR

When the sergeant told our new commander that  
his driver could not participate in an upcoming  
field maneuver because she was pregnant, the  
enraged commander demanded to know just how  
pregnant she was.

The sergeant's reply: "Completely, sir."



My high school assignment was to ask a veteran  
about World War II. Since my father had served  
in the Philippines during the war, I chose him.  
After a few basic questions, I very gingerly asked,  
"Did you ever kill anyone?"

Dad got quiet. Then, in a soft voice, he said,  
"Probably. I was the cook."

Readers Digest Humor in Uniform



Thank you Dawson County  
for your votes for making us  
the 2017 Best Civic Club  
Serving Veterans

## IN THIS ISSUE

 **POW/MIA DAY SERVICE - 21 SEPTEMBER 2018** 

**GEORGIA VIETNAM POW/MIAs REMEMBERED**

 **RAMBO**  **U.S. Veteran Headlines** 

Breaking News | Online Deals for Vets | VA Benefits Info **REPORT**

 **VETERANS HELPING VETERANS AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITY** 

If you know of a veteran in need please contact a Chapter Officer.

 **CHAPTER PICNIC** 

The VVA 970 chapter picnic is for scheduled  
September 29 at 2:00 PM

 **VVA 970 ANNUAL MOONSHINE FUNDRAISER** 

October 26 - 28, 2018

 **VVA 970 – COMMUNITY INTEL ALWAYS OUT FRONT** 

**GET INVOLVED**

 **FRANK D. MERRILL RANGER CAMP REPORT** 

**Chuck Windham**

 **KOREAN WAR VETERAN IN NEED** 

**VVA 970 / HOME DEPOT PARTNERSHIP**

 **FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER** 

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**



## PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America



### VVA APPLAUDS HOUSE PASSAGE OF BLUE WATER NAVY ACT; CALLS ON SENATE TO FOLLOW SUIT ASAP

"VVA applauds the passage of H.R. 299, *The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018*, and we call on the Senate to delay no further and pass the companion bill, S.422. For far too many years, despite the overwhelming support of House members on both sides of the aisle, Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans have been thwarted in their quest to be accorded the same service-connected healthcare and benefits as their fellow 'boots-on-the-ground Vietnam veterans,'" said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America.

"Now, after today's vote on H.R. 299, these 'forgotten' sailors and Marines can see the light at the end of their tunnel growing bright for the first time in a long while," said Rowan. This bill, introduced by Rep. David Valadao (R-CA), would restore eligibility for VA healthcare and disability compensation for some 90,000 Blue Water Navy veterans, ensuring that those who served in the Navy off the coast of Vietnam will receive the medical treatment and compensation due to their exposure to Agent Orange.

### VA RAISES OPPOSITION TO BILL EXTENDING BENEFITS FOR BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

As reported August 1 by Nikki Wentling for *Stars and Stripes*, **Department of Veterans Affairs** officials urged senators Wednesday to vote against legislation that would extend VA benefits to sailors who served off the coast during the Vietnam War and claim their illnesses were caused by exposure to Agent Orange. Paul Lawrence, the VA's new undersecretary of benefits, told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee insufficient evidence exists to link the veterans to Agent Orange exposure. "We oppose this bill because the science is not there, and we depend on science," he said. "We care, so we keep looking."



### MORE CANCER TREATMENT OPTIONS OPENING TO VETERANS

As reported by Leo Shane on July 10 for *Military Times*, Veterans battling cancer could have easier access to cutting-edge treatments and experimental trials under a new partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and National Cancer Institute announced Tuesday. Department officials say the arrangement will not only provide better healthcare options to veterans but also hopefully provide new advancements for researchers working on cancer treatment breakthroughs.



### DR. LARRY ANDERSON NAMED MASTER PRECEPTOR AT NATIONAL MEETING



Family medicine physician **Larry Anderson** recently received the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Master Preceptor Award. Anderson, of Anderson Family Medicine in Dawsonville, was recently recognized at the 2018 ACOFP Convention and Scientific Seminars in Austin, Texas. The award recognizes Anderson for his dedication in precepting Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA-PCOM) DO students in the practice of family medicine.

### VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 970 "PATRIOTIC QUILT GIVE-AWAY"

ONLY 280 TICKETS AVAILABLE  
Ticket Donations Go To VVA 970  
Veterans Helping Veterans

"FREEDOM – LAND OF THE FREE"

Make your \$10.00 donation on this beautiful patriotic quilt by contacting any chapter officer or member with tickets. For ticket information or questions call 706-809-2573.



Mrs. Sylvia LaFalce, a local quilter, honored the Chapter with this patriotic quilt. She included the Vietnam Veterans of America patch in each of the corners.

### QUILT GIVE-AWAY DONATION \$10.00 A TICKET

Quilt Will Be Awarded When All The Tickets Are Gone



**News Flash**



**VVA 970 CHAPTER PICNIC**

Saturday 29 September 2018 2:00 PM  
Home of Linda Moore  
203 Brights Way Dawsonville 30534  
BBQ and Hot Dogs  
Please bring "sides" that would fit it and sweets  
[gunvols@aol.com](mailto:gunvols@aol.com) 706-300-7034

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE Gainesville Office**

311 Green St. NW Room 312  
Gainesville, GA 30501



Counties Served:

Dawson  
Forsyth  
Hall  
Lumpkin

**Staff:** Cynthia Hayes (Office Manager) Waymond Ray (VFSO 1)

**Phone:** 770-531-6060 **Fax:** 770-531-6061

**Email:** [chayes@vs.state.ga.us](mailto:chayes@vs.state.ga.us) or [waymond.ray@vs.state.ga.us](mailto:waymond.ray@vs.state.ga.us)

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, except on State holidays

Georgia Department of Veterans Services

<https://veterans.georgia.gov>



**U.S. Veteran Headlines**

Breaking News | Online Deals for Vets | VA Benefits Info

**THE RAMBO REPORT**

**MY HEALTH VET .COM**

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home>



**FRANK D. MERRILL RANGER CAMP REPORT**

**Chuck Windham**



The Ranger Camp has received funds to build a new "long overdue" NCO club. The Mountain Ranger Association has funds to increase their annual scholarship by \$1,000 each. He also reported that he continues to work on the breakfast at the camp with VVA 970 members and the camp staff.  
Thanks Chuck

## CHAPTER CORPSMAN - DOC LARRY ANDERSON

It's time again to update your shot record.

### Pneumonia immunization and the "new" shingles vaccine.

The shingles Vaccine is a 2 shot series. Even if you had the other shot you need this new series.

Also, it is not too early to start preparing for Fall and Winter. Not only yourself but your home with propane, firewood, and whatever else your needs are.

As always Larry honored us with his interns and their many varied backgrounds and military connections.

Thanks Larry



## NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER KOREAN WAR VETERAN IN NEED

Home Depot and VVA 970 will again help a veteran in need. A Korean War vet in Gainesville has not had a hot water heater for four years and has a leaky roof. Home Depot will contract the work through their partnership with our chapter. At the meeting Bill explained the Home Depot partnership and the process in contracting the work. All members present were in agreement with the project and helping a fella veteran.



## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

PLEASE JOIN US TO REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR POW/MIA'S  
FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 5:00 PM

PUBLIC WELCOME

WALK OF HONOR  
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK  
DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA  
Highway 9 North



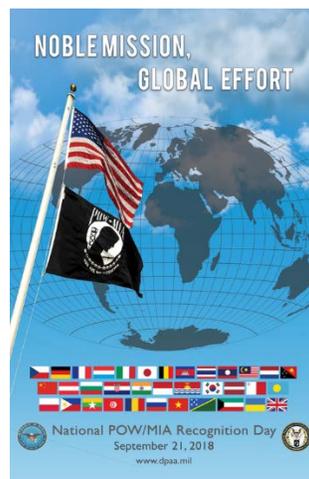
Pledge Of Allegiance

Invocation

POW/MIA Report

POW/MIA Prayer

Taps



Dawson County High School  
JROTC

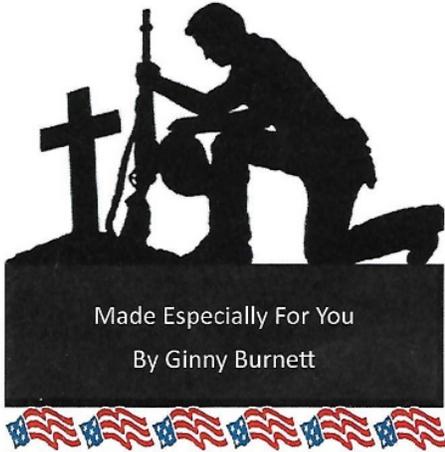
Missing Man Table

Presentation of POW/MIA Flag

Recognition of Georgia  
POWs/MIAs With Bell Salute

## 93 YEAR OLD PATRIOTIC GRANDMOTHER

Mrs. Ginny Burnett (a local patriotic grandmother) donated a large number of her hand made caps to our Chapter. Each cap included a card with her picture, a prayer to our troops, and were wrapped in patriotic paper. As a Chapter we voted to share her caps with the North Georgia Health Hospice "WE HONOR VETERANS" program. A very special VVA 970 Thank You to Mrs. Ginny.



Great-Grandma Ginny  
93 Years Old

If ever there was a time for a prayer to be heard.  
And now is the time, to hear every word.  
Now that our boys called soldiers have gone,  
Please march with them and keep them strong.  
Stand beside them if they have to fight,  
And in the darkness be their light.  
Don't desert them, march in their faith,  
So they'll be here when the morning breaks.

Bring them home safe and sound,  
Across the waters to peaceful ground.  
Home to loved ones, mother's wives, daughters, sons,  
Bless them all, each and every one.

They stand for freedom and make our flag true,  
These boys called soldiers for the red, white and blue.  
A prayer for a soldier, please let it be heard,  
And please Lord, hear every word.

A prayer for a soldier, with the job to be done,  
Please bring them home, these soldiers your sons.  
Please bring them home, the soldiers, your sons.

**AMEN.**



## DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

## POW/MIA REPORT

### SPECIAL REPORT NORTH KOREA



Larry W. Harris

27 July 2018: United Nations Command returned 55 cases of remains from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea on the 65th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement. Defense POW / MIA Accounting Agency personnel are preparing the remains for transfer back to the United States

Members of the command and the Osan community were on hand at the arrival ceremony.

The remains of American service members from the Korean War have been transferred out of North Korea, according to a White House statement, fulfilling a key agreement Pres. Trump and Chairman Kim reached during last month's summit in Singapore.

(Photo by U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Ashley Tyler.)



# UNG UNIVERSITY of NORTH GEORGIA™

**Christy K. Orr**  
Assistant Director of Student Life, Veteran and Adult Learner Programs  
Fax: 678-717-3467

**My Office Locations - Summer 2018**  
Monday – Thursday: Dahlonega Campus  
Friday: Gainesville Campus  
Oconee, Cumming, & Blue Ridge:  
As Needed Basis

**Dahlonega Campus:** Hoag Student Center 319  
Phone: 706-867-2503

**Gainesville Campus:** Dunlap/Mathis 120  
Phone: 678-717-3875

**University of North Georgia**  
PO Box 1358  
Gainesville, GA 30503

**VETERANS AT UNG**

## VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Gainesville Office



CINDY HAYES, VSO  
770-531-6060  
311 Green St Room 315  
Gainesville, GA 30501

### NE Georgia/Oakwood CBOC

Marie Lundquist – Veterans Field Service Officer  
404-321-6111 Ext. 8225

Georgia Department of Veterans Services  
<https://veterans.georgia.gov>

## “WELCOME HOME” VVA 970 NEWSLETTER

	Contact Larry Harris 706-265-7020 <a href="mailto:sgtlwh@hotmail.com">sgtlwh@hotmail.com</a>
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## VETERANS CHOICE ACT LINKS

[www.va.gov/opa/choiceact](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact)

[www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/faqs.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/faqs.asp)

[www.benefits.va.gov/TAP](http://www.benefits.va.gov/TAP)

[www.va.gov/opa/toolkit](http://www.va.gov/opa/toolkit)

## VVA NATIONAL CONTACTS

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
800-VVA-1316

VVA VETERANS BENEFITS  
[BENEFITSFORUM.ORG/REPASPX](http://BENEFITSFORUM.ORG/REPASPX)

VVA VETERANS HEALTH COUNCIL  
[www.veteranshealth.org](http://www.veteranshealth.org)

ASSOCIATES OF VVA  
[www.avva.org](http://www.avva.org)



## CONTACT US - CHAPTER OFFICERS

President Bill Martin 706-809-2573  
[C130bill@gmail.com](mailto:C130bill@gmail.com)

Vice President Wayne Watkins 706-429-5002  
[wcwatkins2000@windstream.net](mailto:wcwatkins2000@windstream.net)

Vice President Larry Harris 706-265-7020  
[sgtlwh@hotmail.com](mailto:sgtlwh@hotmail.com)

Secretary Don Brown 678-779-2584  
[rebdon@windstream.net](mailto:rebdon@windstream.net)

Treasurer Dan Pichon 706-265-4480  
[dspchon@windstream.net](mailto:dspchon@windstream.net)

## VVA 970 WEBSITE

	Visit our website <a href="http://www.VVA970.com">www.VVA970.com</a> Roy Riggs – VVA 970 Web Master
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## VETERANS WORKING TOGETHER



VVA 970

DAWSON COUNTY  
CHAPTER 970  
P.O. Box 1205  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
[www.VVA970.com](http://www.VVA970.com)



VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS AFFAIRS  
P.O. Box 1313  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
678-779-2584



AMERICAN LEGION

Post 247 meets second  
Tuesday monthly 50  
Campground Center Plaza  
off Lumpkin Campground  
Road at 7:00 PM



MOAA

Military Officers Association  
of America, meets the third  
Thursday monthly for lunch  
at the Golden Corral,  
Cumming, GA



VETERANS 3 GUN

VETERANS 3 GUN  
[veterans3gun@gmail.com](mailto:veterans3gun@gmail.com)  
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Dawsonville GA 30534