

# "VVA 970 WELCOME HOME NEWSLETTER"

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 970

CHARTER - DAWSON COUNTY GA

FREEDOM IS



NOT FREE



UNTIL THEY



ALL COME HOME

JULY 2017

Volume VII

## VVA 970 MEMBERSHIP



Chapter Membership = 104  
88 Life Members  
Life membership is \$100.00

## NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

**August 14, 2017 Monday - 7:00 PM**

Dawson County Professional Development  
Center 30 Main Street Dawsonville

## AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER

Attorney Michelle Wilson specializes in VA and surviving spouse benefits and elder issues. Also wills and trusts.

## VSO IN DAWSONVILLE

Cindy Hayes will be at the Dawsonville City Hall  
Wednesday 10:00AM to 2:00PM 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
16 August 2017

## In This Issue



## VVA 970 - Always Out Front

VVA 970 News / Bullets

Thank You – Flags & Markers

Walk of Honor Bricks

Family Support News

POW/MIA \* VA Report David K.

Veterans Receive Certificate Of Honor

Guest Speaker

Veteran / Military Contact Information

VVA 970 Calendar

## BUNKER SCUTTLEBUTT

A military base commander called to complain that the weather-forecasting software kept reporting unexplainable wind shifts.

"Do you know where the sensor is located?" my coworker asked.

"Of course," he responded. "It's where we park the helicopters."

Angelo Giordano, Bellevue, N



## JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST

FRIDAYS 8:00 AM

**Billie's Country Kitchen**

731 GA 9 N. Dawsonville, GA

All Veterans Welcomed

## R.O.M.E.O. S

Retired Old Men Eating Out  
Cash and credit cards accepted



## SICK CALL



Pam De Lyra, Patti Mcquirt, Pam Hamalainen, Mike McCue, Ken Justice, Don Tackett, Hezzie & Sue Patrick, Larry & Paula Harris, Terry Egle, Matt Pesce, John Bryant, Cindy Alvey (Steve's Sister) has been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer, and Jane Day has lung cancer.

Please keep our Chapter Family in your prayers.

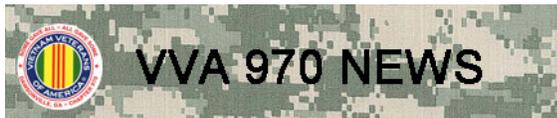
## VVA 970 CHAPTER SUPPORT GROUP

"FAMILY FIRST PROGRAM"

Chapter Chaplain Vic Wallace

Please let Vic know of any updates or needs  
Within our Chapter Family

[Vlwallace2@msn.com](mailto:Vlwallace2@msn.com) 706-265-4913



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

### 970 BULLETS



Gary Pichon has been appointed by the Dawson County Commission to serve as Chair for the Long Range Planning Committee.



Thanks to Bill Sexton for your letter to the editor, "Always Remember," recapping the Flags and Markers in Dawsonville



Two of our members are in the process of getting assistance through Home Depot. Ultimately we could use some help from all of you no matter your limitations.



### INDEPENDENCE DAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY FLAGS & MARKERS IN DAWSONVILLE

#### THANKS TO ALL THAT CAME OUT

DAWSONVILLE



Alan Ferg – Al Ardeneaux – Bill Martin – Bill Sexton – Bill Thacker  
Curtis Anderson – Don Brown – Jackie Johnson – Hynes Johnson  
Jim McGuirt – James Swafford – Larry Harris  
Tom Quintrell – Tommy Matera

Special salute to Al and Alan for serving as team leaders



#### BILLY'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

The "Bunker" is now accepting credit cards as well as cash. Join us Friday mornings for good food, lively talk, and the latest on something you did not know. .



### WALK OF HONOR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK DAWSONVILLE

#### ORDER YOUR OWN BRICK

Eligibility requirements are to have served with honor in a branch of the United States Armed Forces.

COST: \$25.00 per brick  
Veterans Affairs of Dawson County



**OUR FAMILIES SERVING IN THE MILITARY**



Please Remember Their Families.



They Are Serving Too.

 US ARMY	Cpt. Ceara Riggs 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



Col Wallace & Family

**CORRECTION**

Col Mike Wallace, son of Vic & Duane, is an infantry officer, not a chaplain, serving in Afghanistan



**MOUNTAIN MOONSHINE FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER**

27-29 October 2017

Bob Eikenberry, Chairman



Bob is gearing up for the Moonshine Festival. This year we have teamed up with Home Depot. They will be offering a craft shop for the young children. This should help with the amount of people stopping by our booth. Lots more to come.

Please contact Bob 770-823-0860 [eikenberrybob@gmail.com](mailto:eikenberrybob@gmail.com)



**VVA 970 / HOME DEPOT PARTNERSHIP**

If you know of a veteran in need please contact one of our chapter officers. This program is open to all veterans.

VVA 970 is the only local point of contact - partner with Home Depot.



**CHAPTER CORPSMAN DR. LARRY ANDERSON'S REPORT**

**COUNTY APPROVES SCRAP TIRE STORAGE ORDINANCE**

The Dawson County Board of Commissioners last week approved an ordinance that will contribute to the health and safety of county citizens by helping to reduce habitats for mosquitoes and rodents to breed and spread disease. The ordinance includes regulations for the proper storage and disposal methods of used and scrap tires within the county. (Dawson County News Allie Dean)



Dr. Larry Anderson



## CHAPTER T-SHIRTS



VVA 970 is looking at new t-shirts at a “good” price  
If you know anyone in that business please let Bill Martn know 706-809-2573



We also have a few of the blue Chapter t-shirts left @ \$10.00  
Contact Don Brown - 678-779-2584

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

LAST CALL CERTIFICATES OF HONOR (COH) , STATE OF GEORGIA

After last month’s meeting a few of the officers were approached by members asking about receiving this honor. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED this award, please contact Bill Martin [c130bill@gmail.com](mailto:c130bill@gmail.com) or Wayne Watkins [wcwatkins2000@windstream.net](mailto:wcwatkins2000@windstream.net) . PLEASE READ WHAT WE SEND OUT. The availability of this item was mentioned numerous times in the Bulletin Board and Newsletter and there was NO response till after the presentation last month.

## POW/MIA

## DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY – DPAA



AS OF 15 JUNE 2017



Larry W. Harris

### Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War

	Vietnam	Laos	Cambodia	China	Total
Original Missing	1,973	573	90	10	2,646
Repatriated and Identified	717	276	42	3	1038
Remaining Missing	1,256	297	48	7	1,608

Of the remaining 1,256 Americans still unaccounted for in Vietnam, 470 are in a “non-recoverable” category. This means that as a result of rigorous investigation, we have conclusive evidence the individual perished, but do not believe it possible to recover his remains. On rare occasions, new leads can arise that bring a case back to an active status.

### Field Operations

- The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) plans to conduct four Joint Field Activities (JFAs) this fiscal year in Vietnam. Each JFA involves approximately 95 U.S. personnel plus their Vietnamese counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for a period of approximately 30 days per JFA.
- Recovered remains believed to be those of Americans are transferred to DPAA’s Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for identification by forensic anthropologists.
- The 127th JFA began May 6 and continues through June 18, 2017. Recovery teams plan to excavate sites in Quang Nam, Quang Tri, and Nghe An Provinces.
- The 128th JFA is scheduled to begin July 29 and continue through September 10, 2017. Recovery teams are scheduled to excavate sites in Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue, and Ha Tinh Provinces.



VETERAN AFFAIRS      DAVID KLAITZ's REPORT      12 June 2017  
Thank you David for keeping us informed



July 10, 2017

**Veteran Affairs Report to VVA Chapter 970**

**Quick Notes Bulletins (Contact David Klaitz at [jdavidkins@aol.com](mailto:jdavidkins@aol.com) for info.)**

**1. Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act.** Senator Isakson prepares and Trump signs into law on June 23. The Act gives VA the right to fire employees for poor or wrongful performance and Protects Whistleblowers.

**2. Explore My Benefits.** VA issues list of benefit categories available to Vets. Links provided for each category. List includes i.e. career, health care, spouse/child, resting place and many more. A handy tool for all Vets.

**3. I.U. and Soc. Sec. not duplicative.** Trump Administration recognizes that Individual Unemployability and Social Security benefits are not duplicative. The Administration declares their proposal a non-starter. Congress won't o.k.

**4. Vet Groups Fear Repeal of Obamacare.** The repeal of Obamacare and reduced Medicaid may hurt benefits of Vets that are disabled or struggling with mental health issues. Group vows to stop Trumpcare.

**5.**

**( A). Low Back Pain Treatment Options. ( [www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2017/June](http://www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2017/June) )**

There is a revolution in new treatments for low back pain other than opioids. They include: Yoga, tai chi, massage therapy, physical therapy and spine manipulation by chiropractors. See bulletin for other resources.

**(B). My HealtheVet spotlights How to Manage Low Back Pain. ( [www.myhealth.va.gov/](http://www.myhealth.va.gov/) see My HealtheVet.** Article stresses self-care. For example: take a short rest after a strain or injury; use pillow to support back; walk often; use wrapped ice pack; exercise and use good posture. See bulletin for other resources.

**CERTIFICATES OF HONOR**



A project of the State of Georgia  
Governor's Office and Department  
of Veterans Services

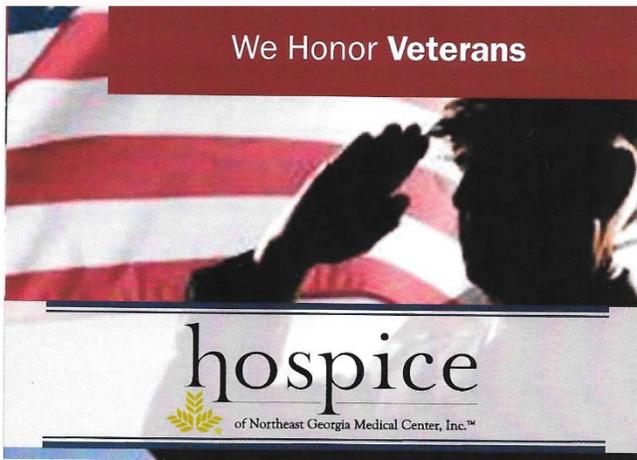
VVA 970 MEMBERS RECEIVE THEIR  
CERTIFICATE OF HONOR

Leo van Oubheusden was awarded his  
Certificate of Honor at the Bunker Friday morning

Charles Siegert was awarded his  
Certificate of Honor at the July monthly meeting

Thank You for your service, and "Welcome Home"

## GUEST SPEAKER -- CAROL JEWELL NEGA HOSPITAL HOSPICE



Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) is a proud partner of *We Honor Veterans*, a national project developed by National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to the program, one in four dying Americans is a veteran. These men and women often carry experiences from their military service that present unique challenges at the end of life.

The *We Honor Veterans* project gives Hospice of NGMC staff the tools to best meet those unique challenges. Special skills include:

- Counseling for physical or psychological trauma
- Knowledge of veteran benefits and VA organization
- Experience with service recognition ceremonies
- Respectful questioning
- Compassionate listening
- Grateful acknowledgement

Additional benefits include:

- A resource guide for each veteran that outlines services available to them in our community and state
- Military blankets and certificates of appreciation specific to the military branch of each veteran
- Participation in a regional hospice veteran's partnership
- Community outreach to veteran interest and service organizations

770-219-8888 or 1-888-572-3900  
[www.nghs.com/hospice](http://www.nghs.com/hospice)

## in Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center's **VETERAN-TO-VETERAN** ★ VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ★

### WHAT IS HOSPICE?

Hospice is a special kind of care for someone with a life-limiting illness. Hospice staff provide palliative medical care for pain control and symptom management. Hospice focuses on quality of life at the end of life.

### WHAT IS A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER?

Hospice volunteers provide company to patients and a break to caregivers. A volunteer provides non-medical support and assistance for the terminally ill and their family, either through direct contact or behind-the-scenes doing office work and special projects.

### WHAT IS "WE HONOR VETERANS"?

"We Honor Veterans" is a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program teaches respectful inquiry, compassionate listening and grateful acknowledgment to comfort hospice patients who have a history of military service and possibly physical and psychological trauma.



WE HONOR VETERANS



### WEEKLY BULLETIN BOARD

Check out the Chapter news & updates every Wednesday, and as needed, in "The Weekly Bulletin Board" via e-mail from President Bill Martin.

Let Bill know of any news "For the Good of the Chapter" and sick call updates

## 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 Service  
<https://veterans.georgia.gov>

### VSO IN DAWSONVILLE

Cindy Hayes will be at the Dawsonville City Hall  
Wednesday 10:00AM to 2:00PM 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
19 July 2017

### 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

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

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

VVA CAR DONATION PROGRAM  
800-435-7838

**VETERANS CRISIS 800-273-8255 PRESS 1**

## 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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### "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 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 third Thursday  
monthly at the Board of  
Education Professional  
Development Building in  
Dawsonville at 7:00 PM



VETERANS 3 GUN

VETERANS 3 GUN  
[veterans3gun@gmail.com](mailto:veterans3gun@gmail.com)  
Phone 706-525-1462  
P.O. Box 282  
Dawsonville GA 30534

## CALENDAR 2017 + MILITARY HISTORY

<b>JULY 2017</b>	1st	SATURDAY	1962 – Military Intelligence Branch Established - MI
	1st	SATURDAY	1863 – Battle of Gettysburg
	1st	SATURDAY	1898 – Battle of San Juan Hill
HOLIDAY	4th	TUESDAY	Independence Day - Holiday
	10th	MONDAY	Monthly Meeting – 7:00 PM Meeting Dawson Board of Education Bldg
	21st	THURSDAY	1969 – First Moon Landing – Armstrong & Aldrin
	23rd	SUNDAY	Parents Day
	27th	THURSDAY	Armistice Signed in Korea - Korean War Ends
	29th	SATURDAY	1775 – Birthday of Army Chaplain Corps & Judge Advocate General's Corps
	Weekly	FRIDAY	Breakfast at the Bunker - Every Friday 8:00 AM Billy's Country Kitchen - Dawsonville Hwy 9 North

<b>AUGUST 2017</b>	4th	FRIDAY	1790 - Coast Guard Birthday - 226 <sup>th</sup> 
	7th	SUNDAY	Purple Heart Day
	14th	MONDAY	Monthly Meeting – 7:00 PM Meeting Dawson Board of Education Bldg
	11th	FRIDAY	1972 - US Combat Troops Leave South Vietnam
	15th	TUESDAY	1945 – Japan Accepts Unconditional Surrender Terms
	16th	WEDNESDAY	VVA Rep at Dawsonville City Hall / Cindy Hayes 2nd floor 10:00 to 2:00
	20th	SUNDAY	Senior Citizens Day
	Weekly	FRIDAY	Breakfast at the Bunker - Every Friday 8:00 AM Billy's Country Kitchen - Dawsonville Hwy 9 North

<b>SEPTEMBER 2017</b>	2nd	SATURDAY	1945 V-J Day Japan Surrenders (Victory over Japan)
	4th	MONDAY	Labor Day - Holiday
	10th	SUNDAY	Grandparents Day
	11th	MONDAY	911 Patriot Day / Day Of Honor Ceremony Dawsonville
	11th	MONDAY	Monthly Meeting – 7:00 PM Meeting Dawson Board of Education Bldg
	16th	SATURDAY	POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony / Veterans Park Dawsonville Hwy 9 North
	18th	MONDAY	1947 - Air Force Birthday 70 <sup>th</sup>
	20th	WEDNESDAY	VA Rep at Dawsonville City Hall / Cindy Hayes 2nd floor 10:00 to 2:00
	22nd	FRIDAY	First Day of Autumn
	24th	SUNDAY	Gold Star Mother's / Family Day
	Weekly	FRIDAY	Breakfast at the Bunker - Every Friday 8:00 AM Billy's Country Kitchen - Dawsonville Hwy 9 North