



"VVA 970 WELCOME HOME NEWSLETTER"



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



CHAPTER 970 NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



UNTIL THEY
ALL COME
HOME

February
2018
VOLUME II

VVA 970 MEMBERSHIP



National Chapter Membership 105

88 Life Members 17 Individual

6 Inactive Members

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

12 MARCH 2018
Monday - 7:00 PM

Dawson County Professional Development
Center 30 Main Street Dawsonville

Remember the Time Change

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE CLOSED



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

"SPECIAL NOTICE"

VSO OFFICES CLOSED IN
NORTH GEORGIA

VSO IN DAWSONVILLE

Cindy must suspend her regular Dawsonville
itinerant service.

She will still be available to make home visits
after normal work hours for folks unable to
come to the office.

Cindy will let us know when things
return to normal.



Remember the Time Change
Sunday 11 march 2018

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

PRAYERS & THOUGHTS

Patti McGuirt , Ken Justice, Hezzie and Sue Patrick, Cindy Alvey (Steve's Sister), Vivian Hood (Cindy Hayes assistant), and those members that have asked not to be named.

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 706-265-4913

Thank you to those serving with the Chapter Support Group

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**



OFFICER REPORTS

POW/MIA

Larry Harris – nothing new, not much change.

Public Relations

Wayne Watkins – no report.

Secretary Report

Don Brown – minutes of January meeting read, no additions or changes from members.
Correspondence read – Thank You from NOA.

Treasurer Report

Dan Pichon – Gave balance as of 12-31-17, then read all checks written and for what purposes, deposits noted from donations, gave current balance, no questions or changes from members.





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

IN THIS ISSUE

News Flash



VA RESUMES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ID CARDS



**VA SECRETARY
PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE**



HOME DEPOT
Bill Taylor's ramp has been put on hold again due to weather.
We will pass along the dates as soon as known.



GEORGIA MILITARY VETERANS HALL OF FAME



**DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL JROTC
OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON CUTTING**



VVA 970 - ALWAYS OUT FRONT – GET INVOLVED

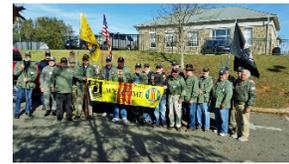


CHAPTER 970 COINS AND BROCHURE COMING SOON



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.





UPDATE



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC. DAWSON COUNTY CHAPTER 970

CHARTER: DAWSON COUNTY

BY-LAWS AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

BYLAWS

JULY 2014

Chapter Officers + Steve DeLyra, Allen Ferg,
Bill Thacker and Fred Weil

Table of Contents

MISSION: Revise the Chapter By-laws and
Chapter Procedure manuals

1. Article I	General
2. Article II	Membership
3. Article III	Officers
4. Article IV	Meetings
5. Article V	Finance
6. Article VI	Elections
7. Article VII	Amendments
8. Article VIII	Parliamentary Authority

Thank you to those who attended the 1st
meeting.

Much was accomplished with a much remaining.

A special thank you to Don Brown for his
research and documentation, and to all those
that contributed.



DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL JROTC OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON CUTTING

We would like to invite Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #970, to Dawson County Schools JROTC Open House. I have attached a flyer, as well as included additional information below.

When: Monday, March 12, 2018

Time: 4-5:30pm

Where: Dawson County High School- enter DCHS driveway closest to Highway 53
(1165 Perimeter Rd, Dawsonville, GA 30534)

Additional information: Ribbon Cutting & Refreshments

Please let me know if you have questions. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Tiffany B. Davis

Executive Assistant to Superintendent Dawson County Schools

PLEASE WEAR YOUR VVA COLORS

MEDICAL UPDATE



Dr. Larry W. Anderson "Chapter Corpsman"

The flu is still with us and a great threat. It is not too late for your flu shot. Remember to wash your hands and use hand sanitizer.

"Liver Fluke"

If you were in country Vietnam and were in fresh water you may have been exposed to Liver Fluke. It could have entered your body by drinking the water, open wounds or sores, eating raw fish, bathing or swimming in the water and walking thru rice fields. If you are having unexplainable stomach problems you may consider this.

REMEMBERING OUR U. S. AIR FORCE AIR CONTROLLERS

KEEPING AIR SPACE SAFE AND
BRINGING FIREPOWER TO THE BATTLE



THE RAMBO REPORT DAV NEEDS A DRIVER

The DAV in Gainesville is currently offering free transportation to the VA hospital in Atlanta for veterans. The driver is retiring and a replacement is needed to keep this service alive. If you are interested or know someone that may be please contact the DAV in Gainesville or Rambo: 770-536-3044



THANKS RAMBO



Disabled American Veterans
Individual and Family Services

1 Cherrywood Drive
Gainesville, Georgia
30504-5605
United States

website: <http://www.dav.org>

VVA GA STATE COUNCIL

Helping veterans, communities, and those serving in harms way

VVA STATE MEETING

FEBURARY 16-17, 2018

La Quinta Inn & Suites 3944 River Place Drive Macon, GA (478)475-0206

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 15-16, 2018 La Quinta Inn & Suites Macon, GA (478)475-0206

Contact Bill Martin if you would like to attend



VA RESUMES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ID CARDS

According to a January 29 *Stars and Stripes* article by Nikki Wentling, the purpose of the identification cards is to help veterans prove their military history without having to carry around their DD-214 certificates, which contain sensitive information. The new IDs do not replace VA medical cards or defense retiree cards, nor do they qualify as official government-issued identification.

VA SECRETARY – STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

From a January 30 VA press release: Under **President Trump's** leadership, VA is engaged in the largest transformation and modernization effort in decades. As part of this effort, the department is tackling head-on issues that have lingered for years, including accountability, whistleblower protection, improving transparency and customer service for Veterans and expanding suicide prevention and mental health care services. As outlined in tonight's address, VA will have another groundbreaking year in expanding and improving our services for Veterans, particularly when it comes giving them more choices over their health care decisions, and improving yet again on the timeliness of our decisions on Veterans' benefits.

VETERANS AFFAIRS WASTED CLOSER TO \$2 BILLION ON FAILED IT PROJECTS

The Veterans Affairs Department blew almost \$2 billion over three attempts to modernize the electronic health records system it uses to provide care to 9 million veterans.

A recent audit by the Government Accountability Office identified \$1.1 billion in wasted spending on two VA projects from 2011 to 2016, the Integrated Electronic Health Record and Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture.

Nextgov identified another \$600 million VA spent on a third program, the HealtheVet initiative, which began in 2001 but was deemed a "failed" project, according to the audit, and canceled in 2010. The HealtheVet spending was not included in GAO's audit because VA said it no longer possessed spending records. Agencies are required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation to keep contract records for six years after final payment, the audit notes.



VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DAWSON COUNTY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

President: Tim Costley

Vice President: Steve Pamplin

Secretary: Brenda Hatchcock

Treasurer: Rosland Chambers

POW/MIA



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY – DPAA



Larry W. Harris

Current as of: 5 January 2018

SUBJECT: VIETNAM-ERA STATISTICAL REPORT

BACKGROUND: The Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service, and the Department of State report the current numbers of Americans who are unaccounted for in Southeast Asia:

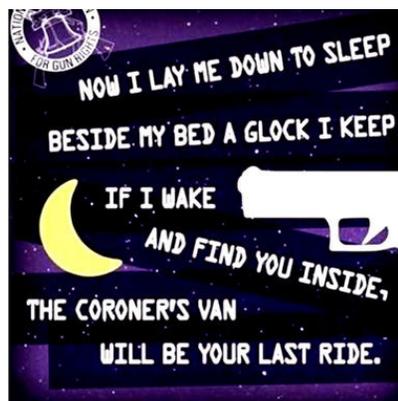
AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

COMPONENT	COUNTRY OF LOSS					TOTALS
	VN	VS	LA	CB	CH	
ARMY	10	410	71	23	0	514
NAVY	251	82	17	0	7	357
MARINE CORPS	22	160	16	4	0	202
AIR FORCE	174	124	183	16	0	497
COAST GUARD	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIVILIANS	1	19	6	5	0	31
TOTALS	458	795	293	48	7	1,601
PURSUIT STATUS						
FURTHER PURSUIT	208	497	270	41	7	1,023
DEFERRED	27	51	12	0	0	90
NON-RECOVERABLE	223	247	11	7	0	488
TOTALS	458	795	293	48	7	1,601

VN = VIETNAM, NORTH
CH = CHINA

VS = VIETNAM, SOUTH
LA = LAOS

CB = CAMBODIA





Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame

Chuck Windham - Newsletter Contributor



Dear GMVHOF 2017 Inductees, Previous Inductees, Nominators, Family & Friends,

Greeting,

You are cordially invited and highly encouraged to attend the Unveiling Ceremony of the 17 framed photos and citations of the GMVHOF Class of 2017.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM, Monday, 26 February 2018 on the Plaza Level (Main Floor), West Tower of the Floyd Veterans Memorial Building (2 Martin Luther King Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30034), across the street from the Georgia State Capital Building.

The addition of the 2017 class will bring the total to 83 of the great Americans who have been inducted into the GMVHOF since its inception in 2013.

Respectfully,

Rick White

Richard H. White
Chairman of the Board
Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame
Colonel, United States Army (Retired)
Cell: 678-427-0915 / rickwhite4750@gmail.com / <http://www.GMVHOF.org>

US ARMY RANGER CAMP MERRILL OPEN HOUSE 28 APRIL 2018



USMRA TROUT FISH FRY CAMP MERRILL DAHLONEGA, GA

Chuck Windham is looking for help with the U.S. Mountain Ranger Association annual Fish Fry at the 5th Ranger Training Battalion compound near the NCO Club.

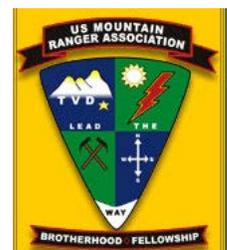
770-503-9681 H 678-6176449 C chuckwindham@bellsouth.net

U.S. MOUNTAIN RANGER ASSOCIATION RAFFLE

Three Guns And A Compound Bow Contact Chuck Windham

770-503-9681 H 678-617-6449 C chuckwindham@bellsouth.net

MUST PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK TO WIN





ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
COAST GUARD
VETERANS

WE SERVE WHERE YOU SERVE



GUEST SPEAKER
Ysiena Nieto

Navyfederal.org | [Navy Federal Credit Union](#) |
[Membership is a Big Deal](#)

www.navyfederal.org

Military Exclusive Offers

Low Rates, Special Offers, and Discounts for
Military Members.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO JOIN

Social Security Number*

Driver's license or government ID*

Current home address*

Plus previous address if at current address for less than
six months

Credit card or bank account and routing number
to fund your account
If applicable

Phone number

Email address

Navy Federal Credit Union
5140 Windward Parkway
Alpharetta, GA

Phone: 888-842-6328

Fax: 678-762-7990

Routing: 256-074-974

navyfederal.org

Business Hours

Lobby: M - F 0900-1700

Lobby Sat: 0900 – 1300

Drive Up: M – F 0900 - 1700

**LARGEST CREDIT UNION IN THE WORLD
WITH OVER 7 MILLION MEMBERS.**

Types: 0 Annual Fee Cards, Cash Back Cards,
Balance Transfer Cards, Travel Cards

Services: Checking & Savings, Business Loans,
Retirement & Insurance, Business Credit Card



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
sgtlwh@hotmail.com

VETERANS CHOICE ACT LINKS

www.va.gov/opa/choiceact

www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/faqs.asp

www.benefits.va.gov/TAP

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

ASSOCIATES OF VVA
www.avva.org



CONTACT US - CHAPTER OFFICERS

President Bill Martin 706-809-2573
C130bill@gmail.com

Vice President Wayne Watkins 706-429-5002
wcwatkins2000@windstream.net

Vice President Larry Harris 706-265-7020
sgtlwh@hotmail.com

Secretary Don Brown 678-779-2584
rebdon@windstream.net

Treasurer Dan Pichon 706-265-4480
dspchon@windstream.net

VVA 970 WEBSITE



Visit our website www.VVA970.com
Roy Riggs – VVA 970 Web Master

VETERANS WORKING TOGETHER



VVA 970

DAWSON COUNTY
CHAPTER 970
P.O. Box 1205
Dawsonville, GA 30534
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
Phone 706-525-1462
P.O. Box 282
Dawsonville GA 30534

THE WHITE HOUSE VA COMPLAINT HOTLINE

1-855-948-2311



ATLANTA HORSES FOR HEROES



Call (770) 330-0506

atlhorsesforheroes@gmail.com

<http://www.atlantahorsesforheroes.org>

Equine Assisted Therapy for Wounded Warriors

Located on the beautiful Chattahoochee
River within the Atlanta city limits,

We offer our therapeutic program free of charge to our
Heroes. Our program is financed solely through the
generosity of donors. Nonprofit Organization. ·

Atlanta Horses for Heroes offers therapeutic
horseback riding and other equine assisted therapies
for post 9/11 wounded warriors.

All activities are conducted by NARHA and EAGALA
certified instructors and mental health professionals.

Our facility is an outdoor paradise that is ideal for
those suffering from combat injuries...
both physical and emotional.

River Run Equestrian at Huntcliff offers a peaceful
environment for our wounded warriors
and their families



THE GOOD SHEPHERD CLINIC
45 MEDICAL CENTER DRIVE
DAWSONVILLE, GA 30534
(706) 429-9914

The Good Shepherd Clinic of Dawson County is
a non-profit center that will provide free non
emergent health and wellness services for
individuals that live, work or attend school in
Dawson County without access to insurance.



North Georgia Interfaith Ministries, Inc.
Helping the Homeless of Lumpkin County

JEREMIAH'S PLACE – DAHLONEGA

Guest Speaker Fiona McDaniel

Jeremiah's Place – Dahlonega. Part of North
Georgia Interfaith Ministries, Six apartments
on site. Families/single women can stay up to
90 days, but must be employed. No overnight
lodging. Support from fundraisers and
donations, looking for donors.
Annual budget \$110,000.

LAWRENCEVILLE VET CENTER

HEATHER BREMUS 404-728-4195

Separate from VA clinics, only does counseling to Vets with trauma, i.e. PTSD. Local center at Goodwill Career Center in Dawsonville, two times per month, first and third Wednesday at 2:30PM. Counsel couples, individuals or families. Need DD 214 showing service in combat zone.

Over 300 Vet Centers in the United States and Puerto Rico. Ones seeking counsel should call 404-728-4195 for appointment, do not drop in at Vet Center and expect assistance.

**COMBAT VETERANS
DAWSONVILLE
Support Group**

Free & Confidential - Readjustment Counseling Services
Focusing On The Importance Of Total Wellness By Improving Physical + Mental Health & Well-Being:

- > PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)
- > Conflict Resolution
- > Coping With Daily Challenges & Current Stressors
- > Communication Skills
- > Medical Concerns

Groups are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday @
1:00PM - 2:30PM

LOCATION:
Goodwill Career Center
66 N 400 Center Ln, Dawsonville, GA 30534

Don't wait until you break...
P.T.S.D.
Learn to cope through counseling.

Call 404-728- 4195 To Check For Eligibility

FREE JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE FOR U.S. VETERANS



Georgia Department of Labor

08:00 AM – 4:30 PM – Gainesville Career Center
2756 Atlanta Highway – Gainesville, GA 30504

Homeless, Transitioning, Disabled, Long-Term Unemployed
Deployed Guard & Reserve

*Get Help with
Case Management, Job Referrals, Interviewing, Resumes,
Personalized Intensive Service*

Contact: Stephen McGruder

Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist

Call or email for more information

770-718-2811, Email-stephen.mcgruder@gdol.ga.gov

Welcome Home Veterans

We are the people in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who welcome home war veterans with honor by providing quality readjustment services in a caring manner, assisting veterans and their family members toward a successful postwar adjustment in or near their communities



Free and Confidential

Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members for military related issues. **Veterans have earned these benefits through their service and all are provided at no cost to the veteran or family.** We offer Individual & Group Counseling, Marital & Family Counseling, Bereavement Counseling, Sexual Trauma Counseling (that occurred during active duty service or inactive duty training), Assistance in applying for VA Benefits, Medical Referrals/Liaison with VA Medical Centers, Employment Referral Information and referral to community resources. Majority of our counselors are also Veterans.

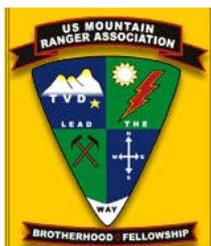
**Call (404)728-4195 for an appointment:
or Visit www.vetcenter.va.gov
to find the closest location**

Lawrenceville Vet Center
Readjustment Counseling Services

Located at:
930 River Centre Place
Lawrenceville, GA 30043



U.S. MOUNTAIN RANGER ASSOCIATION



USMRA P.O. Box 201 Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

The USMRA is a nonprofit organization

Chairman: Steve Hawk
Vice-Chairman for Operations: Chuck Windham
Vice-Chairman for Special Affairs: J.D. Kirby
Treasurer: Bob Suchke
Secretary: Bob Williams
Chaplain: Willard Langdon
Webmaster: Bob Williams



Healing4Heroes™
Not all wounds are visible

Piper Hill
President

www.healing4heroes.org
Piper@healing4heroes.org
Voicemail: 678-902-HERO (4376)

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

@healing4heroes   

678-902-4376



NORTH GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEMS
WE HONOR VETERANS

Hospice of 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.

770-219-8888 or 1-888-572-3900