



"VVA 970 WELCOME HOME NEWSLETTER"



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



CHAPTER 970 NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS



APRIL
2018
VOLUME IV

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

UNTIL THEY
ALL COME
HOME

VVA 970 MEMBERSHIP



National Chapter Membership 106

88 Life Members 17 Individual

5 Inactive Members

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

14 MAY 2018

Monday - 7:00 PM

Dawson County Professional Development
Center 30 Main Street Dawsonville

VSO Cindy Hayes Returns To Dawsonville

16 MAY 2018 Third Wednesday

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

MARCO'S PIZZA AND SPICE WINGS

12 Dawson
Market Way,
Suite 180
Dawsonville 400
Close to Kroger
fuel station



Don Brown met with the Manager of Marco's
and reports the following: Marco's runs a
Military Monday. The first Monday of each
month all orders are 20% off for Veterans.
The Veteran has to show an ID card to get
the discount.

If they get a good response they may extend it
to each Monday, but right now just the first
Monday. Their menu includes pizza, salads,
spice wings, a variety of chicken items, and
other selections.

News Flash



\$2,000 Scholarship Donation

The chapter has received a donation
designated for scholarships.

This will increase the
four scholarships to \$1,000 each.

HOME DEPOT

Bill Taylor's ramp is no longer on hold.
It is scheduled for 27 & 28 April 2018.
Please join us to help the Home Depot Team
and our VVA 970 brother. Bill will provide
additional information & directions.

BUNKER SCUTTLEBUTT

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST

FRIDAYS 7:30 AM

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



All
Veterans
and
Friends
Welcomed

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, Matt Pesce, Cindy Alvey (Steve's Sister), Vivian Hood (Cindy Hayes assistant), Steve DeLyra, Jim Clark, Louise Sparks (Ray's Mother, Judy Sexton (cancer), Jane Day, Paula Harris, Al Ardeneaux, 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
Harrington Memorial Pier Dedication – KIA VN

Three MIA accounted for:
MIA Air Force Col. Roosevelt Hestle, Jr
MIA Air Force Pilot Col. Peter J. Stewart
Army Staff Sgt. Marshall F. Kipina

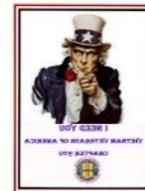
Full report in newsletter

Public Relations - Wayne Watkins
Thanks to all that attended the Vietnam War Veterans Day Program, and The Dawson County News for their coverage on VVA 970 scholarships.

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary Report - Don Brown
The March minutes were read and approved as reported.

Treasurer Report - Dan Pichon
Dan reported the chapter balance as of 1 April 2018. Dan reported on all checks written and accounted for. This included a \$2,000 donation for our scholarships.





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

IN THIS ISSUE



WORLD WAR I REMEMBERED 100 YEARS LATER



CONGRESS MUST PASS CHOICE BILL NOW



VVA 970 VETERANS HELPING VETERANS - \$1,200



VETERANS BEWARE OF SCAMMERS



PIER DEDICATION - KIMBALL SCHENCK



VVA 970 - ALWAYS OUT FRONT – GET INVOLVED



HOME DEPOT
Bill Taylor's ramp is no longer on hold.
It is scheduled for 27 & 28 April 2018



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 BY-LAWS AND PROCEDURES

Ready For Review and Vote By Chapter Membership



At the March 12th meeting Bill presented the documents to the membership and Don provided copies. The by-laws must be presented to the membership for sixty days before a vote. The procedure manual is thirty days.

At the April 9th meeting the by-laws and procedures were once again presented to the membership. The vote on the chapter by-laws will occur at the May 14th meeting. Both documents have been e-mailed to all members that receive chapter e-mail and copies were available at the meetings.

BY-LAWS AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

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

VVA 970 VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

Funeral Donations - SGT Matthew Waldrip - Afghanistan Veteran (2 tours).

The Officers and Board thank all of you for the generous donations for the funeral expenses of Sgt Matthew Waldrip. The membership voted to donate \$500, an additional \$200 was collected as we passed the hat, and personal donations added to a total of \$1,200.

You have lived up to “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another”.

Thank you for your generous support.

REMEMBERING OUR VIETNAM DOOR GUNNERS Born In Battle – Proven In Combat

.A door gunner was defined as a crewman tasked with firing and maintaining manually directed armament aboard a helicopter. For certain aircraft a door gunner would use a fully automatic Gatling gun placement. The concept of the door gunner originated during the Vietnam War, when helicopters were first used in combat in large numbers.





THE RAMBO REPORT

Statement by Acting VA Secretary Robert Wilkie April 9, 2018

Congress Must Pass Choice Bill Now to Give Best Care Options to our Veterans

Today marks four years since the disastrous wait-time scandal in Phoenix came to light, where long wait times at the Phoenix VA and at other department facilities nationwide led to unconscionable delays in receiving care.

Following that scandal, Congress passed the bipartisan VA Choice legislation that allowed Veterans to seek care in the private sector when faced with VA wait times of over 30 days, or when Veterans had to travel more than 40 miles to see a VA doctor.

Funding for the Choice program was set to expire last year, but Congress extended it twice while it worked on a bipartisan deal for the next generation of Choice legislation that would give even better options for Veterans to seek care in the community when the VA was unable to provide them the best standard of treatment.

It's time to fix the Choice Program – as well as the department's other non-VA care efforts – once and for all by merging them into a single, streamlined community care program that's easy to use for Veterans and VA employees.

America's Veterans are looking to Congress and VA to come together now to provide them the best possible solutions for their care. Your VA will be working overtime to achieve the promise of leaving no Veteran waiting for care.

WORLD WAR I REMEMBERED 100 YEARS LATER



It has been called THE GREAT WAR and THE WAR TO END ALL WARS. We know it as WORLD WAR I.

It began in 1914 and ended with an armistice at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. The cost included 52,947 dead and 202,628 wounded Americans.

April 1917 the U.S. began preparations to enter the morass of European trench warfare. In June 1917, transport ships began ferrying carrying U.S. troops of the American Expeditionary Force to France.

However, the "Doughboys," as the British referred to the green American troops, were said to be untrained and ill-equipped, untested for the rigors of fighting along the Western Front.

**VA, Postal Inspection Service spot 2 scams targeting veterans**

April 5, 2018

The Veterans Affairs Department and U.S. Postal Inspection Service is warning veterans of two kinds of scams which are specifically targeting former service members. Fake charities posing as organizations that benefit the veteran population and companies claiming to offer pension buyouts are becoming prevalent and dangerous to this community, VA wrote in a recent blog post.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and non-profit AARP say they are noticing more fake charities using names that sound real and authentic as a ploy to convince veterans to donate. These fraudulent organizations attempt to appeal to a veteran's sense of duty and honor when soliciting donations.

Most of these "charities" are pocketing the donations for themselves, the agencies said. One scammer operated two fake charities and pocketed the veterans' donations, then used the personal information written on the checks to steal donors' identifies and take more cash, according to a VA blog post.

Before donating to a charity, veterans should verify the organization's name and do some research about their mission and reputation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service said. In addition, veterans should understand where specifically their donations will go and who will benefit from them. The Postal Inspection Service and VA recommend CharityWatch as a resource, which reviews charities' financial

VVA 970 OFFICERS SWORN IN AT APRIL MEETING

Bill Thacker, representing the Election Committee, announced the qualifying members seeking officer positions. Once elected President Bill Martin swore in the new Board of Directors.



Secretary - Don Brown Treasurer - Dan Pichon President – Bill Martin
Vice President Larry Harris Vice President – Wayne Watkins
Thanks to Carol Watkins for the photo

Vietnam Veterans offer \$500 college scholarship

From staff reports

Chapter #970 of Vietnam Veterans of America announces its scholarship program for 2018. Two scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$500 to a high school senior in Dawson County and a high school senior in Lumpkin County.

Applicants must be a graduating senior and be a descendant of a United States military veteran of any wartime service to present. Descendant, as defined by the Chapter includes: chil-

dren, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Applicants must be in financial need to meet college or university educational expenses, maintain above average grades and most importantly, demonstrate a spirit of volunteerism and community involvement.

Applications are available through the counselor's office at Dawson County High School or through VVA Chapter 970, P. O. Box 1205, Dawsonville, Ga. 30534.

The submission deadline is April 13.

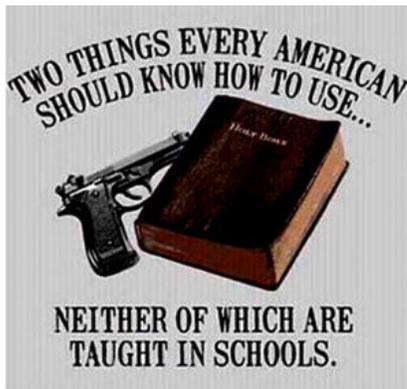


MetroCreative Connection

\$2,000 Scholarship Donation

The chapter has received a donation designated for scholarships.

This will increase the four scholarships to \$1,000 each.



GUEST SPEAKERS



LUMPKIN COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meetings the First Wednesday of each month at 4:30 PM.

Lumpkin County Administrative Building
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, GA 30533

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

www.lumpkincounty.gov/veterans-affairs/

Chairman Paul Wingo, Col, US Army Retired
Co-Chair Jack Thompson, US Army

They presented an overview of the Lumpkin County Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee programs and website
99 Courthouse Hill Suite H
Dahlonega, GA 30533

<https://www.lumpkincounty.gov/veterans-affairs/>

Very Useful Links for Veterans Links

Army Echoes

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Crisis Line

For The Warriors Foundation

Georgia American Legion

Georgia Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

Georgia Department of Veterans Services

Georgia National Cemetery

Military Officers Association of America

Wreaths Across America

eBenefits - Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense

Cohen Veterans Network

ROA Bulletins Link - Various Organizations

Transitioning Servicemembers Cheat Sheet

Dawsonville Vietnam Veterans Organization

Hadit.com - Veterans Compensation Benefits Forum

Patriot Guard Riders of Georgia, Inc.

Retirement Information

Malignant Mesothelioma from asbestos exposure

Loan Assistance

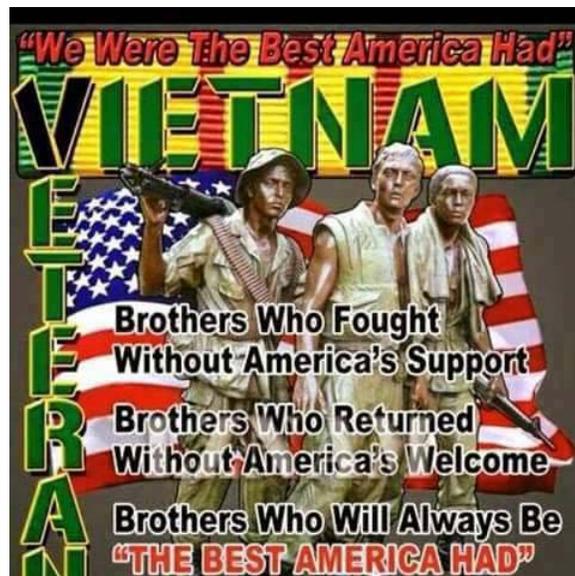
**VVA 970 REMEMBERS AND HONORS NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY
29 MARCH 2018**



NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK BATTLEFIELD CROSS
DAWSONVILLE, GA 29 MARCH 2018

- V.V.A. [Service Ribbons] - 970

Don Brown – Matt Pesce – Jim Mcguirt – Wayne Watkins
Jackie Johnson – Richard Medlock – Bill Martin – Dan Pichon
Karl Hamalainen - Larry Harris – Vic Wallace



POW/MIA REPORT



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY – DPAA



Larry W. Harris

Current as of: 2/12/2018

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	70	23	0	513
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	292	48	7	1,600
PURSUIT STATUS						
FURTHER PURSUIT	208	497	269	41	7	1,022
DEFERRED	27	51	12	0	0	90
NON-RECOVERABLE	223	247	11	7	0	488
TOTALS	458	795	292	48	7	1,600

VN = VIETNAM, NORTH VS = VIETNAM, SOUTH CB = CAMBODIA
 CH = CHINA LA = LAOS

AMERICAN REMAINS REPATRIATED POST – JANUARY 27, 1973:

VIETNAM	720
CHINA	3
LAOS	281
CAMBODIA	42
TOTAL	1,046

This update reports the accounting of Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Nopp, Robert G. U.S. Army, previously missing from Laos.

HARRINGTON MEMORIAL PIER DEDICATION

Oyster Bay LI NY
 (Friend of Kimball Schenck)

Jimmy Harrington was killed in action (KIA) in Vietnam March 28, 1968 - 50 years ago! Jimmy was a good friend to me.

For all my Locust Valley friends: A fitting tribute to Locust Valley's own Jimmy Harrington!

Time goes by so fast; GOD BLESS you Jimmy, you will not be forgotten. Kimball B and family.

MIA Air Force Col. Roosevelt Hestle, Jr., 38, of Orlando, accounted for on June 6, 2017, will be buried April 13, 2018 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. On July 6, 1966, Hestle was a pilot assigned to the 388th Tactical Fighter Squadron flying a F-105 on a strike mission against surface-to-air missile sites in North Vietnam.

In January 1995 at a F-105 crash site near Binh Son Village several pieces of life support equipment were recovered, but no remains were recovered.

On April 15, 2015, a Joint Forensic Review team received possible human remains recovered by a Vietnamese national who was farming in the area in 1996. The remains were sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis and Hestle was identified.

MIA Air Force Pilot Col. Peter J. Stewart Accounted For

On March 15, 1966, Stewart, a member of Headquarters, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, was the pilot of a two-seater F-4C aircraft on an armed reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam.

The lead aircraft spotted two vehicles as the flight approached the target area and Stewart responded he was going to attack the trucks. The lead aircraft, while maneuvering to engage the targets, lost sight of Stewart's aircraft, but saw a bright orange explosion over the trucks.

An organized search was not possible due to hostilities in the area. Stewart was subsequently declared missing in action and later amended to deceased.

Army Staff Sgt. Marshall F. Kipina, missing has now been accounted for.

On July 13, 1966 Kipina was assigned to the 131st Aviation Company, serving as an observer aboard an OV-1C aircraft, on a night surveillance mission from Phu Bai Airfield over Attapu Province, Laos

Visibility was poor due to heavy thunderstorms. Radar and radio contact were lost with the aircraft, which was not uncommon due to the mountainous terrain in that part of Laos.

When the aircraft did not return as scheduled, search efforts were initiated, but no crash site was found.

Be Part of a Lasting Legacy

at the Dawson County Chamber of Commerce and Office of Tourism Development

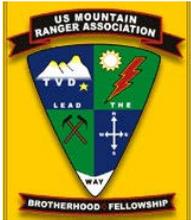
LEADERSHIP DAWSON



BUY A BRICK

We need your support to build a new Visitors Center park at the Dawson County Welcome Center. The park will feature a Walk of Honor, gazebo, tourism/brochure info, park benches, dog walk and a free library. Bricks can be engraved to honor your family, friends, your church, business, favorite cause, an organization or in memoriam for a special person.

US ARMY RANGER CAMP MERRILL OPEN HOUSE 28 APRIL 2018
GATE OPENS AT 10:00 AM



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

**TRAVELING VIETNAM WALL
 ELLIJAY, GEORGIA**

MAY 16 TO MAY 20, 2018



**VVA 970 Visits "The Wall" in Ellijay
 May 2014**

THE WALL THAT HEALS

Days before Memorial Day, Gilmer County will be host to the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) Traveling Vietnam Wall.

The Traveling Wall will be hosted at the Ellijay Lion's Club Fairgrounds. Motorcycle riders are expected to escort the wall into Ellijay and onto the grounds as it arrives.

The event is open to the public and is being sponsored by the American Legion Post 82 and the Ellijay Lion's Club.

The wall has visited over 300 locations over the last eight years. At 80 percent scale, AVTT's website states it is the largest traveling Vietnam Wall replica.



REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

You are invited to join us to Honor the memory of our men and women who served our country and made the ultimate sacrifice



**DAWSON COUNTY
 HIGH SCHOOL JROTC**

28 MAY 2018 10:00 AM

Veterans Memorial Park
 Hwy 9 North
 Dawsonville, Georgia



APRIL: THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child; a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas. Month of the Military Child is sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy and supported by many other organizations such as the DoDEA.

DoDEA is a field activity of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. It is headed by a director who oversees all agency functions from DoDEA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/month-of-the-military-child/#ixzz5BZULeFja>



PURPLE UP! FOR MILITARY KIDS DAY

“Purple Up! For Military Kids” is a day for DoDEA Communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Wearing purple is a visible way to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported; Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all thought to combine together as a single color, purple.

Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/month-of-the-military-child/#ixzz5BZUcGTA3>

**CELEBRITY
WAITER
BREAKFAST**

SAVE THE DATE



Tickets \$10.00 each
Great Breakfast
Buffet
Fun for the Whole
Family



friday
June 1st
2018
7:30am-9:30am



For more information contact
Family Connection at 706-265-1981
rbliss@DawsonFamilyConnection.org

VVA 970 ANNUAL PICNIC 2018

VVA 970 CHAPTER PICNIC
SATURDAY JUNE 23, 2018

MARK THE DATE

LINDA WILL KEEP US UP TO SPEED ON
THE DETAILS



2017 PICNIC

VVA 970 CAP SALE
ORDER NOW

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE
OPERATION OF OUR CHAPTER



CAPS \$10.00
VISORS
\$10.00
YOUR CHOICE



U.S. ARMY



U.S. AIR FORCE



U.S. NAVY



ONE SIZE FITS ALL



VIETNAM VETERAN



VISOR - NOT JUST FOR THE LADIES



U.S. MARINE CORPS

PLEASE CONTACT BILL MARTIN 706-809-2573 C130bill@gmail.com
OR LARRY HARRIS 251-610-5202 sgtlwh@hotmail.com WITH YOUR ORDER

PAYMENT DUE WITH YOUR ORDER AND ORDER AS MANY AS YOU LIKE
REVIEW THE CAPS/VISOR AT THE BUNKER AND MONTHLY MEETINGS
YOUR ORDER WILL BE SUBMITTED AFTER THE VVA 970 MONTHLY MEETING
REMEMBER - YOUR PURCHASES SUPPORTS OUR CHAPTER THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT

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
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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
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VETERANS WORKING TOGETHER



VVA 970

DAWSON COUNTY
CHAPTER 970
P.O. Box 1205
Dawsonville, GA 30534
www.VVA970.com



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
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