

VVA Chapter 1106

News and Announcements

Serving Veterans in South Metro Denver Area

July-August 2025 Issue



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When and Where we Meet

Chapter 1106 meets the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E Mineral Avenue, Centennial CO 80112.

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Summer Picnic 2025



Joe Robinson at the grill

Brats, burgers and a patriotic celebration of the various service branches were all part of the chapter's summer picnic on Aug. 16 at Falcon Park. For more picnic photos, see pages 2-4.

Notes from the President

Summer is upon us, and our chapter is busy with many activities. Chapter members participated in the Highlands Ranch Fourth of July parade. We were led by the Chapter's Color Guard. A total of 22 members showed up. Of these, twelve chose to ride in a Corvette courtesy of the Central Colorado Corvette Club. The parade is always well attended, and the crowd is appreciative of military Veterans.

The chapter's annual Summer Picnic was again a great success with lots of good food and fellowship. This year's theme was "Salute to Service." The weather was wonderful. The turnout was fantastic (about 100), and we ran out of enough places to sit and eat. We'll fix that next year. Thank you to all who planned the picnic, especially Sally, our Social Committee Chair, and to all who came out and brought food.

We have several chapter fundraising opportunities in September. The first is a golf tournament, scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, at Heather Gardens Golf Club (2888 S Heather Gardens Way, Aurora). Shotgun starts at 8 a.m. and the tournament will probably last until 10:30 a.m. After that prizes will be awarded and lunch provided. We'll need chapter volunteers to help at the tournament. Please sign up with Joe Robinson.

On Saturday, September 20, the chapter will be present at the Scotsman Tribute Corvette Show. The show is being held at the Rampart Plaza, 6855 South Havana Street, Centennial, from 9 a.m. to 2 p. m. You can help with set-up at the start of the show, work the chapter table by handing out information on VVA, and help with the raffle and end-of-show teardown. Please see Tom Werzyn to sign up.

To everyone, thank you for being part of this great organization. Please continue to stay in touch with each other. And, I am always open to your suggestions and ideas for the chapter.

Dave Lyons, President

Veterans represented various branches of the military at the summer picnic.



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Continued from Page 2 – Veterans represented various branches of the military.



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The picnic provided veterans with a chance to spend time with friends and family and share delicious food and stories of their service. The weather was warm and breezy – a perfect day to picnic in Falcon Park in Highlands Ranch. Above, right, emcees were Jack Hunter and Sally Eaves. At left, Felix Armenta grilled burgers. Thank you to our grillers and all who helped with the great summer get-together.

Contintued, Next Page

Summer Picnic, Continued from Page 3



John Vargas enjoying the picnic with grandson Sebastian John Lemon, 15 months.



The picnic began with the National Anthem.

Highlands Ranch Fourth of July Parade

Members of Chapter 1106 participated in this year's Fourth of July Parade in Highlands Ranch. The group was led by our Chapter Color Guard. Twelve members who could not walk the parade distance, or chose to ride in a beautiful Corvette, were given rides courtesy of the Central Colorado Corvette Club, whose members entered their cars in the parade as part of their "Vetts for Vets" program to honor Veterans.





Cont. from Page 5 – Chapter Color Guard led the July Fourth parade in Highlands Ranch.

VVA Chapter 1106 Annual Calendar of Events

Date of Issue: August 23, 2025

Date	Event	Location
August 2025		
August 30 (Sat.)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
September 2025		
September 6 (Sat.)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue
Sept. 16 (Tues.)	Chapter Charity Golf Tournament	Heather Gardens Golf Club
September 20 (Sat.)	Chapter Participates in Scotsman Car Show	Rampart Plaza Centennial
September 20 (Sat.)	Cherry Creek Schools Veterans Celebration	Legacy Stadium, Aurora
September 27 (Sat.)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
October 2025		
October 4 (Sat.)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue
October 11 (Sat.)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Pines Library
October 25 (Sat.)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
November 2025		
November 1 (Sat.)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue
November 8 (Sat.)	Veterans Day Poppy Drive (tentative)	TBD
November 11 (Tues.)	Veterans Day	Events at Various Locations
November 29 (Sat.)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
December 2025		
December 6 (Sat.)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue
December 13 (Sat.)	Chapter Holiday Luncheon and Festivities	Maggiano's Italian Restaurant
December 27 (Sat.)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line

ATTENTION ALL VVA CHAPTER 1106 MEMBERS AND SPOUSES:

Our next VVA Chapter 1106 Veteran Social Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from 11 to 12:30 pm. Location: Metropolitan Bar & Grill, [10111 Inverness Main Street](#) (East off Dry Creek) Englewood, CO 80112. Phone: (720) 839-4438. Reservations are for 25. Spouses welcome!! First come, first served. Individual checks accepted. Gratuities appreciated. Military discounts approved. PLEASE RESPOND TO LEE WHITE (NOT JACK), BY FRIDAY, SEPT. 19. IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

E-Mail: flyboy51@q.com Phone: 303-519-2252. Cell or Text

News and Events

Honoring Patti

On August 14 one year ago our beloved Combat Nurse Patti died. She always talked to everyone, especially Veterans, about Agent Orange and ways to keep healthy. Chapter members observed a moment of silence at noon that day to honor Patti.

How to Donate to VVA

To donate items: If you have items you want to donate to the Vietnam Veterans, go online to **pickupplease.org** to schedule a time for your items to be picked up. All four Colorado chapters and the State Headquarters receive money from this program.

How to get donations from King Soopers

King Soopers Community Rewards helps vets: To sign up for the program that donates a portion of your purchases to Vietnam Veterans of America, sign up at <https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>

We receive money from the program, and it doesn't affect your member or gas benefits in any way.

A “must-see documentary” on Netflix

If you're interested in learning more about the Vietnam War, board member John Vargas recommends that you watch the following serial on Netflix:

“TURNING POINT”

THE VIETNAM WAR

Chapter Member Cliff Lawson Honored on KDVR-TV Denver

Chapter member Cliff Lawson was recognized for his work to honor military veterans by offering free portrait photos of them. Cliff, a retired United Airlines pilot, is now a professional photographer.

Here is the link to the broadcast:

[Vietnam veteran takes free portraits of other veterans | Watch](#)

Chapter nears membership goal of 300

Chapter 1106 membership has increased to 289 members as of June 30. Lee's goal is to reach 300.

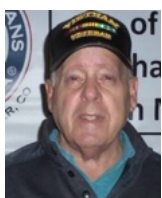
National increased by 213 VVA and 57 AVVA members. The average chapter membership nationally is 128.

RAO Newsletter

The July RAO newsletter has been posted to our website. Just click on the RAO newsletter link below. The link to the RAO website is below the newsletter link.

Newsletter - [July 2025 RAO Newsletter](#)

Home Page - [Buckley SFB Retiree Activities Office](#)



Rest in Peace, Mike

All VVA/AVVA members: It is with great sadness that I must inform our 1106 members that Mike Karsh has died. He died surrounded by his family on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

--John A Vargas



July Meeting Highlights

Pin ceremony marks 50 years since end of War

Chapter 1106 conducted a Vietnam War 50th Year Ending Pin Ceremony at the July membership meeting. About 20 chapter members who had not yet obtained the 50-year commemorative pin received them.

At the end of the meeting, members were treated to hot dogs and chips, courtesy of Tom Werzyn and Litta Plant-Schaper.



July Member Bio

Rickman flew in two Vietnam tours

Pete Rickman (US Air Force) shared his background from Brooklyn to ROTC in college in Manhattan to the USAF, flying the Caribou aircraft in Vietnam, then to Strategic Air Command in Michigan, which inspired him to volunteer for another tour in Vietnam. Pete went back to Vietnam flying helicopters in the 20th Special Operations Corps, which was much more "exciting" than his first Vietnam assignment.

Following his second tour in Vietnam, he went to Hurlburt Field in Florida and left the Air Force in 1973. A friend invited him to come to Colorado, and that led to meeting his wife and spending 23 years with the Aurora Police Department. During that time he also joined the Colorado Army National Guard and reached full military retirement.



August Member Bio

Krech served in various duty stations in Air Force career

Our August Member Bio Speaker was Bob Krech, US Air Force.

Bob provided a glimpse of his background, his decision to join the Air Force, and the interesting experiences he encountered at his various duty stations during his Air Force career.

MEET OUR CHAPLAINS

Our chapter has been “blessed” with five ordained
CHAPLAINS - PASTORS

Rev. Joseph Plant

jdv@live.com

Rev. Garry “Chappy” Turks

garryturks@comcast.net

Rev. Lonnie Hetterle

mrh1973@yahoo.com

Rev. Bill Cheyne

cldchey@gmail.com

Rev. Mike Huber

mike@threecords.org

If you, a family member or friend would like to chat with any one of these fine clergymen, they are available by email. Remember, they are all excellent listeners with solid spiritual advice and assistance.



Joseph Plant



Garry “Chappy”Turks



Lonnie Hetterle



Bill Cheyne



Mike Huber

IN THE KNOW

What is the difference between a pastor and a chaplain

A pastor primarily serves a specific religious congregation within a church. They focus on nurturing their congregation.

A chaplain provides spiritual care in multiple arenas like hospitals, military, homes or prisons, often crossing different faiths. They offer support and provide guidance to diverse populations.

- John A. Vargas

The 49th USS Grayling (SS-209) Memorial Ceremony

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025, at 1100



The USS Grayling was one of the 52 submarines lost during WWII. Our ceremony is to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country.

The event will be held at the USS Grayling Memorial located near Sheridan and 17 Ave., at the southwest corner of Sloans Lake Park. We will perform several Navy traditions, such as piping dignitaries aboard, flag folding ceremony, presentation of wreaths, and a rife salute. The National Anthem will be sung by recording artist and Denver native Amanda Hawkins. The ceremony will include a history of the USS Grayling and a guest speaker. We are privileged to have the Honor Bell at this year's ceremony.

The main event will be the "Tolling of the Boats Ceremony". This ceremony will honor and remember the nearly 4,000 Submariners on Eternal Patrol and the sixty-five boats in which they served, lost in conflict and in times of peace. By this ceremony, we honor and remember their extraordinary courage, example and sacrifice, and continue our solemn mission on behalf of our Nation. There is a luncheon after the ceremony located at American Legion Post 17, 1901 North Harlan, Edgewater. All events are open to the public.

Veterans & Military Appreciation

Community Celebration



& Football Game

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
LEGACY STADIUM | 26101 E. Arapahoe Road | Aurora, CO 80016

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
2:00-5:00 p.m.

Chinook Helicopter
Army National Guard Gaming Trailer
Air Force STEM
The Honor Bell
Live Music
& MORE! (Items subject to change)

FOOTBALL KICKOFF
6:00 p.m.

 **VS** 

WWW.CHERRYCREEKSCHOOLS.ORG/MILITARYAPPRECIATION


SCAN ME

Everyone Is Welcome!

Also Included:
Quilts of Valor
Rocky Mountain Honor Flight
VA Healthcare System
And more

Scholarship winners present essays



Kayelyn Calfee



Thaddeus Tinsley



Cassandra Goldberg



Madelyn Dixon

Four of the six winners of the 2025 Chapter 1106 Scholarship awards were present to read their winning papers at the August chapter meeting. Each received a certificate and a \$2,000 scholarship sent directly to the college or university they plan to attend.