



“Welcome Home” NEWSLETTER

May - Jun 2020 - VOL 6 NO 3



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Notice:

If you have moved or changed your address, PLEASE notify us immediately!
Contact: Dave Lyons, Membership Chair
E-mail: Snoyldavid@centurylink.net
Phone: 303 690 8776

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**Facebook: Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106**



Editor's Note:

This version of the newsletter is in Microsoft Document (.DOCX) format so that the [links](#) will work. Put your cursor over the link, depress your Control Key (ctrl) and depress your left mouse button and it will take you to the listed link position. PDF format, the links will not work.

The comments and editorial input does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the membership of our chapter. I would appreciate any feedback that you might have, items you liked or if you find offensive or derogatory in anyway. (bobrotruck73@gmail.com) Thank you for allowing me to be your editor.

Notes from the President

Lee White

Some 45 days ago most of us were completely unaware of what was about to "turn the world upside down," COVID-19. I hope all our members, and families are safe and healthy. All we can do is to take this on a day to day basis, and this shall pass. As you know this coronavirus has caused many schedule changes and concerns for our chapter. Our next scheduled chapter monthly meeting will be conducted via a conference call on Saturday, May 2, 2020 starting at 0900. Elections will be conducted at this meeting. (Call in information/details forthcoming). Our next scheduled monthly meeting will be on Saturday, June 6, 2020, and I hope our meeting room at South Metro F & R, Boardroom, will be available. (Presently, all "community rooms" are closed!)

"We are all in this together, and shall overcome this pandemic". Stay the course and stay healthy.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1106 S. METRO DENVER, CO

“Member Feature”

No Member Feature this issue!



Do you know our Chapter has a Facebook account where we put news and information that you should be made aware of in a timely fashion?? We have had this account over three years and have 485 followers to date and only about **10 are chapter members** and some of those are no longer with us! All you have to do is open your FB account and SEARCH: **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1106** and then hit the **FOLLOW** button! I hope to see a lot of new chapter names on there by the end of June!!! Editor

Military Trivia

AWR [Click here for end of the Newsletter Trivia Answer](#)

Guest Speakers – March

Cancelled

Special Speaker – April

Cancelled

March Bio Speaker - Cancelled

April Bio Speaker - Cancelled

Membership! (As of 4-13-20)

VVA 150

AVVA 38

Total: 188

Welcome New Members:

VVA

Joe Robinson

AVVA

Detlef Schaper

Board of Directors/Officers

Lee White - President

Dave Lyons - Vice-president

Mike Huber – Treasurer

Vacant – Secretary (acting Lee White)

Board Members - Milt Omoto, Patti Ehline, Dave Lyons, Tom Werzyn, Ron Smith, John Vargas, Dan Green, Joe Plant

Special Chapter Positions

AVVA Liaison to chapter Board of Directors - Litta Plant-Schaper

Chaplain – Rev. Garry Turks

Government Affairs – Tony Nickerson

Sergeant-at-Arms – Rob Senatore

Chapter Nurse – Patti Ehline

Chapter Historian - OPEN

Working Committees

- Agent Orange/PTSD – Patti Ehline
- Color Guard – Jay Quiring (Command Sergeant), Don McNeely, Dan Green, Thom Frey, Clarence Rebolledo, Robert Senatore, Tony Nickerson, Ron Smith, Leann Stelzer, Alexis Winemiller
- Event Coordinator – Ron Smith – Chair, Lee White, Michelle Mallin
- Fundraising/Grants – Milt Omoto
- Marketing/Media/Events – Tom Werzyn, Michelle Mallin
- Membership – Dave Lyons – Chair, Lee White
- Mental Health: Patti Ehline, Warren Harrison, Joe Plant
- Name Tags – Litta Plant-Schaper
- Newsletter Editor - Bob Rotruck
- Promotional Items: Leann Stelzer, Clarence Rebolledo
- Refreshments: Alexis Winemiller, Jason Longmore
- Scholarship Program - Jim Marcille, Chairs, Glen Payne, (supporter) John Vargas, Brian Karsh (supporter), Bob Mallin (supporter)
- Social –Barry Fiore, Glen Payne, Milt Omoto, Mike Karsh, John Vargas
- Speakers Bureau – Tom Werzyn – Chair, Bob Easter, Bob Mallin, Glen Payne, Roger Lanphier, Donna Chaney
- Veteran Emergency Assistance Committee - Joe Plant, Dave Lyons, Dan Green, Bruce Arndt, Lee White
- Voices for Veterans - Warren Harrison
- Webmaster – Bob Rotruck
- Women Veterans - Patti Ehline

Meetings/Events Calendar - 2020

May 2, 2020 - VVA Chapter 1106 Monthly Meeting via tele/conference call/video

May 23, 2020 - Memorial Day Poppy Drive - To Be Determined

June 6, 2020 - VVA Chapter 1106 Monthly

June 13, 2020 - State Council Meeting - Castle Rock

June 13, 2020 - Chapter "Motorcycle Fundraiser" - Pending.

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In Memoriam

Christiane Omoto (1985-2020)

Christiane was an Associate member of Chapter 1106. She had a heart for helping veterans. While a law student at the Denver University School of Law, she volunteered her time assisting veterans at the Daniels Veteran Services Center with their legal matters. She passed away on April 4th. She is now at peace with our Lord. If you so desire, you can provide a small contribution to a Chapter scholarship fund in her memory. A PayPal page has been established for this purpose:

<https://paypal.me/pools/c/8oeTDIqjap>



As of: 4/14/2020

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,398

Cremains Found – 20,653

Veterans Cremains Identified - 4,907

Veterans Interred – 4,542

Events:

Suzanne Sigona Fundraiser

“I received a message from Sister Modestine regarding the use of the funds. Let me know how we can share this. It can be summarized or it might be sweet to print it as it is written. I have some photos.

Dear Suzie,

How are you? Are you isolated? Hope virus corona will not come to you. We're praying for you and your country! Here, in Nha Trang we're still safe, however we isolate our self, not going out, too much.

Here are pictures we had last Saturday March 21st, we went to highland people (where they had nothing to eat) with rice, noodles, sugar, oil, salt..., soap and towels. There are 75 families with 250 kids. The poor kids received bread, milk, cookies, and sausage...They were very happy...Regretting that you couldn't come. A lot of thanks to you and your friends.

May God bless you and your friends with His peace and good health. Pray for us and our country, too.

Bye

Sr. Modestine



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On March 11th, there was awards made to local veterans that never received what they earned and deserved! The Forgiven Heroes Campaign is a nonprofit organization founded in 1998 that directs searches for veterans who have honorably served their country, and present them or their family member(s): medals; awards; ribbons and badges earned but never received. A public ceremony is held to present the awards to the deserving veteran. The Forgiven Heroes Campaign also supports other Veteran's organizations.



Announcement Corner

Books/Articles Published by Members Sharing the Foxhole – Joseph Daniel Plant

By John Vargas

On a sunny morning and just before an approaching Denver snowstorm I met Joe Plant for breakfast at his favorite Village Inn located in Parker, Colorado. He was patiently waiting with a warm smile, strong handshake and a cup of hot java for me.

Joe Plant is the elite treasurer and admirable pillar of VVA 1106, Centennial Colorado and along with five other Veterans, was one of the original founding fathers. His dedication and selfless acts of kindness and generosity to the Veteran Community is unheralded.

First, let me give you a small sample about Veteran Plant. He was born in St. Clemens Michigan. Normal childhood with a few wrinkles! At 12, Joe was a newspaper boy who bought his own clothes. He was on the high school football team but, due to his rambunctious attitude, he was not invited back. At 18, he worked from 2am-8am cleaning a bar for \$65.00 per week. Joe was also an expert horseman. He decided to join the Navy and spent 42 months at sea. He was then sent to Eniwetok Nuclear Test Grounds to pick up some boat people. They had to set up "Decon" stations on the ship, monitoring for radio activity. They took on about 16 survivors and used radiation monitors to check the contamination. They then took them to Taiwan and turned them over to authorities.

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Joe joined the Army during the Cuban crisis in October of 1962. Basic training at Ft. Ord, California. While in AIT was trained as a Fire Control Tech for Nike Hawk Missiles at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

In October 1963 he met Dora. A beautiful young lady that was a resident at an Orphanage and returned to payback the kindness they had done for her. Joe's buddies pulled a prank on him! They told him that a certain hacienda was filled with beautiful girls! They convinced him to knock on their front door. Being young and dumb, he did! To his speechless dismay it was a nun. Oops! Bad joke with a good result. Joe began to volunteer at this orphanage on weekends and that's where he met Dora! Instantly he was attracted to her and they wed on February 10, 1964. Then, just two weeks into his new marriage he received orders to go to Okinawa. They were separated for 13 months and finally Dora and son joined him Okinawa. He reenlisted for four more years and was sent to artillery OCS at Ft. Sill. While in Okinawa, he, Dora and son survived a Typhoon that devastated most of the island.

Joe was honorably discharged from Navy in 1962 and from the Army in 1969. In civilian life he was a HVAC Service and owned his company called Plant Engineering for 8 years and also worked as a Stationary Engineer.

In 2012 he was a founding member of 1071 in Lakewood, Colorado, and named treasurer in 2013. His friend Lee White was a bit tired of driving twice a month for regular Chapter and Board meetings from Franktown. Joe assisted Lee to form the now very successful VVA 1106 (over 160 strong and growing) Chapter. He has been the Treasurer for over five years.

In addition to his duties as Chapter Treasurer, Joe Chairs the Veteran's Assistance Program. He works closely with VA social workers and assist needed Veterans with food, lodging and travel expenses. He also collects regular and motorized wheelchairs and at times, ramps and hospital beds. After some minor repairs they are also donated those Veterans in need. Somehow, this man still finds time to visit the lonely and often times very ill Veterans at various hospitals.

Joe Plant has and always will be a credit to his family, the Community, fellow Veterans.

I would share a foxhole with this man anytime!

High School Classmate to Vietnam War Vet

(Editor's note: Recently reconnected with Ken (Kenny in HS) Torreyson who was in my wife's Gaithersburg High School

class of 1960, I was class of '59, but in our small town and high school, everybody knew everybody. He sent the following with his email, an attachment of his 2019 Holiday newsletter. We had not connected since HS days. His newsletter touched me and I got his permission to publish in this NL.)

Reflections at Christmas Time and the New Year 2019 By Ken Torreyson

"It is the dignity of the soul to hold on to the past; it is the dignity of the spirit to take hold of the future." by Rabbi Harold Schulweis

Christmas and the advent of a new year is a special time to pause and reflect on the welfare of my life and expectations for the future. The first lights of Christmas glow brightly in the shops and streets of Atlanta as I watch and listen to the holiday season awaken. I know that I should be overjoyed; however, I don't always feel it in my heart. I feel wistful thinking of times past. Memories of Mom and Dad, brother Joe, Aunt Mary and many other family members and close friends. All are gone. Too soon their lives were over. The holidays bring forth melancholy, worry, loneliness and a yearning very deep inside for the missed opportunities of the past, meaningful relationships and a more perfect world. God bless the memories and souls of our departed loved ones and friends. They are like stars whose memories light the world after they have passed from it. They shine in the darkest night and illuminate for me the path. I grew up in a pastoral environment. As a youth, I experienced many hours of the day exploring over the silent woods and fields of my grandfather's farm near Potomac, Maryland and dreaming of the future as I sat on the banks of the muddy branch creek that flowed through the meadows of the farm. A bright light glowed within me with great optimism, and I pledged my early understanding of God to live my life with courage, and determination amid the tempests of the changing years ahead. I did not imagine that some short years later I would be fighting an unjust war in a faraway place called Vietnam. I knew little about Vietnam, much less why we were involved. I spent the loneliest Christmas of my life near the Cambodian border and took part in some of the worst fighting during the Tet Offensive. The war was frightening, tough and gut wrenching to all the young men who, just a few years earlier, were experiencing the challenges of high school, college, playing sports and hoping to be accepted by their peers. I felt my country had betrayed me but I am proud that I answered the call, the bronze star awarded to me for actions in combat, and being selected to serve as an aide-de-camp to a senior level general. I have come to realize these things are insignificant in comparison to the thousands of young men who lost their lives, the grief encountered by their families, and the pain endured by our country. I am fortunate that God spared me from physical injury and

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bitterness and from the sharp passions of unguarded moments during that time. I survived and returned home to my family and friends and began a business career; one of the lucky ones. Though the world knows me not, my thoughts and actions have kept me friendly within myself over the years. I have not complained nor followed the clamor of the world. I have walked calmly down my own path. I have done it my way. I am now somewhat wiser, less self-serving but still have my share of flaws and shortcomings. I try to focus my life on making the world a better place. I give more attention to my passion and thirst for love, peace and hope that cannot be denied me. I search for more joy in my heart, hope and faith in God, the love to forgive others, and the courage to confront racial and ethnic prejudice. I wish for bread for the hungry, clothes for the naked, justice for the oppressed, love for the forgotten, healing for the ill, and protection for our children and wisdom for our young people. This new year I hope that I can make new and endearing relationships and that my family and friends will love me for what I am and will be patient with my wandering steps that lead to the light of hope and dreams for the world. Though age will someday overtake me and I may not come within sight of all my goals, hopes and dreams, I am thankful for my life and blessed by a loving family and olden memories that are good and sweet. As this year fades into the past and a new one begins, may the evening's twilight find you and me still gentle souls and may we join hands to serve the needy and improve an imperfect world.

Landlocked Sailor

Colorado sailor, so far from the sea,
No salt in the air or ocean to see.

It was good to stand on the bow underway,
In heavy seas with a face covered in salt spray.
To feel the wind blowing against your life vest,
Checking to be sure it is tight on your chest.
Turning your back on the onslaught of wind,
Facing aft at aircraft fighting off the din.
Watching young men in shirts of yellow, green, and blue,
Quite a rainbow for the old salt eyes to view.
And there were the red shirts at their fire station,
Praying there would not be a break in the operation.
Purple shirts scurrying about with fuel lines taut,
Giving airplanes a pure drink without any salt.
And flight deck safety would always come first,
Men in white shirts watching for a burst.
And up on the bridge the skipper watched intent,
Making sure the men were earning their free rent.
I was just one man, on that sea going city,
And now it is all done, what a sorrowful pity.
I served my country twenty wonderful years,

But when I think of it I burst into tears.
For men and women still go out to sea,
Keeping our nation as free as can be.

All I can do is remember the past,
And wish that it would just last and last.

God bless our sailors that stand tall in the wind,
Our country is the greatest and it will never end.

ROTRUCK - 2010

What IMPACT can YOU make?

(From the Editor)



Light Side



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FOR THOSE THAT HAVE NEVER SEEN A CATFISH !!



BEFORE YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED UPSTAIRS... I REALLY LOVE YOU



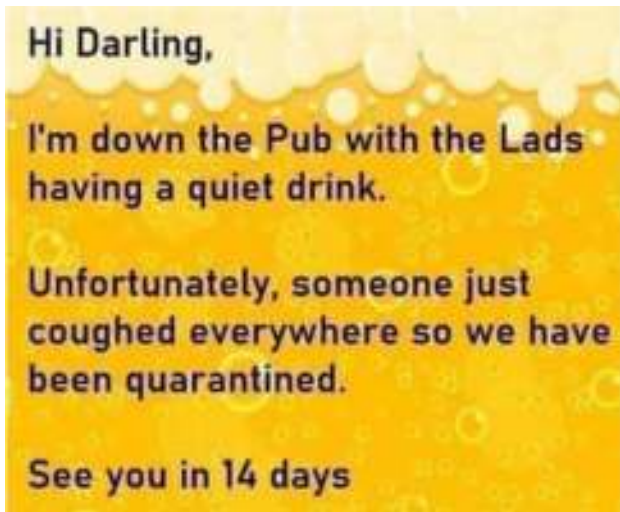
There is absolutely no reason a toddler this age needs a cellphone!



On day 7 of quarantine



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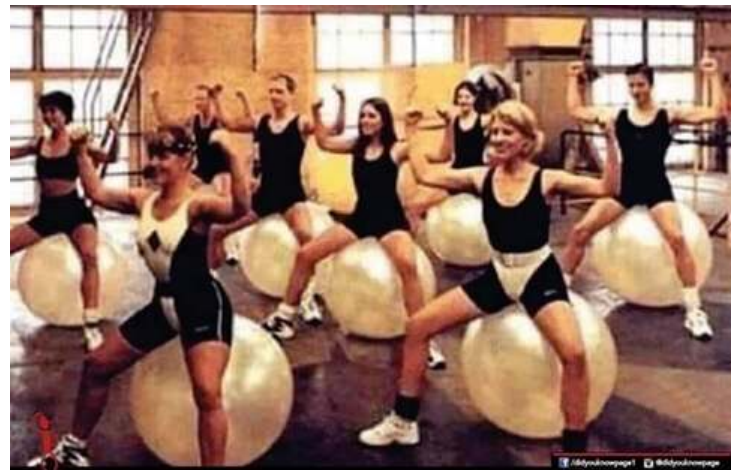


From John Vargas

CORONAVIRUS HELP

When you're out trying to find a store that still has toilet paper to sell you might better stock up on some old JACK D. too! I figure three or four 5ths should do the trick.

Anti-Corona virus spray,
Spray throat three times a day.



This picture was given to Class II Children and they were asked to suggest a headline. The winning entry was:

'Never swallow your chewing gum'.

For my friends who are golfers, and those that just need a laugh!

(From Terry Boyer AT2, USN, who used to work for me in VA-65 on the USS Kitty Hawk 1968-69 – Editor)

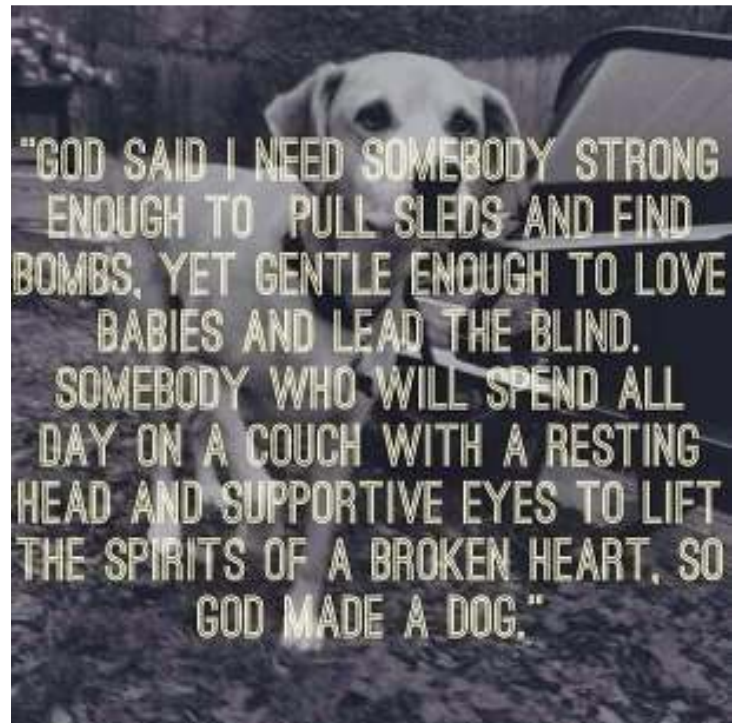
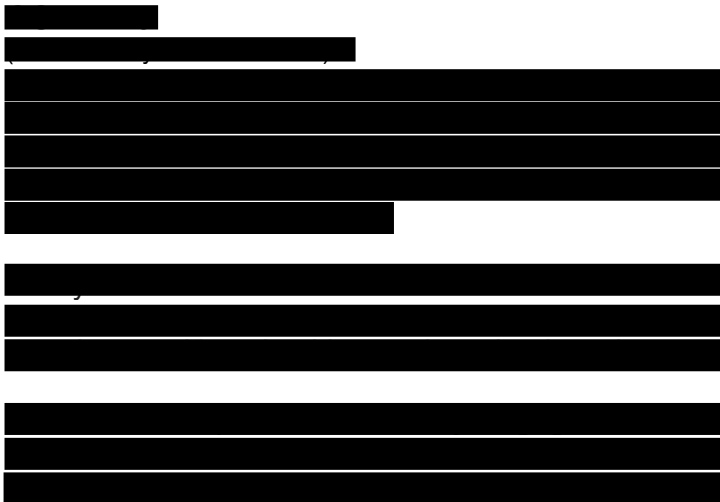
An American goes to a club in Ireland and says I need to play your best player. The secretary says that will be Murphy I will give you his phone number. He phones Murphy and he says I will be there at 9:00 am but I could be half an hour late. Murphy turns up at 9:00 and he has a left handed set of clubs. They tee off and Murphy wins. The American says we must have a rematch tomorrow. Murphy says I will be here at 9:00 but I could be half an hour late. Murphy turns up at nine with a set of right handed clubs. They tee off and Murphy wins again. The American says we must play again tomorrow. What time will you be here and what clubs will you be using? Murphy says well it's like this, when I wake up in the morning I look to see what side the wife is laying on, the left side I use left handed clubs, the right side I use right handed clubs. What if she is on here back the American asks? Well that's when I will be half an hour late says Murphy



Submitted by: Tom Werzyn



Submitted by: John Vargas



The Woman Marine Pilot

The teacher gave her fifth grade class an assignment: Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it.

The next day, the kids came back and, one by one, began to tell their stories. There were all the regular types of stuff: spilled milk and pennies saved.

But then the teacher realized, much to her dismay, that only Janie was left. "Janie," she asked, "Do you have a story to share?"

"Yes ma'am. My daddy told me a story about my Mommy. She was a Marine pilot in Syria, and her plane got hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory, and all she had was a flask of whiskey, a pistol, and a survival knife. She drank the whiskey on the way down so the bottle wouldn't break, and then her parachute landed her right in the middle of 20 ISIS troops. She shot 15 of them with the pistol, until she ran out of bullets, killed four more with the knife, till the blade broke, and then she killed the last ISIS fighter with her bare hands.

"Good Heavens," said the horrified teacher. "What did your Daddy tell you was the moral to this horrible story?"

"Stay away from Mommy when she's been drinking!"



Trivia Answer

AWR – (Alpha Whiskey Romeo) Allah's Waiting Room

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

VVA Chapter 1106 Annual Calendar of Events 2020		
<i>Date of Issue: February 2, 2020</i>		
Date	Event	Location
January 2020		
January 3 (Friday)	Jack Hunter presentation on Coast Guard in 'Nam	Castle Rock Senior Center
January 4 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
January 8 (Wednesday)	CCSD Vocational School Tour	8000 S. Chambers Road
January 17-18	Conference of State Council Presidents and BOD	Silver Spring, MD
February 2020		
February 1 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
February 11 (Tuesday)	American Legion Post 1 Chapter Presentation	5400 E Yale Ave, Denver, CO
March 2020		
March 14 (Saturday)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Rock Philip S. Miller Library
March 21 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting (NEW DATE, today only)	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
March 29 (Sunday)	National Vietnam Veterans Day (observed)	Events at various locations
April 2020		
April 4 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting - ELECTIONS Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
April 16-18	Conference of State Council Presidents and BOD	Silver Spring, MD
April 19 (Sunday)	UVC Awards Banquet, Renaissance Hotel Denver	3801 Quebec, Denver
April 19 (Sunday)	Rockies vs. Cardinals Baseball Game	Coors Field
May 2020		
May 2 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
May 23 (Saturday)	Memorial Day Weekend "Poppy Drive" Fund Raiser	King Sooper Stores (TBD)
May 24 (Sunday)	Rockies vs. Phillies Baseball Game	Coors Field
May 25 (Monday)	Memorial Day Events	Various Locations
June 2020		
June 6 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
June 13 (Saturday)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Rock Philip S. Miller Library
June 13 (Saturday)	Chapter Motorcycle Fun Day and Fund Raiser	Fay Meyers Motorcycle World
July 2020		
July 4 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting (SPECIAL Meeting)	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
July 14-18	2020 VVA National Leadership Conference	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton Ohio
July 19 (Sunday)	Rockies vs. Braves Baseball Game	Coors Field
August 2020		
August 1 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
August 15 (Saturday)	Chapter Family Summer Picnic	Falcon Park, Highlands Ranch
September 2020		
September 5 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
September 7 (Monday)	Rockies vs. Cubs Baseball Game (Labor Day)	Coors Field
September 12 (Saturday)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Rock Philip S. Miller Library
TBA	CCSD Football Game and Veterans Appreciation	TBA
October 2020		
October 5 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
October 8-10 (Thurs-Sat.)	Conference of State Council Presidents and BOD	Silver Spring, MD
November 2020		
November 7 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
November 11 (Wed.)	Veterans Day, Various Events	Various Locations and Venues
November 14 (Saturday)	Veterans Day Weekend "Poppy Drive" Fund Raiser	King Sooper Stores (TBD)
December 2020		
December 5 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire & Rescue Building
December 12 (Saturday)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Rock Philip S. Miller Library
To Be Announced	Chapter 5th Annual Holiday Lunch	TBD

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FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1106

 <p>Panera Bread 9579 S. University Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 720-348-1112</p>	<p>American Legion Post 1260</p> 
 <p>Spradlin Printing, Inc. 11903 S. Parker Road Parker, CO 80134</p>	 <p>South Metro Denver Fire & Rescue 9195 E Mineral Ave Centennial, CO 80112</p>
 <p>American Family Insurance 3989 E. Arapahoe Road #20 Centennial, CO 80122 720-361-0155</p>	 <p>The Honor Bell Foundation PO Box 1432 Englewood CO 80150 720.282.9182 www.honorbell.org</p>
 <p>THRIVENT FINANCIAL® <i>Connecting faith & finances for good.®</i> 9137 E Mineral Cir Ste 100 Englewood, CO 80112-3422</p>	 <p>Home Depot Foundation 8477 S Yosemite St Lone Tree, CO 80124</p>
 <p>King Soopers 9551 S. University Blvd., Highlands Ranch, CO 80126</p>	 <p>STUDIO 1430 Main Office: 4700 South Syracuse Street, Suite 1050 Denver, CO 80237</p>
 <p>Military Order of Purple Heart, Chapter 1041, Arvada, CO</p>	 <p>ZILLOW GROUP 10771 E. Easter Ave Centennial CO 80112</p>
 <p>American Home Agents Brian Karsh, Broker Associate 720-327-1562</p>	 <p>PARKER MEDICAL SUPPLY STORE 9845 S Parker Rd Parker, CO 80134 303-840-4444</p>

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