



“Welcome Home” NEWSLETTER

Nov - Dec 2023 – VOL 9 NO 6



Inside this issue:

- ❖ *Board of Directors/Officers*
- ❖ *Working Committees*
- ❖ *Notes from the President*
- ❖ *Member Feature*
- ❖ *Military Trivia*
- ❖ *Guest Speaker*
- ❖ *Membership*
- ❖ *Meetings/Events Calendar*
- ❖ *Events*
- ❖ *Books/Articles Published by Members*
- ❖ *From the Editor*
- ❖ *Light Side*
- ❖ *Trivia Answer*

Notice:

If you have moved or changed your address, PLEASE notify us immediately! Contact: Jack Hunter, Email jack.hunter@comcast.net Phone: 303-797-3136

COPYRIGHT NOTICE: *In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, any copyrighted material in this newsletter is distributed under fair use without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for nonprofit use and educational purposes only.*

Editor's Note:

The comments and editorial input do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the membership of our chapter. Please contact Mark Nickell at mnickell2004@msn.com with any feedback regarding the contents of this publication.



Board of Directors/Officers

Dave Lyons – President
Milt Omoto – Vice-president
Mike Huber – Treasurer
Sally Eaves – Secretary
Board Members – Patti Ehline, Tom Werzyn, John Vargas, Joe Plant, Rev. Garry Turks, Joe Dempsey, Joseph Robinson.

Special Chapter Positions

AVVA Liaison to chapter Board of Directors – Litta Plant-Schaper
Chaplain – Rev. Garry Turks
Chapter Historian – John Vargas
Database/Audio – Jack Hunter
Government Affairs – Tony Nickerson
Sergeant-at-Arms – Dan Green
Chapter Nurse – Patti Ehline
Email Blaster – Jack Hunter

Working Committees

- ❖ Agent Orange, PTSD, Veteran Physical and Mental health: Patti Ehline, Warren Harrison
- ❖ Chapter Communications: Jack Hunter, Jim Williams, Litta Plant-Schaper
- ❖ Color Guard: Dan Green and Ron Smith (shared Command Sergeants), Dave Dawson, Clarence Rebolledo, Harry Montgomery, John Sheadel, Tony Nickerson
- ❖ Donation Approval: Dave Lyons
- ❖ Event Coordinator: Joseph Robinson, Dave Lyons, Lee White
- ❖ Grants and Fundraising: Milt Omoto
- ❖ Membership Committee: Phil Snyder, Jim Blumberg, Lee White
- ❖ Memorial Committee: John Vargas, Garry Turks, Joe Plant, Lee White, Alan Jaffe, Milt Omoto
- ❖ Mental Health: Patti Ehline, Warren Harrison, Joe Plant
- ❖ Name Tags: Litta Plant-Schaper
- ❖ Newsletter and Web Site Communications: Mark Nickell
- ❖ New Member Onboarding: Dave Lyons
- ❖ Promotional Items: Joe and Ita Dempsey, Leann Stelzer,
- ❖ Refreshments: Walt Leuci, Dave Lyons
- ❖ Scholarship Program: Lou Grounds-Chair, Litta Plant-Schaper, Wayne Buser
- ❖ Social: Chairman – Vacant, Joe Plant, Tom Werzyn, and Litta Plant-Schaper
- ❖ Speakers Bureau: Tom Werzyn, Bob Mallin, Bob Easter, Dave Lyons
- ❖ Veteran Emergency Assistance: Joe Plant, Dave Lyons, Rev. Gary Turks
- ❖ Voices for Veterans: Warren Harrison, Patti Ehline, Joe Plant
- ❖ Women Veterans: Patti Ehline

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

Notes from the President - Dave Lyons:

This newsletter marks the end of the 2023 year. Where did the time go? Despite challenges, we managed to accomplish a lot as a Chapter. I would like to start my message with a huge “thank you” to Mark Nickell for stepping up to be our new newsletter editor and webmaster. You will note that Mark is now the editor of this informative newsletter.

Just a brief list of Chapter accomplishments for the year:

- ❖ Our membership continued to grow as we add new regular and Associate members
- ❖ We were recognized as “Chapter of the Year” at the 2023 VVA National Convention in Orlando
- ❖ Our Social Committee again planned and organized wonderful Chapter events, our Summer picnic and end of year Holiday lunch
- ❖ As a Chapter we actively participated in community events, such as the Fourth of July parade, interaction with the public at Poppy Drives, and by attending events
- ❖ Our Chapter Color Guard was very active and continues to remain active supporting many veteran events, proudly presenting the Colors
- ❖ We had great monthly meeting speakers, and member bios were informative in learning more about each other members
- ❖ Our “Buddy Call” system maintains contact with each member to check on how they and their family are doing, and our Chaplain maintained contact with our sick and shut in members
- ❖ We awarded six \$2,000 scholarship to deserving High School seniors
- ❖ Our Veterans Emergency Assistance program continued to work with the VA’s HUD-VASH program to help get homeless veterans off the streets and to stay off.

Thanks to each and every one of you, members and family, who remain part of this Chapter. I wish everyone a safe and meaningful Holiday Season! Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Kwanzaa and everyone have a Happy New Year!

Please continue to stay in touch with each other.

Member Feature

Article submitted by Milt Omoto with permission from Bob Rotruck

Welcome Home Ceremony on the USS Midway Museum

On November 9, the Vietnam War Commemoration Organization (the same one that provides us with our Commemoration pins) conducted a “Welcome Home” celebration for Vietnam Veterans aboard the USS Midway Museum in San Diego. Chapter members Bob and Barabra Rotruck attended the event (they live within walking distance of the museum). The following pictures are courtesy of Bob.

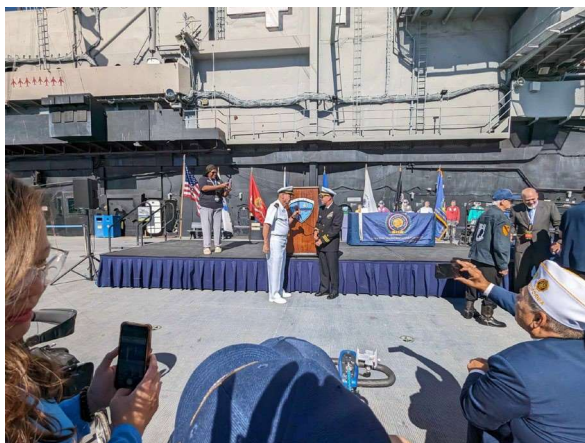


Bob at stern of the USS Midway



Guest Speaker Navy Commander

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



Veteran attendees introduce themselves



Bob in front of an E2C Hummer (Northrop Grumman E-2 Hawkeye)



Barbara and Bob on the USS Midway

Bob stated that that the uniform changed to winter dress blues on November 1st but he didn't get the word!

Military Trivia

“Stubby” (answer on page 9)

November Meeting Guest Speakers



LtoR: Karen Perez, Mr. President, Ailbe Astor and Fernie

Representatives from the Freedom Service Dogs of America presented their program of services. They partner people with custom-trained assistance dogs. Their clients include veterans with PTSD, children and teens with autism and other neurocognitive disabilities, and individuals with physical challenges. Note: even if the VA denies authorizing you a service dog, you should contact this organization and they will assign a consultant to

work with you to try and get you a service dog. Freedom Service Dogs is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). They are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization located in Englewood, CO. You can reach them at (303) 922-6231.

December Guest Speaker



Gunnery Sergeant Sheehan

Our December meeting guest speaker was Gunnery Sergeant Sheehan of the Young Marines who presented a history of the Young Marines, a discussion of the organization's Drug Demand Reduction program, and a Drug Demand Reduction discussion, a message specifically on Fentanyl use targeted to our youth.

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

Membership! (As of 11/04/2023)

VVA 203
AVVA 43
TOTAL: 246

New Members:

Meetings/Events Calendar – 2023

Nov 4, 2023 – VVA Chapter 1106 Membership Mtg
Nov 11, 2023-- Veteran's Day "Poppy Drive"
Nov 26, 2023 – Chapter Board of Director's Mtg
Dec 3, 2023 – VVA Chapter 1106 Membership Mtg
Dec 9, 2023 – Chapter Holiday Luncheon
Dec 30, 2023 – Chapter Board of Director's Mtg



In Memoriam

Mike Vallow (US Air Force) Chapter Member and David Andersen (US Air Force)



As of: 4/19/2023

Total Funeral Homes Visited – 2,622
Cremains Found – 29,894
Veterans Cremains Identified – 6,344
Veterans Interred – 5,959

November Meeting Events: The Girl Scouts Brought Cookies



Members of Girl Scout Troop 1608 brought homemade cookies to our November Membership meeting. Grandpa Gary Palka has a granddaughter in the troop and invited them to our meeting. Thank you girls. The cookies were delicious.

Member Bio for November Mtg Randy Reed – U.S. Army



Randy Reed shared his experiences while in college and prior to getting drafted by Uncle Sam. He shared his US Army military experience during boot camp and overseas. He was with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

Member Randy Reed

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

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

November Chapter Events

Celebrating 30 years

The Vietnam Women's Memorial, unveiled on Nov. 11, 1993, is the first monument to honor the efforts of military women at the National Mall. Our own Patti Ehline, Nurse and Vietnam Veteran, attended the 30th anniversary of the memorial's unveiling. Patti, thank you for your service and welcome home!

Ben Franklin Academy Veterans Day Celebration



Ben Franklin Academy Veterans Day

Ben Franklin Academy once again honored veterans and active military at this year's Veterans Day celebration. The entire school mobilizes for this event, with students attending in two separate sessions. The Chapter's color guard presented the Colors at both sessions.

Veterans Day at Texas Roadhouse



Chapter 1106 at Texas Roadhouse

Chapter 1106 members helped hand out free meal coupons and information about the Chapter at Texas Roadhouse Parker on Veterans Day. A long line of cars continued to drive through to receive a coupon. Thank you to members who came out to help.

Veterans Day Poppy Drive



Chapter 1106 at King Soopers

Chapter 1106 members handed out Poppys to King Sooper customers at several locations on Veterans Day. Many customers responded in kind with donations to the Chapter. Thank you to members who came out to help.

December Meeting Events:



Milt Omoto with Jim William's Award

Milt presented the Chapter's 2023 AVVA Member of the Year award to Jim Williams, virtually. Jim hosts the monthly Zoom meeting capabilities for both Board and Membership meetings. He was on-line. Congratulations Jim!

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

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

December Meeting Highlights



Patti Ehline and President Dave

The Chapter awarded Patti Ehline with a check to help pay for her Washington DC trip to the 2023 Veterans Day celebration at the Mall.



Walter Leuci

Walter has faithfully provided coffee and cold water at our monthly membership meetings all year. Thank you Walt!



Kaitlyn McGullan

AVVA member Kaitlyn helping at the December meeting, on the promotional items table. Thank you Kaitlyn.



Martha Baker

A special guest at our December meeting was Martha Baker, US Army nurse, who served from 1951 through 1971. She is a Vietnam War veteran and is 96 years young! She is featured in the September/October 2023 issue of the VVA Veteran magazine along with the Chapter Color Guard.



Doris and Loy Oakes

Another set of special guests were Doris and Loy Oakes. Loy served in the US Navy. They are residents of Heather Garden.

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

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

December Chapter Events

Holiday Lunch Highlights



Great Attendance by Members and Spouses



Guest Speaker Terri Clinton



Trumpeter Mark Stallins



Chapter Member of the Year Mike Huber



Proud Winners of the Surprise Gift!



Patti Closing the Event with a Christmas Carol

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

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

2023 VVA Chapter 1106 Highlights

VVA National Convention

At the 2023 VVA National Convention held in Orlando, FL August 8 through 12, Chapter President Dave Lyons presented Chapter 1106 challenge coins to Grant Coates and Mokie Porter of VVA National. Grant is Chair of the VVA POW/MIA Committee, and Mokie Porter is VVA Director of Communications.

Chapter of the Year!

Chapter 1106 was awarded "Chapter of the Year" at the 2023 VVA National Convention in Orlando, FL, on August 10, 2023. This is a prestigious award for a Chapter, considering that VVA has over 650 active chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the Philippines.

Member of the Year!



Mike Huber is presented the Chapter Member of the Year Award at the Holiday Lunch. Mike, thank you for all you do for the Chapter.

Veterans Emergency Assistance Program

Dozens of Veterans have been helped directly by the assistance program led by Joe Plant. As of March 1, 2023, over \$22,000 had been provided to Veterans the previous fiscal year. To date, we are on track to provide the same level of support. Joe, thank you, for all you do. It can't be easy fielding calls from so many people in need.

Buddy Checks

Hats off to all our Buddy callers. It is always nice to know that someone has your well being on their list of to do's.

Chapter Social Events

Social events are important to the wellbeing of any organization. The Chapter Pic Nic and Holiday Lunch are no exceptions. Thank you to all the Members who spent many additional volunteer hours insuring these

activities went off with out a hitch (maybe just a couple of hiccups).

Chapter Color Guard

The Chapter Color Guard provides the most profound representation of this Chapter. These Men have provided significant additional volunteer hours to attend many events throughout the year on behalf of our Chapter. It is an activity that can be both emotionally and physically challenging. Thank you all for your contribution to such an important activity.

Honor Flight



Joe Dempsey and Ed Seiler in Washington, DC

2023 Scholarship Winners

Chapter 1106 awarded six \$2,000 scholarships to winners of this year's scholarship program. Out of fourteen submissions, these graduating students demonstrated their understanding of the Vietnam War.

Forgotten Heroes Campaign July 8, 2023

The Forgotten Heroes Campaign honored three VVA 1106 Chapter members at their July 8th awards ceremony. John Vargas, Lew Woods and Richard Lewis were 3 of the 65 awards presented. Brigadier General David Warner conducted the honors.

Poppy Drives

Another year for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Poppy Drives. Our biggest fund raisers of the year. For Chapter Members, an easy way to participate in helping the Chapter maintain financial stability while enlightening the public on the importance of these two National Holidays!

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

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

Books/Articles

Editor's Note: The following article was published in the VA/News <https://news.va.gov> on January 11, 2018. It was submitted by Mark Nickell.

“Veteran Thanks Veterans Administration”



I have been a member of Rolling Thunder, the VFW and the VVA for the past several years after I decided to become engaged in Veteran organizations. This after not discussing any aspects of my military service, including Vietnam, for over 47 years. My contact with the VA has been superficial until this last year.

Until then, my opinion of the VA was primarily based on word of mouth critiques from other Veterans in these organizations. It was almost always negative feedback especially when concerning benefits. So much so that I declined to file for my own benefits for several years thinking it would not be a good use of my time. And besides, I was holding down a job and getting by just fine, at least up to about a year ago when I started to experience a significant loss of energy and began experiencing new heart issues on top of what I already had.

As luck would have it, a young Veteran service officer gave our VVA chapter [1106] a presentation on the services his team provided to Vets. He was from a neighboring county Veterans Service Office. I was smitten with his energy and genuine interest in helping us out. This was back in January 2017. His name is David Fry and he worked for Tim Westphal at the Arapahoe County Veteran Services here in Littleton, Colorado.

I made an appointment with him and we began the claims process, filing in February. I was contacted by a VA contract group within 45 days about attending medical evaluations within the next few weeks. The process was painless and the administration and medical employees were great. They were very caring and very respectful. I came to look forward to the evaluations.

I received my first notification from the Department of Veteran Affairs that I was approved for 70% disability soon after. The VA was still evaluating a new heart condition that was discovered during the medical testing and would provide an additional decision at a later date. That decision came in August. I had been reclassified at 100% with special compensation. The medical review team had discovered that I also was suffering from left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVSD). The cause being attributed to my exposure to herbicides in Vietnam while on active duty. The irony for me is that the LVSD was not in the original filing. Nor had it ever been diagnosed by either of the two civilian cardiologists I was seeing at the time.

I owe a great debt to the VA as I am now able to retire from my existing job of 40 years and address a medical condition that would have, otherwise, gone untreated indefinitely. I am being provided a second chance to live out my days in a more meaningful way, something I would not be able to do had I continued to listen to the negative press about the VA and not paid attention to a young VSO who embraced his job and love for other Veterans.

It concerns me that there are other Vets out there, like I was, who are not taking full advantage of what their country has to offer because they are not getting the right information. My hope is that I can find a way to help you change that situation in some small way.

On the Lighter Side



Trivia Answer

“Stubby” – The nickname for an 8” SP (self propelled) howitzer that fired a 200lb. HE round up to 11 miles.

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

VVA Chapter 1106 Annual Calendar of Events 2024

Date of Issue: December 16,

Date	Event	Location
January 2024		
January 6 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
January 27 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
February 2024		
February 3 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
February 24 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
March 2024		
March 2 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
March 9 (Saturday)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Pines Library
March 29 (Friday)	Vietnam Veterans Day (observed)	Events at Various Locations
March 30 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
April 2024		
April 6 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
April 27 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
May 2023		
May 4 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
May (TBD)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
May 25 (Saturday)	Memorial Day "Poppy Drive" Fund Raiser	King Sooper (4-5 Locations TBD)
June 2024		
June 1 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
June 8 (Saturday)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Pines Library
June 29 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
July 2024		
July 4 (Thursday)	Chapter Participation in Fourth of July Parade	Highlands Ranch
July 6 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
July 27 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
August 2024		
August 3 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
August 20 - 24	VVA National Leadership Conference	Reno, NV
August 10 (Saturday)	Chapter Family Summer Picnic	Falcon Park, Highlands Ranch
August 31 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
September 2024		
September 7 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
September 28 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
October 2024		
October 5 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
October 12 (Saturday)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Pines Library
October 26 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
November 2024		
November 2 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
November 9 (Saturday)	Veterans Day "Poppy Drive" Fund Raiser	King Soopers (Locations TBD)
November 11 (Monday)	Veterans Day	Events at Various Locations
November 30 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
December 2024		
December 7 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
December 14 (Saturday)	Chapter Holiday Luncheon and Festivities	TBD
December 28 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

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

FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1106

 <p>South Metro Fire Rescue Authority</p>	<p>South Metro Denver Fire & Rescue 9195 E Mineral Ave Centennial, CO 80112</p>	 <p>THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION Serving The Total Force The Voice of the Enlisted: Retired/Active Duty/Reserves/National Guard "United We Stand!"</p>	<p>TREA: The Enlisted Association - HQ Phone - (303) 752-0660 12200 E. Briarwood Avenue, Suite 250, Centennial CO 80112</p>
 <p>SPRADLIN Printing, Inc.</p>	<p>Spradlin Printing, Inc. 11903 S. Parker Road Parker, CO 80134</p>	 <p>QOV QUILTS OF VALOR QOV</p>	<p>Alycia Carmin PO Box 233 Kersey, CO 80644 (970) 352 8802</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>DAR Daughters of the American Revolution <i>Smoky Hill Trail Chapter NSDAR</i> Parker, Colorado</p>		
 <p>King Soopers 9551 S. University Blvd., Highlands Ranch, CO 80126</p>	 <p>Qualified Listeners Veteran & Family Resource Hub</p>	<p>Qualified Listeners: PO Box 563 Dacono, CO 80514 Tel: 720-600-0860</p>	
 <p>Military Order of Purple Heart, Chapter 1041, Arvada, CO</p>	<p>CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT <i>Dedicated to Excellence</i> Cherry Creek Schools 4700 South Yosemite Street Greenwood Village, CO 80111</p>		
 <p>ROCKY MOUNTAIN HONOR FLIGHT President Dale Goulette cell 303-547-7850 2212 Diamond Creek Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, 80921 dalegoulette@rockymountainhonorflight.org</p>	 <p>Independently Yours Medical Supplies PARKER MEDICAL SUPPLY STORE 9845 S Parker Rd Parker, CO 80134 303-840-4444</p>		

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

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



ERC Management, LLC
791 Southpark Dr., Suite 600
Littleton, CO 80120
[720.328.3299](tel:720.328.3299)
www.FreddysUSA.com



Texas Roadhouse

11205 S. Parker Road, Parker, CO 80134

**THANK YOU FOR
REACHING OUT AND
HELPING VETERANS**