



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter #920  
Denton, TX**

[www.vva920.org](http://www.vva920.org)

**August 2019**

**Meeting Information:**

Date: Meet the **4th Tuesday** of Each Month  
Location: 6900 FM 2153, Aubrey, TX 76227  
Dinner: At **6:00PM**  
Meeting Start Time: **6:45PM**

**Officers (2019-2020)**

President: Eric Harmon  
Vice President: Dan Washburn  
Secretary: Ron Swain  
Treasurer: Enrique Nater  
Director: Jerry Anderson  
Director: Sharon Balsley  
Director: Robbie Roberts

**Committee Leads**

Chaplains - Tom Silva and Bill Coburn  
Honor Guard - Alan Lessard  
Membership - Jerry Anderson  
Motor Pool Sergeant - Bill Roberson  
Newsletter Editor - Anita Washburn  
Public Affairs – Frenchy Rheault  
Quarter Master - Horst Poethke  
Safety Officer - Ron Swain  
Sergeant at Arms - Randy Grizzle  
Steward – Leo Perez  
Support Services - Sharon Balsley  
Webmaster - Jim Polozeck

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**Celebrating our HF Guardians**



**Honor Flight #16 - October 2016**

**“Never Again Will One  
Generation of Veterans  
Abandon Another”**



**Membership Update: (July 2019)**  
**VVA-195      AVVA-30      Total-225**

## **Welcome – President**

Advance Your Involvement in the VVA

Recently attended events have reinforced my pride in wearing the veteran patch. Before I became a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, I wore the standard ball cap that read “Vietnam Veteran”- Generic, but I knew I might meet another veteran by signaling my part in that specific war. Then I met the VVA and my world changed for the better.

Not only is being a member of the VVA or AVVA an opportunity to break bread with friends of a bygone era and share stories not many would understand nor appreciate outside our circle, it gives us opportunity to be involved in making our community better and to assist other veterans not as fortunate as us. At a higher level of involvement, as a delegate at the Texas State Council (meets twice per year) or the National Convention (convenes biennially) we keep the government aware that what we get in way of medical aid and benefits was earned and we, as well as our younger veterans need to continue the fight with Washington D.C. to maintain and improve upon them. Examples of the VVA’s success include Agent Orange and PTSD, both issues that were downplayed until we intervened.

In January we begin to solicit candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors. Any VVA member can up his or her game. Our AVVA is not chartered and does not vote in VVA elections, nor can they run for or hold a position in the VVA. But their voices can certainly be heard at our monthly meetings – everyone can take part in our direction.

An opportunity has come to our chapter to attend the next Texas State Council. Our McKinney chapter stepped to the plate and is hosting the event in Allen this October. Our chapter will send delegates who vote on items designated in the agenda. If you, a VVA or AVVA member would like to attend the event on Friday evening or Saturday contact one of our board members so we can accommodate.

Eric

# VVA 920 Events

## August 2019

**16<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> – North Texas Fair  
Raffle - Annual Fundraiser**

**21<sup>st</sup> – VVA 920 Board Meeting**

**27<sup>th</sup> – VVA Stated Meeting**

## September 2019

**18<sup>th</sup> – VVA 920 Board Meeting**

**24<sup>th</sup> – VVA Stated Meeting**

## October 2019

**16<sup>th</sup> – VVA 920 Board Meeting**

**18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> – VVA Texas State Council  
Meeting – Allen, TX**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – VVA Stated Meeting &  
“Fallen Brothers Ceremony”**

**Delivered Stuffed Animals to Krum  
Fire & Police Departments July 2019.**



## Honor Guard Activities:

Alan Lessard, SOG

**August 02 2019 Friday 07:30 am  
Ribbon Cutting - VA Denton Mental  
Health Annex - Denton**

**August 02 2019 Friday 08:45 am  
TX. & OK. Kiwanis District  
Convention - Convention Center at  
the Embassy Suites Denton**

**August 09, 2019 Friday 07:30 am  
Northwest Lineman College**

**August 12, 2019 Monday 17:45 hrs,  
Honor Guard Practice  
Green Valley School**

**August 16, 2019 Friday 18:00 hrs  
Highland Village Balloon Festival**

Contact Alan for Details on each event.



**2009**

# VVA 920 **Safe/Rifle** Raffle

North Texas State Fair  
Denton, TX

August 16-24, 2019

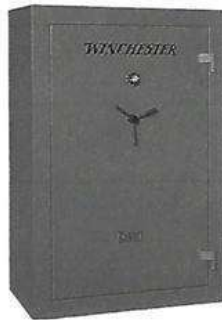
Please, turn in ticket stubs and money to Gary Raines, Dan Washburn or at the Fair booth before the drawing on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

PRIZE to be awarded for Top Sales:



Just the backpack – not Eric or Randy.

## Henry Big Boy 44 Magnum Rifle and Winchester Gun Safe



DRAWING TO BE HELD ON  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019

**WINCHESTER**  
SAFES

Benefiting Vietnam Veterans Chapter 920

**\$10<sup>ea.</sup> Donation**

Need not be present to win | No cash value | Must be legally eligible





Together Always

## AVVA

(Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America)

**Our AVVA team supports  
VVA 920 activities & members.**

AVVA members attend VVA stated meetings:  
July 23 – August 27 – September 24

AVVA is open to anyone interested in supporting VVA 920 and other Veterans but is not eligible to join VVA. Please, consider joining this active team of workers.

Dues: \$20 Annual – \$50 for 3 years  
Lifetime - \$150 / \$100 based on Age

<http://www.avva.org>

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### Major Norma Cabanas

Presents a Certificate of Appreciation  
to VVA 920 Support Services,  
July 23, 2019



**Work Sessions at GVS  
Scheduled on As Need basis.  
Stay Tuned.....**

**Honor Guard  
Paul Rojas  
(US Navy 1955-59)  
July 19, 2019  
Oakwood Cemetery Denton**



Patriot Guard escorted funeral procession.



## Honor Flight Guardians

VVA 920 members have volunteered as Guardians to Veterans on Honor Flights to Washington DC.

In addition to paying a fee of \$400 - \$600 per flight and attending HF training, Guardian duty is to insure the safety of their Veteran 24-hours a day.

To learn more about the **Honor Flight** program or to donate, please visit their website: <http://www.honorflightdfw.org/>

“The older warriors could not make this trip without the caring assistance of the **Honor Flight DFW (HFDFW) Guardians**. The responsibility is huge, but nothing compares to what these veterans did for our country and our world!

The safety of the HFDFW veterans is paramount!

The role of the guardian should not be taken lightly. The veterans are counting on you to help them safely make the journey to DC and home. It is a commitment of your time and attention, a desire to honor the aged veterans, and it is a physically demanding job.”

VVA 920 has 6 Guardians to celebrate.

**RANDY GRIZZLE – 22 FLIGHTS**

**FRENCHY RHEAULT – 7 FLIGHTS**

**JERRY ANDERSON – 3 FLIGHTS**

**JIMMY POLOZECK – 2 FLIGHTS**

**TED HILLIS – 1 FLIGHT**

**LARRY KELLOGG – 1 FLIGHT**



## Honor Flight Guardians

### Honor Flight #12 – May 2012



Frenchy Rheault



**Honor Flight Guardians  
Honor Flight #16 – Oct 2013**



Ted Hillis Randy Grizzle

**Honor Flight #17 – Oct 2013**



Randy Grizzle Jerry Anderson



**Honor Flight Guardians  
Honor Flight #20 – May 2014**



Jimmy Polozek Jerry Anderson Randy Grizzle



Jerry Anderson Larry Kellogg



## Honor Flight Guardians

Honor Flight #20 – May 2014 continued



Herb & Jim Polozeck

## Honor Flight #21 – Sept 2014



Jerry Anderson



## Honor Flight Guardians

Honor Flight #21 – Sept 2014



Randy Grizzle & Jerry Anderson

## Welcome Home Honor Flights to DFW May 2012





## Welcome Home Honor Flights to DFW



October 2013

## Welcome Home Honor Flights to DFW



VVA Honor Guard May 2013



Boy Scouts Honor WWII Veterans

### Complimentary Book:

To honor over half a million Texans who served in Vietnam, a special Texas limited edition **Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration** book *A Time to Honor: Stories of Service, Duty, and Sacrifice* is available to them, compliments of Governor Greg Abbott. The book is available at various Texas Veterans Commission offices around the state.

**Denton County Veterans Service Center**  
400 S Carroll Blvd Ste 2000 Denton, TX  
76201 Office: 940-243-8234

## Support Services – August 2019

Care package was sent to Senior Airman Jamie Phillips (daughter of the pharmacy technician at Albertsons).

Jamie is in the Air Force stationed in Colorado Springs and is deployed to Jordan for the next six months. She serves in the Security Forces as a law enforcement officer.



Quilt provided by Denton Quilt Guild.

### Of interest from Texas State AVVA:

The new [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) has a new page that provides a comprehensive overview of **VA education and training benefits**. You can now learn how to apply for education benefits, manage your benefits, and use other resources. [Visit this page today to use the education and training benefits you've earned.](#)

Please share with your children & grandchildren who have served or are currently serving.

## Denton Quilt Guild - RWB Bee presented a “Quilt of Valor” to “Lew” Lewellan WWII Veteran

Lew parachuted into Normandy the night before D-Day



For more information or to donate please visit the websites below:

### Quilt of Valor Foundation

*The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.*

<https://www.qovf.org/>

### Quilt of Honor Foundation

- Purple Heart Recipients
- Those suffering from PTSD
- Those with traumatic brain injuries
- Those dealing with the effects of Agent Orange
- Those who have served multiple tours

<https://www.quiltsofhonor.org/>

## Note from the President:

### Never Again

“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another” is the guiding principle of the Vietnam Veterans of America, established back in 1978. At the VVA National Convention the other week I learned this saying came from a sense of abandonment by our WWII veterans who were a far different generation than those of us baby boomers who by the nineteen-sixties were protesting everything, growing our hair and chanting - “drugs, sex and rock & roll baby”. Most of all we were defiant of the “establishment” and were hell bent to rewrite the American code. Their response was reactivating the selective service system, initiating a lottery draft and at the same time stripping funds from veteran services such as the GI Bill, which was vanquished. Realizing that the fight for what was right was up to us, a group of a few straggly long hair Vietnam Veterans coalesced into a force that has evolved into all we have today. Some 86,000 members strong. We can’t take all the credit but we certain played a principle role with Agent Orange, PTSD, VA Clinics, VA Benefits and much more. I share this with you because I have realized that we not only are engaged with assisting all the younger veterans, but we still respect our elders. All veterans benefit from our continuous hard work and now that WWII veterans age from about 92+ someone came up with a great idea to show our parents there are no hard feelings – The Honor Flight!

Our newsletter editor has assembled some great pictures of the “Texas Honor Flight” and put together some narrative on the subject as well celebrating our very own “Guardians” so check it out. There are nine hubs in the state of Texas and we directly support the DFW connection.

As I wrap up my letter I would be remise if I didn’t give a shout-out for our biggest fundraiser coming up August 16 thru the 24<sup>th</sup>. Every member can make a difference by purchasing a \$10 ticket and better yet, grab a few and sell them to others. You can also volunteer to work our event held at the North Texas Denton County Fairgrounds. Contact Gary Raines, Robbie Roberts or Dan Washburn for more information. Stop by our booth, buy so tickets, sell some tickets and deposit the stubs with our brothers and sisters on duty. It is a great deal should you win the Henry Big Boy 44 Magnum Rifle and a sizable safe.

May god bless you and your loved ones and I look forward to seeing all y’all soon.

Eric

President, VVA Chapter 920, Inc.