



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

September 2019

www.vva920.org

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:**
- 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 (AVVA)**
- Public Affairs – Frenchy Rheault**
- Quarter Master - Horst Poethke (AVVA)**
- Scholarship - Lloyd Kinnison (AVVA)**
- Sergeant at Arms - Randy Grizzle**
- Steward – Leo Perez**
- Support Services - Sharon Balsley**
- Webmaster - Jim Polozeck**

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**Veterans
Helping
Veterans**



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



Membership Update: (August 2019)

VVA-195 AVVA-30 Total-225

President's Corner

“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another” is the guiding principle, the first, in fact, that was established by the Vietnam Veterans of America's charter back in 1978-9. Google “VVA History” and follow the thread of why we formed and the accomplishments made along the way – it is a great read. What this motto means to me is to continue to reach out to all veterans either to greet them with a **“Welcome Home”** or help them address their needs.

Attending the national convention in Spokane, Washington this past July gave opportunity to hear from some of the charter members back in those difficult times for us Vietnam Veterans. Without the support from veterans of that time they established their charter in New York, then spread chapters and membership across America – creating a plan and process along the way which included the recruitment of student lawyers and medical researches – a resource we continue to collect and utilize. We sue (the government) continuously, and maintain a neutrality politically (in Washington D.C.) so regardless of what party is in control we have a relationship and mission that remains constant. We brought about PTSD, Agent Orange and its growing number of effects, resurrection of the GI Bill, expanding medical treatment and benefits and much more. Every two years there is a VVA national convention in order to update, retire and add new objectives. Here are some of this years approved proposals:

- ◆ Seek and repeal Public Law 95-126 regarding the Carter administration's special discharge upgrade program and work toward having the Other-Than-Fully-Honorable-Discharge replaced with a Certificate of Service.
- ◆ Dept. of Veteran Affairs implementation of U.S. Court of Appeals for veteran's claims decisions. (currently the DVA is not adhering to U.S. Court of Appeals decisions to override the DVA's.)
- ◆ Reduction of DIC survivor waiting period (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation). We are to urge Congress to put forth legislation to reduce the waiting period of DIC from ten years to one.
- ◆ Equal treatment of the 3.2 million American citizens in Puerto Rico.
- ◆ Ban the manufacturing, sale and use of 2.4-D and Glyphosate.

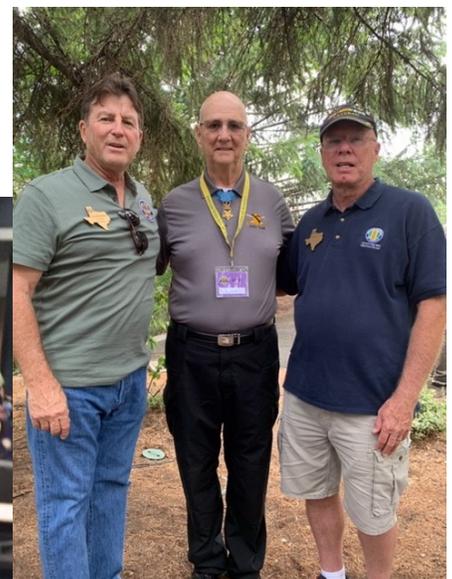
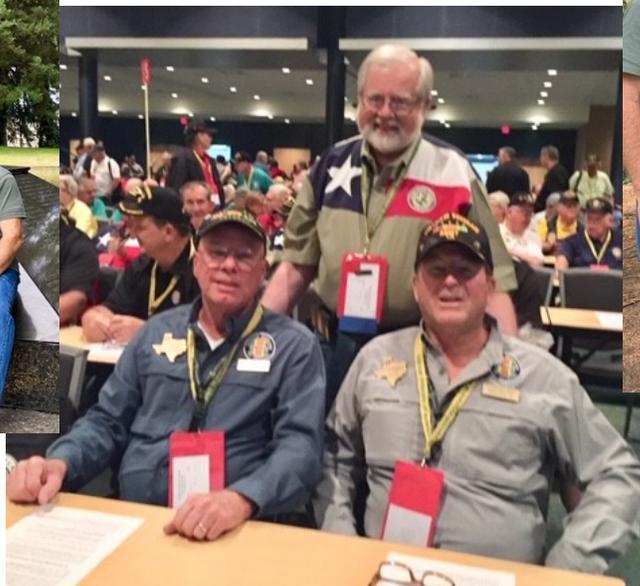
President's Corner, continued

- ◆ Protection of the right to representation in appeals. (Ensure that veterans and their family members are accorded the full right to representation in all stages of an appeal for VA benefits.
- ◆ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Quality Assurance Program (VVA supports changes to the DDVA quality assurance program at the Board: VA regularly discloses information about its quality assurance program, to include details about its design, how it is administered, and the raw data generated. . .)
- ◆ U.S. DAVA Spina Bifida and Birth Defects program.
- ◆ Changing the name of Vietnam Veterans of America – Require VVA's officers and board of directors to investigate the requirements to change the name of Vietnam Veterans of America to a name that would entice Post-Vietnam veterans to join the renamed organization and open up membership to these newer veterans. These proposed changes would be presented to the delegates at the 2021 Convention for ratification.

Please feel free to contact us for additional information on any of these bullets.

Welcome Home,

Eric Harmon – President VVA Chapter 920, Inc.



Randy Kerwin Stone Eric
 President
 Texas State Council

Eric Al Lynch Randy
 MOH
 Recipient

VVA 920 Events

September 2019

18th – VVA 920 Board Meeting

24th – VVA Stated Meeting

October 2019

16th – VVA 920 Board Meeting

18th-19th – VVA Texas State Council Meeting – Allen, TX

22nd – VVA Stated Meeting & “Fallen Brothers Ceremony”

November 2019

No Meeting

December 2019

No Meeting

10th – Annual **Christmas Dinner**
“Save the Date!”

Honor Guard Activities:

Alan Lessard, SOG

Sept 09 2019 Monday 05:45 pm
HG Meeting - GVS Aubrey

Sept 12 2019 Thursday 06:00 pm
Defenders of Freedom
The Laurel, 2040 Enchanted Way, Grapevine, TX

Contact Alan for Details on each event

VVA 920 Honor Guard

Lineman College Graduation

8-9-19



VVA 920 Honor Guard

North Texas Fair Parade
8-22-19



Alan, Frenchy, Horst, Rick

Woo Hoo! 2nd Place Classic Car



Robert Biedeger Memorial
Alvord TX Veterans Memorial
8-31-19



VVA 920 Honor Guard

Robert Biedeger Memorial
Alvord TX Veterans Memorial
8-31-19



VVA 920 **Safe/Rifle** Raffle

North Texas State Fair

Denton, TX

August 16-24, 2019

Thank You

Gary Raines, Robbie Roberts & Volunteers
Exceeded \$ales goal beyond expectations.



**Winner -
Lee Ann**

Winner

"The winner of the 2019 North Texas State Fair, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 920 raffle is Lee Ann. She owns a five acre ranch near Lake Roberts and said this is her first personally owned rifle though she has several hand guns and a concealed weapons permit. Wild hogs are a problem with her neighbors so the Henry "Big Boy" 44 Magnum may come in handy. The Winchester safe is also something she has been needing but said it is a bit larger than she imagined one day owning. Lee Ann has supported our chapter in previous raffles and this is her first win."



Top Outside Sales -
Steve Knox & Robin Kain

VVA 920 Support Services

Back in 2016, **VVA Support Service** was created out of the Troop, Family & Veteran Support Group plus the Care Team which were merged together to better serve our VVA veterans and the veterans in the Denton area. This committee reports directly to the VVA Board and gives quarterly financial briefings. Additionally, we are part of the monthly VVA meetings through our updates on veterans that we have been able to help and send cards to. Horst Poethke is our secretary and go to member who keeps our monthly minutes. He leaves a precise paper trail of our activities to present to the VVA Board. Being an involved AVVA volunteer, he is key to keeping us up with what is happening with our membership.

Paralleling this creation, the United Way was awarded a Grant to pay for 2 Navigators to serve veterans in Denton. This brought on board a professional staff to review what VA, Denton County and military service organizations resources are available to meet the specific needs of each veteran they meet with. They are housed at the Denton County Veterans Center at 400 S. Carroll Blvd., Denton along with many other veterans services. This facility was made possible through the efforts of the Denton County Veterans Coalition. Kind of a one stop shopping experience. Tapping into this system has helped us take advantage of a wide variety of new services. Support Services got to work on an application form to help us better understand the need of our veterans. Communications between VVA Support Services and the Navigators moves very quickly since we use email. Confidentiality is strictly honored.

Card of condolences and get well are an ongoing focus for our group. We recently got a VVA 920 logo card to mail out that we can add a personal message to. Diane Schuth heads up our card correspondence. We are spread out at our VVA events to pick up news on our members and appreciate any leads on our members well being. The Board, Chaplains and our VVA phone voicemail is another source of referrals.

Money was awarded from Marcus High School for care packages for deployed veterans. Robert Creamier is our shopper and he has even included some quilts from the Red, White and Blue Quilt Group to give our VVA care packages a special flair. We welcome any referrals for names and addresses of deployed troops.

Getting back to the Navigators. At the end of the Grant period, the Navigators had been so successful that the positions were picked up by the VA. We take advantage of their expertise and bigger resource base by sending all our request for support to them for review. We are one of the money sources the navigator call on. Our focus is Vietnam Era Veterans but we also have been asked to help with older and young veterans in need. We are part of the comprehensive help that is available to veterans in Denton County. Many times they can review disability status and get in contact with support to updating VA claims. There is even income tax help at their location.

Now for our recruiting efforts. We are currently a 4-member group of the VVA but would like to add another member. If you enjoy helping our veterans in need by getting them to the resources that are available, come volunteer. Support Services has a monthly meeting on the fourth Monday at 12 noon. Most of our urgent communications are done through text messaging and email. The request for help can come from many sources with follow-up

VVA 920 Support Services, continued

during business hours on weekdays.

To reach the **Veteran Community Navigator** directly, you can call **940-566-5851 extension 113**. Leave a call back name and phone number. They will call you back and set up an appointment or refer you to a resource if needed.

<https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/referral/veteran>

Care Package sent to
SSgt Christina Christiansen
US Army Military Police
Deployed: Middle East



Together Always®

AVVA

(Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America)

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

AVVA members may attend VVA stated meetings:

September 24 – October 22

AVVA is a national organization with separate Bylaws. AVVA members may not vote during VVA meetings or serve on the VVA Board.

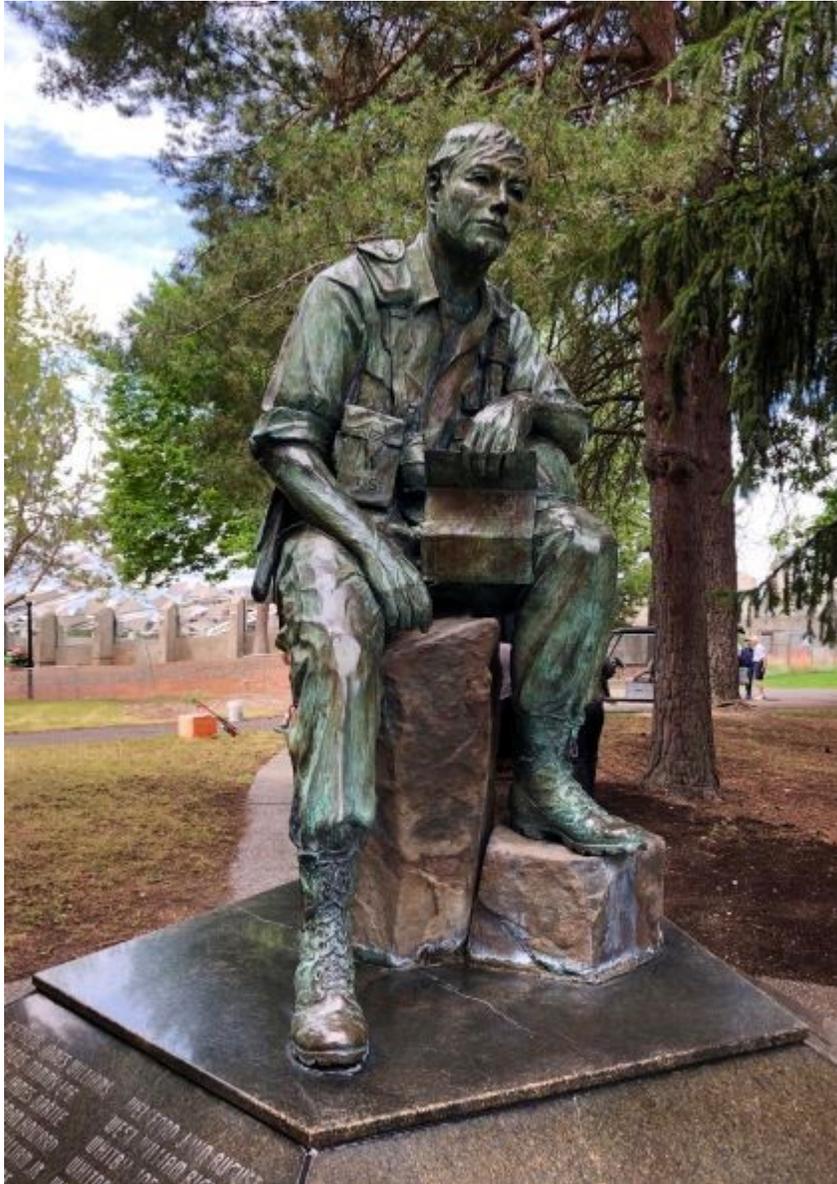
AVVA is open to anyone interested in supporting VVA 920 and other veterans but is not eligible to join VVA.

Please, consider joining this active team of volunteers.

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

<http://www.avva.org>

“The Letter From Home”



The young warrior sits after mail call, takes a whiff from the envelope to check for her perfume, or maybe a trace of the slightest scent from mom's favorite home-cooked dish - depending on the return address, mind you. It takes a moment to get the head centered, then a careful look around for safety and assured privacy, and a slow process of cutting the fold of paper as to not destroy the hand addressed envelope; each bit of scribe important as it sets the stage for the contents - which are read at the pace of a late night conversation.

Veterans Park, Spokane, Washington