



# “THE LISTENING POST”

October 1, 2022



Vol 13 Issue 8

## President’s Comments

## Vietnam Quotes

### Upcoming Events

- October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM, Monthly VVA Meeting
- October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM, Monthly AVVA Meeting
- October 11, 2022 PTSD Awareness Day
- October 13, 2022 U.S. Navy Birthday

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To the members and associates of Chapter 196, At the meeting last month, Jim and I gave reports on the seminars we attended at the Leadership and Education Conference. I have already implemented some changes for our chapter. First I updated our chapter by-laws. They were last revised in 2004 and consisted of 9 pages. Our new by-laws have been condensed to 2 pages. I will have copies available at the State Council meeting this month to

distribute to other chapters that were not in Greenville. The next change was to modify the POW/MIA prayer as there are no longer POWs in Vietnam. Next, I will be ordering from National the new medals for the two Junior ROTC schools in area (Glass and Heritage) and for any Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America sponsored by the American Legion Post 16. That's about all to report for now. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Keeping you informed, David Stokes, President

Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on Brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights? No I'm not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people the world over. This is the day when such evils must come to an end. I have been warned that to take such a stand would cost me millions of dollars. But I have said it once and I will say it again. The real enemy of my people is here. I will not disgrace my religion, my people or myself by becoming a tool to enslave those who are fighting for their own justice, freedom and equality. If I thought the war was going to bring freedom and equality to 22 million of my people they wouldn't have to draft me, I'd join tomorrow. I have nothing to lose by standing up for my beliefs. So I'll go to jail, so what? We've been in jail for 400 years.

*MUHAMMAD ALI, attributed, Redemption Song: Muhammad Ali and the Spirit of the Sixties*

We do this [escalating U.S. military involvement in Vietnam] in order to slow down aggression. We do this to increase the confidence of the brave people of South Vietnam who have bravely born this brutal battle for so many years with so many casualties. And we do this to convince the leaders of North Vietnam—and all who seek to share their conquest—of a simple fact: We will not be defeated. We will not grow tired. We will not withdraw either openly or under the cloak of a meaningless agreement.

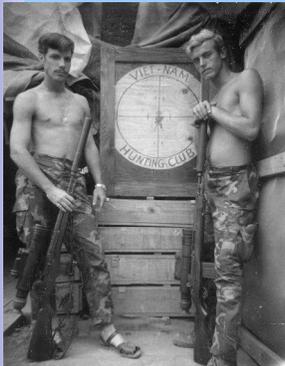
*LYNDON B. JOHNSON, speech explaining his decision to send U.S. combat troops to Vietnam, April 7, 1965*

There is nothing in the resolution, as I read it, that contemplates [sending American armies to Vietnam]. I agree with the Senator that that is the last thing we would want to do. However, the language of the resolution would not prevent it. It would authorize whatever the Commander in Chief feels is necessary.

*J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, Senate debate over the passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, August 6, 1964*



# Minutes for September 13, 2022 Membership Meeting



Chapter President David Stokes called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Guest; Warren Childress who served in Vietnam 1971 with the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry. Linda Childress came forward for the presenting of the Chapter 196 Vietnam Ceremony Wreath that she cleaned up for future ceremonies. The chapter has had the wreath for 4 years. She was presented a certificate for her efforts. The wreath will be displayed at Monument Terrace.

**FINANCIAL Report;** was given by Jim Fishel

**OLD BUSINESS:** David and Jim attended the leadership and education conference in Greenville SC last month. They both attended different work shops to get the most out of the training/education.

We still hold the national record for attendance for Agent Orange. Looking at a retreat in NC vice a conference, these do

not give out very much information to bring back.

We received a citation for youth scholarships and Boys State, Girl's State has dropped the oral history from a VN veteran and the POW/MIA Ceremony. If these are dropped we will not support Girl's State. This is the only post in the country that does the POW/MIA Ceremony.

### NEW BUSINESS

Car and Craft show the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion. On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> There will be an open house at the "Tank Farm" in Nokesville, VA. "When America goes to war, the American people go to war—from the armed forces to civil servants to the families at home. The Americans in Wartime Museum will bring history to life."

Last Sunday they held the 9/11 ceremony. Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> was the pickup day for flags, Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> is final pickup,

fold the flags left and retrieve the rebar for next year. We got all the flags and rebar up in 40 minutes beating our time from last year by 5 minutes.

The Desmond Doss home needs some cleaning up check with Jim Tennent for the date and time. The Combat Vets escorted the Flag from Ground Zero on Wednesday from Amherst to Lexington. The VVA Chapter 196 will be meeting with Parks and Recreation next week to discuss having a walk of honor. A walk where individuals can purchase a tree for planting in memory of someone. Lynchburg is a Tree Steward City. We do have an oak tree in the city cemetery dedicated to VN veterans. Ceremony on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, at MT and will read the proclamation. Honor Flights to DC will start again Oct 21<sup>st</sup> in VA. Come to the D-Day Memorial for when they return.

Respectfully Submitted, Art Ross for Robert Crowder

**1966**

**Top Pop Hits**

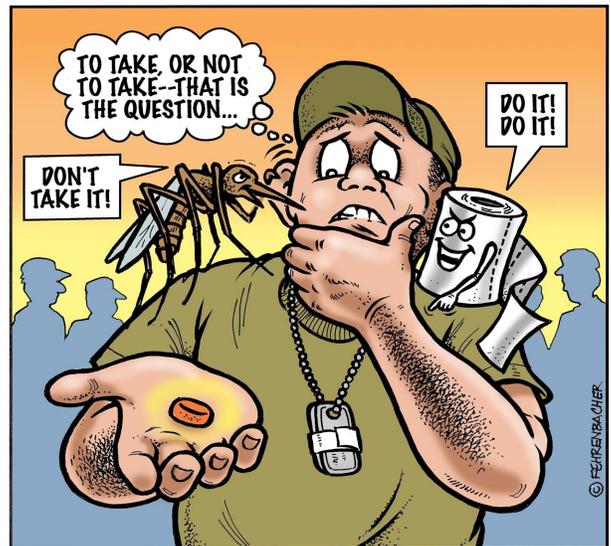
1. She's Just My Style - Gary Lewis & The Playboys
2. Red Rubber Ball - The Cyrkle
3. No Matter What Shape (Your Stomach's In) - The T-Bones
4. The Ballad of the Green Berets - Barry Sadler
5. Sloop John B - The Beach Boys
6. Sunshine Superman - Donovan
7. Day Dream - The Lovin' Spoonful
8. Winchester Cathedral - The New Vaudeville Band
9. Cherish - The Association
10. Last Train to Clarksville - The Monkees

Favorite Love Like Neutral Dislike Hate

**Billboard** TOP POP HITS

PAT'S GOOD OL' DAYS

### IN-COUNTRY



MALARIA PILL MONDAY... DO YA FEEL LUCKY?

AMERICA'S

**NAVY**

DEFENDING AMERICA WITH PRIDE

**SINCE 1775**

**PTSD**

awareness day



## Was Mr. Rogers a Vietnam-Era Sniper?

Did you ever hear that television's Mr. Rogers, host of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," was a death-dealing, hard-core Vietnam-era sniper in either the Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs, or the Marine Corps, and purposely wore long sleeve shirts or sweaters to cover multiple tattoos covering his arms?

Fred Rogers and his past are just one more file to add to the mounting list of military myths and urban legends. It might be fun to think of a man as smart and wholesome as [Fred Rogers](#) picking off a North Vietnamese general or Viet Cong guerrilla, but that's just not the case.

### Who is Mr. Rogers?

In reality, Rogers was a Presbyterian minister before the Vietnam War ever started, and during the war, he was studying Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh. He helped develop his first children's show in

1955, and by 1968, he was the host of the now-famous "Mister Rogers Neighborhood." Since the show ran on PBS for 33 years, and Fred Rogers was the showrunner, he had little time to pop rounds off at the NVA's most important officers. The only medal he ever picked up was the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

The closest Rogers ever came to military service was when he registered for the draft in 1948 at age 20. Initially, he was classified 1-A, but they declared him 4-F – unfit for military service after his physical.

And no, Jerry Mathers of "Leave It To Beaver" fame didn't die in Vietnam, either. He's actually still alive as of October 2021, although he served in the Air Force Reserve during the Vietnam War – and presented an Emmy to Gene Kelly in his dress uniform.

So why is it that there are so many urban legends surrounding some of classic television's favorite personalities? It's likely because it's fun to think about someone's on-screen persona being completely opposite of who they are in real life. But that's only a guess.

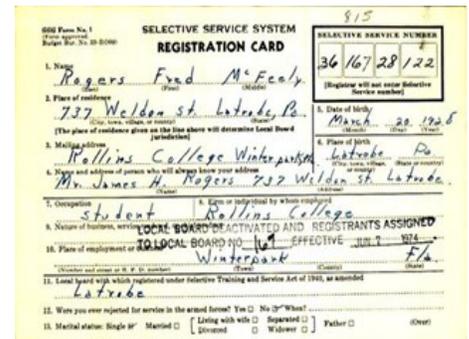
### Army Air Force and Silver Screen Veterans

There are, however, plenty of wholesome, famous actors who were stone-cold warriors during their military service. Television's Mr. Wizard, also known as Don Herbert, spent decades on TV teaching children how to con-

duct impossible science experiments at home. In World War II, Herbert flew 56 bombing missions against the Axis out of Italy in a B-24 Liberator bomber when bomber crews expected to die between their 8th and 12th mission.

Another Army Air Force and silver screen veteran was Jimmy Stewart, star of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and "It's a Wonderful Life." He joined the Army Air Force in December 1941 and rose in rank from private to major general, serving until 1968. How do you serve for 27 years and make that much rank? If you're Jimmy Stewart, you fight in three wars: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

So, sorry to burst anyone's bubble of Mr. Rogers joining the few, the proud, or any other military unit. If he had, he would have been their chaplain.

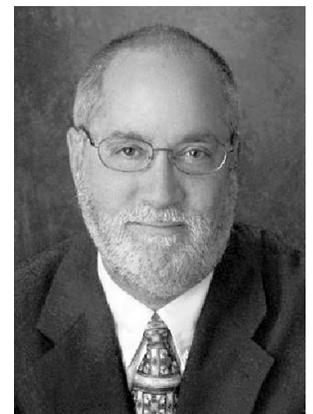


## Bob Sherman's memorabilia from local veteran Bob Sherman was presented to the Nelson County-based Vietnam War and Foreign Conflicts Museum

Friday, September 2nd, for the rally at Monument Terrace in support of U.S. troops there was a unique moment as memorabilia from veteran Bob Sherman was presented to the Nelson County-based Vietnam War and Foreign Conflicts Museum. Bob Sherman died January 2, 2022 in

Lynchburg and was a proud Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1967-1969, according to his obituary. Larry

Saunders, vice chair of the museum, was on hand to receive the items, which included Sherman's Army uniform, combat boots and letters he wrote to his mother from Vietnam. The museum maintains a collection of Vietnam-era artifacts at Saunders Construction in Nelson County but is working to raise money for a dedicated building.





## Marine Corps Speak in Vietnam (many of these terms were also used by the other branches of service)

**Aboard:** on base; with us.

**Actual:** radio talk for unit commander.

**Ain't no big thing in the PI:** Phrase used by Navy – It's not a big deal to be in the Philippines.

**All hands:** everyone...all y'all

**Amtrack:** amphibious tractor; landing craft.

**As you were!:** resume what you were doing; correction.

**Assholes and elbows:** in a hurry; quickly.

**Ba mui ba ("33"):** vietnamese beer. Rumored to be spiked with formaldehyde.

**Bac si (viet.):** doctor, used for corpsman.

**Bam:** broad ass marine; derogatory name for woman marine.

**Barracks cover:** garrison (frame) cap.

**Battle pin:** necktie clip.

**Be Advised:** Warning given prior to making an important statement

**BCD:** bad conduct discharge.

**Belay:** stop; quit.

**Billet:** assignment or job; place of residence.

**Blouse:** n. jacket; v. tuck in, secure.

**Blousing bands:** elastic bands used to secure utility trouser cuffs.

**Blues:** dress blues.

**BLT:** Acronym for Battalion Landing Team.

**Boondocks (boonies):** rugged isolated back-country.

**Boondockers:** low-topped work boots issued to reservists.

**Boot:** recruit.

**Brain housing group:** your gourd, mind, brain, or head.

**Brass:** officers.

**Brig:** jail.

**Brig rat:** jail inmate.

**Brig chaser:** mp assigned to escort prisoners.

**Brother:** black marine (also splib).

**Brothers-in-Arm:** All Veterans united – having a special bond between them

**Brown side-out:** desert camouflage pattern.

**Bulkhead:** wall.

**By-the-numbers:** in sequence.

**Cannon cockers:** artillerymen.

**Carry on!:** resume what you were doing; as you were.

**Casual company:** unit of marines awaiting reassignment.

**CC:** corrective custody; jail, the brig.

**Chuck:** derogatory term that Black soldiers used to refer to white soldiers.

**CG:** Commanding General.

**Chieu hoi (viet.):** freedom; safe conduct pass; program whereby VC who surrendered were assured safe conduct.

**Chit:** written authorization or receipt.

**Chow:** food.

**Chow hall:** mess hall.

**Click:** one notch of adjustment on a rifle.

**Cinderella liberty:** time off which ends at midnight.

**Co (viet.):** girl, woman.

**Colors:** n. the flag; v. ceremony of raising or lowering the flag.

**Con biet? (viet)** do you understand?

**C-rats:** c rations, canned field rations.

**Com rats:** commuted rations; in lieu pay for meals eaten off base.

**Corpsman:** Medical specialist attached to the Marines (Green Side) or Regular Navy Corpsman (Blue Side)

**Cover:** hat.

**Cover ass:** take precautions to avoid blame.

**The Crotch:** derogatory term for marine corps.

**Cruise:** period of enlistment; tour of duty.

**Deck:** floor.

**Deuce-and-a-half:** 2 1/2 ton truck.

**Di-di (viet.):** leave, go, move out.

**Di-di mau (viet.):** emphatic of di-di.

**Diddy bag:** cloth, drawstring bag for small items.

**Dinky-dau (viet):** crazy.

**Disneyland East:** Term used to reference the United States

**Dog-and-pony-show:** special presentation put on for visiting dignitaries.

**Double time:** quickly; at a run.

**Dry fire:** practice.

**Dry run:** practice.

**Du-dit (viet):** f\*\*\* you!

**Eighth & eye:** headquarters marine corps.

**Entrenching tool (e-tool):** small folding field shovel.

**Every swinging dick:** all hands, everyone.

**Eye f\*\*\*:** scrutinize; inspect closely.

**Fartsack:** mattress cover or flight suit.

**Field day:** general cleanup of barracks.

**Field scarf:** necktie.

**Field strip:** disassemble; take apart.

**Fire in the hole!:** warning that explosives are about to be detonated.

**First shirt (also top):** first sergeant.

**Float phase:** sea deployment of a marine unit.

**FMF:** Fleet Marine Force.

**Four-by:** light truck.

**Front leaning rest position:** pushup position ("the position").

**Galley:** kitchen.

**Gang way!:** stand back! move away!

**Gedunk** – Refers to snack foods, such as candy and chips, as well as the place they're sold. Associated with the Navy, and can be used in the phrase "gedunk sailor" as a pejorative remark for inexperienced sailors.

**Gear:** equipment.

**Gican:** garbage can.

**Gizmo:** gadget; anything that defies descrip-

tion.

**Gourd:** head; where you hang your cover.

**Green side-out:** woodland pattern camouflage.

**Grab a hat:** leave.

**Grinder:** parade ground.

**Guidon:** pennant bearing unit designation.

**Gung ho:** lit. work together; (from chinese) highly motivated.

**Gungy:** gung ho.

**Gunny:** gunnery sergeant (E7)

**Grabass (organized grabass):** play; sports, frivolous activity.

**Green machine:** marine corps.

**Gyrene:** Short for G.I. Marine

**Ham:** hairy assed marine; male marine.

**Ham and mothers:** "ham and mother\*\*\*\*ers;" generally detested c-ration meal posing as ham and lima beans.

**Hatch:** door.

**Hard charger:** motivated marine.

**Head:** toilet.

**High-and-tight:** standard marine haircut; shaved sides and short on top.

**Hollywood marine:** San Diego MCRD graduate.

**Hooch (jap.):** any kind of shelter, residence.

**Honcho (jap.):** boss; man in charge.

**House mouse:** drill instructor's go-fer.

**Huss:** a favor; a break e.g., "gimme a huss;" archaic name for hu34d helicopter.

**Irish pennant:** string dangling from clothing indicating unkempt appearance.

**IDS:** Acronym for "In Da Shit".

**ITR:** infantry training regiment.

**Jarhead:** slang for marine.

**Jesus Nut:** Main connector which holds rotor in place

**Jibs:** teeth, esp. front incisors, e.g., "I'll bust your jibs."

**Jing (also jing-wa, jap.):** change; money.

**Joe shit the ragman:** bad example, unsquared-away marine, boyfriend of rosy rot-tencrotch.

**Junk-on-the-bunk:** complete clothing and equipment inspection (also things-on-the-springs) laid out on the rack.

**K-bar:** marine-issue fighting knife.

**Klick:** kilometer – 6/10th of a mile. On a topographical map, each outlined grid is considered 1km x 1km

**Ladder (or ladderway):** stairs.

**Lai day (viet.):** come here!

**Leave:** authorized absence of more than 24 hours.

**Liberty:** authorized absence of less than 24 hours.

**Lock and load:** arm and ready your weapon; get ready!

Continued on Page 5



## Marine Corps Speak in Vietnam (many of these terms were also used by the other branches of service)

### Continued from Page 4

**Maggie's drawers:** red disc used on the rifle range to signify missing the target.

**Make a hole!** stand back! gang way! inquiry or reprimand.

106 mm recoilless rifles.

**MOS:** assigned job specialty.

**Mustang (mustanger):** enlisted man who becomes an officer.

**Non-qual:** marine who fails to fire a qualifying score at the rifle range.

**Office hours:** summary court marshal, official inquiry or reprimand.

**Office pogue:** desk-bound marine.

**Old Man:** Commanding Officer.

**Ontos:** armored tracked vehicle mounting six 106 mm recoilless rifles.

**Outstanding!** exceptional; well done!

**Overhead:** ceiling.

**Over the hill:** absent without authorization.

**Over the hump:** more than halfway through enlistment.

**Passageway:** corridor; hallway.

**Piece:** rifle.

**Piss cutter:** envelope-shaped overseas cap.

**Piss-and-punk:** bread and water punishment.

**Piss tube:** field urinal; rocket launcher (bazooka), which resembles one.

**Pogue:** lazy individual, also office worker.

**Pogey bait:** candy, sweets.

**Police call:** time allocated to clean up an area. Usually troops line up and cross through an area picking up anything that does not grow from the ground.

**Police up:** clean up.

**Poop (also dope, scoop):** information.

**Pop-flare:** hand held and launched aerial illumination flare. The cap is removed and placed over the opposite end...hold center of flare with left hand and point it upward, then using the heel of your right palm, come up and hit the bottom...a firing pin will engage the explosive and send the flare into the air.

**PT:** physical training; exercise.

**Quarters:** living space.

**Rack:** bed, bunk.

**Rappel:** descend from cliff or helicop-

ter by rope.

**Recon (also force recon):** force reconnaissance marine.

**Romp 'n' stomp:** to drill, march.

**Round:** bullet or artillery or mortar shell.

**Rubber lady:** inflatable air mattress.

**Salt:** experience; an old-timer marine.

**Salty:** smart-mouthed; opinionated.

**Scoshi (or scosh'): small, short, a little bit.**

**Scuttlebutt:** rumors; a drinking fountain.

**Seabag:** duffle bag.

**Sea duty:** billeted aboard a ship.

**Sea going bellhop:** derog. for marine, from marines assigned to the bridge of a vessel.

**Sea story:** a lie or an exaggeration.

**Sea lawyer:** self-appointed expert.

**Secure:** tie down or make fast; also to recycle or dispose of; to put something in its proper place; to desist.

**Seven-eighty-two gear:** field equipment; canvas web gear.

**Shit bird:** Navy speak "crow" on Petty Officer sleeve insignia

**Shit bird:** messy or undisciplined; a fuck up.

**Shit can:** (v) to dispose of; (n) garbage can.

**Short round:** ordnance, which is landing short of the intended target.

**Short time:** a very brief love affair.

**Shorttimer:** marine nearing the end of an enlistment period.

**Sick bay:** clinic or hospital.

**Six-by (six-by-six):** standard three-axle truck.

**Six-six-and-a-kick:** the ultimate general court marshal punishment consisting of six months forfeiture of pay, six months hard labor, and a dishonorable discharge.

**Skipper:** captain; commanding officer.

**Skivvies:** underwear.

**Skivvie honcho:** a lothario; a ladies man.

**Skivvie house:** brothel.

**SLICK SLEEVE:** Navy personnel on active duty that has not served 4 yrs. in the service and hasn't earned a hash mark for his sleeve.

**Slopchute:** diner; restaurant.

**Smoking lamp:** authority to smoke when it is lit.

**Snap in:** practice, esp. on the rifle range.

**Snipe:** Navy term given to someone who worked in an engine room aboard ship.

**Snoopin' and poopin':** reconnoitering.

**Snot locker:** nose.

**Sound off!** assertively voice.

**Sorry 'bout that!** assertion of mock apology.

**Spud locker:** pantry.

**Squad bay:** barracks.

**Squared away:** neat, orderly, organized.

**Squid:** (derog.) sailor.

**Stack arms!** command given to place 3 rifles in a pyramid.

**Stacking swivel:** appendage near muzzle of rifle allowing stacked arms; neck.

**Stand by!** prepare.

**Standby:** waiting status.

**Starchies:** starched utilities.

**Stroke book:** porno magazine.

**Survey:** dispose of; recycle.

**Swab:** mop.

**Swabbie:** sailor.

**Ti ti (viet.)** (pron. tee-tee): little, small.

**Top:** sergeant major.

**Topside:** upstairs; on deck.

**Trops:** khaki tropical summer dress uniform.

**Turn to:** begin work.

**UA:** unauthorized absence.

**UD:** undesirable discharge.

**USMC:** Acronym Uncle Sam's Misguided Children

**Utilities:** olive drab field uniform.

**Willie peter / Wilson Pickett:** white phosphorus. Units in the field request marking rounds which explode in the air at a set of coordinates – when shooting an azimuth with a compass and estimating the distance (using sight and sound -counting the seconds before hearing the explosion) their location can be verified on a grid map.

**The word:** confirmed official information; the straight scoop.

**Zero-dark-thirty:** pre-dawn; early.

**Vietnam Veterans of  
America—Chapter 196  
Lynchburg , Virginia**



**OF AMERICA**  
STANLEY E. TAYLOR MEMORIAL CHAPTER 196  
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 196**

439 Westview Circle

Lynchburg, VA 24504.

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

[www.vva-vasc.org](http://www.vva-vasc.org)

**Give This to a Fellow Vietnam Veteran...**

The Vietnam Veterans of America association is a "home of our own" - a community of fellowship with people who share your experiences, needs, and hopes for the future. Agent Orange is still with us and our numbers are dwindling, probably at a much faster rate than we would like it. That makes it even more important for Vietnam Veterans to have a viable and strong organization to represent us in Washington

Membership is open to U.S. armed force veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between Feb.. 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between Aug. 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

To have a fellow Vietnam Veteran join, either cut out the application and give it to the Vet or better yet, give your copy of our newsletter

to him or her. Don't forget that a copy of their DD-214 with their membership application is required.

Families, friends, supporters, and veterans of other eras can join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and receive the same benefits, including a subscription to The VVA Veteran.

**BECOME A LIFE MEMBER**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA** Return to: Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299

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***New members must submit a copy of their DD-214 along with this application and dues payment.***