



# Vietnam Veterans of America "Stanley E. Taylor" Chapter 196 Lynchburg, Virginia



## "THE LISTENING POST"

August 1, 2020



Vol 11 Issue 6

### President's Comments

### Vietnam Quotes

#### Upcoming Events

- August 11 2020 6:30 Cookout dinner (VVA and AVVA)
- August 11, 2020, 7:00 PM, Monthly VVA Meeting
- August 11, 2020, 7:00 PM, Monthly AVVA Meeting
- August 4  
U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
- August 7  
Purple Heart Day

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To the members and associates of Chapter 196,

The dog days of summer are here and they are one month ahead of schedule. With the heat and humidity tacked on, another 10-20 degrees, think back about 50 years, presto we are back in "Nam." As we are getting on up in our age, we need to be more careful about our health, especially with this virus still among us. Remember back when it all started, predictions were the virus would diminish as the weather warmed. WRONG! If nothing else, it has strengthened and it looks like there is no end in sight.

At our last meeting, we were inside and practiced social distancing. We had a good turnout. There was not a lot to cover and the meeting only lasted about half an hour. With nothing happening as of this writing, the members still wanted to meet this month. Jim Fishel proposed that we have a cookout at the pavilion with hamburgers/hot dogs and he volunteered to do the cooking. If you would like to help out in any way, I'm sure he would not turn anyone down. You can contact him at (434)237-4809 or (434) 229-8065. We will eat around

6:30 and have a brief meeting afterwards. If you are planning on attending give him a heads up so he will know how much food to get.

Now to an important matter. We have 60 members who do not have a computer and they are mailed a copy of our newsletter each month, which I print, assemble, label, stamp, fold and mail. This keeps each member informed and up to date with what is going on. To me, communication is what keeps us together.

The reason for the above paragraph is to shine a light on those members. By now you must have wondered why there is no The Veteran for July-August. Due to the virus affecting everything and the cost involved in printing and mailing, The Veteran is now only on line. I don't know if it will be permanent or only temporary, only time will tell. As I find out more information, I will pass along to you.

Looking forward to seeing you on August 11 at 6:30 pm (18:30).

Keeping you informed,

David Stokes

President

Vietnam was the first war ever fought without any censorship. Without censorship, things can get terribly confused in the public mind.  
WILLIAM WESTMORELAND, *Time Magazine*, April 5, 1982

It became necessary to destroy the town to save it.  
ANONYMOUS U. S. MAJOR, statement regarding the bombing of Ben Tre, South Vietnam, "Major Describes Move", *New York Times*, February 8, 1968

As I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., speech at Riverside Church in New York City, "A Time to Break Silence", April 4, 1967

Vietnam was always, in a single moment, dreadful, funny, nightmarish, ecstatic. In its moments of highest drama, it was always its own best and worst parody.  
PHILIP D. BEIDLER, *American Literature and the Experience of Vietnam*

Hey, Hey LBJ, How many kids did you kill today?  
ANONYMOUS, popular protest chant, 1967



## Minutes for July 14, 2020 Membership Meeting

Chapter President David Stokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, opening prayer and draping of the POW/MIA flag. Motion was made and passed to dispense reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MEMBERSHIP** VVA-213 members AVVA-32 members

**FINANCIAL** Report was given by Financial Secretary.

### OLD BUSINESS

Elections and for Officer and Directors was held at last meeting with the following results::

### OFFICERS

President David Stokes  
1st Vice President Freddie Pleasant  
2nd Vice President Jim Purdy

Secretary Robert Crowder  
Treasurer Jim Fishel

### DIRECTORS

George Kolar  
Mike Baber  
Jim Hendrickson  
Art Ross

Member Wayne McAlexander passed away last month. Services were held at the Legion.

The fund raiser featuring the Band of Oz was not held.

### NEW BUSINESS

Thank you letters were received by the chapter from Liberty University Military Affairs and Hunters for the Hungry for our support.

A motion was made and seconded to donate \$100 to the Walking Marine who is walking to bring awareness for Veteran's suicides. Motion passed.

The next State Council for meeting for July is still up in the air.

Copies of The Veteran magazine will be online for the next issue.

Members in attendance voted to continue meetings each month.

Our next meeting on August 11 will be a picnic under the pavilion at 6:30 followed immediately by our regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Robert Crowder, Secretary  
VVA Chapter 196



August 7 is  
**NATIONAL  
PURPLE HEART DAY**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
TO THE BRAVE MEN & WOMEN OF THE





## Henry "Rocky" Colavita



Rocky was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1941. Inspired by a long family history of military service, Rocky decided at a young age that he wanted to make a career out of the Army. After completing his college education, he entered Officer Candidate School, earning his commission in January 1963.

His first unit was the 82nd Airborne. Immediately after promoting to 1st Lieutenant, Rocky volunteered and was accepted to deploy to Vietnam as part of an advisor team. After completing a few months of mandatory pre-deployment training, Rocky arrived in-country by the summer of 1965. During this deployment, he embedded with a South Vietnamese airborne unit with the purpose of advising them on improved field tactics and practices. He further explains that while advice was always

welcomed or utilized, the South Vietnamese valued their presence because of the air and artillery support they provided.

Rocky recalls that the armed confrontations he experienced with the North Vietnamese Army and Vietcong were relatively small-scale and short-lived when compared with later battles. The most substantial clash occurred six months into his tour, where he was wounded and evacuated back to the United States for recovery. He was forced onto a limited duty status for 6-12 months and placed into an administration position at the Army War College. Shortly after arriving at this post, he was promoted to Captain and selected to be the Commandant's Aide, where he established contacts with many high-ranking officers.

Cleared for overseas duty, Rocky attended the Advanced Infantry Course in 1967 and by 1968, transferred to the 1st Cavalry's Air Mobile Division in time to deploy for his second tour in Vietnam. During his tour, he filled the positions of Company Logistics Officer followed by Compa-

ny Commander. Rocky describes in depth his unit's innate ability to destroy the enemy by setting up large-scale ambushes. He was so successful with this tactic that he provided seminars to his peers and newly arrived officers.

Rocky states that he did not experience any of the negativity other soldiers did during his return home. Rocky continued with his service until he retired in 1983. After much hesitation, Rocky became a regular with reunions. It was at these events he began to hear the first-hand stories of abuse received by his soldiers and peers. Rocky's decorations include three Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart.





## Meet The Most Decorated Single Unit In The Vietnam War THE VETERAN SITE.COM by Dan Doyle

In June of 1966 Marine Reconnaissance teams were being sent out to look for enemy movements in the area west of the Chu Lai Marine Base. One of those teams was an 18-man patrol from Charlie Co. 1st Recon, lead by then Staff Sgt. Jimmie Howard. They were inserted by helicopter to the top of Hill 488, some 20 miles west of Chu Lai.

They didn't know it then, but this patrol would become the most highly decorated single unit in the Vietnam War.

On June 13, shortly after they had been inserted on top of Hill 488, they began to spot enemy activity. They were supported by an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 105mm howitzer battery. They called in artillery missions on those movements. Two days later, they spotted even more enemy movements and again began calling in artillery missions. It became obvious to the enemy troops that they were being observed and they had a fair idea as to where they were being observed from as well.



Source: YouTube/TulsaKungFu  
The view from Hill 488.

It was shortly after that when Staff Sgt. Howard reported on the radio that there were squads of

NVA force, later identified as being from the 3rd NVA Regiment, that were beginning to move toward his position on top of Hill 488.

In the total darkness, just after midnight on June 15th, 1966 the NVA began probing the Recon team's position. One of the Navy Hospital Corpsman with the team, B.C. Holmes, recalled, "They were within 20 feet of us. Suddenly there were grenades all over the place. People started hollering. Guys were getting hit at the same time."

In other words, all hell broke loose for this 18 man Recon team, which was clearly outnumbered. But they fought back with a ferocity that would later be recognized by the Marines that were airlifted out to help them get out of that mess.



Source: U.S. Marines  
Gunnery Sergeant Jimmie E. Howard

The 3rd NVA regiment forces were coming at them with everything they had. The Recon Marines' position was being swept by AK-47 and heavy machine gun fire from everywhere. Howard got on the radio and reported to Lt. Col. Arthur Sullivan.

"You've got to get us out of here," he told Sullivan. "There are too many of them for my people."



Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)  
Ricardo C. Binns is awarded the Navy Cross.

Sullivan immediately called in Marine and Air Force air support. Marine Huey gunships began strafing runs to within 20 feet of the Recon perimeters and Marine and Air Force fighter jets were dropping bombs as close as 100 meters from their position. This helped to slow down the NVA assault on Howard's Recon Marines, but the enemy stayed in the fight throughout the night, firing AK-47 rifle fire at the Reconners all night.

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Things couldn't have been worse for Howards Recon team. They were running out of ammo. In fact, they started throwing rocks at the enemy, hoping that they would think that they were grenades.

During the night, Howard himself was hit in the back by AK-47 rifle fire. This temporarily paralyzed his legs, but not his spirit. He dragged himself from position to position throughout the night, encouraging his men, keeping them in the fight, even though every last one of them had been wounded.



Source: U.S. Marines  
Gen. Wallace Green and Ray Hildreth.

At Dawn, UH-34 helicopters from Marine Aircraft Group 36 (MAG 36) flew in Marines from Charlie Co. 1st Bn, 5th Marines out of Chu Lai. They were led by 1st Lt. Marshall Darling. They were inserted at the base of Hill 488 and began to assault the NVA 3rd Regiment forces from below in the effort to help break the siege on the Reconners at the top of the hill. As they got to the top of Hill 488, they reported that when they approached the Recon Marines, nearly all of them were armed with AK-47s they had tak-

en from the enemy dead.

Every one of the Recon Marines and Corpsmen had been wounded, most more than one time. The Marines from C/1/5 counted 42 dead NVA around the Recon position. In this fight, the Marines suffered 10 KIA, including 2 from C/1/5 and 2 from one of the Huey squadrons, meaning that 6 of the 18 Charlie, 1st Recon team members were among those KIA.



Source: U.S. Marines  
SSG Jimmie E. Howard recuperating at Chu Lai Hospital.

When it was all over, Staff Sgt, Jimmie Howard would be awarded the Medal of Honor; Ricardo Binns and Hospital Corpsman, B.C. Holmes would receive the Navy Cross; J.T. Adams and J.R. Thompson would be awarded the Navy Cross posthumously; Charles Bosley, Hospital Corpsman R.J. Fitzpatrick, Raymond Hildreth, Joseph Kosoglow, Robert Martinez, Daniel Mulvihill, William Norman, Thomas Powells, and Ralph Victor, would be awarded Silver Stars; And Ignatius Carlisi, T.D. Glawe, J.C. McKinney and A.N. Mascarenas would receive the Silver Star posthumously.

All 18 men were awarded for their valor that night on top of Hill 488.

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



**OF AMERICA**

STANLEY E. TAYLOR MEMORIAL CHAPTER 196  
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA



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[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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**ELIGIBILITY:** Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or any duty station between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975. Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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