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

"THE LISTENING POST"

January 1, 2020

Vol 10 Issue 11

President's Comments

Vietnam Quotes

Upcoming Events

January 14, 2020, 7:00 PM, Monthly VVA Meeting

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To the members and associates of Chapter 196,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a nice holiday season, stayed safe and healthy.

We have closed out one year and now we will be opening up a new chapter.. a new year.

Usually things don't start picking up until the weather breaks but a couple of things come to mind. As we begin, the book is open, the pages are blank. As we progress into this year, the things you do will determine who will be recognized as the outstanding member of the year.

In March, we are planning our 3rd Welcome Home event. It will probably be before the 29th, as that is the date of State Council meeting. More details will be coming as the plan developes.

A reminder to all members, especially the new ones, if the weather is bad and the Legion is closed, we will not meet. Use your own judgement concerning road conditions. We don't want anyone getting injured.

Make an effort to attend our next meeting and getting more involved.

How is that for a New Year's Resolution.

Our next meeting is on January 14. Hope to see you there.

Keeping you informed,

David Stokes, President

You have a row of dominoes set up; you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is that it will go over very quickly.
–Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

Now we have a problem in making our power credible, and Vietnam is the place.
–John F. Kennedy, 1961

This is not a jungle war, but a struggle for freedom on every front of human activity.
–Lyndon B. Johnson, 1964

Tell the Vietnamese they've got to draw in their horns or we're going to bomb them back into the Stone Age.
–Gen. Curtis LeMay, May 1964

We are not about to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.
–Lyndon Johnson, Oct. 1964

We are at war with the most dangerous enemy that has ever faced mankind in his long climb from the swamp to the stars,and it has been said if we lose that war, and in so doing lose this way of freedom of ours, history will record with the greatest astonishment that those who had the most to lose did the least to prevent its happening.
–Ronald Reagan, 1964

Rare Historical Vietnam War Photos *By Auto Overload*

I use MSN.com as my home page, in December, they had an article on rare historical Vietnam photos. I captured each one along with the captions and I am presenting them here for yur enjoyment. Some of these may bring back good memories for you.

Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson meets with Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem at Independence Palace, Saigon, as part of his Goodwill Tour of Southeast Asia. May 1961

A low flying A-1 Skyraider drops 500 lb bombs on a Viet Cong stronghold. December 26th, 1964

United States troops holding a photo of Ho Chi Minh, who organized the Viet Cong in the late 1950's.

Napalm air strikes raise clouds into gray monsoon skies above the Perfume River toward Hue in Vietnam. February 28th, 1963

As a symbol of protest in opposition to involvement in the Vietnam War, thousands of young American men began burning their draft cards. May, 1964.

"Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" is an anti-Vietnam war and pro-social justice speech delivered by Martin Luther King Jr. The major speech at Riverside Church in New York, New York, followed several interviews and several other public speeches in which King came out against the war in Vietnam and the policies that created the war. April 4th, 1967

President John F. Kennedy (1961-1963) meets with U.S. Secretary of Defense (center) and U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Maxwell Taylor (left) prior to their visit to South Vietnam to review U.S. Military efforts. September 24th, 1963

A.G.I. talking to Vietnamese natives on the road while escorting a supply convoy. 1964

Huey helicopters carrying troops of the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade get help landing on a road near the Montagnard village of Plei Ho Drong. August, 1965.

As part of its winter-spring offensive, the Viet Cong sent its newly created 9th Division to attack South Vietnamese forces at Binh Gia. The attack lasted for 4 days and would eventually be broken by U.S. bombers. 1964

President Johnson (1963-1969) signed House Joint Resolution 1145, otherwise known as the Tonkin Gulf Resolution expanding the president's authority to increase U.S. involvement in the war between North and South Vietnam. Johnson, and later Nixon, would go on to use the resolution as the legal rectification for their military policies in Vietnam. August 7th, 1964

The Viet Cong weren't the only thing U.S. troops had to worry about in the jungle. Here is a marine holding a giant centipede. 1965

Rare Historical Vietnam War Photos (Continued) *By Auto Overload*

Hovering U.S. helicopters dump machine gun fire into the tree line to cover advancing South Vietnamese ground troops in route to attack a Viet Cong camp eighteen miles north of Tay Ninh. March, 1965

U.S. jets dropping napalm on Viet Cong stronghold. 1965

After being hit by enemy ground fire during Operation Hastings, just south of the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam. The helicopter crashed and exploded on a hill, killing one crewman and 12 Marines. July 15, 1966

Flag-draped coffins of eight American Servicemen killed in attacks on U.S. military installations in South Vietnam, on February 7, are placed in transport plane at Saigon. February 9th, 1965

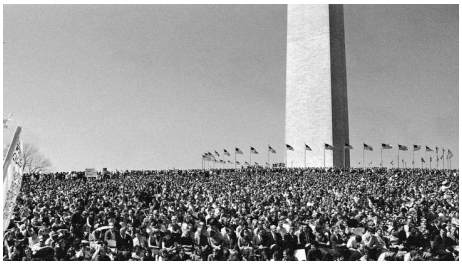
Marines wade ashore with heavy equipment at first light at Red Beach near Da Nang in Saigon. April 10th, 1965

Troops walk the Ho Chi Minh trail in the Truong Son Mountains, which form the 750-mile long spine of Vietnam, stretching across much of the country's western border. 1966

Elements of the U.S. First Cavalry Air Mobile division in a landing craft approach the beach at Qui Nhon, 260 miles northeast of Saigon, Vietnam. September, 1965

A U.S. B-52 stratofortress drops a load of 750-pounds bombs over a Vietnam coastal area during the Vietnam War. November 5th, 1965

Pedestrians cross the destroyed Hue Bridge in Hue, Vietnam. 1966



Thousands attend a rally on the grounds of the Washington Monument to hear Ernest Gruening, a Democratic Senator from Alaska, and other speakers discuss U.S. policy in Vietnam. April 17th, 1965

Company #6 of the Yen My Commune using overhead targets to practice firing ahead of speeding aircraft. September, 1965.

A U.S. Air Force Douglas A-1E Skyraider drops a white phosphorus bomb on a Viet Cong position in South Vietnam. 1966

In this 1966 propaganda commercial, Batman, played by actor Adam West, urged kids to buy government savings bonds to support the Vietnam War.

Rare Historical Vietnam War Photos (Continued) *By Auto Overload*

The singing group the "Korean Kittens" appear on stage at Cu Chi, Vietnam, during the Bob Hope USO Christmas show, to entertain U.S. troops of the 25th Infantry Division. 1966

Protesters are rushed by guards as they attempt to breach a security line at the Pentagon. October, 1967.

With the United States at war in Vietnam, Ali refused to be inducted into the armed forces, saying "I ain't got no quarrel with those Vietcong." On June 20, 1967, Ali was convicted of draft evasion, sentenced to five years in prison, fined $10,000 and banned from boxing for three years. He stayed out of prison as his case was appealed and returned to the ring. October 26th, 1970

A U.S. Marine fires his M60 machine gun, concealed behind logs and resting in a shallow hole, during the battle against North Vietnamese regulars for Hill 484, just south of the demilitarized zone. October 10th, 1966

U.S. Navy Douglas A-4E Skyhawks from Attack Squadrons VA-163 Saints and VA-164 Ghost Riders attack the Phuong Dinh railroad bypass bridge, 10 kilometers north of Thanh Hoe, North Vietnam. September 10, 1967.

Several thousand participate in the Spring Mobilization to End the War, a network of mass demonstrations across the country in cities such as San Francisco and New York. It's estimated that as many as 60,000 marched in San Francisco and 125,000 in New York. April 15th, 1967

Potable drinking water was a valued resource in the jungle. These U.S. troops take advantage of a storm by drinking rain water. 1966

Empty artillery cartridges pile up at the artillery base at Soui Da, some 60 miles northwest of Saigon, at the southern edge of War Zone C. March 8th, 1967.

Operation Pegasus, Spring, 1968, an American 1st Cavalry helicopter airlifts supplies into a marine outpost.

Soldier of C company, 2nd battalion, 503rd infantry, 173rd airborne brigade. January 3rd, 1966

Part of a crowd of pro-Vietnam War demonstrators hold up signs and American flags in support of U.S. policy in Vietnam in Wakefield, Massachusetts. October 29th, 1967.

An immense network of underground tunnels located in the Chu Chi district of Ho Chi Minh city, Saigon. Part of a much larger network of tunnels that run through the country. They served as the Viet Cong's base of operations for the 1968 Tet Offensive. 1968

New recruits undergoing physical exams in Haiphong. 1967

Rare Historical Vietnam War Photos (Continued) *By Auto Overload*

The Tet Offensive was one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War. Tet Offensive consisted of surprise attacks on civilian and military command and control centers by the Viet Cong against the South Vietnamese and United States Armed Forces. 1968

Banners of appreciation from the Vietnamese decorate the dock at Danang where a farewell ceremony was held by the Vietnamese Government for departing Marines of the 1st Battalion 9th Regiment. July 14th, 1969

A guerrilla paddling through a mangrove forest in the Mekong Delta. The forest had been de-foiled with Agent Orange, 1970.

Philadelphia, PA, veterans demonstrate their opposition to the Vietnam War. 1968

More than 500,000 people marched down Pennsylvania Ave. to demonstrate their opposition to the Vietnam War on November 15th, 1969.

President Richard Nixon (1969-1974) gave formal authorization to commit U.S. combat troops to cooperate with South Vietnamese units against communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. A wave of protests would follow, one demonstration would result in the notorious Kent State shootings, where Army National Guard troops killed four students. April 30, 1970

M-48 Patton with mine rollers designed to detonate enemy explosives ahead of U.S. infantry. 1968

President Richard Nixon (1969-1974) boards a helicopter joining with National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger following a meeting with U.S. troops from the 1st infantry division. This was Nixon's only visit to Vietnam as President. July 30, 1969

John Kerry, who would later go on to run for President, and serve as Secretary of State (2017-2017) became a prominent critic of the Vietnam war after his return in 1969. Kerry won an early transfer out of the conflict due to his 3 purple hearts. He also won a silver star. 1971

A helicopter full of Marines heading out on patrol lifts off the airstrip at the Khe Sanh combat base. June 27th, 1968

In Washington D.C., veterans protest the fighting in Indochina by discarding their medals and uniforms over the fence at the U.S. Capitol.

Laotian guerrillas haul supplies by elephant and foot to NVA troops near Route 9 in southern Laos during South Vietnam's attempted interdiction of the trail. 1971

U.S. Marines pass a Catholic church as they patrol near Danang, Vietnam, during the Vietnam War. 1968

Rare Historical Vietnam War Photos (Continued) *By Auto Overload*

A prominent theme of opposition to the Vietnam War, resistance to forced military conscription. 1971

Protesters demonstrating against the Vietnam War march toward MacArthur Park, Los Angeles. April 22nd, 1972

Workers discuss repairs of the Ham Rong Bridge following a bombing, in Central North Vietnam, 1973.

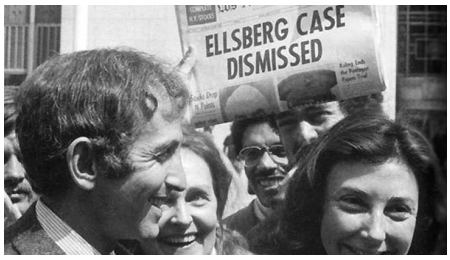
Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. performs for members of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in an undisclosed location in Vietnam. February of 1972.

Militia members sort through the wreckage of a downed U.S. Navy Plane. This is believed to be the debris of a A-7C Corsair flown by Lt. Stephen Owen Musselman that was hit by SAMs south of Hanoi while supporting a B-52 bombing mission. September 10th, 1972

Agent Orange was part of the United States Herbicidal Warfare program. In mid 1961, President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam asked the United States to conduct aerial herbicide spraying in his country. Agent Orange was manufactured for the U.S. Department of Defense primarily by Monsanto Corporation and Dow Chemicals.

Co-founder of the Beatles, entertainer, John Lennon is one of histories most prominent anti war activists. He and his wife Yoko Ono are known for their famous “bed ins” and involvement in the organization of massive protests at the Democratic National Convention among other acts of deviance. Seen here giving his iconic “V” peace sign (V for Vietnam). 1971

Activists meet in the Nam Can forest, wearing masks to conceal their identity. 1972



While employed by the RAND Corporation, precipitated a national political controversy in 1971 when he released the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making in relation to the Vietnam War. Due to governmental misconduct and illegal evidence gathering, and the defense by Leonard Boudin and Harvard Law School professor Charles Nesson, Judge Byrne dismissed all charges against Ellsberg. May 11th, 1973

An outpost on the Vietnam-Cambodia boarder equipped with poison punji stakes. Sharpened and hardened with fire, such booby traps were meant to wound enemy troops not kill. Wounded soldiers would slow down their unit and medivacs gave away their position. 1972

As the U.S. Army base at Long Binn is turned over to the South Vietnamese Army, the American Flag is lowered. The base is located 12 miles north of Saigon. November 11th, 1972

Released prisoner of war Lt. Col. Robert L. Stirm is greeted by his family at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. March 17th, 1973

Rare Historical Vietnam War Photos (Continued) *By Auto Overload*

Four delegations sit at the table during the first signing ceremony of the agreement to end the Vietnam War. Clockwise, from foreground, delegations of the Unites States, the Provisonal Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, North Vietnam and South Vietnam. January 27th, 1973

John S. McCain is escorted by Lt. Cmdr. Jay Coupe Jr. to Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport after the POW was released. McCain is now a sitting senator in the United States Senate. March 14th, 1973

During the Vietnam War, women were tasked with doing jobs normally reserved for men. Here women can be seen hauling heavy fishing nets in the Mekong River, 1974.

U.S. Civilians in Saigon, 1975.

Combat boots litter the road on the outskirts of Saigon, abandoned by ARVN soldiers who shed their uniforms to hide their status. April 30th, 1975

Actress Jane Fonda speaking at an anti-vietnam war conference in the Hague. She earned the nickname "Hanoi Jane." January 1975

CIA employee (probably O.B. Harnage) helps Vietnamese evacuees onto an Air America helicopter from the top of 22 Gia Long Street, a half mile from the U.S. Embassy. April 25, 1975

Evacuees board a boat in the Saigon waterfront as communist forces close in on the city. 1975

U.S. Navy personnel aboard the USS Blue Ridge push a helicopter into the sea off the coast of Vietnam in order to make room for more evacuation flights from Saigon. April 29th, 1975

Mobs of Vietnamese people scale the wall of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, Vietnam, trying to get to the helicopter pickup zone, just before the end of the Vietnam War. April 29th, 1975

President Gerald Ford speaking at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, considered to be the first public announcement of the end of the Vietnam War. April 23rd, 1975

In the last VVA Newsletter, Editor Andy Anderson, mentioned about the first batch of 216 bricks being placed at Monument Terrace. So far, over 470 bricks have been sold and many of the members of VVA 196 have purchased a brick. See attached updated order form if you are interested in buying one of the "Third Batch of 216" bricks. Once again the Vietnam veterans have made history by this "Honor and Remembrance Brick Campaign" that will be there forever to honor those who have served our country in the past and present.

"Honor and Remembrance" Brick Project for Monument Terrace Sidewalk

The first batch of 216 bricks were placed on 11/21/19. The second batch of 216 bricks were ordered on 11/25/19, will arrive in January 2020 and will be placed near the first batch. We are taking orders now for the "Third Batch of 216 Bricks". A great gift for a loved one or friend who wore the uniform to **"Protect and Serve" his country and/or community. Pass the word to others.**

An **"Honor" brick** is for (1) active military, (2) military veteran, (3) Police/Sheriffs/Law Enforcement, (4) Firefighters, (5) EMT, (6) First Responders. **The "Remembrance" bricks are for those noted above who have died.**

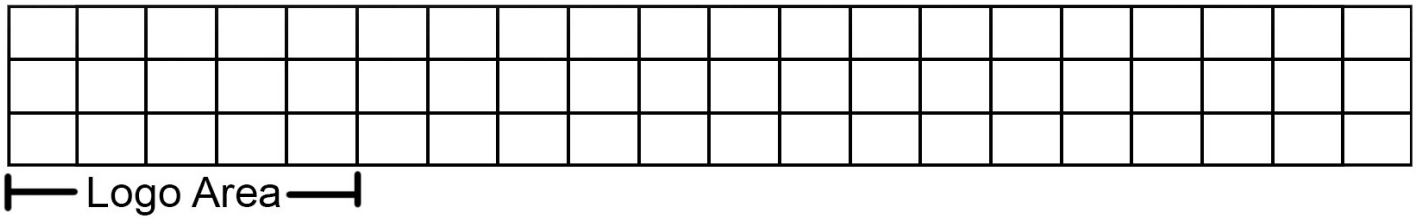
The cost of each red brick is **$60** which includes three lines, 20 spaces per line. With an added military logo or clip art, (left side of brick) 15 spaces per line and an additional $5 per brick **($65).** Order online and pay with Pay Pal or your credit card. Or order online and "check circle ( )" and mail to Steve Bozeman, 1129 Meriwether Cr., Lynchburg, Va. 24503. Make check out to MOPH Chapter 1607. Any questions, home (434) 384-7609, cell (434)238-4120 or email ironcouple.sdb@juno.com.
On line ordering: http://polarengraving.com/militaryorderofpurpleheart

Language will conform to public civility standards, there will be no bad, coarse or insensitive language engraved on any brick. Spelling, punctuation and correct logo are the responsibility of the person ordering the brick, and all logos will be military or professional. (NO sports, nature, animals, etc…)

Thank you for your support of our community heroes!

Be part of this memorial and order your brick now!

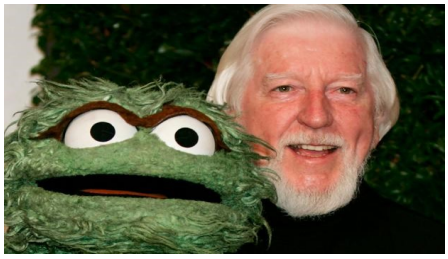
The clip art options: all military logos are near the end as you scroll to view the clip art for the "number". There are many different military and First Responder logos, etc



Air Force Vet, Sesame Street Puppeteer Caroll Spinney Dies at Age 85

9 Dec 2019 The Associated

Press by way of *MILITERY TIMES* By Andrew Dalton



In this Thursday, April 27, 2006, file photo, Caroll Spinney, right, who portrays "Sesame Street" characters Oscar The Grouch, left, and Big Bird, arrives for the Daytime Emmy nominee party at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Reed Saxon, File)

9 Dec 2019

The Associated Press | By Andrew Dalton

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Caroll Spinney, the USAF veteran who gave Big Bird his warmth and Oscar the Grouch his growl for nearly 50 years on “Sesame Street,” died Sunday at the age of 85 at his home in Connecticut, according to the Sesame Workshop.

The legendary puppeteer lived for some time with dystonia, which causes involuntary muscle contractions, the Sesame Workshop said in a statement.

Spinney voiced and operated the two major Muppets from their inception in 1969 when he was 36, and performed them almost exclusively into his 80s on the PBS kids’ television show that later moved to HBO. His death comes on the same day that “Sesame Street” is being honored for lifetime achievements in the arts as a Kennedy Center Honors recipient.

“Before I came to ‘Sesame Street,’ I didn’t feel like what I was doing was very important,” Spinney said when he announced his retirement in 2018. “Big Bird helped me find my purpose.”

Through his two characters, Spinney gained huge fame that brought international tours, books, record albums, movie roles, and visits to the White House.

“Caroll was an artistic genius whose kind and loving view of the world helped shape and define Sesame Street from its earliest days in 1969 through five decades, and his legacy here at Sesame Workshop and in the cultural firmament will be unending,” the Sesame Workshop said.

But he never became a household name.

“I may be the most unknown famous person in America,” Spinney said in his 2003 memoir. “It’s the bird that’s famous.”

Spinney gave “Sesame Street” its emotional yin and yang, infusing the 8-foot-2 Big Bird with a childlike sweetness often used to handle sad subjects, and giving the trash can-dwelling Oscar — whose voice Spinney based on a New York cabbie — a streetwise cynicism that masked a tender core.

“I like being miserable. That makes me happy,” Oscar often said. “But I don’t like being happy, so that makes me miserable.”

To colleagues there was no question which character the kindly Spinney resembled.

“Big Bird is him and he is Big Bird,” former “Sesame Street” head writer Norman Stiles said in a 2014 documentary on Spinney.

It wasn’t easy being Big Bird. To play the part, Spinney would strap a TV monitor to his chest as his only eyes to the outside. Then the giant yellow bird body was placed over him. He held his right arm aloft constantly to operate the head, and used his left hand to operate both arms. The bird tended to slouch more as the years took their toll.

In 2015, Spinney switched to just providing the characters’ voices. That year, the longtime PBS show inked a five-year pact with HBO that gave the premium cable channel the right to air new episodes nine months before they air on PBS.

Big Bird’s builder Kermit Love always insisted that his design was a puppet, not a costume. But to many children, he was neither. He was real.

"Eight-year-olds have discovered to their horror that he's a puppet," Spinney told The Associated Press in 1987.

Born in 1933 in Waltham, Massachusetts, Spinney had a deeply supportive mother who built him a puppet theater after he bought his first puppet, a monkey, at age 8.

He spent four years in the U.S. Air Force after high school, then returned to Massachusetts and broke into television. He teamed up with fellow puppeteer Judy Valentine for their own daily series, then worked on a Boston version of the clown show “Bozo’s Big Top.” Spinney in this period had three children, Jessica, Melissa and Benjamin, all from his 1960 to 1971 marriage to Janice Spinney. He later married his second wife Debra in 1979, and the two were nearly inseparable for the rest of his life.

It was after a disastrous performance at a puppet festival in Utah that Spinney met Muppet master Jim Henson, who came backstage and told him, “I liked what you were trying to do,” Spinney remembered Henson saying, in his memoir.

Spinney would join the Muppet crew when “Sesame Street” was about to turn them from popular phenomenon into an American institution. Henson brought his signature character, Kermit the Frog, to the show. His right-hand man Frank Oz would become famous via Grover and Cookie Monster. Together they created Ernie and Bert.

But Big Bird would become the show’s biggest star, his name and image synonymous with not just “Sesame Street” but PBS and children’s television. The character was usually used for comedy, but his innocence and questioning was also useful when serious subjects needed addressing. When “Sesame Street” shopkeeper Mr. Hooper died, Big Bird had to get a lesson in accepting death, saying in the memorable 1983 episode that “he’s gotta come back. Who’s gonna take care of the store? Who’s gonna make my birdseed milkshakes, and tell me stories?”

When Henson died suddenly in 1990 at age 53, leaving the Muppet world devastated, Big Bird played the same part in real life. At the funeral, Spinney appeared alone on stage in full Big Bird costume and sang “It's Not Easy Bein' Green," Kermit’s signature song.

“It was extraordinarily moving,” Oz said in the Spinney documentary. “It tore people up.”

Spinney said he was crying under the feathers but he got through the song, looking at the sky and saying, “Thank you Kermit,” before walking off.

Sesame Street co-founder Joan Ganz Cooney said Sunday that Spinney, her longtime colleague and friend, “not only gave us Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch, he gave so much of himself as well."

“We at Sesame Workshop mourn his passing and feel an immense gratitude for all he has given to Sesame Street and to children around the world,” she said.

Vietnam Veterans of America—Chapter 196
Lynchburg , Virginia

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 196
439 Westview Circle
Lynchburg, VA, 24504

www.vva.org

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 then 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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Signature _____

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