



"In Service To Veterans, Their Families and Community"



April 2026

Sick Call/Prayer List

Harold Hollingshed, Kieran Pavlick,
John Dudley, Dave and Gail Hambrick.

If you have suggestions for future Speakers
or pictures to show, please pass that info
along to Bill McRae, 770-843-3973 or

wmcrae@mindspring.com

Upcoming Events

April 16 6:00 PM Chapter Meeting
May 15 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Vet Connect,
Newnan High School
July 4 Marietta Parade

Membership

**2026 DUES, \$30.00, ASSOCIATE AND
ANNUAL MEMBERS.**

Charles Langston

charleslangston46@gmail.com

Director – Membership

Email CHANGE

Watch for messages from:

gvvalsitrep@gmail.com

Still looking for a new editor.

The Editor

Member Participation Wanted.

Submit an article for the Sitrep.
We want to hear from you. Send it
to: Gvva1sitrep@gmail.com

April Guest Speaker
John Blair

GVVA LOGO ON SHIRT

**Bring your shirt to John Drew. First
Logo embroidered for free. Each
additional \$10.**

Welcome New Member

Holt Hudson

Please review and respond
ASAP

A new organizational year
is fast approaching. With
the New Year comes the
task of electing
officers. GVVA can only
continue to serve the
Veteran community if we
have members who will
step up and serve in one
if these positions.
Please consider serving
our members as an officer
of Chapter One.

Request for nominations
from the membership OF
THE GREATER GVVA.

**The following officers
are needed:**

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

The above positions are
elected offices. Please
identify your willingness
to stand for one of these
offices.

In additional, the
following positions
require members to serve

in these capacities:

DIRECTORS

MEMBERSHIP

HISTORIAN

STUDENT HISTORY

OPS

PUBLIC SPEAKING

COMMUNICATIONS

WEBSITE

PHOTOGRAPH

BUGLER

STORES

STUDENT HISTORY

OPERATIONS

PUBLIC SPEAKING

COMMUNICATIONS

WEBSITE

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please identify your willingness to serve in one of the above Director positions.

Thank you for considering to serving your fellow Vietnam Veterans by becoming an Officer/Director of GVVA Chapter One. We can only continue with your help.

Send your responses to the following:

Al Heflin:
rah791@gmail.com

Painter Dickson Lester:
pd1721@bellsouth.net

John Saari

GVVA Chapter One

Director of Communications

gvalsitrep@gmail.com

Good Afternoon, Veterans and Supporters,

Many of you may know me, but for those who don't, my name is Zack Colley and I am a history teacher at Newnan High School. It is time for our Bi-Annual Student-Vet Connect on May 15th, 2026. Please reference the letter below by Mr. Frank Henderson for more information and details regarding changes to our program this year.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and hope that you will be able to attend this event to help continue making history come alive!

Dear Veteran:

The History and Social Studies Department at Newnan High School would like to invite you to our biannual Student-Vet Connect on Friday, May 15, 2026. Many of you have been before, and we so appreciate your willingness to help us teach our students about your experiences and share a living history. Those of you who come regularly have become a vital part of our yearly curriculum, and we appreciate your service to this community as well as to this country- THANK YOU for helping us!

SVC INFORMATION:

There will be students in the parking lot outside of the Max Bax Gymnasium. This is the first gym on the right as you enter the parking area on the side of the school. When you arrive, we will have student helpers there to greet you, sign you in, and help you find a place at a table. Coffee will be available when you arrive, and breakfast will be served starting shortly after 8:00 AM. The first

group of students will arrive at about 8:45. They will come and visit your table and talk to you about your service. If you have any memorabilia and/or pictures that you would like to share with the students, please feel free to do so. We ask that students not handle any firearms or weapons. As much as they would love too, we are in a climate that this could cause an issue for us and the event.

The first two groups of students will wrap up at roughly 11:40, and lunch will be served. We will have two groups of students after lunch as well, and will close the day at approximately 3:00 PM, if not a few minutes before. We would love to have you spend all day with us, but if you can only come during part of the day, that is no problem. We would appreciate any time that you can spare to assist us in our attempt to get our students to see how history connects to real life. At the end of the day, please remember to return your name badge and table placard so we will have them for the spring.

If you have any friends who are veterans who might be interested in participating, please invite them and let me know their name, email address, and/or phone number, and I will be glad to follow up with them. Knowing if you plan to attend is important for our preparation, so we would greatly appreciate it if you would respond to this email or text me at the cell number listed. Even a "maybe" would be more helpful than no response. See the phone number and the email address below. I appreciate it and look forward to seeing you on May 15th, if not before!

Sincerely,

Frank Henderson
History and Social Studies
Department
Newnan High School
770-301-9946
Frank.henderson@cowetaschools.net

Kennesaw – July 4

MARS HILL PORCH PICKERS Veterans BAND IS PLAYING FOR THIS EVENT

View the City of Kennesaw's Salute to America fireworks display from the comfort of a front row seat on the lawn of the Southern Museum.

We have the best view in town!

No crowds. No dragging a chair from home.

No waiting in long lines for a cold beverage or a bite of food.

Enjoy all-you-can-eat hot dogs. Snack on freshly made popcorn.

Be refreshed by cold beer, canned cocktails, soda, or bottled water.

No waiting in line for a restroom. Indoor bathrooms in the Museum.

Air conditioning!

No struggling to find a place to park.

Free reserved parking a block away at Andrews Arbor business park for Southern Spirits ticket holders only.

Buy your tickets today! Tell all your friends!

This event is for ages 21 & older

Tickets available now!
Members: \$30 | Nonmembers: \$40

Ticket price includes:

- Admission to the Museum
- Three beverages (beer and wine)
- All you can eat food
- Lawn seating and a chair for the fireworks show
- Live music by the Mars Hill Porch Pickers

Guests must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

Savannah
DISTRIBUTING CO., INC.
SERVING GEORGIA SINCE 1928

The Mars Hill Porch Pickers
BRINGING YOU THE TAPPAH BLUEGRASS MUSIC
FOR BOWLING BALL
DISCUSS LATER 478-434-4343

SCAN FOR TICKETS

kennesawmuseumfoundation.org

April Guest Speaker

John Blair

John is a retired Staff Sergeant, United State Marine Corps, 1966 to 1972. He served in Vietnam from October 1967 through November 1968. John's father was a 23-year career Army officer stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii when Pearl Harbor was attacked. John's father married Elizabeth Arceo, a Portuguese Hawaiian native, who was a Hula Dancer in the Officers Club. John was raised in Hawaii, until his father retired from the Army at Fort Benning, GA.

John joined the Marine Corps in April 1966. His MOS was 0311 "grunt" (rifleman). John was assigned to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. His 13-month tour was in the hills of northern South Vietnam near the DMZ, sleeping under the stars - rain or shine. The area of operation was a "Free Fire Zone", so his M16 rifle was always loaded and could be fired at any time without seeking permission. India Company's primary mission was to set up defensive positions on the surrounding hill tops, north and west of Combat Base Khe Sanh. Their mission was to engage the NVA units moving south. India Company also patrolled

throughout the valleys down below the hills.

John participated in three major battles and over a dozen fire fights. The first of the major battles was the Battle of Mikes Hill on January 27, 1968, where over 100 Marines and over 300 NVA soldiers were killed. That was followed by the Siege of Khe Sanh and the Battle of Foxtrot Ridge, at which India Company was overrun.

John earned and was awarded the Silver Star for his heroism at Mikes Hill. His other awards include the Navy Achievement Medal for Valor, Vietnam Service Medal with four stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Combat Action Medal, and several Meritorious Unit Citations. In 2016 John was inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame for Valor.

John has been married to Diane for 55 years. He is very proud to be a Vietnam Veteran, and he continues to lead an exemplary life of character as a distinguished and remarkable American Patriot.

President: Painter Dickson Lester
 678-836-4391 pd1721@bellsouth.net
Vice President and
Morale & Entertainment
Ronnie Futral r1f4@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Ken Buechel
Treasurer: Patrick Ultsch
 Board of Directors
Membership: Charles Langston
charleslangston46@gmail.com
Operations: Bill McRae 770-843-3973
Communications:
John Saari 770-713-4984
sitrep@saarihome.com
Webmaster: Paul Quillen
Stores: David Thomas
davidjthomas01@yahoo.com
Fundraising: Ken Buechel
kenbchl@gmail.com 404-510-8324
Chaplain: Roy Lantz
RoylantzE5@gmail.com
Historian: Andy Zimmerman
 678-709-4041

At Large

John Bevich tjmb6484@yahoo.com
 678-849-3062
Gus Vasquez GJV@ENGINEER.COM
Donna Rowe Home: 678-401-4424
 Cell: 404-285-3357
Tom Foster 404-906-5266

Past Presidents

Dr. Tom Johnson **Rich Sale**
Bob Humphries **Chuck Davis**
Woody McFarlin **Terry Cash**
John McDougal **Al Rowe**
Jim Baskin **Robert Ledee**
Bill Kalish **Walt Molyneaux**
Dave Hambrick **Al Heflin**

Past Vice President

Harold Holingshed
haroldshed@att.net 770-926-5603
 Standing Committee Chairs

Chapter Store:
Newsletter: John Saari
Nominating: Al Heflin
Programs: Bill McRae

Mission Statement

The mission of Chapter 1, GVVA is to provide quality services and support, based upon the concepts of self-esteem and self-improvement, to advocate patriotism, to promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, and to recognize those who served, and honor those who gave their lives in the Vietnam War, and to promote the positive image of the Vietnam Veteran, their dependents and the widows and orphans of deceased Vietnam Veterans throughout the State of Georgia in order to enhance and enrich their lives and the lives of their families. And further, to provide the same service and support to all veterans of all wars and to our communities' first responders

General Purpose

Chapter 1, GVVA will be a community based service organization. It will identify, initiate and expand programs within the limits of manpower and finances. Chapter 1, GVVA will aggressively perform fund raising activities for veterans, their families and community. These services will include, but not limited, transition and homeless assistance, employment services, PTSD and substance abuse, leadership and scholar-ship program and other essential needs of human existence. And further, to provide the same service and support to all veterans of all wars and to our communities' first responders.

GVVA Chapter One Website

<https://www.GVVA1.org>
 Georgia Dept. of Veterans Sevcies
 Suite 350, 1150 Powder Springs St. Marietta,
 GA 30064
 770-528-3254
<http://veterans.ga.gov/marietta>. Hours: 8
 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
VA National Cemetary, Canton, Georgia -
arrangements for veterans burial :
 1-800-535-1117
VA Assistance & Benefits Info:
 -800-1MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)

<https://www.AmericanDisabledVeterans.com>

VA Regional Office (claims)
 1-800-827-1000
VA Hospital 404-321-6111
VA Center Counseling 404-347-7264
Military Honors Survivor Assistance:
Air Force – Dobbins ARB
Military Honor Guard 678-655-5272
Casualty Assistance 678-655-6092
Navy / Marines
Military Honors 678-655-5092
Casualty Assistance 678-655-5092

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Member: ___ New Life Member ___ Renewal:

Membership in the GVVA is open to all veterans and organizations whose members served in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of conflict. Associate memberships are available to families of veterans and to the public at large.

Full Name _____ Date ___/___/20___

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-mail Address (to receive the newsletter): _____

Branch of Service _____ (A Copy of your DD-214 is Required)

Combat Tours _____

Unit(s) _____ Other Veteran's Organization _____

Annual Dues_ \$30, Associate Members \$30, New Members \$30 Life Membership_ 0-39 yrs. old- \$260, 40-49 yrs. old-\$220, 50-59 yrs. old-\$180, 60-69 yrs. old-\$140, 70+ yrs. old- \$100

Return to: Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance, Chapter One, PO Box 414, Kennesaw, GA 30156

Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance

Chapter One
PO Box 414
Kennesaw, GA 30156

“A lot of who we are is where we’ve been”

