



"In Service To Veterans, Their Families and Community"

August 2026

PRESIDENTS NOTES for AUGUST

On Saturday JULY 25TH I was honored to be invited to participate in a surprise Birthday celebration for a 96 year old KOREAN WAR VETERAN, Corporal Harold E. Beckett, who served from Dec 1950 through March 1952 in the 7th ARMY Calvary, 2ND Chemical Mortar Battalion.



I did several hours of research on his unit and found they were given a Letter of Commendation for their outstanding Battle preparedness, execution and accuracy. So I decided to have a GVVA Presidents Award Plaque in honor of him.

Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance
Chapter 1
PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Presented to:

CORPORAL HAROLD E BECKETT

UNITED STATES ARMY 7TH CALVARY 2ND CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION

This Presidents award is not only for his distinguished ARMY service, during the Korean War, from December 6, 1950 through March 1952, but also his unit's outstanding service to the 7th Calvary Division during many critical dangerous in country battles from May 1951 through March 1952. Let it be known to all their Operations during the fall of 1951 were, objective engagements by supported infantry units in order to secure commanding terrain in front of the 7th Inf Div sector. The mortar companies were in a position in the vicinity of Chup-a'ri, North Korea. In appreciation of the support received from Companies B and C, a letter of Commendation was received from MajGen C. B. Ferenbaugh, CG, 7th Inf Div, which read in part:

"Your support is particularly commendable in view of the hazardous and roadless terrain over which we are obliged to displace. All movements were accomplished with alacrity and were obviously well planned. The thorough indoctrination of your officers was apparent in the attack on Hill 851, during which action the mortar support was superb. Full utilization was made of forward observers with devastating results. The flexibility of your command in

functioning under either infantry or artillery control evidences the thorough training and technical skill of all personnel."

On 14 Sep 1951, Company C fired the 100,000th round of 4.2 ammunition since the Battalion was committed. Photographers from the 7th Inf Div IO team were present to record the event. In September the Battalion expended 47,297 rounds of ammunition, a new record. In grateful appreciation, Thank You for your service to our country, your family and Our GOD.

*In addition to the GVVA President's award I asked our own Hal Burke if he knew where I could find any memorabilia from the KOREAN WAR and told him about Harold. He immediately perked up with a smile and said I think I have just the thing for him it is print # 227 of 250 of a painting of the battle of the Imijin River by the British during the same time Harold was in country. So I followed Hal home and got the print and also presented it to Harold and his wife along with a couple of Challenge coins.



The entire family was very appreciative of the GVVA PRESIDENT'S AWARD presentation, the painting and gifts to Harold and

his wife. Some of the family said they did not know about how much time he spent in KOREA. This was a day well spent!!

Painter Dickson Lester

Sick Call/Prayer List

Roy Lantz, Tom Foster, Harold Hollingshed, Kieran Pavlick, John and Linda Dudley, Dave and Gail Hambrick, Gene and Gail Tatum, Renee Ultsch, Woody McFarlin

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

August 20 6:00 PM Monthly Meeting
September 26 – Chapter Picnic, \$25 pp,
George Washington Carver State Park
October 15 6:00 PM Monthly Meeting, Special
Awards Ceremony
October 22 – We Care Fair Cobb Civic Center

Membership

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

Charles Langston

charleslangston46@gmail.com

Director – Membership

Member Participation Wanted.

Submit an article for the Sitrep.

We want to hear from you! Send it to: Gvva1sitrep@gmail.com

GVVA LOGO ON SHIRT

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

August Guest Speaker

The GVVA Speaker for this month will be **Brad Quinlin**. He spoke to us four years ago on the history behind the Marietta National Cemetery. Brad has always loved the study of American History.

After moving to Georgia, he took up the study of the American Civil War. He has been a reenactor for 37 years, and he has worked on over 32 movies and TV shows. His presentation will be a deep dive into the **Great Train Race** and the two Yankee soldiers who pulled off that operation, which started here in Marietta. It will be an interesting and very enjoyable presentation.

Bill McRae

Brad Quinlin



Brad Quinlin was born in Monmouth Illinois. He moved to Indianapolis, Indiana at age 6. At 13 years of age Brad moved to Massachusetts. In 1982 he moved with his family to Georgia. Brad has always loved the study of American History. After moving to Georgia, he took the path to study the American Civil War. He has been a reenactor for 37 years, and he has worked on 32 movies and TV shows.

Brad was a background artist in Glory, Gettysburg, Andersonville, and an actor in the TV show "Perfect Tribute". On the TV show "Who Do You Think You Are", he showed the actor, Matthew Broderick, the last three days of his great-great-grandfather's life. Robert Martindale of the 20th Connecticut infantry was killed on July 23, 1864 near Atlanta. Brad showed Broderick where Mr. Martindale is buried in the Marietta National Cemetery. Brad was also the research advisor on three more "Who Do You Think You Are" shows. Brad was the lead

researcher and advisor for the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield film called "One Last Mountain". The film has now received three awards. Brad was a researcher on the TV documentary "The Untold Story Of The Civil War". He also worked as an advisor for the National Geographic show "Diggers". Brad is a master volunteer for the National Park Service with over 10,000 hours of Volunteer work

His research is being used in the new exhibits for the new Cyclorama Building of the Atlanta History Center, and Brad has researched two new Wayside Exhibits for the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield National Park. Brad has written or co-written 23 books on the American Civil War. At the end of 2021, Brad and two of his friends had five historical books finished for the Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center. Brad's work is now being used in five museums across the United States. He also gives tours of Americas Battlefields, to people from all across this country and the world.

Brad has been on the Marietta Cemetery Memorial Committee for nine years and has worked on the Wreaths Across America programs for the Marietta National Cemetery for the last 30 years.

Brad has been married for 51 years. He has two sons and now has seven grandchildren.

July Meeting Notes

by Hal Burke

Great meeting and guest speaker, Sue VerHoef, Director, Oral History & Genealogy, Atlanta History Center.

I highly recommend TD & Dickson's consideration for planning a VFLB and GVVA luncheon/dinner catered meeting at the Atlanta History Center to introduce our Veterans to Sue's program of A/V recording of

their military service and life's journey. Sue could work with you about her guidelines and preparation with Veterans interested in participation in advance of the meetings.



Atlanta History Center Veterans History Project collects, preserves, and shares oral histories of American veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the Global War on Terror, and civilians who supported them.

These personal stories allow future generations to hear directly from veterans and better appreciate the realities of war and the sacrifices made by those who serve in uniform. The interviews are created in partnership with the Veterans History Project, an initiative of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. The History Center is a founding partner and has collected over 800 interviews of veterans with the invaluable assistance of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association and the Atlanta Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

To participate, contact Sue VerHoef, Atlanta History Center's Director of Oral History and Genealogy at 404.814.4042 or sverhoef@atlantahistorycenter.com.

Digitization and cataloging of this collection is made possible by grants from the Scott Hudgens Family Foundation, the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, the Atlanta Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, and Charlie Crawford.

atlantahistorycenter.com





Greetings GVVA Veteran members and visitors.

We thank you for attending our meeting at the American Legion Post-29 on July 16, 2026.

We had an excellent guess speaker Ms. SueVerHoef from the Atlanta History Center.

Ms. Sue collects data from where she participates at Atlanta History Center Veterans History Project to preserves and shares oral histories of the American veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the Global War on Terror, and civilians who supported them.

These personal stories allow future generations to hear directly from veterans and better appreciate the realities of war and sacrifices made by those who serve in uniform. The interviews are created in partnership with the Veterans History Project, an initiative of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. The History Center is a founding partner and has collected over 800 interviews of veterans with the invaluable assistance of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association and the Atlanta Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.



May you always be blessed with Fair Winds & Following Seas

Hal Burke 🍀 ⚓

CEO & President

Victory & Valor Memories, LLC.

604 Greenleaf Court

Canton, GA 30114

708-387-7779

VandVMemories@att.net



Below you will find a few photos of the meeting.

More from last month.....

I wish all of you had an enjoyable time while also an extremely informative that Ms. Sue provided for all us.
God bless to all you.
I look forward to see all of you next month.
Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely yours,

Gus Vasquez



The presentation of brass plates, reading of proclamations and hanging of photos on the Honor Wall for the **Semper Fi Knights of the Round Table Bill Craig and Jim Hogan** was conducted at the Rally Point Bar and Grille in Woodstock, GA on August 7th at lunchtime. The brass plates were placed with those Knights who predeceased them - Bob Humphries, Bill Smith, Sid Orr and Tommy Hemphill.



Presentation at Rally Point Grille

By Dave Hambrick
Past President, Chapter 1, GVVA
7 August 2026



GVVA Chapter 1 Past President Dave Hambrick served as the coordinator, host, and narrator for the event, and GVVA Chapter 1 President Dickson Lester was called upon to read the Proclamations.



Rally Point Bar and Grille owner Retired Marine Master Sergeant Ralph Roeger assisted Dave in affixing the brass plates.





The turn out to honor both Bill and Jim was excellent with 35 attendees, including about 20 members of the GVVA/Semper Fi Knights, 3 Hogan family members, 3 Craig family members as well as 6 from the Marine Corps League Detachment 1280 in Jasper, Georgia, where Bill Craig had served as the Past Commandant, and other guests.



The event closed with a toast to both Bill and Jim – Semper Fi.

President: Painter Dickson Lester 678-836-4391 pd1721@bellsouth.net Vice President and Director of Morale & Entertainment Ronnie Futral 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 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 GVJ@ENGINEER.COM David Thomas davidjthomas01@yahoo.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 rlf4@bellsouth.net 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 Sevices 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 Cemetery, 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”

