



"In Service To Veterans, Their Families and Community"

July 2026

Presidents Notes

July Notes from the President
Welcome to the 250 year Celebration
of our GREAT UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA REPUBLIC!

July 4th has been rung in by many
ceremonies countrywide reviving a
sense of Patriotism in many
communities that had all but
fizzled out.

We need to remember what our fore
Father's fought for, the roots and
intents they had for this great
nation, the only vestige of Freedom
in a world that is still standing.
Thomas Jefferson said they had
established and given us the free
Republic if we could hold on to it.
We now have many in this nation who
want to see us fall and be erased
from the face of the earth. When we
signed and swore our allegiance to
this country it included fighting
enemies from within our borders,
as well as, outside our boarder. So
it is up to us to continue to
eradicate those who do not love our
country or want us to continue to
exist. We must get more involved in
local state and National affairs to
keep the Communists, the Islamists
and any others who would seek to
bring our great nation down.
So let us be ever mindful of those
things around us that do not
measure up to what our Fore Fathers
envisioned for our great Nation.

Sick Call/Prayer List

Roy Lantz, Dave and Gail Hambrick,
Harold Hollingshed, John Dudley,
Gene Tatum, Al Heflin, Rich Sale,
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

July 16. Monthly Meeting
September 26 – Chapter Picnic, \$25 pp, George
Washington Carver State Park
October 22 – We Care Fair Cobb Civic Center

Membership

**2025 DUES, \$30.00, ASSOCIATE AND
ANNUAL MEMBERS.**

Charles Langston

charleslangston46@gmail.com

Director – Membership

Missing in Action

**Below are GVVA members we
have not heard from in a while
and emails are being returned.**

**Do know the status of the
following members?**

Bill Norton

Wayne Waddel

James Kopp

Clarence Withrow

Robert Woodruff

July Guest Speaker

Ms. Sue Verhoef

The GVVA Speaker for this month
will be **Sue VerHoef**. She has been
with the Atlanta History Center
since 2008. She is their **Director
of Oral History and Genealogy**. Sue
also manages the Center's oral
history initiatives including **The
Veterans History Project**, with over
900 oral history interviews so
far. She is going to speak about
her work and the importance of all
veterans to get their military
experiences recorded and preserved,
for their families and others to
see, hear, and appreciate. Sue

speaks to a lot of groups, so it will be interesting. She will explain what's involved and exactly what you need to do, to get your oral history video recorded and preserved.

Sue Verhoef is the **Director of Oral History and Genealogy at the Atlanta History Center**, where she has worked since 2008. Sue manages the Center's oral history initiatives including **The Veterans History Project**, a collection of over 900 oral history interviews of veterans from World War II through the Global War on Terror. She is also the **Curator of *More Than Self: Living the Vietnam War***, an exhibition of oral histories, photographs, documents, and artifacts from Vietnam veterans and civilians who served in their support. The exhibit was on display at the Atlanta History Center in 2017-2018 and is now available [online](#).

Sue creates and presents regularly scheduled genealogy workshops and programs and provides archives orientation tours for public schools, university students, and their faculty. In 2015, The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Southeast Chapter awarded Sue an **Emmy**, for her contribution in the development of ***37 Weeks: Sherman on the March***, which aired on Georgia Public Broadcasting. Sue is a graduate of both the Brigham Young University and the University of West Georgia.

GVVA LOGO ON SHIRT

Bring your shirt.. One Logo embroidered for free. Rest are \$10

July 4, 2026



Flag Flying on Tybee



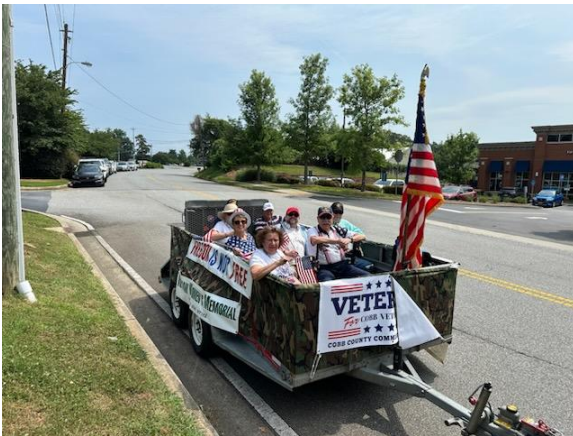
GVVA On The Square

FROM THE PARADE





Some Were Walking



GVVA Riding in the Parade



The "Huey" in the parade

GVVA Needs a Medic

Dickson's July 4th Parade injury - I passed out from heat stroke and tried to catch my fall but stuck finger in galvanized expanded metal tail gate of the trailer and it cut my nail off my middle finger cut the side of finger to the bone and broke the tip of my finger. (I chose not to publish the picture of the finger)

From Your Chapter Historian:

70 years Ago; July 1956 in Vietnam:

In July 1956, South Vietnam became a permanently divided nation when the deadline for nationwide reunification elections—originally mandated by the 1954 [Geneva Accords](#)—passed without the elections being held. President Ngo Dinh Diem refused to participate, backed by the United States, due to the refusal of the Communist North to allow supervision by the United Nations. The Communists insisted on supervision by committees controlled by the Viet Cong. Key events and developments that month included:

- **The Missed Elections:** The core stipulation of the Geneva Accords was that Vietnam would be temporarily divided at the 17th parallel and reunited through a free, nationwide election in July 1956. The Communist North's refusal to allow UN supervision of free and fair elections solidified the permanent partition into North and South Vietnam. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]
- **Nixon's Visit:** On July 6, U.S. Vice President Richard Nixon visited South Vietnam. He met with President Ngo Dinh Diem in Saigon, delivering a letter from President Dwight D. Eisenhower that cemented U.S. support for the new South Vietnamese state. [[1](#), [2](#)]
- **Political Consolidation:** After defeating armed opposition from religious sects and the Binh Xuyên crime syndicate, Diem's government focused on internal security and political control. He had previously declared the creation of the Republic of Vietnam in October 1955. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]
- **Agrarian and Refugee Initiatives:** The southern government faced the enormous challenge of assimilating nearly a million refugees who

had fled the communist North. The 1954 Geneva Accords specified a two-year amnesty where any residents could freely relocate between north and south. Due to the Stalinist purges in the north, murdering an estimated 200,000 prior to the 1954 Accords, primarily Catholics, the majority fled South. Only a few moved north, primarily Viet Minh left in the south, after the end of WWII, who had married southern wives and relocated their families to safety.....To cope, the government pushed agricultural reforms and opened up land in the Thap Muoi plain and Cai San region. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

- Andy Zimmerman

President: Painter Dickson Lester 678-836-4391 pd1721@bellsouth.net Vice President and Morale & Entertainment Ronnie Futral rlf4@bellsouth.net Secretary: Ken Buechel Treasurer: Patrick Ultsch <i>Board of Directors</i> 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 GJV@ENGINEER.COM Donna Rowe Home: 678-401-4424 Cell: 404-285-3357 Tom Foster 404-906-5266 Past Presidents <table><tr><td>Dr. Tom Johnson</td><td>Rich Sale</td></tr><tr><td>Bob Humphries</td><td>Chuck Davis</td></tr><tr><td>Woody McFarlin</td><td>Terry Cash</td></tr><tr><td>John McDougal</td><td>Al Rowe</td></tr><tr><td>Jim Baskin</td><td>Robert Ledee</td></tr><tr><td>Bill Kalish</td><td>Walt Molyneaux</td></tr><tr><td>Dave Hambrick</td><td>Al Heflin</td></tr></table> Past Vice President Harold Holingshed haroldshed@att.net 770-926-5603 <i>Standing Committee Chairs</i> Chapter Store: Newsletter: John Saari Nominating: Al Heflin Programs: Bill McRae	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	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 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
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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”

