



"In Service To Veterans, Their Families and Community"

May 2024

<https://www.gvva1.org>

In service to veterans and their families

PRESIDENTS NOTES

MAY 2024 messages from president:

This monthly meeting, May 16th, will prove to be very interesting for all please make arrangements to be here.

We will have **3 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** to make.

The First will be the **SPECIAL FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY** which is very precise. It will be performed by our own GEORGIA VIETNAM VETERANS ALLIANCE HONOR GUARD with Harold leading the pack. I will not spoil the surprise who is a member of the HONOR GUARD~ you'll have to come witness that for yourselves at the meeting.

2nd Special Presentation will be to Honor a young high school graduate named **Cadet Sydney Watson** who has been awarded a prestigious APPOINTMENT to our **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY**. **Harold Hollingshed** will assist me in this presentation with special items for Sydney's outstanding achievements.

3rd Special Presentation will be to Honor another Young High School Graduate named **Cadet Kiven Maurer** who has received an APPOINTMENT to the prestigious **UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY**. **Hal Burke** will assist me in presenting Kevin with a special surprise from him and I will also present him with special items to commemorate his outstanding achievements.

Both of these CADETS made it to the Front Page of the Marietta Daily Newspaper so Hal Burke brought this to our attention and we put this special presentation together for them and their families to let them know our GVVA Vietnam Brotherhood is proud of them.

We will also have Mrs. Rhonda Watson the Mother of Cadet Watson & **JEFFREY T. BISE, SMSgt, USAF (Ret), Senior Aerospace Science Instructor (SASI), Head Riflery Coach of Cherokee HS / GA-953**. We will have Dan Maurer the father, the Mother, and family of Cadet Maurer. So make sure you speak to them all and make them feel welcome to our Brotherhood of GVVA VETERANS.

Our meeting will be well received as always so why don't you come out and help us HONOR these 2 young adults.

Painter Dickson Lester
President GVVA

Welcome New Members
Rich Misitano John D. Blair

Sick Call/Prayer List
Dickson Lester, Sid Orr, Steve Best, Bill Craig, Dick Taylor, John Overcash, John Dudley, Blackjack Ollis, Pete Pillar

CHAPTER EMBROIDERED SHIRTS!!!
FREE Embroidered Chapter Shirt. Bring your polo/dress shirt and give to John Drew at the meeting.

John Drew.
Questions: 770.565.4500

If you have any 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

May 16 - 6 PM Monthly Meeting

May 17, 8:00 AM – 3 PM. Vet Connect Newnan High School Gym.

May 18, 4-6 PM. Tunnel Rats at Rally Point in Woodstock.

May 27. Memorial Day in Roswell

September 21 – Annual Picnic

December 12 – Christmas Party

Memorial Day Request from Goose

Attention all members.....I NEED HELP!!!! I will be setting up my military display in Roswell again this year. I will be arriving around 8 AM and we usually load up to leave around 2:00 PM. I would greatly appreciate it if some of you can help me complete this endeavor. I am having surgery on March 7th and April 12th and I will

not be able to help at all. My wife, Mrs. Goose will see to that. She will be boss that day and will be giving directions.

😊 Remember it's a fun day and lots of kids and adults come around and ask tons of questions. If there's rain, I won't be there. Thanks again to all!!

If you have any questions, please contact Goose at (678) 756-4039.

Gayle and Gene (Goose) Tatum

SitRep Editor Wanted!

After 14 years I have determined it is time to pass the Sitrep to a new editor. If you are interested

please email me at:
sitrep@saarihome.com

May Guest Speaker

There will be 3 special presentations this month. Read the President's Notes on page 1 for more detail.

The Cobb Veterans Memorial Foundation Gala

Editor's Note. The Gala raised over \$80,000 in support of the Memorial.



The Cobb Veterans Memorial Foundation Board of Directors wishes to thank all 400+ of our supporters that attended the Inaugural Military Ball and Gala on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

With your help and celebration, it was a glorious evening honoring our Veterans. We are that much closer to 'Building to Honor' all of Cobb County's 60,000 Veterans as well as Veterans across Georgia and the United States.

Your donation means so much. Please click [HERE](#) if you were unable to give on Saturday or if you are moved to donate now. We thank you!

GVVA Was Represented



The Tunnel Rats Played Taylorsville





Special Guest Sound Effects!

The following 2 items were taken from the Website:

<https://cherrieswriter.com/2024/04/20/how-dangerous-was-it-for-tankers-during-the-vietnam-war/>

How Dangerous was it for Tankers during the Vietnam War?



Date: [April 20, 2024](#) Author: [pdoggbiker](#)

Patrolling through the Vietnam jungle in a tank wasn't as safe as one might think. For instance, the enemy can hear you across a great distance and has time to prepare a welcoming committee upon your arrival. Other things that we might not have considered are discussed in this new post. Check it out...

By RJ Holland taken from Quora

Jungle combat was extremely dangerous. Many times you couldn't see past the front of your tank. Anything could be out there waiting and many times it was. Our tanks, the M48A3 Patton tank could take a



lot of crap from RPG rounds, stick grenades, and small arms fire. What gave our tanks a hard time sometimes were tank traps. Large, square holes dug in the ground and covered. Very hard to see, very hard to get out of. The L or U shaped ambushes were not a welcome thing either. But with the help of other tanks 'scratching your back' with small arms fire to kill the VC soldiers that had climbed onto the tank and after some desperate fighting, we usually got out of those ambushes. The grunts out in the open had it much worse. The VC usually chooses when and where to fight you. The slimy, sticky Vietnam muck, especially during the monsoon season was hell to get around in.

Anything can happen in the jungle. When you are driving your tank and crunching trees, branches, and anything else that gets in your way, it's pretty stressful because you cannot see six feet in front of you. You are ordered to 'button up.' That's really two orders for it means to close your hatch and lock the latch and that has been drummed unto you since Advanced at Fort Meade, for Blackhorse troopers anyway.

If we were lucky, we would have the engineers with us with their big dozers and their Rome plows. But they were busy most of the time so our A3s had blades that could be attached to the front of our tanks too plow a path through the jungle for the infantry.



There were lots of dangers in the jungle, from hidden punji sticks to hidden snakes. Yes, this is exactly what it sounds like. Viet Cong guerrillas would often carry Bamboo Pit Vipers in their packs to (hopefully) kill anyone who searched through them.

The cartridge trap. This trap was an awful one because it was very difficult to detect. A cartridge - a round of ammunition - would be set into a piece of bamboo and lowered into a shallow hole in the ground. At the bottom of the bamboo was a board and a nail. The regular weight of someone walking on the cartridge would drive the nail into the primer, turning the nail into a firing pin and firing the bullet upward through the unsuspecting victim's foot.

Another tripwire trap was the Mace. Once the wire was triggered, a 24-inch metal or wooden ball with spikes welded onto it, weighing 40 pounds or more, would swing down from a tree, sending anyone in its path straight to Valhalla.

A tiger trap was similar to the mace, in that a tripwire would undo the catch on a rope. Only instead of a swinging ball, the death from above took the form of a man-sized plank weighted with bricks and full of barbed metal spikes quickly falling to earth on someone's forehead.

At any time, the enemy could jump out at you from spider holes, do some damage and disappear in seconds.



The driver actually had the most dangerous position in the tank. The driver was surrounded with extra ammo rounds for the tank's cannon. The hatch was a little more difficult to open than the other hatches on the turret and had to be raised and swung to the right. If something in combat jammed the hatch or was lying near it so it couldn't be opened all the way, the driver was pinned inside and burned to death then blown to hell from the exploding tank rounds inside. One ace up his sleeve was an escape hatch on the floor which was usually covered with flak vests to dampen mine explosions. If he was quick enough to fling them out of the way, grab his Car 15, and open that hatch, with a little luck he could live to fight another day.

We were issued the old M3 grease gun but later scrounged Car 15s, a much better weapon that was shorter than the M16. Took a 29-round mag, standard for US weapons. I also wore my shoulder holster for my 1911 .45 over my flak vest. A little cumbersome but if I had to get out in a hurry, I'd have my vest and my beautiful Colt. Besides, Mama made me promise to be careful and take care of myself.

Our tanks had the armor to withstand RPG hits, especially when we added Pierced Steel planks and spare track blocks on the outside of the tank. The outside bustle rack behind the turret was loaded with spare Mg ammo, c ration boxes and our duffel bags to further

protect us from RPG rounds. When the round hit any of these things they would take the blast of the round and not the actual tank. For the 90 cannon, we mostly used canister and HE in Vietnam. Also Beehive, a shell packed with steel flechettes when available.



However, the M113 ACAV could not survive RPGs as well as our tanks. RPGs usually tore through their thin armor and the result was not pretty. The crew was usually burned alive. I lost one of my best friends that way. He was driving an ACAV close to us and I saw it hit and explode with a tremendous flash. Didn't have a chance. I could do nothing but keep driving my A3. The despair and loss overwhelmed me but I had to keep working. I can still see it today. Mine clearing, convoy duty, thunder runs and troop support ops were not without their own dangerous hazards.

There are other segments of being a tanker that are dangerous and have little to do with combat such as smashing your teeth, nose or breaking a jaw against the edge of the hatch, crushed hands and fingers and a simple thing like traversing a turret can end up with a mangled arm or leg. And oh yeah, back spasms. Tankers should be built like The Hulk, smaller versions though. A tanker's life is mostly maintenance, maintenance, maintenance.



One hour of tank operation is equal to about three hours of maintenance. At least it used to be in 1968 and I'm sure it hasn't changed all that much. I'm not even counting loading ammo and supplies. You are always working with very heavy solid steel items; lifting, handling, fixing, pushing, and pulling. A tanker's life is backbreaking work and living in a greasy, loud, smokey, scorching hot kidney crunching world is not easy, but someone has to do it.

The jungle? It wasn't only the human enemy you had to worry about. The incessant mosquitoes, hordes of ants, scorpions, 15-inch centipedes, huge snakes that could easily swallow a man, and the two-step snake. Let him bite you then after taking two steps, you were dead, or so they said. And let's not forget the 'wait a minute vine', that lovely thick vine with the big, sticky barbs that have pulled tankmen out of their hatches. That's what you have to live through in the jungles of Vietnam during the war.



However, your fellow crewmen are living it with you, and your brothers, and the humor and closeness get you through it. Now, next time you pass an armor crewman, maybe you'll look at him a little differently and more respectfully knowing the dangers he also goes through when he's not in combat

Vietnam is probably bigger than you thought



<p>President: Painter Dickson Lester 678-836-4391 pd1721@bellsouth.net Vice President: Harold Holingshed haroldshed@att.net 770-926-5603 Assistant Vice President Ronnie Futral rlf4@bellsouth.net Secretary: Patrick Ultsch Treasurer: John Bevich tjmb6484@yahoo.com 678-849-3062 Board of Directors Membership: John Drew johnrdrew@bellsouth.net Operations: Bill McRae 770-843-3973 Communications: John Saari 770-713-4984 sitrep@saarichome.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 At Large Gail Evilsizor gevilsizor@aol.com Gus Vasquez GJV@ENGINEER.COM Andy Zimmerman 678-709-4041 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 Terry Cash John McDougal Al Rowe Robert Ledee Jim Baskin Woody McFarlin Bill Kalish Walt Molyneaux Dave Hambrick Al Heflin Standing Committee Chairs Chapter Store: Membership: John Drew Newsletter: John Saari Nominating: Al Heflin Programs: Bill McRae</p>	<p>Mission Statement</p> <p>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</p> <p>General Purpose</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>
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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 669215
Marietta, GA 30066

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

