



"In Service To Veterans, Their Families and Community"

May 2026

Sick Call/Prayer List

Roy Lantz, Dave and Gail Hambrick, Harold Hollingshed, John Dudley, Gene Tatum.

VVA Mourns the passing of former President Bill Kalish, Vince Haaland, and Johnny "Rotton" Miller.

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

May 21 Monthly Meeting and Election of Officers

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:

gvalsitrep@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

GVVA LOGO ON SHIRT

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Notes from the President

National Military Appreciation Month 2026

1 May 2026 – 31 May 2026 Global & National May Awareness Days United States

About National Military Appreciation Month 2026

National Military Appreciation Month takes place throughout May each year across the United States. Established by Congress in 1999, this month-long observance honors the men and women who serve – and have served – in the United States Armed Forces, along with their families and the communities that support them.

What is National Military Appreciation Month?

National Military Appreciation Month is a federally recognized observance dedicated to honoring all branches of the U.S. military – the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Space Force. Unlike single-day observances, the month provides an extended period for communities, businesses, and individuals to express gratitude and support for active-duty service members, veterans, reservists, and military families. The observance is coordinated nationally but celebrated locally through events, ceremonies, and outreach programs across the country.

When is National Military Appreciation Month?

National Military Appreciation Month runs from Thursday, 1 May to Sunday, 31 May 2026. It is observed every year throughout the entire month of May. Congress specifically chose May because the month already contained several established military observances, making it a natural fit for a broader month-long recognition.

Key Dates Within May 2026

May is packed with individual military-related observances that fall within National Military Appreciation Month:

1. **Loyalty Day** – 1 May: A day reaffirming loyalty to the United States and recognizing the heritage of American freedom.
2. **VE Day** – 8 May: Marking the Allied victory in Europe in 1945, ending the Second World War on the European front.
3. **Military Spouse Appreciation Day** – Friday, 8 May 2026: Falling on the Friday before Mother's Day, this day recognizes the sacrifices and contributions of military spouses.
4. **Armed Forces Day** – Saturday, 16 May 2026: Observed on the third Saturday of May, honoring all those currently serving in the U.S. military.
5. **Memorial Day** – Monday, 25 May 2026: The last Monday of May, a solemn day of remembrance for those who died in military service.

History of National Military Appreciation Month

The push for a dedicated month of military recognition began in the late 1990s. On 9 February 1999, Senator John McCain of Arizona introduced Senate Resolution 33 to the 106th Congress, proposing that May be designated as National Military Appreciation Month. The resolution received backing from Representative Duncan Hunter of California and the support of more than 50 veteran service organizations across the country. The Senate passed the resolution unanimously, 93-0, on 30 April 1999, formally establishing the first National Military Appreciation Month for May 1999. The legislation was later codified through Senate Bill 1419, which amended Title 36 of the United States Code to make the designation permanent. Since then, every sitting president has issued an annual proclamation recognizing May as National Military Appreciation Month. Senator McCain's rationale was straightforward: May already hosted Loyalty Day (1 May), VE Day (8 May), Armed Forces Day (third Saturday), and Memorial Day (last Monday). Grouping these under a single month-long umbrella would amplify public awareness and encourage sustained recognition rather than isolated, single-day acknowledgements.

Why National Military Appreciation Month Matters

The United States maintains one of the largest military forces in the world, with approximately 1.3 million active-duty personnel serving across six branches and an additional 800,000 reserve and National Guard members. Behind every

service member stands a network of spouses, children, and families who bear the weight of frequent relocations, long deployments, and the ever-present uncertainty of military life. National Military Appreciation Month exists to ensure that this collective sacrifice is not overlooked.

The month also draws attention to issues affecting veterans after their service ends, including the transition to civilian employment, access to healthcare, and mental health support. With more than 18 million living veterans in the United States, the observance serves as a prompt for communities and policymakers to consider ongoing obligations to those who have served. It is also a time when many businesses and organizations offer military discounts, host hiring events, and launch charitable drives benefiting service members and their families.

How to Show Appreciation During National Military Appreciation Month

There are many meaningful ways to participate in National Military Appreciation Month, whether you have a personal connection to the military or simply want to show support:

1. **Attend a local ceremony or parade** – Many communities host Armed Forces Day parades, Memorial Day ceremonies, and wreath-laying events throughout May. Attending these events shows visible support and keeps traditions alive.
2. **Write letters to deployed service members** – Organizations such as Operation Gratitude and A Million Thanks coordinate letter-writing campaigns. A handwritten note from a stranger can make a significant difference to someone stationed far from home.
3. **Volunteer with veteran service organizations** – Groups like the USO, Wounded Warrior Project, and local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) posts welcome volunteers year-round but especially appreciate extra hands during May.
4. **Support military families in your community** – Offer practical help to military families nearby – whether that means helping with childcare during a deployment, mowing a lawn, or simply checking in regularly.
5. **Donate to military charities** – Verified organizations such as the Fisher House Foundation, Gary Sinise Foundation, and Homes For Our Troops provide housing, medical support, and family services for veterans and active-duty personnel.
6. **Display the American flag** – Flying the flag at your home or business throughout May is a simple, visible gesture of appreciation.

Ensure it is displayed correctly according to the U.S. Flag Code.

7. Learn and share military history – Visit a military museum, read about a specific conflict or campaign, or watch a documentary. Understanding the history behind the service deepens appreciation for those who have served.

8. Observe the National Moment of Remembrance – On Memorial Day (25 May 2026), pause at 3:00 p.m. local time for one minute of silence to honor fallen service members. Encourage friends and family to join you.

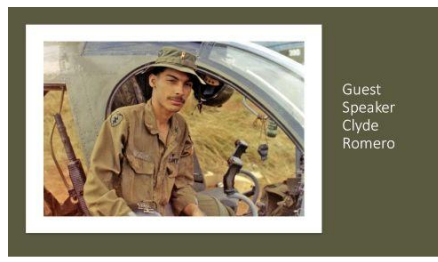
Noteworthy Facts About National Military Appreciation Month

1. The U.S. military is projected to grow to more than 1.3 million active-duty personnel in 2026, the largest authorized force since fiscal year 2023.
2. Military Spouse Appreciation Day was first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1984, recognizing the unique challenges faced by the husbands and wives of service members.
3. Armed Forces Day was created in 1949 following the unification of the military branches under the Department of Defense, replacing separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force days.
4. Memorial Day originated as Decoration Day after the American Civil War, when communities began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers in the late 1860s.
5. The USO (United Service Organizations) has been supporting service members and their families since 1941, operating at more than 250 locations worldwide.

Make a point to recognize our Military Service members during all of May;

**Thank You
Painter Dickson Lester**

May Guest Speaker



Clarence (Clyde) Romero, Jr.

Presentation Topic:

The Ho Chi Minh Trail

Resides in Marietta,
Georgia
Home of Record: Bronx,
New York
Graduate: LSU School of
Engineering
Currently: Retired US
AIRWAYS Captain on A-
330 Airbus
Past President of the
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots
Association

Military Experience:

U.S. Army Helicopter Pilot
(Warrant Officer)
U.S. Air Force Pilot
(Commissioned Officer)
Graduate of COIN
(Counter Insurgency
School) U.S. Army
Air Force FWIC (Fighter
Weapons School) for the
F-4
3 Combat Tours
(2-Vietnam, 1-Desert
Storm)

Aircraft Flown: OH-13,
UH-1 Huey, AH-1G Cobra,
OH-6, T-37, T-38, RF-101,
RF-4, F-4G Phantom

Total military flight time:
5,600 hours
Retired: Colonel, USAF
Awards: Bronze Star,
Distinguished Flying
Cross, Air Medal, Purple
Heart, and numerous
other campaign ribbons,
plus the FAA Wright
Brothers "Master Pilot"
Award for 50 Years of
Aviation Safety.

USAF Wing Tactics Officer
Member of 9th Air Force
Weapons and Tactics
Team 83-92
CENTCOM SEAD
(Suppression of Enemy
Air Defenses) Officer
SME (Subject Matter
Expert) on JCLASS (Joint
Low Altitude Survivability
Study)

Civilian Experience:

Capt. Romero is a member
of the Airline Pilots
Association, International
(ALPA) National
MANPADS (Manual
Precision Air Defense
System) SME (Subject
Matter Expert) on Manual
Shoulder Fired Missiles
like the SA-7.

As the National Security
Committee (NSC)
MANPADS SME, Capt.
Romero provides
oversight of all the
MANPADS activities,
participates in
government/DOD
meetings, and makes
presentations throughout
the world as appropriate,

to represent the security
interest of 60,000 airline
pilots in North America.

Capt. Romero has an
extensive background in
all aspects of the
MANPAD threat to both
military and civilian
aviation. He has
performed SEAD
(Suppression of Enemy
Air Defenses) duties in
support of DOD policy
while on active duty. He
actively continues to work
with government/DOD
entities and provides a
pilot-based perspective to
ongoing aviation security
efforts through his writing
and speaking venues.

GVVA Went to Newnan High School for Vet Connect.

At the invitation of Newnan High School,
President Lester and members of the GVVA
attended Vet Connect on May 15. Photos
below.

Hello Everyone,

On behalf of the entire Newnan High School
community, I want to extend our heartfelt
thanks to each of you for spending your day
with our students for **Student Vet
Connect**.

It is one thing to read about history in a
textbook, but it is another entirely to hear it
spoken by those who lived it. By opening up
and sharing your personal stories, challenges,
and triumphs, you gave our students a
priceless gift: real perspective. Your
vulnerability, wisdom, and humor resonated
deeply with everyone in the room.

We are incredibly grateful not only for the
sacrifices you made during your service, but
for your continued commitment to investing
in the next generation. You left an indelible
mark on our school today, inspiring our

students and reminding us all of the true meaning of service and resilience.

Thank you for your time, your voices, and your unwavering dedication. You will always be welcome at Newnan High School.

Thank you and we will see you all again in December.

Frankey Henderson, Ed.S



GVVA, led by President Lester was armed and dangerous.



John Bevich



Dr. Richard Liposky with another Vietnam Veteran.



Dr. Liposky brought his medical tools.

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.



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 678-709-4041

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 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 Services
 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”

