



"In Service To Veterans, Their Families and Community"

October 2026

Presidents notes for OCTOBER;

**Please do not miss this next
GVVA MEETING October 15th, Donna
Rowe has bent over backwards and
done flips to bring this to
ceremony to us.**

We are going to have a huge honor ceremony for the South COBB JANITOR Mr. Michael Eldridge who rescued and saved a plaque which had hung on the wall honoring 15 VIETNAM VETERANS who had lost their lives during the Vietnam War. It was taken down during demolition and rebuilding then forgotten but not by Mr. Eldridge who preserved it for years. We will also honor the South Cobb High School Staff, Principal Mr. J. Tommy Perry, and LTC Zellous leader of the JR.ROTC Unit for their unwavering demonstration of patriotism in preserving the memories of these 15 great American Hero Veterans who gave their all for our Freedoms, so they would not be forgotten. Now, While sitting here on Friday night listening to the updates about the Hurricane, (of a foreign name? What's up with that? Don't we have enough English names to choose from?), but I digress, having just crashed into the shores all along the GULF OF AMERICA into Gulfport, Mobile and moving rapidly all across the

Southeast, I am reminded by GOD we need to make sure all those who fall within the category of Veterans, are looked after when this Hurricane, with a foreign name, passes.

We have lots of Veterans in our GVVA membership who have family in all the areas where this tragedy is hitting right now. So we need to check on all our families and see if there is anything we can do to help. Roy Lantz is in the hospital recovering with pneumonia, Kim Foster has just recently lost her beloved Ton Foster, Harold Hollingshed continues to fight a valiant battle with his cancer issues, Gene and Gail Tatum are both battling painful recoveries from operations, Phil Forsberg just had hospital issues, and there are many more that I have lost the names of who are struggle with health issues. We all need to reach out to anyone you know and give them a call to check on them. Let us know too so we can be praying for them and their needs.

Have a fun time with your Grands and Great Grands this Halloween. "Semperfi" and "Semper Fortis" , "Non sibi sed patriae" (look them up)

Painter Dickson Lester

Sick Call/Prayer List

Roy Lantz, Harold and Linda Hollingshed, Kieran Pavlick, John and Linda Dudley, Dave and Gail Hambrick, Gene and Gail Tatum, John Dudley, Lee Johnson

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

October 15 6:00 PM Monthly Meeting, Special Awards Ceremony

October 22 – We Care Fair Cobb Civic Center

December 11 Vet Connect, Newnan High School.

_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.

Editor's Note: This could be the last Sitrep!

Sitrep Editor Wanted!

I am still looking for someone to replace me as editor of the Sitrep.

Tom Foster 1947 -2026

Many GVVA members attended the services for Tom Foster, a long

time member of GVVA and a great friend of all Vietnam Veterans

Obituary

https://www.mariettafuneralhome.org/obituaries/tom-foster?utm_pid=212466038&utm_affiliate=legacypro&utm_affiliatetype=standard&utm_campaign=legacy

Mr. Thomas Lloyd Foster, age 79, of Marietta, Georgia, passed away on September 21, 2026.

A decorated veteran and devoted family man, Tom bravely served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. His heroism and dedicated service earned him two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star. In November 2017, his bravery was permanently recognized when he was inducted into the Georgia Veterans' Military Hall of Fame for Valor.

Tom's commitment to his fellow servicemen and community continued long after his military career. He was an active board member of the Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance (Chapter 1) and a member of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Businessmen's Association, The American Legion Post 29, and the Pickens County Sportsman's Club. Dedicated to preserving history and honoring those who served, Tom spent over 20 years sharing his firsthand knowledge of the Vietnam War with students in the Honors Vet Connect Course at Newnan High School. He was also deeply committed to raising funds for the Cobb Veterans Memorial.

In his free time, Tom was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing, and attending classic car shows. He enjoyed weekly target shooting with his club at Big Woods Goods and spending time with his family.

Tom is survived by his loving wife, Kimberly Foster; his daughters, Courtney Hughes (Cory) and Whitney Crutchfield (Mitch); his sisters, Dianna Ogburn and Joyce Scott; and his beloved grandchildren, Drew Hughes, Remy Hughes, Cody Hughes, Maddux Hughes, Tucker Crutchfield, and Skyler Crutchfield. He is also survived by several cherished nieces and nephews.



The Patriot Guard was there to honor Tom.

FROM YOUR CHAPTER HISTORIAN

It's been said, "All gave some. Some gave all." I carry the GVVA Chapter coin with me wherever I go because of what it says on the reverse:

"FREEDOM IS NOT FREE "



It's been said, "All gave some. Some gave all." Whenever I feel its weight in my pocket, take it out and put it in my hat on the dresser as I get ready for bed or place it back in my pocket in the morning, I am

reminded of that sacrifice and the ultimate price paid by some of our brothers and sisters in arms.

The mission of GVVA and, in particular the Chapter Historian, is to ensure those sacrifices are never forgotten. This month, we pay special attention to the sacrifices made by the alumni of South Cobb High School who gave their lives in service to the cause of freedom in Vietnam. In addition, many of our members, especially Memorial Foundation Chairman Donna Rowe, are dedicated to pushing forward with construction of the Cobb Veterans Memorial. All of it serves our mission of ensuring the sacrifices of all veterans of all America's wars are never forgotten.

The names of all our members who are working with Captain Rowe to push construction of the Memorial forward are too numerous to mention here. If you would like to be one of them, see her at conclusion of our next general meeting at American Legion Post 29 on Thursday, 15 October, to join in the effort.

Andy Zimmerman
GVVA Historian

GVVA Picnic

Greetings veterans and GVVA members,

September 26, 2026 at George Washington Carver Park in Acworth, GA
Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance (GVVA) Picnic.

End of Summer picnic for the GVVA.



I believe it was an enjoyable gathering for the members from the GVVA.

May God bless all of you.
With warm regards,

Gus Vasquez...

October Meeting Special Event Details in the President's Message. Press Release!

At the OCTOBER 15th Meeting GVVA will be doing a "Ceremony" Honoring the Custodian, So. Cobb High Principal, the Jr ROTC cadets and the 1960's Classmates that worked so hard to recover, refurbish and re-install the Plaque on the Wall at So Cobb High School. Their actions and caring assured the Names and memory



PRESS RELEASE for IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

October 8, 2026

GA Vietnam Veteran Alliance Honors South Cobb High School for Superior Patriotism

On Thursday, October 15, 2026, at American Legion Post 29, 921 Gresham Road, Marietta, GA, at 6:00 PM, **Chapter One of the Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance (GVVA)** will hold an Award Ceremony to honor South Cobb High School Staff, Principal, and Jr. ROTC Unit for their unwavering demonstration of patriotism.

Custodian, Michael Eldridge will be awarded the Eagle Appreciation Award for rescuing the Wall Plaque during renovation demolition. The Plaque honors 15 High School Graduates Killed in Action during the Vietnam War. Mr. Eldridge's forethought to salvage the plaque, and then assure it was reinstalled many years later, is an act worthy of honoring.

GVVA President, Dickson Lester will present Principal J. Tommy Perry, LTC Zellous, and Jr. ROTC cadets with the GVVA Patriotism Award Trophy for their enduring dedication to work with the classmates of the high school's 1960's classes. This assures the deeply commemorative plaque was reinstalled in a place of honor in South Cobb High School's garden area for all to see and honor the fifteen graduates who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of a people.

GVVA President Lester went on to say, "These 15 men gave their youth of the day for our tomorrows. And Mr. Eldridge, the school staff and the students and the classmates of the fallen 15 should be recognized for their acts of patriotism to their fallen heroes."

Pictures of the 15 South Cobb High School graduates will be displayed during the reading of their names at the awards ceremony.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT GVVA Director of Operations, Bill McRae, 770-843-3973 or GVVA President Dickson Lester, 678-836-4391. Pictures, Video and Audio will be allowed during and after the Awards Ceremony (refreshments will be served.)

of our comrades would not
fade or die.

South Cobb High School's

"Killed In Action" – Vietnam War

. Kenneth Ray Blair – U.S. Army

- **Randy Hoffman Brock – U.S. Army**
- **Jimmy Ray Crook – U.S. Marine Corps**
- **John Lawrence Gambrell – U.S. Army**
- **Ronald Wayne Herren – U.S. Army**
- **Roger Hulsey – U.S. Army**
- **Roy M. McWilliams – U.S. Army**
- **Edward A. Moldavan – U.S. Army**
- **Raymon Murphy Morris – U.S. Army**
- 10. Leon Alton Palmer- U.S. Army**
- 11. David Donald Reid – U.S. Army**
- 12. Henry Floyd Smith – U.S. Army**
- 13. Lonnie David Sprouse – U.S. Marine Corps**
- 14. David Eugene Thomas – U.S. Army**
- 15. Stanley Eugene Ur – U.S. Marine Corps**

Newnan HS Vet Connect

The upcoming Newnan High School Student-Vet Connect is scheduled for Friday, December 11th. Veterans need to be at the Newnan High School gym in time to unload, get registered, and be at your table before 8:00 Friday morning. Students will be there to help carry any items you bring into the gym and to your table after you've registered. You are encouraged to bring items to display such as pictures and other memorabilia. You may bring a firearm, but no ammunition. Students are not allowed to handle your firearm.

There will be a special presentation at this Student-Vet Connect in honor and memory of Tom Foster. Tom was very active in the Newnan High School Student-Vet Connect and email programs from the beginning thirty years ago. He was passionate about meeting the

students and sharing his stories from Vietnam. The students learned from him and loved him for his enthusiasm and his interest and care for them. You and I have the opportunity and responsibility to follow in Tom's footsteps and continue his legacy.

Breakfast will be provided starting at 8:00. Groups of students will begin arriving at 9:00. Each group will have about twenty minutes to visit with you and other veterans and ask questions. Lunch will be provided. The event will conclude around 3:00.

Please let Frankey Henderson at Newnan High School know if you will be there. He needs to plan meals and tables for you. He can be contacted at frank.henderson@cowetaschools.net or (770) 301-9946.

Frankey teaches the Vietnam War course. Students are given the opportunity to send questions to veterans asking about your experience in Vietnam. The questions are inspired by what they learn in class. We need more veterans to participate in the email program. If you are willing to participate in next semester's email program, please let Frankey know using the contact information above.

You will find participation in the Student-Vet Connect as well as the email program to be enjoyable and rewarding. Both are opportunities to spread the truth about our war. As you know, there's much misinformation that should be corrected. Please do your part.

President: Painter Dickson Lester 678-836-4391 pd1721@bellsouth.net Vice President and Director of Morale & Entertainment Ronnie Futral rlf4@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 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 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 <table><tr><td>VA Hospital</td><td>404-321-6111</td></tr><tr><td>VA Center Counseling</td><td>404-347-7264</td></tr></table> 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	VA Hospital	404-321-6111	VA Center Counseling	404-347-7264
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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