



"In Service To Veterans, Their Families and Community"

September 2026

Presidents Notes:

Painter Dickson Lester

GVVA President

September 10, 2026

Let us not give up on or forget those who lived a horrible existence IN VIETCONG PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP's and those who are still missing in action. Here is information on the National **POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY** which will be honored the **3rd Friday in September, which is SEPTEMBER 18th.**

If you know a former POW please invite them to our September General Members Meeting Sept. 17, 2026 and make a point to introduce them, also as their family to coe as well.



National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were **prisoners of war (POWs)** and those who are still missing in action (MIA). It is most associated with those who were POWs during the Vietnam War.

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is different and separate from National POW/MIA Recognition Day. National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is April 9. It was officially designated by Congress in 1988, Public Law 100-269 [Sen J Res 253

100th Congress]. as a Presidentially-proclaimed observance. National Former POW Recognition Day commemorates the April 9, 1942 surrender of approximately 10,000 United States military personnel and 65,000 Filipino soldiers on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines by Major General Edward P. King to the invading Imperial Japanese Army headed by General Masaharu Homma. Bataan, thereafter, is distinguished as the largest mass surrender in United States military history. The surrender was followed immediately by the infamous Bataan Death March. By law, the President of the United States must issue annually a proclamation.

The Bataan Death March began on April 9, 1942, and lasted, for some, almost two weeks. The Imperial Japanese Army forced all American and Filipino POWs on a 65-mile trek up from Mariveles at the tip of the Bataan Peninsula north to the San Fernando train station. At San Fernando, the men were packed standing in unventilated boxcars for a 24-mile journey by rail to Capas. Survivors then marched an additional three miles to the makeshift POW camp at Camp O'Donnell, an unfinished Philippine Army training facility. It is estimated that at least 10 percent of the men on the March died en route. Sick and starving, the surrendered American and Filipino soldiers on the Bataan Death March were robbed of their personal possessions, denied food, water, and medical care while subject to being beaten, bayoneted, beheaded, crushed by trucks and tanks, and executed.

Although this Remembrance Day is for all who were POWs, it is most

associated with those who were POWs of Imperial Japan during WWII.

Sick Call/Prayer List

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

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

September 17 – 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.

Update on Tom Foster 9-13-2026

Hi Folks,

Kim says that the doctor says that Tom's kidney function numbers are good today. Apparently the medication has helped. They want to monitor it and make sure they stay good without getting IV fluids. He'll

probably continue to be in the hospital at least another day or two. I'll let you know of any updates.

In the meantime, keep praying. Your prayers are making a difference.

Thanks,

Bill

Bill Brown

wbrown6@bellsouth.net

Vietnam Aug. '67-Aug. '68

Platoon Leader, 1st Infantry Division

Cell: (404)281-8299



Editor's Note:

Sitrep Editor Wanted!

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

October Meeting Special Event

The plaque mentioned below was removed during renovations at the school many years ago. It was saved by a custodian and recently recovered and reinstalled. Please plan on attending the October meeting.

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 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**

September Guest Speaker Senator Ed Harbison



Senator Ed Harbison, of Columbus, was first elected to the Senate from the 15th District in 1992. Senator Harbison represents the citizens of Macon, Marion, Talbot, Taylor, and Schley counties as well as portions of Chattahoochee County and Muscogee County. Senator Harbison is currently Chairman of the State Institutions and Property Committee. He is the ranking member of the Banking and Financial Institutions, Insurance and Labor, Interstate Cooperation, Reapportionment and Redistricting, and Ethics committees. He also serves as Vice Chairman of Veterans, Military and Homeland Security committee and is Ex-Officio of the Regulated Industries and Utilities committee. During the 2008 General Assembly, Senator Harbison successfully sponsored a bill to ease barriers and alleviate bureaucratic "red tape" for children of military families who transfer from one state to another. Senator Harbison is also responsible for legislation which designated Georgia as a Purple Heart State, established a separate court for Veterans in Georgia, established the Military Hall of Fame in Georgia, and a bill authorizing the consolidation of Chattahoochee County and Cusseta. Prior to his election, Senator Harbison served as second vice-president of the Muscogee County School Board and was a member of the Columbus Charter Review Commission. Born in Prattville, Alabama and raised in Montgomery, Senator Harbison graduated from the Career Academy School of Broadcasting and attended Troy State University at Fort Benning. He served four years in the U.S. Marines and is a recipient of the Purple Heart. Senator Harbison is a public relations and advertising consultant and a broadcast journalist. Active in the community, Senator Harbison is a 1990 graduate of Leadership Columbus and a former officer of the Georgia Association

of Newscasters. Senator Harbison has been featured on NBC's "Dateline" news program regarding the death penalty, and has been quoted in USA Today on his opposition to a state redistricting plan. Senator Harbison has received a number of awards for his professional accomplishments and his community service including: the James Costen Government Services Award, the National Infantry Association's Order of Saint Maurice for distinguished and gallant support of the Infantry, the Associated Press Annual Award for Best Regularly Scheduled TV Newscast, the Jack Brinkley Service Award, the Department of Defense Vietnam Veterans of Appreciation Award, the Legacy of Leadership Award for outstanding service to the African American community, and Senator Harbison was inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame for his support of Veterans in the state of Georgia. Senator Ed Harbison Senate District 15 He is a recipient of the Fort Benning Georgia Sergeants Major Award for support of the military, The Department of Veterans Services Award for services rendered to Georgia veterans, Morehouse Naval Officers NROTC Award for support of its ROTC program, The Georgia Legislative Leadership Award for improving the lives and healthcare of Georgians, and The Medical Association of Georgia Award for distinguished service in advocating for quality medical legislation. He has also been honored as one of the 50 Most Influential African Americans of Columbus. Senator Harbison is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and National Infantry Association. Sen. Harbison also holds the rank of Major in the Legislative Branch of the Civil Air Patrol. He has also been honored by Alpha Kappa Alpha for his support of the Heritage Program and cited by the NAACP for

a 1989 Radio-Thon. Senator Harbison also received the Alabama Disabled American Veterans Certificate of Appreciation and the U.S. Marine Corps Appreciation Award. He also received the UPI Pacemaker Award for writing, editing, and narrating "The Dreamer's Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." Senator Harbison was honored as Legislator of the Year for 1994 by the Georgia Pharmacy Association for his efforts to improve the quality of health care in the state. He is also the recipient of the Progressive Men's Club's prestigious Man of the Year Award for 1994.

GVVA Remembers 2 Vietnam Veterans.



Bobby Poller - USMC

Bobby passed away on June 29 and a service was held on August 28th at the Georgia National Cemetery.



Jim Hogan USAF

Greetings Veterans,
I have a few photos of USAF Jim Hogan's
at the Georgia National Cemetery with
friends and family.



There were a tremendous amount of friends
that showed up for Jim Hogan.
From my perspective there were only two
from the VFLB. Myself (Gus) and Rick
LeBleu.

Sure, it would have been great if I could
have seen more VFLB members... ☹️
Rick and I represented the VFLB, I believe
we make the VFLB proud. 😊 😊

God bless.

With love and warm regards,

Gus...

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 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 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