

VVA Chapter 1106

News and Announcements

Serving Veterans in South Metro Denver Area

January-February 2026 Issue



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When and Where we Meet

Chapter 1106 meets the first Saturday of every month at the South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, at 9 a.m. at 9195 E Mineral Avenue, Centennial CO 80112. (March 2026 meeting will be on the second Tuesday.)

The Chapter 1106 Board is responsible for the contents of this newsletter.

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Chapter 1106 members toured the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus Feb. 26. Above is a vehicle in the very popular Automotive Program. See more on the program, pages 2-4.

Notes from the President

Happy New Year to all! The year 2026 has started off with two great monthly membership meetings with interesting guest speakers. Our meeting attendance continues to be at an all-time high. A special thank you to those who bring their own chairs to the meetings.

Members were treated to a tour of the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus in February. Although I was on my back in bed ill and missed the tour, reports indicate it was a very worthwhile time. The Campus is impressive, with state-of-the-art equipment and top-notch instructors from all walks of industry. Chapter members will have another chance to visit the campus when their expansion project is completed, and a new event center is ready to host guests. Chapter member Tom Werzyn, our liaison to the school, has put our name on their event list.

Your chapter board has been busy planning activities for the year. We'll continue to have guest speakers share information relevant to you. In June we've arranged for the Model A Club to display their vehicles in the parking lot. We'll also have the Two Salty Sarges' food truck. We'll have our July meeting on the first Saturday, the Fourth of July. This being the Country's Semi-quincentennial, we plan to have a special meeting to celebrate. Our summer picnic will be in August, and second annual golf tournament fundraiser in September.

In 2026, chapter officers and board will continue to ensure, with your help, that this chapter brings valuable activities and information to each member. Please continue to stay in touch with each other.

Dave Lyons, President

Guest Speaker

Innovation Campus offers many areas of job training

Ryan Seely, the Partner of Industry for Cherry Creek School District's Innovation Campus, outlined the advantages of the multifaceted program at January's membership meeting.

The Innovation Campus provides what we used to call "Vocational Education," but it is much more than woodshop and auto mechanics. Following the November 2025 passing of a large bond issue for Cherry Creek School District, the Innovation Campus will be doubling its size, with construction already underway.

The Campus, located at 8000 South Chambers Road in Centennial, offers education in seven pathways (see next page for list). Students take industry certificate exams for certification or licensing in a variety of occupations in each pathway. This means that the student can leave high school with a well-paying position in industry without the expense and time of attending college. For example, starting salaries can be \$60,000 in electrical jobs, \$55,000 in cyber security, and up to \$80,000 in aviation. However, those who want to go to college can get a head start by earning credits through the programs. Some 80% of students who graduate from these programs go on to higher education.



Local industries involved

Ryan's job is locating industry partners for offering apprenticeships and investing in the various programs. "We bring industries into the building, and they engage with the kids," he said. For example, Discount Tire installed a bay in the school, and Carrier is working on a new facility for HVAC. HCA Health 1 and Kaiser are partnering to help students acquire job training in medical and pharmaceutical positions. Several car companies are donating vehicles for the popular auto mechanics courses.

Courses are organized along Pathways where there are currently high needs for skilled workers. Classrooms are designed to allow for changes if a job market becomes filled. The new addition will have expanded construction opportunities like welding and HVAC. Other existing programs will be expanded. There will be a bakery and event center as well as additional aerospace programs.

Other school districts, such as Colorado Springs, are exploring having schools like the Innovation Campus, and school districts such as Douglas, Littleton, and Boulder have initiated vocational programs like Cherry Creek's. And the opening of a second site near Overland Highschool is planned.

All Pathways have opportunities for apprenticeships and/or internships because of the partnering with well-known local industries. Many of the students are already hired upon their graduation.

Veterans are invited to tour the campus individually or as a group.

Pathways of Study at Cherry Creek Innovative Campus

Advanced Manufacturing: Fabrication, Production, Machining

Hospitality and Tourism: CCIC Café, ProStart, Event Planning, Resort Management, Food Truck operation

Infrastructure Engineering: Building Trades, Construction Management, Big-Build Concept

Business Services: Entrepreneurship, Business Marketing, Project Management

IT and STEAM: Cybersecurity, Data Science, Drones, Product Design, Virtual Reality, Robotics

Health and Wellness: Pharmacy Tech, CNA, OT/PT, Behavioral Health Tech

Transportation: Auto Maintenance and Light Repair, Aviation Maintenance

Chapter members visit CCIC

Chapter 1106 members were invited to breakfast and a tour of the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus on Thursday, February 26. CCIC is a college and career preparedness resource for high school students in the Cherry Creek School District.

Principal Steve Day provided an opening overview and orientation of CCIC. The campus offers half-day morning and afternoon classes as well as evening classes that are open to students from any school district. In total, 1,800 students are enrolled. Collaboration with business and industry partners provide practical and validated learning experiences.

Thank you to Tom Werzyn, our contact with CCIC, who arranged this event for us and who volunteers his time and energy at the campus.



**Chapter members enjoy breakfast as part of the tour of the Innovation Campus.
Continued, next page**



Construction is underway to double the size of campus.



Above, the Aviation Program involves various planes. At left above, Principal Steve Day; at left below, assistant principal and tour guide Jen Minor.



At right, the CCIC student cafeteria, run by students in the Culinary Program.



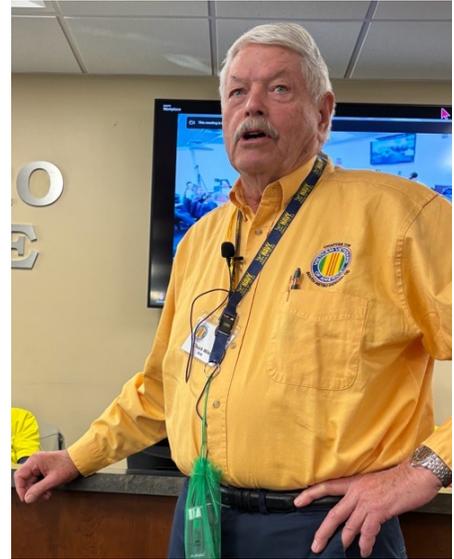
January Member Bio

Wiley served in Helicopter Company in Vietnam

Chuck Wiley summarized his military career, which spanned from 1967 to 1972, at the January chapter meeting.

Wiley, whose father flew P51s in WWII, began his military career at OCS, where he excelled. He was able to get Flight School at Fort Bragg with the 82nd Airborne Division. The year 1970 brought him to Ft. Carson, where he flew helicopters, and then to Vietnam, where he served out of Pleiku with the 57th Assault Helicopter Company.

He left active duty due to a reduction in force with the ramp down of the Vietnam War. When he was discharged in 1972, Americans made him feel like he was a loser for having served in Vietnam. He said it was 30 years later before he heard the words, "Thank you for your service."



February Member Bio

Kuss: Navy provided excellent training for USS Midway



Chapter member Brad Kuss, born on New Year's Day in 1953 in New Orleans, detailed his Navy service aboard the USS Midway aircraft carrier at the February meeting. "My Navy training set my course for life," Brad said.

Brad, the youngest of three children, grew up in Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes. He joined the Navy via the Reserves Program upon high school graduation in 1971. After boot camp in very hot Memphis TN, he spent six months at AE-A school at Jacksonville FL before being assigned to VA-128 at Whidbey Island WA. He received black box-level electrical systems, AC/DC power, fuel quantity and MA1 compass training for the Grumman A-6 and KA-6. He was then assigned to VA115 on board the USS Midway, joining the fleet for two years. He worked on the A-6 jets and eventually became training petty officer for the electric shop. "With CAG-5 Carrier Air Group and ship's company, we had over 4,300 men making 'Midway Magic' work both day and night," Brad said. "We worked 12 hours on, 12 hours off for 30-day line periods." Near the end of his service, the Midway was home-ported to Yokosuka, Japan, a first for a US carrier. Besides traveling in Japan and the Philippine Islands, he was able to visit Singapore and Hong Kong during his service.

Brad and Kathy exchanged letters for over two years during Brad's time in the military, as there were no cell phones or computers with internet at that time. He was discharged in April 1974 and he and Kathy were married the following April.

Brad used his Navy training in electrical systems to segway into HVAC work for the New Orleans area Navy base and then the US Postal Service near Atlanta. He retired from the Postal Service in 2013, and he and Kathy have four children, two of whom live in Denver, and nine grandchildren.

Member autobiography presentations sought

*Definition: **Autobiography**, experiences, achievements, challenges, and impact on the world, providing a personal, subjective perspective of one's life*

If you have been attending membership meetings, you no doubt have heard from your fellow Veterans about their background, military service and post-military life. Everyone agrees that learning more about their fellow members adds significance to who we are as a chapter.

If you haven't already, you are encouraged to share your background at a future meeting. Member bio presentations are a significant highlight of monthly meetings. We are all interested in who you are, what you did and what you are currently doing. Please contact John Vargas at jav0627bc@gmail.com or see him at the next meeting to get scheduled.

Shadow box done in record time



Barry Fiore and Rockie Cuppari presented a shadow box at Snooze Restaurant recently to Edward Esquibel, center, for his father, a Vietnam Veteran who passed away last month and was buried in Cheyenne WY. Esquibel, who served in Afghanistan, requested the box for the funeral ceremony, and it was completed in four days instead of the normal four weeks. The box of medals was provided by the Forgotten Heroes Campaign, which honors those who served by obtaining service medals that a Veteran was awarded but never received or lost. The medals are acquired and presented to the Veteran or family in a beautiful shadow box. If you are interested in receiving a box, contact Barry at arfiore@centurylink.net



Hello, Dolly!

Chapter member Lee White poses with a Dolly Parton look-alike at the recent Cattleman's Convention in Tennessee.

Hammon brings years of experience to Chapter Board



Chapter VVA 1106 is proud to announce that Patricia “Pat” Hammon has accepted a position to join our Board. Pat brings a plethora of experience.

Pat was born in Cleveland, Ohio and grew up in New Jersey. She is an Army Veteran, having spent four years in the Army Nurse Corp, including in Vietnam from 1968 to ‘69 as a First Lieutenant.

These are just a few of Pat’s accomplishments, both in her professional and civilian life:

*Most recently she was the Eagle County Veteran Service Officer

*Previous Chairman - Colorado Board of Veterans

*Previous President - Colorado Board of Public Health and Environment

*Founding Committee - Western Slope Veterans Coalition

*RN Adjunct Professor - Colorado Mt. Community College

*Case Manager - RN, Home Care and Hospice of the Valley

Welcome to the Board, Pat.

Hammon gives updates on Veteran organizations

New Chapter 1106 board member Pat Hammon reported to the membership on several Veteran organizations at the January and February chapter meetings.

A former Veteran Service Officer, she is a member of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs. The group meets monthly and visits Veteran nursing homes once a year. This month, five service officers visited the Florence CO home. The group also awards grants from the State Tobacco Fund to VSO offices and non-profit groups. Grant requests for this year are due by March 24, she said.

Veteran nursing homes in the state get money for extra items each year. This year, \$100,000 will provide items for four nursing homes, including a comfort room, a comfort cart, and massage chairs. Census and income are up at the nursing homes. However, it has been a challenge to staff the homes. Programs like the Cherry Creek Innovative Campus could provide needed Certified Nursing Assistant staff, she said. The board is working on having a speaker at a chapter meeting soon to talk about the Veteran nursing homes.

The Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has provided a grant for Veteran transportation in Colorado, including vans and gas for transportation to doctor appointments.

Colorado has three state-run Veteran cemeteries, she said. The beautiful cemetery in Grand Junction is in the process of installing bronze statues recognizing each branch of military service. The Navy statue is due to be installed in September.

The Legislative Committee is busy with the State Legislature in session. Among the issues this session is Veterans license plates. Some Veterans prefer a plain military license plate rather than a disabled Veteran plate, Hammon said.

Captain Hanson discusses importance of Space Force



Capt. Solomon Hanson, who moved from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California to Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora last year, answered questions about the importance of the Space Force program at the February membership meeting.

Capt. Hanson was also guest speaker at the October meeting, and members had follow-up questions for him. Hanson, an acquisitions officer, said of the announced move of Space Command elements from Colorado Springs to Huntsville AL, that it will take some time. The move has advantages because of the history of space operations in Huntsville and the space operations already there, including United Launch

Alliance in nearby Decatur AL.

Asked about the difference between the US Air Force and Space Force, Hanson said the Space Force was created under President Donald Trump in 2019 because the US Government saw the need to focus more on space power. Forty to 50 years ago, air power was considered key in protecting the country, but today there are many important assets in space that need protection, from GPS satellites to missile warning systems. There are more than 10,000 active satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), with SpaceX's Starlink having more than 8,000, according to SpaceNews. In addition, there are thousands of pieces of space debris, requiring expertise in collision avoidance maneuvers. With tens of thousands more satellites set to enter orbit in the next few years, expertise in safely launching satellites is also of prime importance.

Asked about political involvement of Elon Musk with Space Force, Hanson said SpaceX has the best and cheapest state-of-the-art equipment and operations, and he added that politics is not a factor in the military's involvement with its services.

Expertise in space weather, such as solar flares, is also key in keeping space equipment safe and operational.

Space Force also protects from cyberattacks on space and ground assets. In addition, the Force also conducts tests on redirecting objects away from Earth, taking into account the size, speed and location of large objects that could impact the planet, Hanson said.

Forgotten Hero



Murray Douglas Sallenbach

Captain-Airborne/Ranger, US Army
Dates of Service: 10FEB66 – 15JUN70
Place of Birth: Calgary Alberta, Canada

Biography

Murray was born in 1942, and was raised in Canada, California & Utah – graduating in 1960. He then earned a BS degree from the University of Utah in 1965 – where he concurrently completed the Army ROTC program graduating in the top 10%. In 1966 he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen and as a 2nd Lt. – reporting to Ft. Knox, Kentucky, for the Armor Officer basic course. He received additional leadership training and completed the Army Ranger School & Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. His 1st duty station was in West Germany, where he was promoted to 1st Lt. in 12 months. At the age of 25, he took command of 17 M-60 main battle tanks and 175 men for 8 months. After a promotion to Captain, he became responsible for all Battalion operations, training and rail movement of all 57 tanks and TO&E vehicles in West Germany. He then volunteered for duty to Vietnam with the Regiment commanded by Col George Patton 111. Enroute to Vietnam he completed the Jungle Warfare School in the Panama Canal Zone. After 3 weeks in Vietnam, he was ordered to command the 2nd Squadron of 222 men and 35 assault vehicles on the Cambodian border. Then he was assigned as the Civil Affairs Officer to “pacify” the local villagers. During this assignment he initiated the building of a 2-room school for the children. For this work and engagement with the Viet Cong, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal (amongst his many awards). After almost 2 ½ years on foreign soil and his tour of duty in Vietnam, he was sent to Ft. Lewis, Washington, and honorably discharged in 1970.

Forgotten Hero



Salvatore “Sal” Villano, Jr.

Brigadier General, US Air Force
Dates of Service: 1966 – 19SEP97
Place of Birth: Denver, Colorado

Biography

Sal was born in 1938 on the north side of Denver – always has been a self-starter, leader & team player. “We were dirt poor – finally got a bed in HS”. He was all-state in baseball, basketball & was senior class president in HS. Armed with a BS degree, Sal spent 4 years teaching & coaching. Met and married Marilyn Mooney (the love of his life). They have 5 children & 9 grandchildren. Sal joined the AF in 1966, commissioned 2nd Lt. after completing OTC. He has travelled the world over – US & foreign deployments. His military career spanned 31 years – received the Legion of Merit. His most prestigious of all is the National Guard Bureau “Eagle Award”, and many other awards. Sal had 3 major commands and was responsible for getting over 500 military personnel ready for duty in Vietnam, and was overcome with emotion for those who never returned. For 16 years Sal headed a Tactical Control Group with 1200 personnel. Finally, was made commander of the Colorado National Guard. Sal was promoted 7 times, and he officially retired in 1997. However, retirement was never part of his vocabulary. He started Forgotten Heroes Campaign in 1998, helping to secure medals/ribbons/badges to deserving Veterans who did not get all their awards. He commented, “I’m hoping my story will be one of inspiration in that it’s possible to accomplish anything in life. A positive attitude is what propels you. Be involved. We owe it to those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.” Sadly, he passed in 2022.

Forgotten Heroes Campaign honors Veterans with ceremony, service medals

Chapter 1106 member Barry Fiore’s book *Forgotten Heroes 2018-2025* is for sale now for \$30. The above are entries from the book, which includes stories of 145 Veterans honored by the Forgotten Heroes Campaign.

Founded in 1998, the Campaign helps men and women who served in the armed forces receive the medals they earned but never received. The Campaign has helped more than 500 service men and women and their families get the recognition long overdue them. Some may not have received medals due to rapid mobilization, poor record-keeping or evacuation due to injuries. A ceremony is held to present the awards to deserving Veterans.

If you know of a Veteran or Veteran’s family who has not received proper recognition for their service, please contact Barry Fiore, Public Relations Director, 8039 S. Newport Ct., Centennial CO 80112, (303) 507-6034. arfiore@centurylink.net

Forgotten Heroes Campaign is a non-profit 501(c)3 under the IRS tax code.

Meeting Notes

Planning underway for September Golf Tournament

Chapter Event Coordinator Joe Robinson says a goal of 72 golfers has been set for the September 15 Chapter 1106 Golf Tournament at Heather Gardens Golf Course. Volunteers and sponsors are needed to assist with various aspects of the tournament. Cookies and coffee will be served, so cookie makers are needed in numbers. Members are also asked to help recruit players by telling their friends and relatives about the tournament.

March meeting on March 14

Please remember that the March chapter meeting will also be on the second Saturday, March 14. After the March meeting, the chapter will meet on the first Saturdays for the rest of the year.

New chapter shirts available

The new collared, long-sleeved chapter shirts are being sold for \$50. Joe Dempsey said the shirt is available in all sizes and there is no upcharge for larger sizes.

You are remembered and appreciated

Chapter member Gary Weston reminded members at the January meeting that, although Vietnam Veterans were not always thanked for their service when they returned home from the war, they are appreciated, especially by South Vietnamese natives who were saved by US forces. A young woman who was born about 1970 in Vietnam when he served there saw his Veteran hat one day and said, "Thank you for saving my life." "She was a boat kid," Gary said. "People really do appreciate what we did."

Quilt of Valor anyone?

Any member who has not received a Quilt of Valor is asked to let Chapter President Dave Lyons know. If the chapter has at least 10 members who would like a quilt, the organization will hold a quilt presentation ceremony during a chapter meeting.

Honoring those who died

Chapter 1106 is sponsoring "Walk a Mile in Their Boots," an event honoring the Colorado military service members who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, at Heather Gardens on Saturday morning, March 21. Lunch will be available in the Rendezvous Restaurant. Our QR code will be displayed for donations to the chapter.

Treasurer's Report

Chapter treasurer Bob Brown reported at the February meeting that the new QR code for donations to the chapter is working, and some funds have already been collected.

Memorial Day flags

Chapter members are asked to help give out flags instead of poppies for Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 23, this year in honor of the 250th anniversary of our country. The 3x5-inch flags will be distributed at King Sooper stores in Castle Rock and on Parker Road and Arapahoe Road.

New chapter website

Our new web master, Christopher Staples, has revamped the chapter website, making it more streamlined and easier to navigate. The new URL for the website is

<https://www.vvachapter1106.org>

Daylight Savings Time change

Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, March 9, at 2 a.m. Set your clocks ahead one hour (spring forward).

Vietnam War Veterans Day

National Vietnam War Veterans Day will be observed on Sunday, March 29. The day honors the over 8 million U.S. armed forces members who served between November 1, 1955, and May 15, 1975. It commemorates the withdrawal of the last US combat troops from Vietnam on March 29, 1973.

Meeting speaker ideas sought

If you have a suggestion for a monthly meeting speaker or topic, please let Tom Werzyn know. Email him at werzyn@comcast.net

Please provide the name of the speaker and topic or a reference so Tom can follow up and determine if the topic is appropriate for our members.

New membership chairman

Jack Hunter, new Membership Committee chairman, reported at the February membership meeting that the chapter has a total of 301 members, 45 of whom live out of town or are no longer active and 9 with no email addresses. Some 156 members have attended at least one meeting. Jack also has printed cards that members can carry in their wallets and give to prospective members.

VVA Chapter 1106 Annual Calendar of Events 2026

Date of Issue: December 19, 2025

Date	Event	Location
January 2026		
January 10 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting (Second Saturday)	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
January 31 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
February 2026		
February 14 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting (Second Saturday)	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
February 28 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	Live at President Dave's House
March 2026		
March 14 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting (Second Saturday)	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
March 28 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
March 29 (Sunday)	National Vietnam War Veterans Day	Various Community Events
April 2026		
April 4 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting (back to First Saturday)	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
April 11 (Saturday)	Colorado VVA State Council Meeting	Castle Pines Library 1:00 PM
April 26 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
May 2026		
May 2 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
May 23 (Saturday)	Memorial Day weekend Poppy Drive (tentative)	Three King Soopers Locations
May 25 (Monday)	Memorial Day	Various Community Activities
May 30 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
June 2026		
June 6 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
June 27 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
July 2026		
July 4 (Saturday)	Special Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
July 25 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
August 2026		
August 1 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
August 8 (Saturday)	Chapter Family Summer Picnic	Falcon Park, Highlands Ranch
August 29 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
September 2026		
September 5 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
September 15 (Tuesday)	Second Annual Chapter Golf Tournament	Heather Garden Golf Course
September 26 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
October 2026		
October 3 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
October 10 (Saturday)	Colorado State Council Meeting	Castle Pines Library
October 31 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
November 2026		
November 7 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
November 11 (Wed.)	Veterans Day	Events at Various Locations
November 8 (Saturday)	Veterans Day weekend Poppy Drive (tentative)	TBD
November 28 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line
December 2026		
December 5 (Saturday)	Monthly Chapter Meeting	South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ
December 12 (Saturday)	Chapter Holiday Luncheon and Festivities	Maggiano's Italian Restaurant
December 26 (Saturday)	Chapter Board of Directors Meeting	On-Line

Chapter Event Coordinator Joe Robinson said plans are underway for a visit to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, northeast of Denver, in May. Tickets are \$20 per person for those 70 and over, and there is a restaurant and ice cream parlor at the sanctuary. Members can also bring their own food. There will be more information and sign-ups at the next meeting.

Chapter leaders spread love on Valentines Day

The Rev. Joseph Plant and John Vargas took on the challenge of helping the chapter celebrate Valentine's Day, the day of our February meeting. The original plan was to give each female VVA/AVVA member attending our meeting a beautiful rose. This idea was squelched rapidly as a board member reminded us that this would be open to a discrimination lawsuit by non-Rosie males.



So, we went to our wonder gal, Litta. The word NO never appears in her vocabulary. Litta and her husband Delph took this as a personal challenge. It took them over 3½ hours to assemble 90 beautiful goodie bags filled with delicious chocolates. Thank you, Litta and Delph. Another lonely lawyer sits on the courthouse steps waiting for another dumb law! -- John Vargas

Legacy Scholarships keep memories alive, aid scholars

VVMF has created a **Legacy Scholarship** program for **lineal descendants of Vietnam veterans**. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is now accepting applications for our Legacy Scholarship, created specifically for the lineal descendants of Vietnam veterans: children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and so on, ages 16–30. This scholarship is open to students pursuing post-secondary education or career training, with awards including:

- Up to **ten (10) \$2,000 scholarships**
- **Two (2) \$5,000 scholarships**
- **One (1) \$10,000 scholarship**

Instead of writing an essay about themselves, applicants are asked to share the story of their Vietnam veteran from whom they are descended. This will help us preserve these stories of service for generations to come. For living veterans, applicants work directly with them to document their experiences. For those whose veterans are listed on The Wall or passed after returning home, applicants gather stories from family members or friends. Scholarship selections are not based solely on financial need or academic achievement. Instead, awards are determined by the quality of the veteran's narrative and the applicant's fulfillment of basic eligibility requirements.

Important dates to know:

Applications are now open

Deadline to apply: May 1, 2026

Recipients announced: July 15, 2026

To learn more and apply, visit: <https://www.vvmf.org/scholarship>

Jim Knotts, President and CEO, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Members of the Year recognized for service

Three Chapter 1106 Members of the Year were recently recognized with beautiful plaques. Chaplain Lonnie Hetterle was selected 2025 Outstanding Citizen Award for all he does for the chapter and community. Kathy Kuss was chosen Auxiliary Member of the Year for her work to edit the chapter newsletter. Joe Robinson was chosen Chapter Member of the Year for his service as Events Coordinator, including coordinating the initial chapter golf tournament.



Free for Veterans!

Learn to Fly Fish

Learn Fly Tying

Learn Fly Rod Making

Fly Fishing Trips

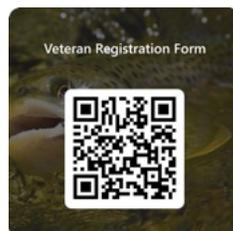
Comradery

For more information or to register, visit our website:

platterivers.com

Email me, Justin Cates, at jcates@platterivers.org or

Scan the QR Code for Veteran Registration Form



VVA Chapter 1106 Standing Committees

Updated 01-10-2026

Committee Name	Chairperson(s)/ Leader	Purpose	When and Where Meet	Members; Back-Ups
Membership Committee	Jack Hunter	New member recruitment, process membership applications, maintain member contact lists including address, phone and emails	Continually Active	
Speakers Bureau	Tom Werzyn	Schedule monthly meeting speakers; educate students on the Vietnam War; school outreaches	Continually Active	Dave Lyons
Meeting Refreshments	Walt Leuci	Provide monthly meeting refreshments (coffee, water, donuts)	At monthly meetings	Dave Lyons
Promotional Items Committee	Joe and Ita Dempsey	Purchase and manage the Chapter's promotional-items for sale at meetings	At monthly meetings	Leann Stelzer,
Event Committee	Joe Robinson	Coordinate Chapter events and trips;	Generally, as needed	As Needed
Social Committee	Sally Eaves	Identify and schedule Chapter social events and activities (Picnic, Holiday Lunch)	As needed for events	Dave Lyons, John Vargas, Joe Plant, Litta Plant-Shaper
Newsletter Editor	Kathy Kuss	Publish Chapter Newsletter	Continually Active	
Government Affairs	Pat Hammon	Represent VVA at UVC meetings; update membership on government legislations	Continually Active	
Web Master	Christopher Staples	Maintain the Chapter's web site	As Needed	
Veterans Emergency Assistance Program	Joe Plant	Work with HUD-VASH to identify veterans in need by providing urgently needed resources	Continually Active	Dave Lyons
Donation Approval Committee	Dave Lyons	Review all request for Chapter donations; research proposed recipient organizations	As Needed	Chapter Treasurer, Bob Brown
Grants and Fundraising	Milt Omoto	Seek external sources of funds for Chapter operations; develop FY Chapter budget	As Needed	
Memorial Committee	John Vargas	Coordinate memorial events for deceased Chapter members and their family, provide assistance to surviving spouse on veteran benefits with the VA	When Required	Joe Plant, Lee White, Milt Omoto
Sergeant at Arms	Dan Green	Perform POW/MIA Chair Presentation at events	Membership Meetings	Backup as needed
Chapter Communications	Jack Hunter	Provide and manage meeting audio and on-line capability; serve as the Chapter's email "blaster"	Continually Active	Jim Williams, Litta Plant-Schaper, Alex Holmes
Chapter Color Guard	Ron Smith, Dan Green, Joint Command Sergeants	Provide color guard service at events and when requested	Continually active and as needed to support events	Color Bearers: Dale Creason, Tony Nickerson, Clarence Rebolledo, David Dawson, Rockie Cuppari, Harry Montgomery, John Sheadel, Chuck Perkins, Mike Tarby

01/10/2026



Thanks, Diana, for great Maggiano's holiday lunch

Several Board members of Chapter 1106 presented Maggiano's Catering Manager Diana Vallejos with an appreciation plaque for her extraordinary service in making our 2025 Holiday Lunch a wonderful experience. Diana worked tirelessly throughout the event to ensure that our meal and service were exceptional.