



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #920
Denton, TX**

April 2020

www.vva920.org

Meeting Information:

Date: Meet the **4th Tuesday** of Each Month
Location: **6900 FM 2153, Aubrey, TX 76227**
Dinner: At **6:00PM**
Meeting Start Time: **6:45PM**

Officers (2019-2020)

President: Eric Harmon
Vice President: Dan Washburn
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Enrique Nater
Director: Jerry Anderson
Director: Sharon Balsley
Director: Robbie Roberts

Committee Leads

Chaplains - Tom Silva and Bill Coburn
Honor Guard - Alan Lessard
Membership - Jerry Anderson
Motor Pool Sergeant - Bill Roberson
Newsletter Editor - Anita Washburn (AVVA)
Public Affairs – Frenchy Rheault
Quarter Master - Horst Poethke (AVVA)
Sergeant at Arms - Randy Grizzle
Scholarship – Lloyd Kinnison (AVVA)
Steward – Leo Perez
Support Services - Sharon Balsley
Webmaster - Jim Polozeck

Inside this issue:

Page

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Membership | 2 |
| President’s Corner | 2 |
| Events (3 Months) | 3 |
| Honor Guard Activities | 3 |
| Elections | 3 |
| Support Services | 3 |
| Honor Guard pictures | 4 |
| Scholarship | 5 |



**Mathew W. Freeman
Memorial Scholarship**

Covid-19 guidelines may present new challenges. Applicants should direct all questions to:

**Lloyd Kinnison, Scholarship
Chairperson, 940 368 2041 or
lkinnison5@msn.com.**

**VVA 920 will award five \$1,000.00
Scholarships in 2020.**

**“Never Again Will One Generation
of Veterans Abandon Another”**



President's Corner

I trust this letter finds your curious eyes at a time of good health, full bellies and warm surroundings.

The month of March began with a surge of energy and a great deal of promise including two funerals for our honor guard, requests for our vehicles in upcoming parades, a brand new scholarship program, preparations for our VVA state elections at the Beaumont TSC, elections of our chapter's officers and an invitation to the Texas Motor Speedway to kick-off the O'Reilly 500 on Vietnam Veterans National Recognition Day . . . then the air escaped like a balloon doing curly-cues in a wind storm.

By now you have learned that the "Stay Home" order will continue through April. I've gathered bits and pieces of information that suggests we will see some restrictions lifted methodically and timely through the month of May and hopefully we will get some normalcy back in our nation as early as June. For now, it is a hunker down and be patient, much like our days in the military – "hurry up and wait". Please remember - never is our mortality more exposed than living in the final trimester of life during a global pandemic. Protect yourselves! This is serious, life-threatening stuff here.

Meanwhile, let's rehearse some of the things we've had to push out:

- Scholarships – This year's program includes the applicant's need to interview a Vietnam Veteran. That may prove to be a bit of a problem, but with our current deadline of May 1 – we have some time to address so stay tuned. Applications are available only through the scholarship committee or members of the board of directors. Our website is woefully outdated.
- Honor Guard – Alan has followed the Denton County "Stay Home" order and suspended all honor guard activity until further notice.
- VVA Texas State Council – has been postponed until June 5-6 in Beaumont. State elections will take place at that time.
- TSC Denton – The Embassy Suites and Denton Convention Center has reduced its workforce by 80%. We certainly hope that we will be completely free of this Coronavirus with plenty of time to spare for our on-going preparations. We still need silent auction items!

In the event we have some members who have a background with I.T. or have family members who can assist us with our website, please send us a note. We've been struggling to keep our site tuned up and from time to time have considered building something brand new. Our webmaster Jim Polozeck is willing to work with anyone to that end.

I hope all y'all had time to reflect on your military days this March 29. The Vietnam Veterans Recognition Act was signed in 2017, so it is still a bit new to us, but nice to have a day of our own.

Welcome Home.

Eric

VVA 920 Events

April 2020

All Events Cancelled
Texas Stay-At-Home extended
to 4-30-2020

May 2020

TBD – Covid-19 Guidelines
20th – VVA 920 Board Meeting
26th – VVA Stated Meeting

June 2020

5-6th TX State Council - Beaumont
17th – VVA 920 Board Meeting
23rd – VVA Stated Meeting

Honor Guard Activities:

Alan Lessard, SOG

**All activity suspended due to
Covid-19 Guidelines**

Contact Alan for Details on each event.

**Video Link – Michael Messer service at
National Cemetery**

<https://youtu.be/okHe4WEGr-8>

Chapter ELECTIONS

Date – TBD

(To Be Determined)

Positions Open:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasure

Director

(3-year Term)

Nominating Committee:

Ed Hall, Kurt Hyde & Bill Roberson

Thank You!!

**Jerry Anderson for mowing the GVS
grounds in March.**

Support Services

Card support continues & is appreciated.

Our Navigators are serving Veterans.

If you need assistance, please contact
Support Services.

Honor Gurard

Funeral for Army vet - 21 years service.
Zion Baptist Church, Collinsville TX
March 2020



Video Link – Michael Messer service at National Cemetery
<https://youtu.be/okHe4WEGr-8>



Mathew W. Freeman Memorial Scholarship

New **Application forms** for the Mathew W. Freeman Memorial Scholarship are available:
Lloyd Kinnison, Scholarship Chairperson
lkinnison5@msn.com or 940 368 2041
or from any **VVA 920 Officer**

Covid-19 guidelines may present challenges. Applicants should direct any questions to:
Lloyd Kinnison, Scholarship Chairperson, 940 368 2041 or lkinnison5@msn.com.

Deadline is **May 1, 2020.**

Eligibility: The applicant must be a dependent or relative of a member of VVA 920, Denton, TX. Immediate family members of Honorably Discharged Vietnam or Vietnam-Era: e.g. (spouse, children including foster or stepchildren, or grandchildren.

The Mathew W. Freeman Memorial Scholarship application has been updated for 2020 and now includes a Vietnam Veteran interview and essay.

Interview/Essay

- The applicant is to interview a Vietnam or Vietnam-Era veteran.
- Upon completion of the interview, the applicant is to write a formal paper which explains what the interviewer learned from the Veteran. The committee estimates that this formal paper should be approximately 1,000 words to adequately “tell the veteran’s story”.
- The committee recommends that the veteran selected **NOT** be a relative! The story you receive from a non-relative will provide new and additional insights of the person’s experiences.

Please encourage your family members to participate. Full scholarship requirements and explanations are on the Application form.

VVA 920 will award five \$1,000.00 Scholarships in 2020.