



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

March 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

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Happy Birthday



**Vietnam Veterans
of America!**

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



President's Corner

Marching into March – A look back

As we draw this fiscal year to a close (February 29) I believe we have much to be proud of through the efforts of our chapter. We had a good year and are well prepared for 2020-2021.

Our director of membership, Jerry Anderson stated we currently have 197 VVA members and Anita Washburn added that the AVVA members total 27. We have lost a few and gained a few, remaining in balance as the year before, and with an average of 45 attending our monthly stated meetings. It is no secret to these diehards that “when we meet – we eat”.

We are financially solvent, thanks to two great fundraisers this last period, our 14th annual golf tournament and North Texas State Fair Raffle, where our team of volunteers led by Gary Raines and Robbie Roberts seem to continually raise the bar for donations. We've learned that while we struggle sometimes to fill leadership spots we never waiver when it comes to our members volunteering when we need you. The only thing better than socializing with our brothers and sisters at the monthly meetings is when we come together in force to successfully engage in the tasks put before us.

We have a revamped scholarship program this year led by Dr. Lloyd Kinnison – providing up to five \$1,000 awards for our membership's young academic family members. Our Honor Guard led by Alan Lessard has kept us in the public's eye as we service funerals, color guard ceremonies, flag folding demonstrations and invitations to many public events. Our motor pool fleet of two (1/4 and 3/4 ton) are up and running with a special thanks to Horst Poethke, the faithful assistant to Bill Roberson. We also have been blessed with what has become a monthly presentation of a Quilt of Valor to one of our own from the Denton Red White and Blue Bees.

Of all our blessings, having a facility in which we meet, this historic schoolhouse – now over 100 years old - is made possible with our steadfast bond with the Green Valley School Historical Society, and their interim president Dan Washburn. But know that for all we enjoy, we take nothing for granted and with the assistance of our two chaplains, Tom Silva and Bill Coburn, we give our thanks to the one who makes it all possible.

May God continue to bless our each and every one of you and your loved ones.

Eric

P.S. Don't forget our elections at the April 28 stated meeting. Our nominating committee – Ed Hall, Kurt Hyde and Bill Roberson are looking to fill the slate with candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Director position. Officers are a one-year and Director, three-year position.

VVA 920 Events

March 2020

18th – VVA 920 Board Meeting

21st - GVS Veterans Car Show @
Cycle Center of Denton

24th – VVA Stated Meeting

27th – “Welcome Home Vietnam
Veterans” Breakfast

29th – Texas Motor Speedway event

April 2020

18th – MOH Parade 10:00 AM
Gainesville, TX

22nd – VVA 920 Board Meeting

28th – VVA Stated Meeting -
ELECTIONS

May 2020

20th – VVA 920 Board Meeting

26th – VVA Stated Meeting

Honor Guard Activities:

Alan Lessard, SOG

5 March 2020 Thursday 10:00 am
Funeral – National Cemetery

9 March 2020 Monday 18:00 hours
HG Practice/Meeting

21 March 2020 Saturday
Post Colors @ GVS Car Show

Contact Alan for Details on each event.

Save the Date!

**“Welcome Home”
Vietnam Veterans!
Breakfast**

Friday, March 27, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 am

Host: Cathy Poethke 214-763-9514

Signup sheet will be available at
March 24 meeting for
RSVP & food donations.

ELECTIONS

Tuesday April 28, 2020

Positions Open:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasure

Director

(3-year Term)

Nominating Committee:

Ed Hall, Kurt Hyde & Bill Roberson

Thank You!!

Ron Minor VVA 920 member & woodworking artist, donated a handmade flag to VVA 920. The flag is mounted above the meeting room doorway.



Ron & Jackie Minor donated an additional 10 stuffed animals at our meeting 2-25-2020.

VVA 920 is always in need of stuffed animals which are donated to First Responders in Denton County.

Support Services

Assisted 2 veterans in January, no assistance requests in February. Mailed 5 cards.

Texas Motor Speedway Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Sunday, March 29, 2020

Current plans:

“The patriotic nature of NASCAR, along with the race falling on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, presents us with a unique opportunity to provide VVA Chapter 920 with an unforgettable race day experience. Texas Motor Speedway is excited to recognize your chapter, and to give them a proper WELCOME HOME ceremony. As we mentioned yesterday, each veteran and a guest would receive a complimentary ticket to the race. We will also be able to make transportation accommodations for each veteran once they are on property.”

Please watch for additional information via email from Eric.

RWB Quilt Group presented Quilt of Valor to Donnie Townsend

2-25-2020





Mathew W. Freeman Memorial Scholarship

New **Application forms** for the Mathew W. Freeman Memorial Scholarship are available:
on the **VVA 920 website** (www.vva920.org),
from any **VVA 920 Officer**, or
Lloyd Kinnison, Scholarship Chairperson
lkinnison5@msn.com or 940 368 2041

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.