



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

www.vva920.org

July 2019

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: Ron Swain
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
Public Affairs – Frenchy Rheault
Quarter Master/Steward - Horst Poethke
Safety Officer - Ron Swain
Sergeant at Arms - Randy Grizzle
Support Services - Sharon Balsley
Webmaster - Jim Polozeck

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



Welcome – President

Proud to be a veteran

I attended the city festival to honor veterans at Oak Point today with my fellow Honor Guard members. We posted colors, fired the rifles and played the bugle as part of the opening ceremonies – what has become a popular draw for our honor guard these days.

I stayed to listen to the guest speaker Mark Roy, a lieutenant colonel with the Marine Corps whom many of you know from our community. In his speech he commented on our military active and non-active members who make light of their duty as they did not serve in harm's way. He made a point I have heard many times from veterans of Desert Storm and even Vietnam Era veterans who did not serve in the country of Vietnam. Mark said everyone who wears the military uniform serves to protect the freedom and rights of Americans. He said they may not have been called to engage in the extreme challenges of conflict but everyone who wears the uniform has sacrificed unselfishly to be at the ready to protect and serve when called upon. "The fact that we are not engaged in war on our own soil is attributed to you wearing that uniform today", Mark Roy said. And he continued "hold your head high, wear your service proudly and know that what you do is significant and necessary for Americans to continue to enjoy what we have here in the greatest nation in the world, the United States of America".

No matter who you are, if you honorably served it does not matter that you may not have had to trench into the mud or eat rations in the rain while enemy fire randomly landed at points where you once stood. What matters is that your contributed to the effort and did what had to be done in order to keep America safe. Pass this along to your family and friends who today are serving in one of our military branches.

Eric



VVA 920 Events

July 2019

4th – Yankee Doodle Parade & VVA Picnic

July 15th – 20th VVA National Convention – Spokane, WA

17th – VVA 920 Board Meeting

23rd – VVA Stated Meeting

August 2019

16th - 24th – North Texas Fair Annual Fundraiser

21st – VVA 920 Board Meeting

27th – VVA Stated Meeting

September 2019

18th – VVA 920 Board Meeting

24th – VVA Stated Meeting



THANK YOU

Eric & Mary Harmon for hosting our annual 4th of July picnic.

Thank you to all 61 who attended & brought appetites, sides & desserts.

VVA 920 members & families offer unique camaraderie that make our functions successful.

Honor Guard Activities:

Alan Lessard, SOG

July 08, 2019 17:45 hrs,
Honor Guard practice.

August 09, 2019 Lineman College

August 12, 2019 17:45 hrs,
Honor Guard Practice

August 16, 2019 Highland Village
Balloon Festival

Contact Alan for Details on each event.



D-Day June 6, 2019
Horst & Alan lowered flag
& Rev. Bill played Taps.





Together Always

AVVA (Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America) Corner:

Our AVVA team supports VVA 920 activities & members.

AVVA attends VVA stated meetings:
July 23 – August 27 – September 24

AVVA is open to anyone interested in supporting VVA 920 and other Veterans but is not eligible to join VVA. Please, consider joining this active team of workers.

Dues: \$20 Annual – \$50 for 3 years
Lifetime - \$150 / \$100 based on Age

<http://www.avva.org>

“Welcome Home” Major Norma Cabanas 6-22-19



**Work Sessions at GVS
Scheduled on As Need basis.
Stay Tuned.....**

Saying Goodbye to Bill Smith Charter Member VVA 920 6-3-19



HG Spinks Funeral 6-11-19



SFC Maych & Sgt Barnes



**Honor Guard
Shady Shores Baptist Church
June 23, 2019**



Oak Point Freedom Fest June 29, 2019



Girl Scouts raised the Flag.



Honor Guard Fired & Bill played Taps.

**Honor Guard
Southmont June 30, 2019**



Major Cabanas sent “Certificates of Appreciation” to **Support Services**.
June 25, 2019 Stated Meeting



4th of July – Yankee Doodle Parade



Frenchy Rheault & Tom Silva in Uniform



Frenchy’s Flag & Crew



Little Bill



Gary Steele & Jere Delano

4th of July – Yankee Doodle Parade



Boots



Rick Freeman



Gary Raines with Grandkids



4th of July – Yankee Doodle Parade



VVA 920 4th of July Picnic



When we Meet – We EAT!



Sides & Desserts were Plentiful & Delicious!



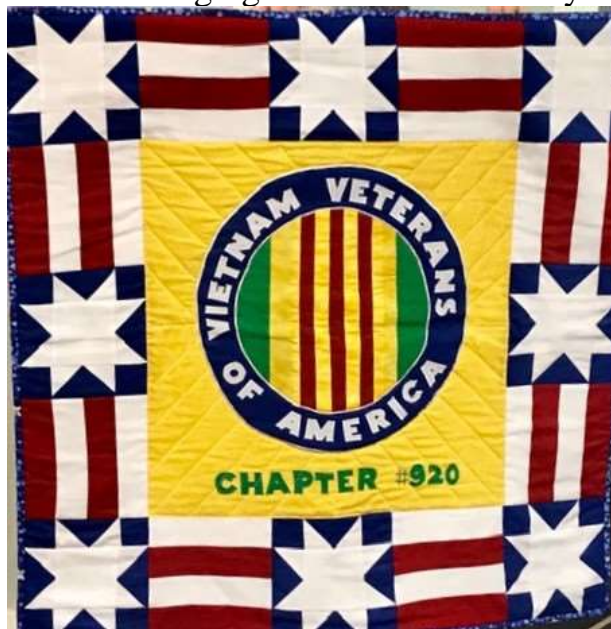
“Smoking Hot” cooks (Eric, Dan, Leo & Ginger)



Family makes our celebration complete.

Thank You Joyce Ferguson!

Created our VVA Chapter 920 quilt which is now hanging in the center hallway.



Donated flag quilt for 4th of July
“Silent Auction”



Joyce is a special Friend to VVA 920.

Congrats to Grady Jones for winning the
Silent Auction &
Thank You for the \$150 bid/donation.

**Denton Quilt Guild RWB Bee presented
Fred Purser - WWII and Korean Veteran
a "Quilt of Valor" 6/18/19**



Fred Purser



Several Chapter 920 AVVA members belong to the Denton Quilt Guild RWB Bee.

**"Quilt of Valor" Presentations 6/25/19
Mark Hannah & Robbie Roberts**



IT'S SEW FUN!

The **Denton Quilt Guild Red, White & Blue Bee** is sponsoring a sewing day to sew **"Stockings for Soldiers"**. Stockings will be sent to various locations, in the US and abroad, filled with necessities and holiday goodies.

WHO: We're inviting all VVA & AVVA members, family & friends to join us.

WHAT: Sew 3 seams on pre-cut stockings (10 minutes per stocking) - The stockings are easy to sew, and there will be assistants available to show you how!

WHEN: **Tuesday, July 30, 9 AM - 9 PM** - Come sew for the day, or part of the day, as your schedule permits.

WHERE: **Green Valley School, 6960 FM 2153, Aubrey, TX 76227**

BRING: sewing machine, sewing accessories, & a fun attitude

FOOD: lunch 12-1 PM - bring your own lunch; dinner 5:30-6:30 PM - bring a covered casserole of your choice

DRINKS: Water & soft drinks are available for \$1 donation.

Contact persons:

Barbara Angel [940-206-3027](tel:940-206-3027) or

Cathy Poethke [214-763-9514](tel:214-763-9514)



Note from the President:

June – A busy month and end to our year's first half

June proved to be another busy month for VVA Chapter 920. As we close out the first half of 2019 we look back to a commemoration for 75 years since D-Day, one of the significant battles at the end of WWII. We played taps and honored the fallen at our schoolhouse in a small ceremony. We had five color guard presentations this month and an impromptu “Walk of Honor” held at a local hospital for a Marine who passed away at too young an age. Our funeral count for the year is approximately 8. Our Honor Guard under Alan Lessard, Sargent of the Guard continues to represent us with great pride.

As we look forward to the second half of this year our first celebration will be the Fourth of July picnic at the schoolhouse. A friend of the chapter, Joyce Ferguson donated a beautiful quilt of our VVA Seal which now hangs in our hallway and another quilt for silent auctioning at our picnic. The following month of August we hold our largest fundraiser at the North Texas State Fair. Gary Raines and Robbie Roberts are leading our volunteers for the event where this year we raffle a Henry rifle and large safe. Buy your tickets from one of our members and ask for some extra raffle tickets to sell to friends and family, helping us maintain the excellent service we provide to ourselves and veterans in need throughout Denton County.

I thank all our volunteers and members who show at our monthly meetings. We know it is sometimes difficult to get to the schoolhouse, and if it is for you – just ask one of our board members for assistance. And remember to keep us posted with our members and their family members who are ill or recovering from injury or surgery. Our chaplains Tom and Bill are always ready to assist as is our chapter.

See you at the July 23 meeting! Randy and I will be back from the VVA National and will have much to share.

My brothers and sisters,

Eric

President, VVA Chapter 920, Inc.