



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

www.vva920.org

June 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

Committees

Chaplains - Tom Silva and Bill Coburn
Honor Guard - Alan Lessard
Membership - Jerry Anderson
Motor Pool Sergeant - Bill Roberson
Newsletter Editor - Anita Washburn
Quarter Master/Steward - Horst Poethke
Safety Officer - Ron Swain
Sergeant at Arms - Randy Grizzle
Support Services - Sharon Balsley
Webmaster - Jim Polozeck

Inside this issue:	Page
Membership	2
Welcome	2
Events (3 Months)	3
Honor Guard Activities	3
AVVA Corner	4
Around the Chapter	4
The Wall That Heals	5
Memorial Day	6
Commemorative Coin	7
Park Place Veterans	8
President's Note "Volunteers"	9

Picture of the Month



Memorial Day 5-27-19

**"Never Again Will One
Generation of Veterans
Abandon Another"**



Membership Update: (June 2019)
VVA-200 AVVA-30 Total-230

Welcome – President

Events in Abundance – A Busy Chapter Indeed

The month of May gave us sadness and encouragement with the loss of our brother Bill Smith and the healing process for a number of our members including new knees for Alan Lessard and Dan Washburn, hip replacement for Wayne Woodward and with Robbie Roberts taking on cancer with incredible courage.

This past month was also one of accomplishments including two funerals and nearly a dozen color guard ceremonies for our Honor Guard members, assisting a veteran with help through our support services committee, opening and closing ceremonies for the traveling Vietnam Wall Memorial and a few Memorial Day Services and helping our good friends at the Green Valley School Historical Society with Mom's Car Show in Aubrey. To all who volunteered in these activities I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Lastly for our month of May, I want to congratulate those who received a Texas State Council award nomination: Horst for AVVA member of the year, Liz Emerson (United Way – Navigator) as Friend of the VVA and to Camilla Zimbal for Pointman of the year. And one very big congratulation to our Scholarship recipients.

June is looking to be another busy month. As I write this on May 31 I am already aware of one memorial service, volunteering at a car show at the North Texas Fairgrounds June 15, 7:45 a.m. to help homeless veterans, posting colors by our Honor Guard at four events and a welcome from the city of Oak Point who wishes to honor veterans and extended a personal invitation for all members on June 29 at 10 a.m., Jake's Place Park. We'll try our best to keep new events posted on our website vva920.org so keep an eye out.

I would like to thank one and all for your attendance at our May 28 meeting. Next meeting, June 25, we will have a special presentation made to us by Joyce Ferguson. She made a beautiful quilt for our chapter and two more we will raffle in our June meeting. We take plastic.

We'll see you at the June meeting, unless that is – you volunteer, in which case I'll see you soon!

Eric



VVA 920 Events

June 2019

19th – VVA 920 Board Meeting

25th – VVA Stated Meeting

July 2019

4th – Yankee Doodle Parade & VVA Picnic

17th – VVA 920 Board Meeting

23rd – VVA Stated Meeting

August 2019

21st – VVA 920 Board Meeting

16th - 24th – North Texas Fair

27th – VVA Stated Meeting

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

Memorial Day 2019



Honor Guard Activities:

Alan Lessard, SOG

June 3 2019 12.30 hrs. Lifegate Church 3350 Deerwood Parkway in Denton Tx. **Funeral for William (Bill) Smith.** Charter Member VVA 920.

June 10 2019 17:45 hrs, Honor Guard practice.

June 15 2019 07.45 am 2217 N Carroll Blvd Denton Tx. North Texas Fair grounds.

June 23 2019 16.30 hrs. 401 W Shady Shores Rd. Shady Shore Baptist Church.

June 26 2019 10.30 am 3100 Town Center Tr., Embassy Suites Denton Tx.

June 29 2019 09.45 am 100 Naylor Rd B.Oak Point TX .

June 30 2019 17.45 Southmont Baptist Church 2801 Pennsylvania Dr Denton Tx.

Contact Alan for Details on each event.



The Wall That Heals
May 2019



Together Always

AVVA (Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America) Corner:

Our AVVA team supports VVA 920 activities & members.

AVVA attends VVA stated meetings:
June 25 – July 23 – August 27

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>



AVVA Patch Sewers

5-28-19



Around the Chapter

Car Show 5-25-19 Remembering Our Brothers



The Wall That Heals



The Wall That Heals



**Memorial Day at Denton Square
5-27-2019**



**Memorial Day at Denton Square
5-27-2019**



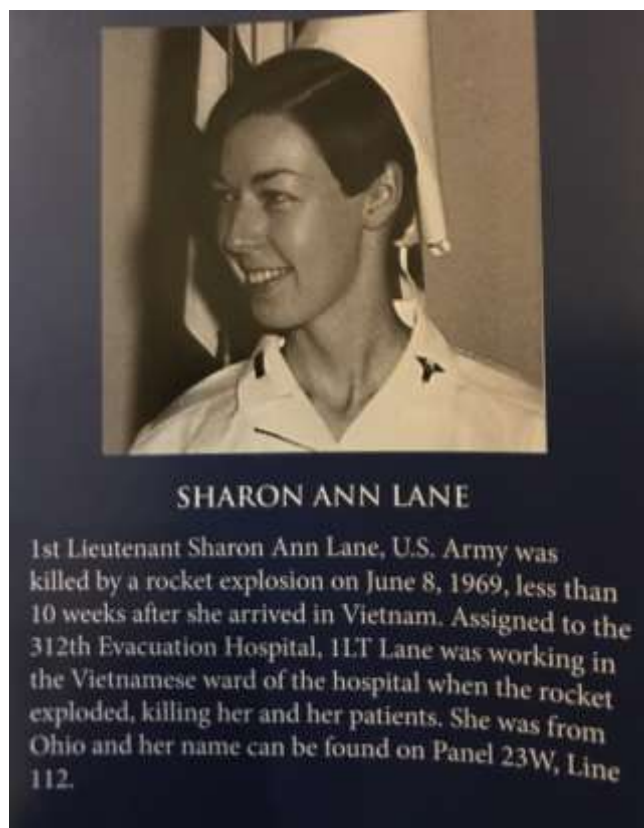
Member-to-Member Recognition

Wayne Woodard ordered Special Commemorative Coins for the six (6) women killed in Vietnam. Their names are on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

Wayne presented a coin to Sharon Balsley at the May meeting.



Sharon Balsley replaced Sharon Ann Lane when she arrived in Vietnam. Balsley served 2 tours in Vietnam, stationed in Chu Lai, Nha Trang and Saigon, and received the Bronze Star for her service.



Women Vietnam Veterans on Wall

Lt Carol Ann Elizabeth **Drazba** - died Feb. 18, 1966 - Age 22
Lt. Elizabeth Ann **Jones** - died Feb 18, 1966 Age - 22
Cpt. Eleanor Grace **Alexander** - died Nov 30, 1967 - Age 27
Lt. Hedwig Diane **Orlowski** - died Nov 30, 1967 - Age 23
Lt. Pamela Dorothy **Donovan** - died July 8, 1968 - Age 26
Lt. Col. Annie Ruth **Graham** - died August 1968 - Age 52
Lt. Sharon Ann **Lane** - died June 8, 1969 - Age 25
Cpt. Mary Therese **Klinger** - died Apr 4, 1975 - Age 27

Park Place Veteran's Program May 2019

“Griz, you and Leo, and Eric made us all stand tall with your flag detail, and the 13 folds of the flag.....and taps was really special, as I looked around the room while taps was played, I noticed many vets shedding a tear and with their arms around each other. “ Gordon Haggett, Honor Flight



VVA 920 members presented the Colors, performed the Flag Folding ceremony & displayed all the Service flags.



Park Place Veteran's Program May 2019



Each Veteran received a Flag



Many in attendance at this special program are also active volunteers in the Honor Flight program.

Note from the President:

Volunteers are a Special Kind of Member

I'm often asked "Why don't we have more members volunteering through our chapter's committees"? My usual response is that we are a membership made up of veterans, specifically of the Vietnam war era, and within this membership we have volunteers. I think first and foremost we are a small society that shares memories, both good and bad and can console and support one another in a way that we all can feel better about ourselves and take stock of our contributions to our great nation. We are patriots first and some of us continue to contribute by volunteering.

Together VVA members and associates (AVVA) make up the perfect blend of personalities and skillsets that bond through the achievement of common goals. These goals are often objectives set by the VVA chapter's Board of Directors and carried out by our volunteers.

The simple fact is that we don't exist without volunteers nor can we be a chapter without members who fill our halls. I say we value both; but give special recognition to those who make the wheels of our chapter go round. Many say, "I would volunteer but I just don't have the time". I like the saying "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart".

Our committees start with the **Board of Directors**, most of which are elected every April, directors have three-year commitments. We have the **Support Services** committee who operate between the membership and veterans in need, both within the chapter and those throughout the Denton county area. Our **Honor Guard** is a particularly special committee who wear uniforms and are our most visible contact with the public. If you like vehicles we have the **Motor Pool** committee, and the **Scholarship** committee enables many of our youngsters who are venturing off to higher learning with our chapter's financial support. The **Golf** committee is great for many of our sportsters and then there is the **Food** committee who makes certain we eat every month. We have a **Clean-up and Maintenance** committee for the schoolhouse as needed, and the occasional **Road Cleanup** committee, not to forget our **Fundraising** committee who is now engaged with the North Texas State Fair in August.

I apologize if I am missing any other committees; but I think all you readers get my point – **we always need volunteers.**

So have a heart, get involved. Our volunteers are a very special breed, indeed.

Eric



The Wall That Heals