

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

TEXARKANA AREA CHAPTER # 278

P.O. BOX 6608

TEXARKANA, TX 75505-6608

www.vva278.org

VVA # 278's OFFICERS

President.....Gregory Beck.....903/556-1613

Directors: Robert Brown

Vice-President...Harry Campbell..903-855-2157

Kenneth Cosby

Secretary.....Johnnie Gentry....903/832-1605

Freddie Weathers

Treasurer.....Jimmy Smith.....903-277-8597

AVVA Rep....Merle Morris

VVA # 278 APRIL MEETING

VVA # 278's next meeting will be Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 1:30 pm at the Texas Elks Lodge at 3702 New Boston Road.

Note: This is the 2nd Sunday, changed due to Easter Sunday being the 21st. The meal, our Easter dinner, will begin at 1:30 pm. The chapter will furnish the ham, we ask members to bring a covered dish &/or dessert to share.

Topics to be discussed will include: Veterans' issues updates; Committee reports; Our 2019 fundraising project; Upcoming set-ups and events; critique & review of the 2nd "Wagons for Veterans"; The VVA Texas State Council meeting (April 26 & 27, 2019) in Texarkana; "Veterans Information Fair; Memorial Day Services; etc. There will be chapter t-shirts at the meeting: M, L & XL are \$15, 2X are \$17. Also have VVA hats for sale at \$5.00 each.

REMEMBER: Sunday, April 14 at the Elks Lodge at 3702 New Boston Road.

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VVA # 278's MAY 2019 MEETING

VVA # 278's May 2019 meeting will be held Sunday, May 19 @ 1:30 pm at the Elks Lodge at 3702 New Boston Road.

The meal will begin at 1:30. We ask members to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Topics to be discussed will include: Updates on Veterans' issues; Committee reports; 3rd Annual Wagons for Veterans; Review & critique of the Veterans Information Fair; Memorial Day Services; etc., etc..

REMEMBER: Sunday, May 19 @ 1:30 pm at the Elks Lodge @ 3702 New Boston Road.

*VVA # 278's June meeting will be Sunday, June 16 @ 1:30 pm at the Elks Lodge.

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VVA # 278 MEMBERSHIP

As of March 31, VVA # 278 has 148 members: 134 Life, 11 Annual and/or 3 year; 2 IVI. Remember: You don't have to have served in-country Vietnam to join VVA, you just need to have served during that time. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member of the VVA # 278 family:

WELCOME ABOARD & WELCOME HOME!!!

Bernard Lomax

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975. New rates for VVA memberships, all effective immediately: Life membership for \$50.00.

Three-year memberships will no longer be offered, but at the end of any current 3-year memberships, the member will be given (at no additional cost) a life membership in VVA. One-year memberships will no longer be offered, and at the end of each 1-year membership, the member will be encouraged to become a life member. **ATTENTION:**

New members: You must submit a copy of your DD- 214 form along with the application and dues payment!

See attached application.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America # 278 has 35 members: 21 Life; 14 Annual and/or 3 year.

Together Then, Together Now! We want YOU in the VVA # 278 family!!!

JOIN VVA and/or AVVA

VVA # 278 ACTIVITIES

Since our last newsletter VVA # 278 set up at Texarkana Harley Davidson's "Hot Wings eating contest. We distributed veterans' information & worked on our fundraising project and had a chuckwagon set up on display. Texarkana Harley Davidson donated the proceeds of the contest to VVA # 278. Thank You Texarkana Harley Davidson. We participated in the Texarkana Area Veterans Council's 20th annual Chili cook-off where VVA # 278 took 1st place in the Civic organization category. On March 2 we set-up at the Texarkana Mardi Gras Festival with a Chuck Wagon on display, working on our fundraiser and distributing veterans' information. On March 9 & 10 we set up at a gun show again distributing information and working on fundraising. We voted to make a donation of \$250 to the Bowie County Special Olympics, we have been doing this for several years now. We voted to sponsor a hole in the upcoming Elks Golf tournament for \$500. We have been working on our 2nd Annual "Wagons for Veterans," the VVA Texas State Council meeting April 26 & 27 here in Texarkana, and our 23rd Annual "Veterans Information Fair" to be held May 18.

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VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA TEXAS STATE COUNCIL MEETING

The Texarkana Area Chapter # 278 of the Vietnam Veterans of America is proud to host the upcoming VVA Texas State Council meeting on April 26 & 27, 2019 in Texarkana, Texas at the Hilton Garden Inn in Texarkana! On Friday the 26th, @ 4:00 pm there will be a Vietnam Veterans Assistance Foundation of Texas (VVAFT) meeting. At 7:00 pm there will be a Region VII (AR, LA, OK, & TX) Caucus to meet & question candidates for the National Officers and possibly go over some resolutions & Constitutional amendments. At 9:00 am Saturday morning there will be opening ceremonies and then go into the business session of the VVA Texas State Council. This should end around 4:00 to 4:30 pm. There will be a silent auction going on all day. It will end 15 minutes after the business session ends. Then at 6:00 pm there will be a social hour and at 7:00 pm the TSC awards banquet.

This newsletter is going to print before our Wagons for Veterans event but we would like to thank all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers and the cooking teams! A Special Thanks to the Elks Lodge # 2771 for all their support and assistance!!! And for putting up with us!

Thank you for helping us help Veterans!!!

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23rd ANNUAL "VETERANS INFORMATION FAIR"

On Saturday, May 18, 2019 (Armed Forces Day) the Texarkana Area Chapter # 278 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA # 278) will host our 23rd Annual "Veterans Information Fair" at the Texas Elks Lodge # 2771 at 3702 New Boston Road. It will be open to the public from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

This "Fair" is to assist veterans, active duty, Reserve & National Guard personnel & their families obtain information from a variety of sources on VA benefits, programs, & other assistance and programs for them & their families. Agencies to be invited will include: Texas Veterans Commission, Texas Work Force, VA Outpatient Clinic, VA Medical Center (Shreveport & Little Rock), Vet Center, Social Security Administration, VA Field Office personnel, Arkansas Veterans Affairs, Arkansas Work Force, Texarkana College and Texas A&M Veterans Counselors, Veterans Service officers, Agency on Aging, Hospice of Texarkana, East Funeral Home, Congressional aides, Lone Star Legal, American Red Cross, Texarkana Funeral Home, the Elks Lodge # 2771, and other agencies that may have programs that pertain to Veterans, Active duty, Reserve & National Guard personnel and/or their families.

There is no charge for this service. All area veterans of all eras, all active duty, Reserve and National Guard personnel and their immediate families are invited and urged to attend.

For more information please call: 870-773-8279, 903-556-1613, 903-824-2727 or 903-628-7216 or email: USMCgreg@aol.com or go to the VVA # 278 website at: www.vva278.org or our Facebook page at: Vietnam

Veterans of America # 278

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TEXARKANA MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Again, Texarkana will have 4 Memorial Day services. On Sunday, May 26 @ 2:00 pm the Texarkana Area Veterans Council & Memorial Gardens will host the first service at memorial Gardens on Hwy 67 East, out past the airport. On

Monday, May 27 the American Legion will host the first service of the day @ 11:00 am at the Miller County courthouse. After that service we will form up for the Memorial Day March to walk to the Korea/Vietnam Memorial where VVA # 278 will hold our 36th annual Memorial Day service at this site. You might want to bring lawn chairs. The last service will begin at 2:00 pm at Hillcrest Cemetery on Hwy 67 West hosted by Texarkana Funeral Home. We encourage everyone to attend these services!

For those who cannot attend these services (and those that do) the National Moment of Remembrance will be observed at 3:00 pm local time across America. Please take a moment and remember those that gave their lives so that we may enjoy the freedoms and liberties we have! They deserve at least that much! Remember those that gave so much!

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ROLLING THUNDER XXXII

Rolling Thunder XXXII, "Ride for Freedom" will take place May 26, 2019 in Washington, DC -the final Thunder Run in DC. This will be the last demonstration the Rolling Thunder organization does as a unit in Washington, DC. So, if you have always wanted to attend this, this will be your last chance to be a part of Rolling Thunder's massive run in Washington. This event has raised a lot of awareness on the POW/MIA issue and other veterans' issues over the years. We thank them for all their hard work and their determination!!!

LEST WE FORGET

2nd ANNUAL "WAGONS FOR VETERANS"

Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Four States Fairgrounds we held our 2nd annual "Wagons for Veterans" event. We would like to extend a very sincere THANK YOU to all of our sponsors, all of our cooking teams, all of the other organizations that participated in this event, and of course all of our VVA # 278 and Elks Lodge # 2771 members, and other volunteers, that worked on this project. We promise you that every dime raised (after expenses of the event) will go to assist disabled and needy veterans in this area. Not one penny will be used for any administrative costs! Our books are open to any and everyone who would like to see them!

PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION (POW/MIA)

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number still missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is now 1,589. Of that number, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,246 (VN-452, VS-794); Laos-288; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7. The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 994. A breakdown by country of these 994 Americans is: Vietnam – 671, Laos – 277, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,057. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. Of these 1590, 15 are from AR; 24 are from LA; 30 are from OK; and 101 are from TX. US Army -512; US Navy -353; US Marine Corps – 202; US Air Force – 494; Civilians – 28.

There are still 126 Americans unaccounted for from the Cold War 2 from AR; 1 from LA; 3 from OK; & 4 from TX. As of Mar.. 25, 2019 there are still 7,663 Americans unaccounted for from the Korean War: 100 from AR; 142 from LA; 143 from OK; 426 from TX; 5833 from the Army; 908 from the Air Force; 276 from the Navy; & 645 from the USMC. As of March 25, 2019, there are still 72,737 Americans unaccounted for from World War II, 848 from AR; 977 from LA; 1217 from OK; & 3630 from TX; 16,732 from the Army; 20,090 from the Army Air Corps; 31,139 from the Navy; 2858 from the USMC.

There are 6 Americans unaccounted for from Iraq Theater and other conflicts in the Middle East.

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TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC TO THE WALL

We are working on a trip to Washington, DC to see the Wall (Vietnam Veterans Memorial), the Korean War Memorial, World War II Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery and maybe a few other sites. We are looking at sometime in October 2019. If you are interested let us know! We are looking at Amtrac and have a fantastic travel agent from Hideaway, TX working on this for us! With getting on Amtrak in Texarkana there is no "direct" route for us to go. The best time and route that we can get is 17 hours to Chicago....17 hours to DC and then same back. Therefore leaving on one day we wouldn't be getting to DC until late on the next day and then almost 2 days getting home. What we are looking at is \$213/pp though for the roundtrip.

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THE APPEALS PROCESS HAS CHANGED

For VA decisions you received on or after February 19, 2019. Please keep reading below to learn about your decision review options.

For VA decisions you received before February 19, 2019 You'll need to follow a different process to appeal your disability compensation decision. VA Decision Reviews and Appeals

If you disagree with a VA decision, you can choose one of the following review options to continue your case. If you aren't satisfied with that review, you can try another option.

You have 1 year from the date on your decision to request a decision review, unless you have a fiduciary claim or a multiple party claim.

Decision Review Options

- Add new and relevant evidence (file a Supplemental Claim)
- Ask for a new look from a senior reviewer (request a Higher-Level Review)
- Appeal to a Veterans Law Judge (request a Board Appeal)

Add new and relevant evidence: VA Form 20-0995 (Supplemental Claim).

When you choose to file a Supplemental Claim, you're adding new evidence that supports your case or identifying evidence for review. A reviewer will look at all the evidence and determine whether it changes the decision. You must submit evidence that VA didn't have before that supports your case.

VA's goal for completing Supplemental Claims is 125 days.

Can I file a Supplemental Claim?

You can file a Supplemental Claim within 1 year of a decision if you have new evidence.

But you can't file a Supplemental Claim if you have a fiduciary claim or you're one of multiple people claiming the same benefit (this is rare).

Ask for a new look from a senior reviewer. VA Form 20-0996 (Higher-Level Review).

When you choose to request a Higher-Level Review, you're asking for another review of the same evidence. A senior reviewer will take another look at your case and determine whether the decision can be changed based on a difference of opinion or an error that VA made. You can't submit any evidence. You and/or your representative can speak with the reviewer on the phone. You can tell them why you think the decision should be changed and identify errors. VA's goal for completing Higher-Level Reviews is 125 days. A review may take longer if VA needs to get records or schedule a new exam to correct an error. You can request a Higher-Level Review of an initial claim or Supplemental Claim decision. This option isn't available after a Higher-Level Review or Board Appeal.

Appeal to a Veterans Law Judge. VA Form 10182 (Board Appeal).

A judge at the Board of Veterans' Appeals in Washington, D.C., will review your case.

The Board's goal for deciding appeals with no new evidence and no hearing is about a year.

You have the option to add new evidence that a judge will review. You also have the option to request a hearing with

a judge. A video conference hearing will take place at a VA location near you.

At least 2 years The Board will take longer to decide your appeal if you submit new evidence or request a hearing. You can request a Board Appeal after an initial claim, Supplemental Claim, or Higher-Level Review decision. You can't request 2 Board Appeals in a row.

After a Board Decision

If you disagree with the Board's decision and have new and relevant evidence that supports your case, you can file a Supplemental Claim. You can also appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

A Veterans Service Organization, Veterans Service Officer, or VA-accredited attorney or agent can help you request a decision review.

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MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

The mission The Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families.

Our members are Combat Wounded Veterans who are dedicated to our country and our veteran community. We endeavor to do better for each other and by each other always.

Chartered by Congress for combat wounded Veterans. The Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat or by an act of international terrorism.. Although our membership is restricted to the combat wounded, we support all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers.

We are looking at helping start a chapter of this organization here locally. If you or someone you know has received a Purple Heart and would be interested in becoming a part of this please contact us or Ray Harmon, Miller County VSO @ 870-779-3604.

All persons of good moral character who are awarded the Purple Heart Medal by the Government of the United States AND are Active Duty or have Honorable or General discharge are eligible for active membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Are you a lineal relative of a Purple Heart Medal Recipient? If so, you qualify for an Associate Membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart. You can work side by side with the members to assist veterans and their families.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

April 4...TAVC meeting	April 14....VVA # 278 meeting (Note: 2 nd Sunday)
April 20...Elks Breakfast	April 26-27...VVA TSC meeting
April 27....Scout-a-Rama	May 2...TAVC meeting
May 11....Rail Fest Festival	May 18...23rd annual "Veterans Information Fair & Elks breakfast
May 19...VVA # 278 meeting	May 26...TAVC Memorial Day Service @ 2:00 pm
	May 27...VVA # 278's Memorial Day Service @ 11:45 am.
June 6....TAVC meeting	June 15.....Elks Breakfast
June 16....VVA # 278 meeting	July 6....TAVC meeting
July 15 – 20....VVA National Convention	July 20....Elks Breakfast
July 28....VVA # 278 meeting (Note: 4 th Sunday)	August 1....TAVC meeting
August 15 – 17...New Boston's Pioneer Days	August 17...Elks Breakfast
August 18....VVA # 278 meeting	September 5...TAVC meeting
Sept. 15...VVA # 278 meeting	Sept. 20 & 21...32 nd Annual POW/MIA Vigil
Sept. 21....Elks Breakfast	October 3...TAVC meeting
October 5...DeKalb's Oktoberfest	October 19....Elks Breakfast

VETERANS INFORMATION FAIR

23rd ANNUAL

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

9:00 AM UNTIL 1:00 PM

ELKS LODGE # 2771

3702 NEW BOSTON ROAD

INFORMATION FAIR PARTICIPANTS & SERVICES INVITED BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

TEXARKANA VA CLINIC

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

TEXAS WORKFORCE *ARKANSAS WORKFORCE*

VA MEDICAL CENTER (SHREVEPORT & LITTLE ROCK)

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION *TEXARKANA FUNERAL HOME*

VET CENTER *ELKS LODGE # 2771* *VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS*

EAST FUNERAL HOME *HUMANA* *HOSPICE OF TEXARKANA*

AMERICAN RED CROSS *LONE STAR LEGAL AID*

TEXARKANA COLLEGE AND TEXAS A&M VETERAN COUNSELORS

AGENCY FOR THE AGING (AR & TX) *DIERKSEN HOSPICE*

NE TEXAS VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER *HOME DEPOT* *AND MORE*

FREE TO VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE & NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AND THEIR
IMMEDIATE FAMILIES

HOSTED BY: TEXARKANA AREA CHAPTER # 278

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 903-556-1613, 903-824-2727, 903-628-7216 OR GO TO OUR
WEBSITE AT: www.vva278.org OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT: *VIETNAM VETERANS OF
AMERICA # 278*

Texas State Council Meeting

April 26-28, 2019

Hilton Garden Inn/Texarkana
2910 Cowhorn Creek Loop
Texarkana, TX 75503
903-792-1065

Room Rates \$94 + tax per night

Block name: VVA Texas State Council

****One form for each person attending. Thank You!****

Chapter # _____

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

VVA Chapter Delegate ___ Alternate ___ AVVA ___ Guest ___ (Check one)

TSC Officer _____ Title _____

VVA National ___ Title _____

Registration Fee \$60 per person. Covers breakfast, lunch & Banquet Saturday, April 27.

Registration: Friday, April 26 - 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Saturday, April 27 - 8:00 am until 10:00 am.

Hospitality Room: Friday, April 26 - 5:00 pm until 10:00 pm.

Banquet (Buffet style): Saturday, April 27 - 7:00 pm.

Please bring items for silent and Live Auction.

Project AMIGO Recipient: Hero's Pantry

They feed over 100 veterans and their families every month!

Please make registration checks payable to: VVA # 278

Mail registration forms to:

VVA # 278

P.O. Box 6608

Texarkana, TX 75505-6608

Registration Deadline Postmarked by: April 12, 2019

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For VVA # 278 Use Only

Date Received _____ Amount \$ _____ Check or MO # _____

For information call Greg Beck @ 902-556-1613 or Jimmy Smith @ 903-277-8597