



AVVATM

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Serving Veterans & Their Families Since 1999

AVVA REGION 9 REPORT – April 2023
Kelly Frederickson – AVVA Director Region 9
birchkellyann@gmail.com 530-321-8805

LOTS OF ADVENTURE IN THE REGION

AVVA CA SAN JOSE CHAPTER 201, CONGRATULATIONS to President Cang Dong and San Jose Chapter 201 Members.

I had the honor of presenting the Incorporation Charter to AVVA San Jose Chapter 201. Prior to the visit, I received a large beautiful AVVA Flag from National to present to Chapter 201.

I was met at the door of *Sam Key* restaurant by President Cang, Advisor to the AVVA Chapter, Vietnam Veteran Steve Thompson and members of the Chapter. I cannot express sufficiently the extraordinary welcome my husband and I received from the huge gathering of members. The restaurant was jammed packed full of members, families, and the VVA Chapter 201 Board Members. The restaurant was decorated for a beautiful reception with flags, banners and a welcome AVVA Kelly poster 😊 The women were all wore the beautiful Vietnam national traditional dress called **aodai**, which is a silk tunic with pants. The men wore suits and ties!!

The excitement and respect that Chapter 201 members have for AVVA and VVA is astounding. I was humbled by this atmosphere of respect and admiration for AVVA and hope I can emulate this excitement throughout AVVA. Chapter 201 is immensely proud to be an incorporated Chapter of AVVA! I experienced a heartfelt welcome and graciousness from the beginning to the end of the program.

The colors were posted and the meeting was called to order. President Cang gave the opening announcements. I was welcomed on stage; however, I asked the guests to allow me to take a video of them so that AVVA could experience what I was seeing. I then presented the AVVA Charter of Incorporation to San Jose, Chapter 201, President Cang.

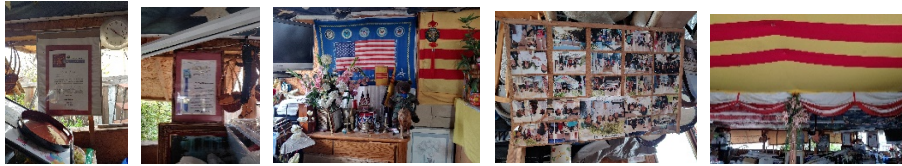
The delicious feast featured many dishes including Cornish Hen, lobster, and numerous shrimp and beef dishes. The entertainment featured numerous talented singers and the whole event was significant and FUN. Photos were going for most of the event...all I can say is WOW!

[San Jose AVVA 201 April 02 2023](#) - VIDEO OF EVENT

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TERi1nd2pyJRpo6X8> - PICTURES

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/gnmtGDmFRPBwqohK8> - PICTURES

I also had the opportunity to visit President Cang's home to view the family's garage area where they host up to 100 AVVA members. President's Cang's son gave us the tour of the garage that featured the American Flag and the Vietnam Flag billowing from the garage ceiling. Additionally, AVVA banners, pictures, and awards covered the walls of the entire double car garage. The Cang family even filled in the pool area so they could accommodate more AVVA members!! President Cang's lovely wife cooks for everyone in attendance at every AVVA meeting!!!



“WELCOME HOME” UTAH CHAPTER 1079 – March 25th, 2023 the ceremony @ the State Capital honored Vietnam Veterans Day. Welcome Home and Thank you for your service. Video sent to me by AVVA Utah President Judy Kent.

<https://youtu.be/oe53SAsWuo8> Please view Utah news clip.

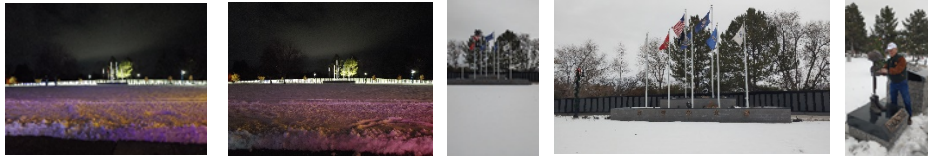
“WELCOME HOME” CA Chapter 47, 53, 446, 756, 1024 – March 25th, 2023, AVVA CA Chapter 47 hosted an outstanding event for all local Vietnam Veteran Chapters. I had the honor of attending this event. Michelle Mackey, CA State President Alice Gomez, and Past CA State Council President, Steve Mackey teamed up to WELCOME HOME our beloved Vietnam Veterans. I had the pleasure of attending this event. Well over 100 people were in attendance to honor our Veteran. Individual recognitions were presented to all Vietnam Veterans in attendance.

“WELCOME HOME” VA Secretary McDonough message for Welcome Home March 29th sent by **Gene and Sue Crego, AZ** <https://youtu.be/bv13oCUrtRk>

AVVA Utah Chapter 1079, CONGRATULATIONS to Representative Judy Kent and Chapter 1079 Members

I also had the honor of presenting the Incorporation Charter to AVVA Utah Chapter 1079. Prior to the visit, I received a large beautiful AVVA Flag from National to present to Chapter 1079. What a nice gift! I gifted Kleen Kanteens to my tour and hospitality guides, AVVA Utah Chapter Vice President Judy Kent, AVVA Utah Dual Member VVA Vice President, Chapter 1079 Don McCoach, and Director at Large, AVVA Utah Dual Member and 2nd Vice President to the President, Dennis Howland.

The moment I let Judy know that I had arrived at the hotel, they whisked me off to Applebee's to meet some of the AVVA and VVA Chapter Members. At the restaurant they let me know that a tour was scheduled for the next day at the Layton Vietnam Memorial. At the Memorial, I was greeted by Judy, Don, Dennis, and the Warrior Dog group. They say pictures say a thousand words!!!



Layton City's Vietnam Memorial is 85% of the Washington DC Memorial. Dennis Howland is pivotal in leading Utah Chapter 1079 AVVA, VVA and their community in completing this amazing memorial. Approximately three tours a week take place which include students and others. Sometimes a tour will be coordinated with a jet flyover. VVA Vice President Don said his flyover was a duck 😊

When Dennis does a project, he has a vision for the big picture and the details. Dennis was asked by student why the fallen Vietnam Soldiers did not get to keep their medals. Dennis answered that the medals were given to the family members. However, Dennis started thinking of the student's question and decided to open one of the panels and drop his medals inside as a symbolic gesture for all the names on the wall.

Included in the Layton Vietnam Memorial Site is the Vietnam War Dog Memorial. "When the United States pulled the military out of Vietnam at the end of the war, 4,000 Military Working Dogs (MWDs) were left in country. Many were euthanized, and the fate of the remaining ones was grim. The VVA members want this War Dog statue at the Wall to remember and honor those dogs left in Vietnam, and to acknowledge the grief the handlers felt as they left their K9 partners in Vietnam."

Warrior Dog, MAZZIE (no longer with us) served in Kuwait and modeled for the Memorial Statue. Warrior Dog GELI is shown in the pictures above and served in Kuwait for 4 years. The parents of GELI are Jim and Linda Crismer.



After the wonderful tour, the evening was scheduled for the Grand Presentation of the Incorporation Charter for the AVVA Chapter.

The AVVA Utah Chapter 1079 Team led by AVVA President Judy Kent worked extraordinarily hard in incorporating their Chapter. The process for Incorporating an AVVA Chapter takes endurance and dedication. However, the Incorporation process for this Chapter had additional twists and turns to the process. AVVA Chair Bobbie Morris navigated the way through the incorporation course, Judy Kent picked up the reins and led her Chapter to success.

Along with the AVVA Flag, I had the honor of presenting the AVVA National **Incorporation Charter Certificate to AVVA Utah Chapter 1079. Please view the pictures below.**



The Utah City of Layton is beautiful with their Snow-Covered Mountains and Vietnam Memorial. The warmth and hospitality that I was shown by AVVA and VVA Chapter 1079 was extraordinary. I am hoping to visit again in the spring. The inspiration that I felt from this visit and the Chapter's Activities will last for the rest of my life. This AVVA and VVA Chapter with Dennis Howland at the Memorial helm took a step forward and look at what they accomplished. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE – KEEP GOING!

Tour Video - UTAH VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL- AVVA & VVA CHAPTER 1079

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qiuahho3v2jay6p/1201221052.mp4?dl=0>

CELEBRATION OF VETERANS DAY AT THE WALL – Nov. 10th was hosted by Vietnam Veterans for Veterans to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of The Wall. in Washington, DC. The rain took a break for the main event and my husband, Butch Frederickson, CA State Council North District Director is appreciating the significance of the event. A VVA sponsored reception followed the event at VVA National Headquarters.



“Prior to *The Wall* ceremony, VVA has sponsored a “Massing of the Colors” in honor of the 40th Anniversary of *The Wall*. Color guards from chapters and state councils across the country will join us in a salute to those we lost and those of us still surviving...”

“On Veteran’s Day, Vietnam Veterans of America acted as the official host of the 69th Veterans Day National Commemoration at Arlington Cemetery, beginning with the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, followed by an observance in the amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans’ organizations. The ceremony honored all who served in the United States Armed Forces.”

VA National Veterans Day Observance

“The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony commences precisely at 11:00 a.m. with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans’ organizations and remarks from dignitaries. The ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces.” Theme was “HONOR.”

VVA PRESIDENT MCMANUS MANDATE – was expressed during a VVA general session of the Nov. 2022 BOD meeting. The Mandate consisted of sharing as many Vietnam Veteran’s Stories with as many young people as possible in the next few years.

AVVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, Nov. 8th – 11th was held in Silver Springs, Maryland. I was invited to present the *TAKING AVVA TO THE NATION* project to the Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting. Last year, the AVVA Public and Media Relations (PMR) Committee started to investigate the possibility of using the YouTube media platform to take AVVA to the Nation.

We proposed creating an **AVVA YouTube channel** to promote AVVA throughout the entire Nation with the Magic of AVVA Members **AND it is**



AVVA videos, pictures, and information, as stated in the October 2022 PMR Report, we can portray national, state, chapter, and member events, projects, programs, activities, and all manner of subjects. The PMR committee has continued to gather and research information to further the implementation of the “Taking AVVA to the Nation”.

Mike Kennedy designed the AVVA notice depicted below and the links included on the notice will further elaborate on the details of the project for AVVA members. The first link on the notice will take you to the *fun promotional video*. The second link will take you to an example of a video a National, State, or Chapter member might share with the PMR committee to be placed on the AVVA YouTube Channel.

Promotional Video Link

<https://youtu.be/qCoLsV5vaL4>

Examples of Videos for the AVVA Channel (probably limited to 5 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OpJjq3CBgM> – Riverside Parade Video

<https://youtu.be/h2pfT7SvVoA> – Gold Star Family Memorial Video



The PMR Committee will continue to work towards bringing the entire *Taking AVVA To a Nation* project to an operational AVVA event.

As always, thank you for all you do and please let me know how I can best serve AVVA by sending me your ideas.