

# **BIOGRAPHY FOR CANDIDACY FOR AVVA NATIONAL VICE - PRESIDENT**

**JOANNA HENSHAW**

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## **Experience in Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America:**

- ✓ Joined AVVA in April 1997, and became a Life Member that same year
- ✓ Elected Nevada State Vice-President - 2002 in our interim election
- ✓ Assisted with the Nevada Incorporation as Vice-President in early 2003
- ✓ Elected Nevada State President - April 2003, served a total of 14 years
- ✓ Elected Region 9 Director - 2010, served 3 years (The 3-year transitional term)
- ✓ Elected National Secretary - 2013, served 4 years. (two terms)
- ✓ Have chaired the National Policy and Procedure Committee; currently chair the National Website Committee
- ✓ Designed, published, and currently maintain the national website
- ✓ Have served, or am serving, on the following National Committees: Bylaws, P&P, Membership, Incorporation, Strategic Planning, Leadership Development, Disciplinary
- ✓ Elected Nevada State Association Treasurer 2018

My name is Joanna Henshaw and I am the widow of a Marine Vietnam Veteran, who was a life member of VVA, and who was a Service Officer. Throughout the years I have been a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, I have been involved with many aspects of the organization from helping with the grunt work at conventions and conferences, to being a seven (7) year member of the National Board of Directors. I have experience with writing and interpreting policy, laws and codes, negotiating contracts, establishing budgets, representing people in employee conflicts, planning events, organizing, supervising personnel, creating training materials, and training personnel.

My life experience includes working in a dry cleaning store as an alterations person; being a wife and mother; returning to college and earning a Bachelor's Degree and two Associates Degrees; a thirty (30) year career in law enforcement as a civilian Evidence Specialist; involvement in graphics and web development, and all of the usual ups and downs.

My vision for AVVA's future involves our ability to morph into an inclusive support organization, who works with and for Veterans of all eras and their families. I see us as citizens and Veterans

who work together for the resolution of the serious problems affecting veterans and their children as well as other family members; helping to insure that they get the benefits and help they have earned. In the coming years we will need to change a bit; strengthening ourselves using both our own experience and influence, and new ideas and methods. We should decide on a path, and then really go for it, to make a difference in our country and in our communities.

AVVA has strengths that we must build on to move forward into our future. A future that will afford us the ability to make the lives of our Veterans and their families a little bit easier, and to help them retain the pride that they so richly deserve to feel. We can work together, using the talents and skills of all of our members, to effect a positive change for those who sacrifice for us.

I would like to assist the new AVVA president and board members in moving toward a future that will make us stronger, more influential, and will continue to make us proud to be Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America members.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joanna Henshaw*

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