

Once again with my brothers...as we were together then...we are together now..



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

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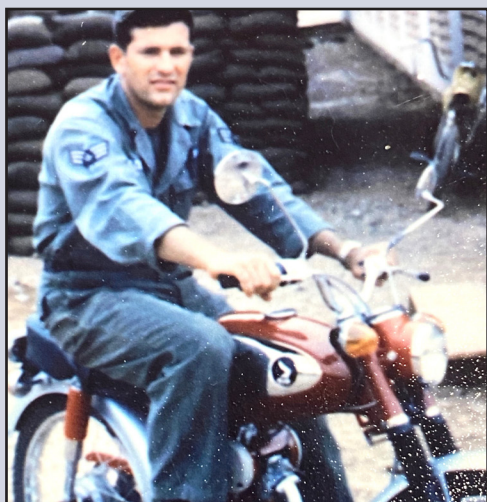
QUAD CITIES CHAPTER 299 WWW.QCVVA299.ORG

JULY 2021

"We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would harm us." George Orwell

AL BRADLEY

SPOTLIGHT



Al Bradley served in the U.S. Air Force from 1959 to 1967, attaining the rank of Airman E-4. His service duty stations, including Vietnam, were all around the world.

Military life for him had been initiated very early in his life when his father served in 1941 as a Tank Driver. Al was very close to his father and spoke fondly of his many talents and accomplishments.

Al was stationed in England where he met Susan, eventually marrying her in 1963. They celebrated fifty-eight years of marriage and have four children. Susan's beautiful English accent compliments Al's southern drawl which he acquired growing up in Red Hill, Kentucky.

After the service, Al was employed by the DAC, Department for Army Civilians with a top secret clearance. He traveled extensively.

Al, although living two miles outside the city of Andalusia, is very invested in the growth and improvement of that city. By designing and building, he left many buildings and playgrounds within the city. Al is an avid hunter, displaying many photos of big game (and small) - moose, bear, wild hogs, buffalo and generally anything having four legs! He's "kinda" retired but still has business cards for "FILL & TILL Landscaping Specialist."

He credits Chapter member Bill Albracht for encouraging him to join a few years ago. He was an Honor Guard member for 299 and will proudly tell you he "loves the military."



Please take time to visit with Al and see the numerous collection of photos and pamphlets he has acquired throughout his life. He is very proud to be a member of Chapter 299!

Submitted by by Terry Lynch, Past President

CHAPTER 299

VETS IN CRISIS HOTLINE
1.800.273.8255

President - KEN MADDEN
563-676-9446
kcommand@aol.com

Vice President - LEN SPINDEL
309-762-9962
len.spindel@yahoo.com

Treasurer - JERRY MANICCIA
309-787-3162
jerrymaniccia@gmail.com

Secretary/Membership - JIM KIRSCHBAUM
309-738-6989
dixiecando@outlook.com

STS Newsletter Editor - JIM KIRSCHBAUM
309-738-6989
dixiecando@outlook.com

Veteran Service Officers (VSO)
Al "Butch" Huber-VSO
309.721.1453

VVA National Offices
800.882.1316

VA Outpatient Clinic Davenport
563.332.8528

VA Med Cent IA City
319.338.0581 & 800.346.1843

IL Dept of Veterans Affairs
VSO Carla Waibel
309.757.9960

RI Cty Vet Ast & VSO
Todd Harlow
309.558.3546

VET CENTER (Counseling)
1-309-755-3260

IA Vet Affairs & VSO
Director - Ben Enlow
563.326.8723
benjamin.enlow@scottcountyiowa.com

HONOR GUARD CO-CAPTAINS

Tom Courtney - Funerals
309.912.7249 C: 309.230.3704
tcour101444@aol.com

Dennis Johnson - Parades
H: 309.764.3463 C: 309.429.8235
tencentscrewdriver@hotmail.com

Margaret Alexander, AVVA Life Member

Margaret Alexander joined Chapter 299 to honor her younger brother, William "Bill" Nixon who had served in Vietnam. Margaret and Bill, grew up in Quincy, Illinois, with two other sisters. They received the best education there but jobs were not plentiful for persons of color so after high school, Margaret moved to the Quad Cities and Bill, pictured, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force.

A working mother, Margaret raised her son and two daughters in the Quad Cities. She worked at East Moline State Hospital as a psychiatric technician for nine years, ultimately retiring as a senior cost analyst from Deere & Company with thirty-one years.

After retiring, Margaret attended Scott Community College to be a Certified Nurse Assistant, setting up her own business, Alexander's Bridge To Care For You. Margaret also volunteered at Project Now and the American Cancer Society. She loved running, taking first place in her age group at the young age of sixty! She has completed three half marathons and many Bix 7 races. She loves to read, fish and travel.

Margaret has had some great times with Chapter 299's veterans. She contributed to catering events with Ray Hamilton, Hock Hockenberry, Gary Morrison, Hammer, Rich Vanderleest, John Schneck, Dale Baker, Rudy Hernandez, Gib DeCoster and many others. Her involvement with veterans didn't stop there. In her own words, "one of the most humbling and wonderful experiences I had was to be a guardian on the Honor Flight of

the Quad Cities to Master Sargent Dan Johnson who was a member of Chapter 299 Vietnam Veterans until his passing last year."

Margaret lives with her dog Journey, in South Beloit, Illinois, close to her youngest daughter Kathy, but has not slowed down. Bill, extraordinary son, brother and father, passed away in 2012 and was laid to rest in Quincy with full military honors. Many years from now, Margaret will also be buried there. As in life, Margaret and Bill will be shoulder-to-shoulder.

Margaret wants to give a shout out to all her friends in Chapter 299 and hopes to see them in the future. Additionally, we salute William "Bill" Nixon for his service.



Submitted by Barb Lynch, Chapter 299 AVVA member

HAND SALUTE

On October 14th 2008 President George W. Bush signed into law The Defense Authorization Act of 2009. This authorized the rendering of a hand salute for veterans and out of uniform military personnel during the National Anthem. The provision also allows the application of that honor in all events involving our National Flag.

In newsreels of the Berlin Olympics of August 1936 showed Jesse Owens and Matt Metcalf using the hand salute when they received their Gold Metals while "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played. Most of the other countries used the out stretched arm Nazi salute. In addition to that, the United States was the only country that did not dip their flag passing before Hilter.

Submitted by Ken Madden

Any memorials can be sent to:
V.V.A Chapter 299: Attn: Honor Guard
P.O. Box 6076 • Rock Island, IL 61204-6076
This will help our Honor Guard.
Thank You For Support.

Submitted by Jim Kirschbaum



HELP NEEDED

Robo Call, Shoulder To Shoulder, Web Page, and our chapter picnic.

Come join the **Honor Guard**, we will help you get a uniform and patches.

It is important that we fill these positions to enable the chapter to run smoothly. We are not done yet.

STEP UP AND SERVE, IT IS YOUR PRIVILEGE.

Submitted by President Ken Madden

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Vietnam Veterans of America 13TH ANNUAL

9/11 Commemorative Golf Outing

August 30, 2021

Pinacle Country Club 11928 Knoxville Rd., Milan, IL



Preferred Ball 4 Man Scramble
8am Registration
9am Shotgun Start
Entrance Fee \$360 per team
(\$90 per person)

PROPER ATTIRE - NO JEANS, SHIRTS MUST HAVE COLLARS

Includes:

- Golf
- Clubhouse Catered Meal
(Meal Only, \$25)
- Door Prizes
- Commemorative Gift
- Hole Prizes
- Free Keg of Beer (*While it Lasts!*)

Team Captain: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

**Prizes for: 1st, 2nd Place
and Middle Scores**

Plus! Hole in One Event for a NEW CAR!

Women's and mixed teams welcome!

ALSO

- **NEW!** "Purchase a Drive" contests on holes 9 & 18
- Competitive hole events for men & women
- Seniors 70+ Gold Tees Optional

Questions call **Ron Roman** at 1-563-359-3234
Register now, space is limited. No reservations will be accepted without payment, Checks only please (No Cash!). Postmark deadline is August 21, 2021. The postmark will determine your priority.

Make checks payable to VVA QC Chapter 299.
Mail to: **Ron Roman**
4410 Slate Creek Drive
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Proceeds go to support Veterans/Community Programs – Donations Accepted

INDIVIDUAL AS WELL AS BUSINESS \$100 HOLE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE & SIGNAGE WILL BE POSTED AT SPONSORED HOLE.
NEW! Sponsorships for special hole to honor Veterans who have passed away. Call for information.

Submitted by Ron Roman



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 -ONCE AGAIN WITH MY BROTHERS.



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GOLFERS: Please note! We expect to fill our limit of golfers early this year. Don't be left out, please get your reservations in early! **Thank you for your support!**
Submitted by Ron Roman, Chairman for the Golf Outing

★★★★ **FOURTH FRIDAYS** ★★★★★

We are going to roll out the next addition of the *4th Friday* starting Friday March 26, 2021 from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. We are going to keep in line with the Gov's protocols regarding social distancing and mask wearing.

We are emphasizing "support the 1st Responders" as well as our honor guard members, Chapter members and loyal supporters.

We'll see how this works out. Come out and enjoy the day.

Ray Hamilton

Bradley & Tina Forret 309-797-1631

With Respect and Admiration To All Who Served.



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2021

FOOD DISTRIBUTION DATES

at the Quad City Expo Center, Rock Island
Show up time is 9:00 am and lasts till about
11:00 to 11:30 am

JULY 21, 2021

OCTOBER 20, 2021

AUGUST 18, 2021

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

DECEMBER 22, 2021

Submitted by
Jim Loveless



CiV
Carroll Industrial Ventilation, Inc.
307 6th Avenue E - Andalusia, IL - Phone: (309) 798-2512

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Please Call Jim at **309-738-6989** and leave a message.

We'll Need Your Name, Address, and Phone Number.

Thank You
Jim Kirschbaum, Editor

THE BIRTH OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

Key wrote the initial verse or two on the back side of a letter. Back in Baltimore that morning, he continued working, finishing the other stanzas. The poem was printed on handbills the next morning, which originally called the work, "The Defense of Fort M'Henry," and distributed them in Baltimore. Two Baltimore newspapers printed it, and it spread quickly to various cities along the East Coast.

A few days later, actor Ferdinand Durang sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," in Baltimore to the tune of an Old English drinking song called, "to Anacreon in Heaven," written in 1775 by John Stafford Smith, to honor the ancient Greek poet Anacreon, a lover of wine. The drinking song melody had a track record in the United States and thus was well known.

Although Durang's performance marked the first time the anthem was sung in public, it became popular immediately, and three months later was played during the Battle of New Orleans.

By the time "The Star-Spangled Banner" officially became America's national anthem in 1931, it had become one of America's most popular patriotic tune for more than a century. At first, it trailed only "Yankee Doodle," and "Hail Columbia" in popularity among 19th century patriotic tunes.

But during and immediately after the Civil War, Key's song gained a deeper meaning, as the American flag became an increasingly powerful symbol of national unity. By the 1890's, the U.S. military had adopted the song for ceremonial purposes, playing it to accompany the raising and lowering of the colors.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed an executive order designating it "the national anthem of the United States." Finally, in 1931 – more than 100 years after it was composed – Congress passed a measure declaring "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the official national anthem.

Today, most Americans are familiar with the words of the initial verse of the national anthem which basically described a battle scene, wit the flag still flying. It is played to start many athletic events and musical ceremonies.

However, the words of the normally unknown fourth verse have much more meaning to the nation today, and perhaps should be said more often. In fact, several Grand Lodges during their official ceremonies sing both the first and fourth stanzas.

Here is the fourth verse of our National Anthem:

*Oh! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation,
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, in God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

Francis Scot Key died in 1843 at the age of 63. By government permission, the United States Flag flies continuously over Key's grave at Frederick, MD, and over For McHenry.

A final note about the punctuation. Please observe that the first stanza on our anthem ends with a question mark. As author Key was observing the battle from a ship in the harbor, it was still in question if the flag would continue to weather the bombardment.

But as morning arrived, the flag and what it stands for, survived! The second verse ends with an exclamation point!

But the fourth verse ends with a period, following a statement of expectation and confidence about the foundation of our nation and its future.



TAPS



Following is a list of funerals at which military honors were performed by the combined efforts of the V.V.A Chapter 299, V.V.A Chapter 669, V.V.A Chapter 776, and the MAVA (Mexican American Veterans Association) Honor Guards. Included in the list are the dates of the funerals, names, ages, and branches of service in which these veterans served. **Any chapter 299, 699, 776 and MAVA members are designated by bold letters and underlined.**

Date of Funeral	Name of Veteran	Age	Branch of service
APR 30, 2021	EDMON R. CLEMMONS	84	U. S. NAVY (KOREAN WAR VETERAN)
MAY 25, 2021	ROBERT E. MERRILL	76	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN) NOT LISTED AS A MEMBER OF CHAPTER 776 ON JUNE TAPS LIST)
MAY 27, 2021	KENNY BECHERER	80	U. S. MARINE CORPS (COLD WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 01, 2021	MICHAEL "MIKE" BARNETT	70	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 02, 2021	RONALD E. HOLDEN	79	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 07, 2021	JACK E. DUNBAR	80	U. S. ARMY (KOREAN WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 07, 2021	REGINALD C. RING	79	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 08, 2021	JOSEPH JANICKI JR.	86	U. S. ARMY & AIR FORCE (KOREAN & VIETNAM WARS VETERAN)
JUNE 11, 2021	RICHARD "DICK" KEITH	86	U. S. NAVY (KOREAN WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 15, 2021	MICHAEL S. WILLHOITE	74	U. S. AIR FORCE (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 16, 2021	CARLTON P. COLSON	70	U. S. ARMY (ENDURING FREEDOM VETERAN)?
JUNE 21, 2021	STEVEN R. MOTLEY	69	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 21, 2021	WARREN E. GRIES	73	U. S. AIR FORCE (VIETNAM WR VETERAN)
JUNE 21, 2021	BRENT J. COBB	73	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN) MEMBER OF CHAPTER 669)
JUNE 22, 2021	KERMIT T. "BUD" STEVENSON JR.	78	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 22, 2021	MARY LORRAINE BROMLEY	99	U. S. NAVY (WORLD WAR II VETERAN) MOTHER-IN-LAW OF JIM LOVELESS)
JUNE 28, 2021	ROBERT W. SIMONIS	89	U. S. ARMY (KOREAN WAR VETERAN)
JUNE 28, 2021	GARY D. LEHMAN	76	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN) MEMBER OF CHAPTER 299)

**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS: WE NEED A PERSON TO BE OUR CHAPTER PHOTOGRAPHER
CALL JIM KIRSCHBAUM • 309-738-6989**

NOTICE TO ALL V.V.A. 299 MEMBERS

Your family has a member of the V.V.A 299 that has passed on, please send a copy of the obituary to:

V.V.A 299

ATTN: STS NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 6076 ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204-6076

or email dixiecando@outlook.com

We want to honor our fallen 299

Brothers and Sisters by having them in the newsletter in the "299 Remembrance" section.

Jim Kirschbaum, Newsletter Editor



299 REMEMBRANCE

GARY D. LEHMAN

Bettendorf, Iowa.

passed away on June 21, 2021

He was in Vietnam, as a Navy Seabee.

Submitted by Jim Kirschbaum

WIDOWS NEED DD-214S

by Pete Peterson

Veterans need to be well organized when it comes to keeping records for our significant others. They will be stressed out enough dealing with our passing. They do not need the added chore of trying to find critical items necessary for planning funerals and other issues. What follows is a list of documents that are necessary to ensure that things get taken care of in a timely manner when we die.

The first item is a copy of your DD-214. This is the most important document relating to your military service. It shows a funeral director that you are a veteran and, in some cases determines the level of services you are eligible for. If you are drawing benefits from the VA and you do not have a copy of the DD-214, log on to www.ebenefits.va.gov where you will be able to find and print a copy, as well as review your disability rating.

The second item is a copy of your award letter from the VA. This document shows what your disabilities are and their percentages. If you are a 100 percent permanent and totally disabled veteran, the letter will save your significant other a lot of headaches when it comes to filing for Dependent Indemnity Compensation. It also gives the physician who fills out the death certificate a list of conditions that should be names as contributing factors to the veteran's death.

During the pandemic the primary cause of death listed for many veterans has been COVID 19. But the veteran's service connected conditions in most cases where contributing factors. COPD and diabetes, for example, offer are contributing factors. By having the doctor list a service-connected condition as a contributing factor on the death certificate, the widow will not have any difficulty getting the DIC claim approved. As a 100 percent permanent and totally disabled veteran, you are authorized a free death insurance policy providing you filed for that benefit within two years after you received your rating award letter. Located the phone number for the insurance agency and keep it with the policy.

Then you need to compile all the documents listed below. The items and all the pertinent information should be kept in a folder.

- Will
- Do Not Resuscitate statement
- Obituary
- Funeral Wishes
- Passwords for computers and other items
- List of people to contact other than family (old military buddies, etc.)

It's also important to contact your nearest Causality Assistance Office, which can help you file whatever documents are necessary for retirement pay and other issues.

If your significant other is not a member of a Veterans Service Organization, locate the nearest VSO that helps with filing DIC claims and performs graveside honors.

This list is the by no means complete. However, it will give you a starting point and provide critical information necessary to take care of the most time sensitive items.

AVVA offers a Paper Safe. Most funeral homes have guides and will provide additional guidance. Please take the time and make this one of your priorities. As Vietnam veterans, we are all living on borrowed time. ■

TO ALL MEMBERS:

If you have stories or pictures that you would like to share

SEND TO: V.V.A QC Chapter 299
PO Box 6076, Rock Island, IL 61204-6076
or email to: dixiecando@outlook.com

Thank you, Jim Kirschbaum, Secretary



<https://>

2 symbols that indicate your email messages and internet are a secure and encrypted connection.

Submitted by Jim Kirschbaum

VVA CHAPTER 299 BOARD MEETING MILAN LEGION AT 5:00 P.M. DATE: June 8, 2021

REMINDERS: SPEAKERS: LOUDLY AND OBSERVE THE THREE MINUTES LIMIT. PICKUP AND RETURN NAME TAGS AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.

ALL SAFETY ISSUE WILL BE OBSERVED, MASK, DISTANCING, SANITIZING TOWELS, ETC.

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT: KEN MADDEN. AT; 5:00 P.m. or 17:00 HRS.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE – FOR ALL OUR FELLOW VETERANS, PAST AND NOW SERVING.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA:

PERSONS PRESENT: PRESIDENT: KEN MADDEN; VIC PRESIDENT: LEN SPINDEL.; SECRETARY, JIM KIRSCHBAUM; TREASURER JERRY MANICCIA; DIRECTORS: RON ROMAN, JIM BELL, JERRY GOODWIN, JOE RAMOS; TRUSTEE BOB JACKSON.

ABSENT: (EXCUSED; YES) TERRY KRAMER
(EXCUSED NO) PAUL FRENCHY EAVES

PRESIDENT: NONE

VICE PRESIDENT: NONE

GUESTS/GUESTS SPEAKER: NONE

REPORTS:

SECRETARY: MINS. JIM KIRSCHBAUM

MOTION BY: JIM BELL 2 ND BY: JERRY GOODWIN
FOR: ALL AGAINST: NONE

MEMBERSHIP: JIM KIRSCHBAUM: TOTAL 399

TREASURER: JERRY MANICCIA: PRESENTED IN PRINTED FORM: YES

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: JERRY MANICCIA: TO CORRECT INVESTMENT.
MOTION MADE BY: JIM KIRSCHBAUM 2ND BY LEN SPINDEL FOR ; ALL AGAINST; NONE

DONATIONS / CHARITIES:

BOB McSPARIN: R I / MILAN FIRST DAY FUND \$400.00
MILITARY EXPLORERS \$400.00

BOTH WERE TABLE UNTIL NEXT BOARD MEETING: MOTION MAKE BY JERRY GOODWIN: 2ND BY JOE RAMOS:

FOR ALL: AGAINST NONE

VET TO VET / CARE AND COMPASSION: PAUL EAVES: NONE

HONOR GUARD: TOM COURTNEY / DENNIS JOHNSON NONE

STS: EDITOR; JIM KIRSCHBAUM, THANKS FOR ALL THE ARTICLES FROM LAST YEAR. PLEASE KEEP SENDING ARTICLES IN THE COMING YEAR

WEB SITE AND ROBO CALLS: BOB JACKSON: NONE

OTHER COMMITTEES:

POPPIES: NONE

WELCOME DANCE: STILL PLANNED

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY: STILL PLANNED

GOLF : LETTERS GOING OUT TO CAPTAINS

PICNIC: NONE

THANKSGIVEN BASKETS; NONE

CHRISTMAS BASKETS; NONE

CHRISTMAS PARTY; JERRY GOODWIN CHAIRMAN

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: BUSINESS CARDS FOR BOARD MEMBERS.

BOARD MEETING WILL BE AT 6:00 P.M. OR 18:00 AT THE LEGION

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

TO NOTE: THIS IS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW BOARD

CLOSE MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M. OR 19:00 HRS.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 299
PO Box 6076
Rock Island, IL 61204-6076
www.QCVVA299.org

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Now that we are getting back to regular meetings every third Tuesday of the month at 7pm, we have the following opportunities open:

Robo Call, Shoulder To Shoulder, Web Page, and chapter picnic.

Come join the Honor Guard, we will help you get a uniform and patches.

It is important that we fill these positions to enable the chapter to run smoothly. We are not done yet.

Step up and serve, it is your privilege.

Submitted by President Ken Madden

**BOARD MEETINGS ARE AT
MILAN LEGION, 6 PM**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS AT ERIKSON CHEVROLET, 7 PM

***WE COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE
FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS
AND DO NOT DISCRIMINATE ON
THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR,
NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE,
DISABILITY, OR SEX.***

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE 299

- JULY 13, 2021**BOARD MEETING
- JULY 20, 2021**MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- AUGUST 10, 2021**.....BOARD MEETING
- AUGUST 17, 2021**.....MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- SEPT 14, 2021**BOARD MEETING
- SEPT 21, 2021**MEMBERSHIP MEETING

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.

★ **Cut-Off Date For Submissions to STS is the 25th of every month** ★

**We proudly support Vietnam
Veteran's Chapter 299**

Eriksen

CHEVROLET



309-756-2700