



PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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Vietnam Veterans of America to Hold 18th National Convention in New Orleans

(Washington, D.C.) --Vietnam Veterans of America will hold its 18th biennial National Convention August 8-12, 2017, at the Sheraton New Orleans and New Orleans Marriott hotels. “We’re excited to be in New Orleans for what promises to be our largest Convention ever,” said VVA National President John Rowan. More than 900 delegates from VVA chapters across the nation are expected to join hundreds of other Vietnam veterans and guests in New Orleans, along with members of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA), which will be holding its National Convention in conjunction with the VVA event.

The delegates will set the organization’s course for the next two years, hear from an array of speakers, attend information sessions, and take part in special events. That includes the Awards Banquet, which honors Vietnam veterans and others in the arts and sciences, on Saturday evening, August 12.

Charles Figley, a Vietnam War veteran who has done pioneering work in recognizing and treating Post-traumatic Stress Disorder since the mid-1970s, will deliver the Keynote Speech at the August 9 Opening Ceremonies.

The actor Wes Studi and author/environmentalist Doug Peacock, both of whom served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War, will receive VVA Excellence in the Arts awards at the Awards Banquet. Recently retired Associated Press photographer Nick Ut will receive the President’s Award for Excellence in the Arts, and three women who entertained the troops in Vietnam with the Bob Hope USO tours in 1969 and 1970—Paula Cinko, Rosetta “Rosie” Gitlin, and Jackie Chidsey, members of “The Dean Martin Show” Golddiggers—also will be honored at the Banquet.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

