



PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2019

No. 19-12

**Contact:
Mokie Porter
301-996-0901**

Medal of Honor Recipient Allen Lynch to Deliver Keynote Speech At Vietnam Veterans of America's 19th National Convention

(Washington, D.C.)– VVA Life Member Allen Lynch, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions while serving with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, will deliver the Keynote Speech to close out the Opening Ceremonies at Vietnam Veterans of America's 19th biennial National Convention on Wednesday morning, July 17, at 9:00 a.m., in Ballroom 100ABC of the Spokane Convention Center, at 236 West Spokane Falls Blvd.

On December 15, 1967, while serving as a radio telephone operator with Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), then Spec. 4 Lynch distinguished himself when his unit became engaged with the enemy. Outnumbered, Lynch assessed the situation, providing his commander information essential to the unit's successful actions. During the firefight on that day he rescued three wounded soldiers and stayed behind to protect them when the rest of the company withdrew. For two hours, using only his rifle and a grenade, he singlehandedly defended the wounded men against enemy attack. He crossed 70 meters of exposed terrain five times to carry his wounded comrades to a more secure area.

"Allen Lynch is a true American hero with an inspiring story to tell, and he is one of our own," said VVA National President John Rowan. "I am sure his Keynote will be one of the most memorable events of the Convention, and will get off to a rousing start."

More than 700 delegates from VVA local chapters across the nation will join hundreds of other Vietnam War veterans and guests in Spokane for the National Convention. Following the opening ceremonies, the delegates will meet in convention to debate national resolutions and Constitutional Amendments. Later in the week, they will vote for VVA's national leaders—officers and board members—for the upcoming two years. VVA's supporting organization, the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, also will be holding its biennial National Convention.

