



## PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Renowned OBGYN Dr. Elbert Nelson to be Honored at Vietnam Veterans of America's 19th National Convention**

(Washington, D.C.)—Dr. Elbert Nelson, one of the nation's foremost experts in Obstetrical Gynecology, will receive the Vietnam Veterans of America Excellence in the Sciences Award on Saturday night, July 20, at VVA's 19<sup>th</sup> biennial National Convention in Spokane, Washington.

Dr. Nelson, who served in the Vietnam War as a battalion surgeon from 1969-70 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry of the U.S. Army's First Cavalry Division, is the Associate Residency Director of the Department of Women's Health of the Christ Hospital Health Network in Cincinnati. Dr. Elbert received his MD from Meharry Medical College in 1967.

"Not only did Dr. Elbert serve his country in the Vietnam War, where at least on one occasion he operated on patients on a forward firebase during a massive ground attack, he continues to serve today," said VVA President John Rowan. A member of VVA Chapter 10 in Cincinnati, Dr. Nelson has received many awards for his medical and civic activities including the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence and the Woodward and White's Best Doctors in America Award. In 2000, after 33 years in private practice, he became Director of the Department of Obstetrical Gynecology at Christ Hospital, where he serves as a mentor to younger doctors.

More than 700 delegates from VVA chapters across the country will join hundreds of other Vietnam War veterans and guests in Spokane, along with members of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, which also will be holding its National Convention. Medal of Honor Recipient Allen Lynch will deliver the Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday morning, July 19. Vietnam veteran Jim Beaver, a stage, film, and television actor and writer who is best known for his role on HBO's *Deadwood*, also will be honored at the Awards Banquet. Nancy Bonetti Ray and Kathryn Kalajjian -- two members of Dean Martin's Golddiggers who then joined Bob Hope's USO Christmas Show in Vietnam in 1968, 1969, and 1970 -- will be special guests in Spokane.