



## PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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### **John Rowan to Serve Eighth Term As National President of Vietnam Veterans of America**

(Washington, D.C.)--John Rowan was reelected to an eighth term as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America on July 19, at the organization's 19th National Convention in Spokane, Washington. Rowan, who was elected to VVA's highest office in 2005, has served as the chairman of VVA's Conference of State Council Presidents, for three terms on the organization's Board of Directors, and as president of VVA's New York State Council. He served as a linguist in the U.S. Air Force's 6990 Security Squadron in Vietnam and at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, providing the Strategic Air Command with intelligence on North Vietnam's SAM sites to protect their bombing missions.

Rowan was a founding member and the first president of VVA Chapter 32 in Queens, New York. He retired from city service as an investigator with the City of New York's Comptroller's Office. He lives in Middle Village, New York, with his wife, Mariann.

Thomas Burke of New Philadelphia, Ohio, was elected to serve as Vice President; Bill Meeks, Jr., of The Woodlands, Texas, was reelected as Secretary; and Jack McManus of Flat Rock, North Carolina, was elected as VVA's Treasurer. In addition, 19 National Board of Directors were elected: Ten At-Large and nine Regional. The At-Large directors are Dottie Barickman (IA); Richard C. DeLong (LA); Gumersindo Gomez (MA); Dennis Howland (UT); John Margowski (WI); Felix Peterson (OK); Dave Simmons (WV); Dan Stenvold (ND); Kerwin Stone (TX); Sandie Wilson (MI); and Jerry Yamamoto (CA).

The nine Regional directors elected to serve a 2019-2021 term are: Region 1, Skip Hochreich (MA); Region 2, Ted Wilkinson (NY); Region 3, Sara McVicker (DC); Region 4, Spence Davis (GA); Region 5, John Riling (MI); Region 6, Robert Grabinski (WI); Region 7, Dennis Andras (LA); Region 8, Francisco Ivarra (WA); and Region 9, Dick Southern (CA).

*Vietnam Veterans of America 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."*

