



PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2021

No. 21-12
Contact: Mokie Porter
301-996-0901

VVA's Rick Weidman Honored as VVA Executive Director Emeritus

(Washington, D.C.) – “Richard F. “Rick” Weidman has led VVA’s advocacy since his return to the National headquarters in 1998, fighting for change and ensuring our veterans receive the care and respect of a grateful nation,” said John Rowan. “Today, I am proud to announce that Rick will retire from his position of VVA Executive Director of Policy and Government Affairs to assume his new role as Vietnam Veterans of America’s Executive Director Emeritus, and VVA Associate Director Sharon Hodge will assume the position of VVA Director of Policy and Government Affairs. We are grateful to Rick for his leadership, his compassion, and his commitment to those in need.”

“The finest of advocates, both technically and tactically, Rick has never wavered from the promise of combat medic, to care for those in need,” noted Rowan. “In Vietnam, Rick served as a 1-A-O Army Medical Corpsman with Company C, 23rd Med, Americal Division, I Corps, 1969. In Washington, as VVA’s primary spokesperson, he has driven our legislative agenda on Capitol Hill, ensuring that VVA’s resolutions, adopted by our delegates at National Convention, are enacted into law, included in government policy, and implemented responsibly.”

“Rick has worked with six United States Presidents, countless members of Congress, their staffs, and fellow veterans’ organizations. He has led with his heart and lent his voice, ensuring that those in decision-making positions had the facts, heard the truth, and understood the plight of those who took the oath to serve our Constitution,” noted Rowan. “In keeping with VVA’s founding principal, *Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another*, Rick has served as both mentor and advocate for Gulf War and Post 9/11 veterans. His tenacity has resulted in scores of significant and life-saving legislative solutions, with positive results for generations of veterans and their families,” said Rowan. “VVA, veterans, and their families everywhere are better off thanks to his faithful service and advocacy.”

Prior to his Vietnam service he attended Colgate University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. Following service and a brief career in academia, Rick followed his heart, joining the VVA staff in 1979. He served where needed, focusing on growing the membership and building relationships on Capitol Hill. His early, vital input shaped VVA’s foundation and future direction forever.