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# PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## VVA Marks Agent Orange Awareness Day, August 10<sup>th</sup>, in Greenville S.C.

(Washington, D.C.) – “On August 10, Vietnam Veterans of America will mark Agent Orange Awareness Day in an event that will be a part of the Opening Ceremony of our National Leadership and Education Conference in Greenville, S.C. The event will be held in Ballroom C of the Greenville Hyatt Regency, at 8:45 a.m.,” announced VVA National President Jack McManus. “For close to 40 years, VVA has advocated for veterans who have been living with chronic illnesses because of Agent Orange exposure during their service, and we have borne witness to the long-reaching effects of these toxic wounds as they have been traced through multiple generations of veterans’ children and grandchildren.”

“Agent Orange Awareness Day is an important way to honor the thousands of Vietnam veterans who have died each year due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD, and other illnesses as a result of their service,” McManus emphasized. “It is critical to remember that the cost of war does not end with the last day of the conflict. We must honor the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and later died because of their service and remember their sacrifice.”

Hundreds of VVA members and veteran leaders gathered for the conference will look both forwards and backwards during the event; reflecting on the progress that has been made through decades of advocacy and debating future issues and goals in the on-going dealings with the effects of Agent Orange, this deadly toxin that remains largely unknown to most Americans. The opening ceremony of the conference is open to the public and Greenville residents are encouraged to attend to honor the memory of those thousands of Vietnam veterans and their families who have been impacted by Agent Orange and to learn about the issue.

“With this week’s long-overdue passage of *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act*, VVA now hopes to see, for the first time in the nation’s history, the delivery of their earned healthcare and benefits to all generations of toxic-exposed veterans, including our Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and other toxic elements during their service,” McManus stated. “We will now focus our considerable resources on a quick and just implementation of the new law.”