



PRESS RELEASE

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Vietnam Veterans of America to Hold 21st National Convention in Orlando

(Washington, D.C.) – Vietnam Veterans of America will hold its 21st biennial National Convention August 8-12, 2023, at the Rosen Centre Hotel, located at 9840 International Drive.

“We’re excited to be in Orlando for what promises to be one of our most important Conventions ever, as we work to ensure the legacy of our organization,” said VVA National President Jack McManus. More than 700 delegates from VVA chapters across the nation are expected to join hundreds of other Vietnam War veterans and guests in Orlando, along with members of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, which will be holding its National Convention in conjunction with the VVA event.

The delegates will set the organization’s course for the next two years, hear from an array of speakers, attend information sessions, and take part in special events. That includes the Awards Banquet, which honors Vietnam veterans and others in the arts and sciences, on Saturday evening, August 12.

Homer Hickam, a U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division Vietnam War veteran and best-selling author who is best known for his acclaimed memoir *Rocket Boys*, will deliver the Keynote Speech at the August 9 Opening Ceremonies.

On Thursday, August 10, prior to the morning Convention session, singer-songwriter John Flynn will perform his song, “Deeper Family,” which he sang at on Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Harvey Pratt, the renowned artist and sculptor best known for creating the National Native American Veterans Memorial at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., will receive the VVA Excellence in the Arts award at the Awards Banquet. Jan Scruggs, who conceived of the idea that became the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and founded and led the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, will receive the VVA Lifetime Achievement Award at the banquet; and Laurel Lea Schaefer-Bozoukoff, Miss America 1972, will be honored with the President’s Award for Supporting the Troops in Vietnam.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) 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.”