

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2023

No. 23-7

Contact: Mokie Porter 301-996-0901

VVA Chapter 671 Sponsors Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting in Savannah

(Washington, D.C) – Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 671 is holding an Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, September 30, 3 pm – 5 pm, at Savannah Technical College, Ekberg Auditorium. Vietnam, Thailand, and Blue Water Navy veterans, along with their wives and children, are encouraged to attend.

"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," said VVA National President Jack McManus. "It is critical to remember that the cost of war does not end with the last day of the conflict," McManus emphasized.

"With the August 2022 passage of the *PACT Act*, VVA has heightened its advocacy efforts to ensure rapid delivery of 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 added. "We are focusing our considerable resources on a quick and just implementation of the new law."

Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings make up one piece of VVA's advocacy and are designed to deliver educational materials created by VVA such as: <u>Self-Help Guide to Service-Connected Disability Compensation for Exposure To Agent Orange for Veterans and Their Families; PACT Act: Understanding Health Care and Benefits; PACT Act: Vietnam, Cold War Era Veterans; and <u>PACT Act: and Gulf War, Post 9-11 Era Veterans</u>.</u>

The Town Halls provide an open forum for discussion, and are also attended by VA service benefits officers and specialist speakers on the subject, in order to deliver the most accurate information possible to veterans and their families. If you have any questions about the upcoming Town Hall, please call or email Joe Mitchler at (912) 656-6818, or jsphmtler@gmail.com.