

TOXIC EXPOSURE COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 11, 2023

What a great start our committee had with AVVA's Project Friendship donating \$45,000 to the Birth Defect Research for Children. Betty Mekdeci who has been instrumental in this research was thrilled. For those that do not know, BDRC, is the only national organization that has done research comprised of: in-country Vietnam veterans, non-in-country Vietnam War veterans, Gulf War veterans and the general public. If you haven't completed a form online, please go to birthdefects.org. It allows parents to make an entry which identifies the needs for medical research.

We are off to a great start on our work with Toxic Exposure Town Hall meetings. AVVA needs to take the lead on this. We thank all states and chapters who wish to have these meetings. It not only opens the veteran and their family to birth defects in their children and how we can help in having them get involved with the VA. If you would like to have a Town Hall meeting, please contact Mokie Porter at the national office at Mporter@vva.com and I also can be reached by emailing me at Switzeravva@gmail.com. Let us get these meetings going again.