REGION 8 REPORT

Many of you know that I have been participating in the seemingly endless court hearings and finally the seven week long murder trial for my son, Nicholas and his friend Benny who were murdered 3/15/2020. I was able to accomplish some of my duties as Region 8 Director such as giving a speech May 3rd at the Friends of the NRA Oregon Chapter banquet and auction sharing the many AVVA National programs and local Chapter 805 Moods In Music guitar sessions. I then lead the Memorial Day Ceremonies at our Douglas County Courthouse where again I gave a speech honoring our heroes, especially our Vietnam Veterans.

Ruth Feliciano, Deputy Region 8 Director, attended the Oregon State Council meeting on my behalf in Lebanon, OR. She represented our Region 8 well and I am grateful for her assistance as I was very involved in the trial.

The July 4th weekend event in Canyonville, Oregon at the 7 Feathers Casino and Resort was also a success as Ruth and I along with other VVA Chapter 805 members, participated in an AVVA information booth where we handed out our pamphlets and suicide prevention materials with the new 988 support number on them. Adjacent to us was the Oregon Traveling Memorial Wall where many stop to remember family and friends who gave the ultimate price for our nation. I personally enjoyed every veteran that I was privileged to meet and had the opportunity to listen to their stories from their experiences in Vietnam. Though the weather was hot and it lasted for 4 days, everyone that stopped by our booth was either a veteran, a spouse or a family member that needed to be heard and in some cases directed to our local VSO.

Finally, the trip to Washington State, Chapter 165, is now rescheduled for September where we will present their Charter and Flag along with a requested short power point presentation on AVVA and our programs. Now more than ever it is important for AVVA to share with other states and chapters all that we do to support our veterans and their families.

Jennifer Ellis
Region 8 Director