

# ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

## May – August Region 6 Report

Barbara Coan, AVVA Region 6 Director

May 2024: Attended Chapter 1056 Poplar Bluff and presented their Charter and Flag. They are now incorporated. There were at least 100 members present with a luncheon served prior to the meeting. The following are the new officers:

Jeanette Cox - President  
Jeanette Dismuke - Vice President  
Nina Braden - Secretary  
Kay Sneathern – Treasurer

Pictures are attached. They are doing a fantastic job and each month adding new members. This Chapter is on fire and is a great example to be followed. It was a pleasure to go and meet them all and be a part of this great day.

I also sent out reminders to all State Council Presidents in my region reminded them elections will be held for State Representatives in June. I already sent in the At-Large Election Results in February.

I also attended VVA Chapter 1014 Lebanon meeting.

June 2024: Attended the Missouri State Council Meeting. AVVA held elections only two members were present. Jeanette Dismuke, Vice President of AVVA Chapter 1056 Inc. came this was her first meeting. I was the only one running for Missouri State Representative by acclamation. Jeanette Dismuke then swore me in after the meeting. We had a luncheon that day with all the VVA Chapters in Missouri.

Missouri and Wisconsin were the only States to turn in their election results. They should be posted on the avva.org website.

I also attended VVA Chapter 1014 Lebanon meeting.

July 2024: Attended the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Marshfield, MO it is the longest running parade west of the Mississippi.

I also attended VVA Chapter 1014 Lebanon meeting.

August 2024: Preparing for Leadership Conference to be held in Reno, Nevada Planning for a Military Retirement Fair to be held at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri September 14, 2024. I have ordered and received PaperSafe for this event and will be getting more information when I attend the Leadership Conference. We plan on setting up a membership table and the goal is to get members joining. This event is yearly and there are between 300-500 attendees. I also attended VVA Chapter 1014 Lebanon meeting.









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## New Vietnam veterans organization welcomed



Members of the new Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America group are recognized Thursday at United Methodist Church in Poplar Bluff.

By JONATHAN DAME  
Staff Writer

"I don't want to say anything to real anyone's transfer, so I'll keep my remarks short," the Missouri State Council president for the Vietnam Veterans of America Charles Stapleton said. "But this is a big deal, I mean...it's really a big deal."

Stapleton was speaking about the fact that of Thursday afternoon's VVA meeting, the first Missouri chapter of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America was officially installed.

The local VVA group is Chapter 1056, and the chapter President Larry Kimbrow said he is excited and proud to see the new chapter of associates added.

"There is no other chapter in the entire state of Missouri that has one," Kimbrow noted. "We are the first ones."

Kay Searles, treasurer of the AVVA, publicly credited AVVA President Jeanette Cox with "working endless hours to help make this possible."

Barbara Coats, the national director of the AVVA, wore in all officers of the new chapter and presented them with their

own flag to be put on display with the VVA flag. It was later explained that other locations in the state have various members of the AVVA, but there are no other chartered groups.

"Of all the VVA chapters in the state, I can honestly say I haven't seen another one as well attended as this one here in Poplar Bluff," Stapleton told the crowd. "It's a testament to everyone's dedication, and I hope this will help open the door for other chapters to notice and walk through by doing the same thing."

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## OVERAGES IN TRAIL PROJECT Fireworks set for Juneteenth

By JOE McDRAW  
Staff Writer

The Poplar Bluff City Council approved a request for the discharge of fireworks inside city limits for the June 15 Juneteenth celebration during its session on Monday.

The council also discussed an upcoming food drive, overages related to a trail project and other business.

Resident Nicki Johnson explained this is the eighth year of Juneteenth celebrations in Poplar Bluff.

This year will have events for children and a basketball tournament.

"It gets larger and larger," Johnson said and hopes to have fireworks again for the festivities.

City Manager Matt Winters clarified Johnson has been coordinating with Poplar Bluff Fire Department Chief Mike Moffitt to ensure

proper fire safety. The fireworks will be discharged at Bacon Memorial Park.

Council member Smith added, "We've done this every year...and we've not had any problems."


The council approved the motion unanimously.

### Saturday food drive

Mayor Shane Corman also presented a proclamation to the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1016 for their upcoming Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Dry on Saturday. Corman encouraged residents to place a bag of non-perishable food items in their mailboxes Saturday.


Mail carriers will pick up the items and help stock the shelves of food banks around.

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## THE LONG JOURNEY

Area native shares story of tragedy, triumph



**Jenkins will speak Saturday at Poplar Bluff Library**

By SAMANTHA TUCKER  
Assistant Editor

Bestselling author Barbara Jenkins is returning to Poplar Bluff in more ways than one.

Physically, she's coming home for an author event on Saturday at the Poplar Bluff Municipal Library.

At the same time, her memoirs...



