



AVVA

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Serving Veterans & Their Families Since 1999

AVVA REGION 9 REPORT – July 2023
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I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the AVVA National BOD. The BOD survived my many faux pas during the last two years. 😊

LOTS OF ADVENTURE IN THE REGION

EXCITING NEWS, The Organization ‘Cut On The Action’ is producing a documentary portraying AVVA President Cang Dong, President of San Jose Chapter 201! The documentary of AVVA President Cang Dong’s life as a *Former Special Forces Ranger of the Armed Forces, Republic of Vietnam*. President Cang Dong was one of the good guys working with the United States Vietnam Soldiers. Moreover, President Cang Dong was captured by the North Vietnamese and held as a POW for ten-years!! I do not have many details regarding President Cang Dong’s biography; however, more details will be forthcoming in the next report.



Family is surrounding President Cang Dong who is wearing the AVVA hat.

President Cang Dong’s documentary will be captured and designed by ‘Cut On The Action.’ With 34 years of experience, Matthew Verkler, President & Chief

Storyteller of *'Cut on The Action,'* is designing the documentary of AVVA President Cang Dong's life in Vietnam from pre-production, production and to post-production. *'Cut On The Action'* also has an airmobile production package and films worldwide. *'Cut On The Action'* is headquartered in the San Francisco Bay Area, with production partners in LA, New York, San Diego, and Kansas City.

CA STATE COUNCIL MEETING AVVA AND VVA met in Visalia June 9th-11th. AVVA members Margie Young, Kelly Frederickson and Michelle Mackey donated drawing gifts and managed the Product Table. Approximately, \$500 was raised for AVVA CA.

One of the exciting events experienced during the CA State Council Meeting was Ken Holybee speaking at the Sunday AVVA/VVA meeting that AVVA Project Friendship is Partnering with the *'National Birth Defect Registry'* for the VVA/AVVA Orlando Convention. Due to the sharing of this information, VVA CA State Council voted to donate \$4200 to this invaluable project and CA AVVA/VVA individual Chapters are continuing to donate separately. AVVA CA State Council donated \$250 to the *'National Birth Defect Registry'*.

Subsequently, I sent out the email depicted below to Region 9 regarding AVVA Project Friendship Partnering with the *'National Birth Defect Registry'*.

Dear Region 9,

"The soldiers are dying. But, even more tragic...the children they have left behind are suffering. Since 1991, Birth Defect Research for Children has recorded thousands of cases like these reported by Vietnam Veterans in the

National Birth Defect Registry."

Please consider donating to the AVVA Project Friendship 2023, *'National Birth Defect Registry'*. The National Birth Defect Registry is the **best Project Friendship** to date. "The Birth Defect Registry has been the only organization collecting research data and advocating for veterans who have children with disabilities linked to exposure to Agent Orange or chemicals in the Gulf. The children of Vietnam Veterans have shown consistent increases in learning, attention, and behavioral disorders; all types of skin disorders; problems with tooth development; allergic conditions and asthma, just to name few. Associations between Agent Orange and other dioxin-contaminated herbicides and structural birth defects like spina bifida, oral clefts, heart defects and hypospadias may be just the "tip of the iceberg."

<http://www.birthdefects.org/agent-orange>

Like many Vietnam Veteran families, my husband Butch has personally experienced birth defects for three of his children. Butch was never able to see

his children grow up. All three of his biological children were *deformed and stillborn* due to the continuing effects of *agent orange*. “*In a study by Field and Kerr with the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Sydney (Journal of Medical Genetics 1988), the authors reported patterns of malformations among Vietnam veterans’ children involving the central nervous system, skeletal and cardiovascular systems.*”

How AVVA selects Friendship Project:

Under AVVA National Programs, Policy, and Procedures, you will find Project Friendship.

§ 8 3 Revised: 04-21-2022 F. PROJECT FRIENDSHIP 1. Each year, when AVVA meets, either for its National Convention or Leadership Conference, members come together to assist another non-profit organization. 2. It is common for Project Friendship to benefit a charity in the local area of the meeting, or as geographically close as can be located, that works either with Veterans, homeless Veterans, wounded Veterans, or those who have lost a loved one in service to America. 3. AVVA feels it is essential that, as a non-profit organization, we reach out to help other organizations whose mission touches on the Mission and Purpose of AVVA. 4. Project Friendship is announced annually and is the choice of the National President with the approval of the National Board.

AVVA Convention members meet in Orlando, Florida in August 2023. Hence, by choice of the National President and the approval of the National Board, ‘*National Birth Defect Registry*’ is a 501c3 non-profit organization that collects research data and advocates for veterans who have children with disabilities linked to exposure to Agent Orange or chemicals in the Gulf.

Vietnam veterans who would like to add information about their children’s birth defects or disabilities to the ‘*National Birth Defect Registry*’ sponsored by *Birth Defect Research for Children* can register online at www.birthdefects.org.

Again, please consider donating to this potentially lifesaving Project. Make your check payable to: AVVA with “*Project Friendship*” noted on your contribution.

Mail to: AVVA National Office 8719 Colesville Rd • Silver Spring • MD • 20910.

Or bring your donation with you to the National Convention in Orlando, FL. The total donation will be announced during the *Closing Ceremony of the Convention*.

VVA/AVVA REGION 8 AND 9 MEETING - RENO, JUNE 28TH.

REGION 8 & 9 CONFERENCE – RENO

Jennifer Ellis – Region 8

Kelly Frederickson – Region 9

Meeting: 1:30 – 4:00

TOPICS OF INTEREST

I. AVVA Orlando Convention *Commercial* – Kelly

a. Banquet

b. Housekeeping

- i. Make your travel arrangements.**
- ii. Hotel Reservations.**
- iii. Register for Convention.**
- iv. Birth Registry – Project Friendship**

II. HEARTBREAK TO HOPE – Jennifer

a. Power point

III. TAKING AVVA TO THE NATION – Kelly

a. Call to action letter.

- i. Handout**
- ii. Review**

b. More details video

c. Dropbox Receiver

- i. Do not need Dropbox to send videos, etc.**

IV. FUNDRAISING IDEAS

a. Welcome Home – Jennifer

- i. BBQ for Vietnam Veterans – cookoff.**
- ii. Banquet/Auction where tickets are sold and funds go to the VVA**
- iii. Potlucks monthly VVA meetings.**
- iv. 50/50 fun.**

b. Fundraising for AVVA – bringing funds to AVVA - Kelly

- i. Scratchers – everyone donates a scratcher.**

ii. Selling donations from surrounding businesses.

- 1. Guns**
- 2. Quilts**
- 3. Baskets**
- 4. Christmas Trees**

