Celebrate Veterans Group

Where Service Meets Community and Every Neighbor has a Story

NEWS & EVENTS

The President's Message

Celebrating Our Veterans, Strengthening Our Community

Happy Birthday, America! You don't look a day over 100! And what better place to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary than in a community named Celebrate?

Our Fourth of July celebration was a memorable day filled with patriotism, community spirit, and gratitude. The festivities began with a wonderful Independence Day parade organized by Sara Lee Caligiuri, featuring community clubs, local officials, first responders, and, of course, the Celebrate Veterans Group (CVG) Color Guard. Following the parade, CVG hosted a patriotic ceremony honoring our nation's independence before firing up the grills to serve more than 450 hamburgers and hot dogs—enough to feed a small battalion!

It was a wonderful celebration, but it also reminded us of something important: the freedom we celebrate came at a price, paid by generations of American veterans. As we commemorate 250 years of independence, we must never forget the men and women who served, sacrificed, and defended the ideals upon which our nation was founded.

The President's Message continued page 2

Featured Stories

CVG Pasta Dinner 2026-Page 6 & 7
Battle of the Branches-Page 8-12
Dedicated Display Cabinet-Page 16

The President's Message continued

That spirit of gratitude continues throughout the year at CVG. From our breakfast gatherings and Memorial Day services to the Battle of the Branches golf tournament, Pasta Dinner, and community movie events, we continue to bring residents together while supporting veterans and their families. The Air Force claimed bragging rights at this year's Battle of the Branches, and we extend a special thank-you to Dennis, Brad, and all the volunteers who helped make the tournament a success.

As we look toward the end of the year, CVG remains strong, but we must also look to the future. Our organization continues to evolve, and sustaining our programs and events will require more residents to get involved. We are actively seeking volunteers for a variety of roles, including a Golf Tournament Director. Whether you can contribute a few hours or take on a larger responsibility, your time and talents can make a real difference.

We also welcome your ideas for new events, ways to serve our veterans, and opportunities to strengthen the bonds within our community. CVG is not simply about fundraising or putting on events. It is about honoring those who served, supporting those who continue to serve, remembering their families, and building a community grounded in patriotism, friendship, and shared purpose.

Our veterans gave of themselves to preserve our freedoms. We honor their legacy by continuing to serve, remember, and stand together.

Thank you for your continued support of Celebrate Veterans Group. Together, we can build on our strong foundation and ensure that CVG remains a vibrant part of the Celebrate community for years to come.

Stephen Roberts

President, Celebrate Veterans Group, Inc. (CVG)

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VA Liaison: Here to Help

The VA Liaison acts as a vital bridge between veterans, their families, and the many branches of the Department of Veterans Affairs-including the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration. The liaison helps veterans understand, access, and navigate the benefits, services, and resources they have earned through their service. In addition to offering support and advocacy, the liaison educates veterans about VA policies and procedures helping to p[revent or resolve potential issues befeore they become roadblocks. In short, the liaison is a key resource in navigating the often complex VA system. while the VA offers excellent services and benefits, the process of accessing them can sometime be overwhelming and frustrating.

If you need assistance, contact Jim Delgado at (703) 609-8395 or by email at jkadelq@yahoo.com

The Chaplain's Corner

Dr. Fred Soto, CVG Chaplain

Service is the rent you pay for room on this earth.

~Shirley Chisholm

None of us could have reached this day entirely on our own. Each of us can look back at moments in our lives when we've been helped or encouraged by another person. Perhaps a family member, teacher, sponsor, or friend may have offered us mentoring or unconditional love. The words or example of a stranger, a public figure, an artist, or a writer may have afforded us inspiration at just the moment when we needed encouragement.

We can do no less for others as we continue on our journeys. We do not have to take responsibility for others' lives, nor should we disregard our own needs. But there are many ways we can make a difference, each according to our preference. We can offer time and talent to our community, veterans programs or a neighbor. We can share our experience, strength, and hope with someone who needs encouragement. Tip: *Demonstrate your gratitude by serving others.*

CVG Event

Volunteer Luncheon Sponsored by Mission BBQ

Over the years, the CVG has been supported by countless volunteers who contributed thousands of hours in support of our mission dedicated to supporting our veterans. This year, we were able to provide a luncheon in their honor. We can never say thank you enough, and the CVG is grateful for you— our volunteers.

4th of July Barbecue

Hot Hot Hot Dogs and Hamburgers!

The Fourth of July Cookout is one of Celebrate's premier events, and this year was no exception! While the parade traveled through the streets of Celebrate on a very HOT day, our Grill Team and Kitchen Staff were hard at work preparing to serve more than 450 residents. With plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers, and patriotic spirit, it was a wonderful way for our community to come together and celebrate America's birthday.

This year was especially meaningful as our nation marked its 250th anniversary of independence—250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of our nation. It was a milestone worth celebrating, reminding us of the enduring ideals of liberty and the sacrifices made to preserve them.

But as we celebrated with family, friends, food, and festivities, we must also remember that freedom is never free. Throughout our nation's history, generations of brave men and women have answered the call to serve, putting their lives on the line to defend the freedoms we enjoy today. Many returned home carrying the physical and emotional scars of their service, while others made the ultimate sacrifice.

That is why Celebrate Veterans Group (CVG) is here—not only to honor our veterans on special occasions, but also to ensure their service, sacrifices, and contributions are never forgotten. As we celebrate 250 years of American independence, let us remember the men and women who helped preserve it. Our freedom is their legacy, and honoring them is our responsibility.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, cooked, organized, marched, and participated in making this year's celebration such a success. Together, we celebrated not only America's birthday, but also the community spirit and patriotism that make Celebrate such a special place to call home.

Happy 250th Birthday, America—and thank you to all who have served to keep her free!

CVG 2026 Pasta Dinner

CVG Pasta Dinner a Success!

The CVG Pasta Dinner was a tremendous success this year, thanks in part to our Communications Director, Tony Marco, and his secret sauce recipe! As many of you know, it takes a lot of "chefs" in the kitchen to make an event like this happen, and our Kitchen Team, led by Cindi Diaz and Mickey Newman, served up a delicious meal for more than 150 people. You all rock!

Of course, a successful event takes more than great food. We also owe a big thank-you to our setup and cleanup crews, who generously donated their time to ensure everything ran smoothly. And let's not forget the dedicated volunteers who knocked on countless doors to solicit support from local businesses, as well as everyone who contributed items for our silent auction and raffle prizes. Your efforts helped make this event possible!

We were also pleased to welcome Tobin Teruya from Just4Veterans, our Partner Sponsor. We appreciate their support and their commitment to serving our veteran community.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talents, and generosity. It's the teamwork and community spirit of our volunteers and supporters that make CVG events such a success!

CVG 2026 Pasta Dinner

Battle of the Branches 2026

On a sunny Sep 9, ninety-two golfers met at the Gauntlet Golf Course to compete in the Celebrate Veterans Group (CVG) Battle of the Branches Golf Tournament to win the coveted Battle of the Branches Trophy. It was an extremely close match, but when the dust settled the Air Force successfully defended their 2025 championship, but only by squeaking out a 2 stroke lead over the second place team.

Battle of the Branches 2026

The first place team of Jim Delgado, Brad Gibson, Pat Hudson, and Tom Avellina turned in a blistering 14 under par score. One stroke back at 13 under par was the team of Jeff Anderson, Mike Hammon, Bob Kiernan, and Bill Wright. And we had a 4-way tie for 3rd place at 10 under par. We had several other winners for the men's and lady's longest drives, the men's and lady's closest to the pin, the putting contest, the challenge hole, the B and C flight winners and runners-up, the 50/50 and the winners of the 32 door prizes.

Battle of the Branches 2026

A huge Thank You goes out to the 44 Celebrate volunteers who made this tournament possible. Without their enthusiastic support we could not put on this tournament. We received several compliments from the golfers as well as the course management about the fantastic job they did. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Battle of the Branches 2026

We also want to give an enthusiastic shout out to our partner sponsors, The Blue Star Mothers of Fredericksburg Chapter 4, and the Just4Veterans organization as well as the other 48 sponsors who supported this fundraiser. Again this year, Mission BBQ of Garrisonville treated everyone to a delicious BBQ lunch, and Black Rifle Coffee Company served complimentary coffee during registration to give everyone an added boost before the teams teed off.

Battle of the Branches 2026

However, the biggest winners of our tournament are the Fisher House, the Purple Heart Homes, the Veterans Fishing Adventure, and the other veteran based organizations the Celebrate Veterans Group supports. The tournament raised over $24,000 of which 100% will be donated to the CVG's charities.

CVG
CELEBRATE VETERANS GROUP
HONOR ★ SUPPORT ★ SERVE

Veterans. Community. Together.

STEP UP. SERVE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Celebrate Veterans Group

Our mission continues because members of our community are willing to step forward and serve.

LEADERSHIP

Help shape the future of CVG.

- ★ Board and committee leadership
- ★ Program development
- ★ Community partnerships
- ★ Fundraising and sponsorship

OPERATIONS & EVENTS

Help make CVG events happen.

- ★ Event setup & breakdown
- ★ Hospitality and registration
- ★ Communications
- ★ Food service
- ★ Memorial Day / Veterans Day activities
- ★ General event support

BATTLE OF THE BRANCHES

Tournament Leadership Team

We're looking for volunteers to help lead and coordinate CVG's premier golf fundraiser.

- ★ Tournament Director / Co-Director
- ★ Sponsorships
- ★ Golfer registration
- ★ Volunteers
- ★ Course logistics
- ★ Prizes & awards
- ★ Day-of-event coordination

I'D LIKE TO HELP!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I'm interested in:

- ☐ Leadership
- ☐ Operations & Events
- ☐ Battle of the Branches
- ☐ Fundraising / Sponsorship
- ☐ General Volunteer Opportunities

Something I'd especially like to help with:

_____

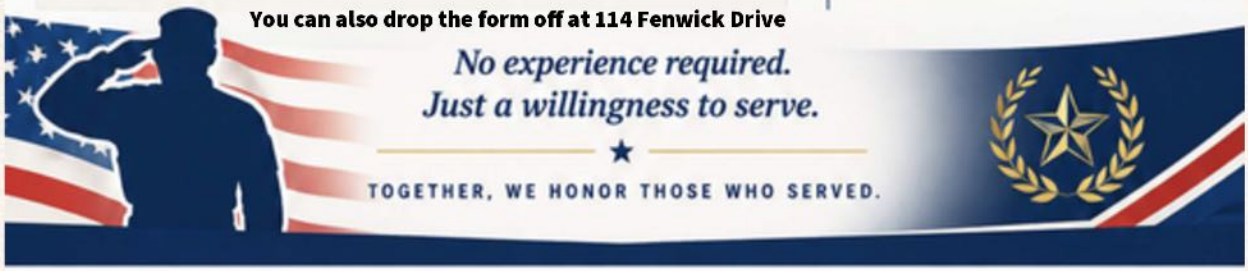
_____

Best way to contact me: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Either

SCAN THE QR CODE
to visit our Contact Us page and let us know how you'd like to get involved!

www.celebrateveterans.org/contact-us

You can also drop the form off at 114 Fenwick Drive



Interested in Making a Charitable Donation to CVG?

Making a donation to CVG? It's now easier than ever. As part of our ongoing effort to provide online capability through our website, we have added the capability to donate online. CVG now offers 4 easy ways to make donations, 1) you can simply mail your donation to CVG or 2) or you can deposit your donation in the CVG box at the lodge or 3) you can make you donation conveniently online at our website, www.celebrateveterans.org/donations or 4) you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) as part of your annual RMD distribution.

When submitting your donation either by check or online, please make sure to indicate if you would like a receipt. More details, including where to mail your donation or how to make a QCD are available at the website, www.celebrateveterans.org / donations.

Sponsor's Page

SILVER COMPANIES®

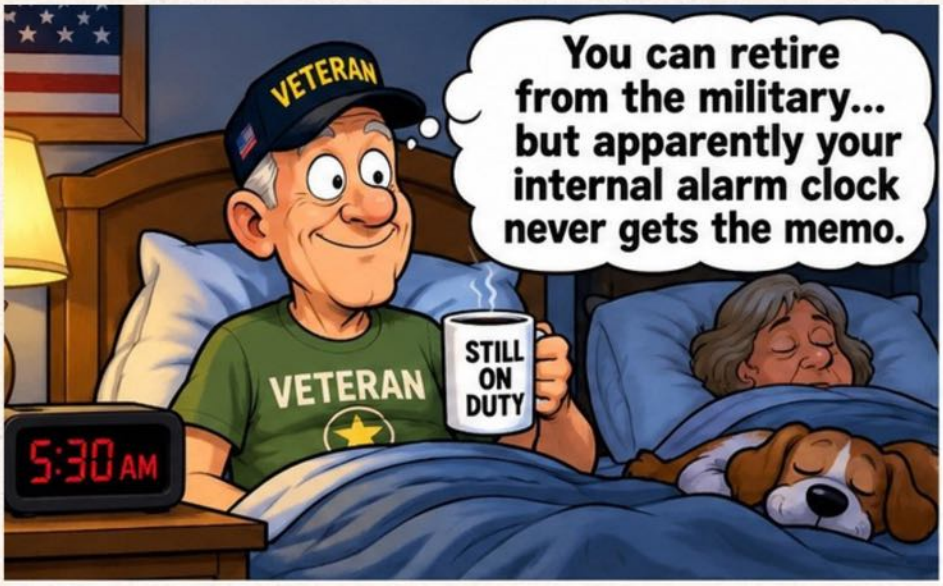
JUST 4 VETERANS
J4V
Disability Benefits Educational Service

BLUE STAR MOTHERS
FREDERICKSBURG CHAPTER VA4

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
Fredericksburg VA4

MISSION BBQ®
The American Way.

VETERANSALIFE



CVG's Request for Dedicated Display Cabinet and Area

CVG strongly feels the need to have a dedicated area to display our military service to our community and our ongoing activity in support of the Veteran community in Stafford County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Evolution of continued requirement for display space:

- The CVG required space for Color Guard flags and displays
- The Lodge's northern entrance showcases the flags
- A display case in the Lodge was originally designated for CVG to showcase military artifacts
- CVG complied with the request to temporarily remove display items from the Lodge space
- The BOD updated their policy, and the CVG with their 501(c)(3) status was then prohibited from using the Lodge display space

The CVG Criteria for a Free-Standing Cabinet Includes:

- 20"x 40"x 84" footprint along the north wall of the foyer flag area **(outlined in green)**
- Solid wood construction for free-standing stability **(wood sample provided)**
- Solid wood cabinet with locked doors and drawers
- Two drawers, one locking/one for disposals **(20-30 disposed of per month)**
- Four/ five adjustable tempered interior glass shelves
- Interior overhead light fixtures for illumination **(need power source)**
- The interior fire alarm is visible on the Lodge's front wall **(confirmed and verbally approved by Stafford Fire Marshal)**

OUR IMPACT

★ 2015–2025 ★

Celebrate Veterans Group (CVG) is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting veterans, military families, and veteran-focused charities through community events, fundraising, and service projects.

$172,451 DONATED SINCE 2015

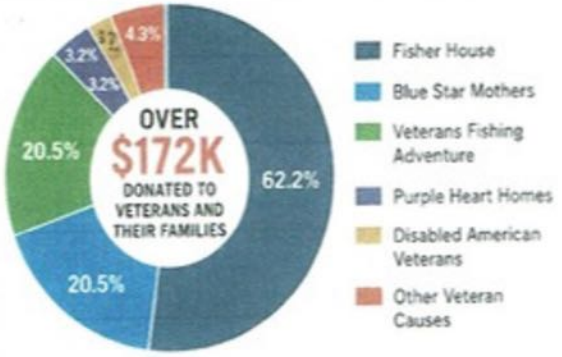
11 YEARS OF SERVICE

350+ VOLUNTEERS

2,500+ COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

DONATIONS DISTRIBUTED (2015–2025)

Blue Star Mothers	$35,400
Fisher House	$107,250
Veterans Fishing Adventure	$35,346
Purple Heart Homes	$5,500
Disabled American Veterans	$1,536
Other Veteran Causes	$7,419
TOTAL DONATIONS	$172,451



ANNUAL DONATIONS

DONATION HISTORY (2015–2025)

YEAR	TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	ANNUAL DONATIONS	CUMULATIVE DONATIONS
2015	$6,112	$4,759	$1,174	$1,174
2016	$9,712	$8,962	$1,546	$2,720
2017	$15,251	$14,127	$4,346	$7,066
2018	$19,942	$19,881	$8,466	$15,532
2019	$34,556	$34,304	$20,188	$35,720
2020	$19,262	$9,558	$4,300	$40,020
2021	$35,546	$42,457	$28,458	$68,478
2022	$46,388	$38,621	$21,205	$89,683
2023	$57,280	$55,969	$27,087	$116,770
2024	$37,469	$43,017	$25,681	$142,451
2025	$52,548.11	$47,983.56	$30,000	$172,451
2026	–	–	–	–

★ MAKING A DIFFERENCE ★

Through events such as the Battle of the Branches Golf Tournament, Memorial Day Ceremony, Fourth of July Picnic, Pancake Breakfasts, Pasta Dinners, and community fundraisers, CVG continues to provide meaningful support to organizations serving veterans and military families.

EVERY DOLLAR RAISED STAYS FOCUSED ON **HONORING SERVICE, SUPPORTING VETERANS,** AND STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO THOSE WHO HAVE WORN THE UNIFORM.

★ ★ ★ THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS! ★ ★ ★

Remembering Our Brothers

Captain Alva R. Windham

United States Marine Corp.

PFC Lauro (Larry) Romero

United States Army-CVG Photographer

Meet The Team

Steve Roberts
President

Angelo Valle
Vice President - Operations

Tony Marco
Communications Director

Craig Witt
Treasurer

Jim Delgado
VA Affairs

Walt Egee
Secretary

Fred Soto
Chaplain

Anita Marco
Member at Large

Stay In Touch with the CVG by Visiting All Our Social Media Platforms & Website

- Website:www.celebrateveterans.org
- youtube@CelebrateVeteransGroup-c7B
- https://www.facebook.com/CVGveteransgroup.org/
- https://x.com/veterans98631
- instagram.com/cvgvetsgroup/
- pinterest.com/celebrateveterans/

Celebrate Veterans: Fall Newsletter is publication of the Celebrate by Del Webb, VA Veterans Group. Published Quarterly, electronically and hard copy print. Join or support our group by going to www.celebrateveterans.org

You do not need to be a Veteran to join or be involved.

Staff: Steve Roberts, President, Tony Marco, Editor in Chief/Marketing Director and Communications Director, Photography, Gordon Robertson.

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Have an idea for an article? Contact Tony Marco at email:

celebrateveterans@proton.me

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Latest U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs News Updates

The VA is currently focused on disaster response, expanded healthcare access, new benefit programs, and suicide prevention initiatives. VA News and Information+1

Key Recent Announcements

- **Hurricane Isaias Response** – The VA has activated a **national response** to protect Veterans and families in the Gulf Coast area as Hurricane Isaias strengthens and is forecast to make landfall late tonight or early Saturday VA News and Information.
- **Lower Loan Rates** – The VA reduced the **Native American Direct Loan interest rate** to **2.47%** as of Oct. 1, 2026, making homeownership on tribal lands more affordable for Veterans VA News and Information.
- **2026 Veterans Benefits Guide** – The new **VA Federal Benefits Guide** for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers is now available online VA News and Information.
- **National Dental Network** – VA awarded **Optum Serve** a **10-year, up to $30 billion contract** to manage a single, broad national community dental network for Veterans, including general and specialty care VA News and Information.
- **Suicide Prevention Grants** – FY27 grants have been awarded under the **Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program** to strengthen community support for Veterans nationwide VA News and Information.

Here is the Link for More Information on these Topics:

https://news.va.gov

Celebrate Veterans Group

March, 2026
Volume 2, Issue 1

The President's Column

By Stephen Roberts

Welcome to the first CVG Newsletter of the year! Unlike our regular Bulletins, the Newsletter offers us a chance to reflect more deeply on past events, share the stories behind them, and preview what's ahead. In this issue, you'll find not only my column but also thoughtful contributions from our chaplain, our VA liaison, and several compelling member stories which is the inspiration for our new name of the Newsletter. ***Celebrate Veterans: Life on the Homefront.***

Where service meets community, and every neighbor has a story.

If you've read the President's Corner in The Bulletin you know it's been a busy year—from our Pancake Breakfast to Memorial Day, with much more still to come. Looking ahead, we're gearing up for the 4th of July Weekend and our upcoming July meeting. This year's meeting will feature guest speakers and will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Many of you served during that time, and I strongly encourage you to attend as we honor your service and reflect on that pivotal chapter in our history.

I'd also like to take a moment to extend special thanks to Bill Cox for his outstanding work on our website. His efforts have brought us firmly into the digital age. When we launched the Pasta Dinner page and enabled online payments, I was thrilled—especially since some doubted it could happen so quickly. Kudos to Bill for his innovation and for stepping into his new role as CVG's Communications Director.

As we look to the future of the CVG, I want to acknowledge Dennis Teats, who will be stepping down as Treasurer. Dennis has contributed immeasurably to this organization, and we are deeply grateful for his service. Thankfully, he's not going far and will remain actively involved. We also welcome Craig Witt who will move into the role in the near future. Craig brings valuable experience and energy, and I look forward to working with him on the Executive Committee.

My vision for the CVG is that we continue to make a meaningful impact—not only in our neighborhood but also in the broader community. That's already happening: we're increasingly being asked for input on veterans' issues at various levels. Let's not forget that the CVG began with Don Cook and a handful of dedicated veterans who wanted to raise money for veteran causes. We owe Don a lasting debt of gratitude for his leadership and his commitment to making a difference in Celebrate.

You may be wondering how you can make a difference. It's simple: if you know a veteran who isn't part of the CVG, invite them to join. If you'd like to lend a hand, volunteer at an event. If you have ideas or suggestions, we want to hear them. Together, we can continue to grow, serve, and honor our mission.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

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In short, the liaison is a key resource in navigating the often complex VA system. While the VA offers excellent services and benefits, the process of accessing them can sometimes be overwhelming and frustrating.

If you need assistance, contact Jim Delgado at (703) 609-8395 or by email at jkadelg@yahoo.com.

U.S. A

Washington, D.C. – June 14, 2025

The United States Army is marking its 250th birthday this year, honoring two and a half centuries of service, sacrifice, and strength. Established on June 14, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress, the Army–originally the Continental Army–predates the nation itself, playing a pivotal role in securing American independence and defending the country ever since.

As the nation approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, the Army's celebration serves as a prelude, honoring the soldiers who have defended freedom and inspired generations. Happy Birthday Army!

Anger Skipper 5 Mike: Honoring a Vietnam Veteran Among Us

By Larry Williams

In 1975, South Vietnam surrendered to North Vietnam, ending a long and painful chapter in world history. Fifty years later, the United States and Vietnam are now trading partners, and for many, the past seems like a distant memory. Yet for the veterans who served, the memories remain vivid—etched in their minds more deeply than a wedding anniversary date.

One such veteran is Sergeant (SGT) Larry Hamilton, known by his call sign: Anger Skipper 5 Mike Larry and his wife Barbara moved to Celebrate four years ago and now reside in the Final Frontier section of Celebrate.

A rifleman in the U.S. Army, SGT Hamilton was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism during intense combat on August 14, 1969 and a Purple Heart. Ask Larry about it, and he'll tell you it was just another day on the job. But we know it was far more than that.

This is the heart of the story—and the purpose of this article. We want to hear your stories.

Let us never forget the men and women who served in Vietnam, those who came home changed forever, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Going forward, the ***CVG Newsletter*** will highlight a veteran each issue—not just to honor them, but to bring our community closer by sharing the lives and service of our neighbors.

If you or someone you know has a story to tell, we want to hear it. Please reach out to us at ***celebrateveterans2025@gmail.com***.

Let's remember. Let's honor. Let's share.

A Call to Camaraderie

By Fred Soto, Chaplain

The word camaraderie signifies a spirit of goodwill and trust among people closely associated in a shared activity or endeavor. CVG fosters camaraderie based upon military commonality.

Connecting with other veterans can help build a sense of belonging and community, which is crucial for overall well-being.

And when you get into a group of veterans, everybody has something in common. We can relate to one another.

For example; No matter what branch of the military you were in, or where you served or were stationed at, you all share same basic experience:

You know that it's really hard to be away from home.

You were put someplace you probably didn't want to be, doing something unexpected you didn't exactly sign up for.

Vets can remember and share their stories and experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

This can foster mutual understandings, esprit de corps and yes.. healing

CVG provides opportunities for ***camaraderie, remembrance and connection.*** Events like Veterans Day, Memorial Day and July 4 benefit our community by bringing people together and promoting patriotism and service to others.

Join us. Hope to see at our next general meeting.

Interested in Making a Charitable Donation to CVG?

Making a donation to CVG? It's now easier than ever. As part of our ongoing effort to provide online capability through our website, we have added the capability to donate online. CVG now offers 4 easy ways to make donations, 1) you can simply mail your donation to CVG or 2) or you can deposit your donation in the CVG box at the lodge or 3) you can make you donation conveniently online at our website, www.celebrateveterans.org/donations or 4) you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) as part of your annual RMD distribution.

When submitting your donation either by check or online, please make sure to indicate if you would like a receipt. More details, including where to mail your donation or how to make a QCD are available at the website, www.celebrateveterans.org/donations.

Recap of the 2024 Battle of the Branches and Announcement for the 2025 Tournament

By Bill Wright

The 2024 Battle of the Branches Fundraising Golf Tournament was a great success, held on September 10 at The Gauntlet Golf Club. A total of 108 players competed in both individual and team categories, representing their service branches with pride and enthusiasm.

Congratulations to the ***Marine Corps***, who claimed victory as the top service branch! ***The individual winning foursome*** included Brad Gibson, Pat Hudson, Jim Delgado, and Tim Hoban—well played, gentlemen!

We're excited to announce that the 2025 Battle of the Branches will return to ***The Gauntlet Golf Club on September 10, 2025***. This year's event promises even more competition, camaraderie, and fun. Participants will compete for:

- ***Service Branch Champion***
- ***Flight Winners & Runners-Up*** (A, B, and C Flights)
- ***Longest Drive (Men's and Women's categories)***
- ***Closest to the Hole***
- ***Putting Contest and more!***

Expect a variety of ***prizes, raffles, and blind auction items***, plus our always-popular ***post-round luncheon***, once again catered by ***Mission BBQ***.

Registration details:

The registration form will be distributed to the Celebrate Community in ***July and August***. We're capping the field at 112 players, so register early to guarantee your spot! You may register as an ***individual*** (we'll pair you with a team), or as ***a team of four***.

Grab your clubs, sharpen your skills, and join us for another fantastic day of golf—all in support of great causes: ***The Fisher House in Richmond, the Blue Star Mothers, and the Veterans Fishing Adventure***.

For more information, reach out to:

Bill Wright – (405) 590-8700

Dennis Taets – (607) 426-8464

or www.celebrateveterans.org/bob-info

We can't wait to see you on the course!

The Military Woman's Memorial

The ***Military Women's Memorial*** in Arlington, Virginia was dedicated on October 18, 1997. The dedication was a historic event adding a major monument to our women who served. It was estimated that some 40,000 military women, past and present, along with their families and friends filled the street from the front of the Memorial almost reaching the traffic circle!

The Military Women's Memorial is where America says "thanks" to the nation's military women, past and present. It's where we honor America's patriots - mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, wives, ...our uniformed heroes of yesterday and today. For 27 years, centuries of women's service have been showcased here at the Military Women's Memorial. Most are ordinary women, many have done extraordinary things, but all are real people and models of courage, commitment, leadership, skill, and patriotism for the young people of today.

To learn more about the memorial or to register, please visit the site at:

Home - Military Women's Memorial (womensmemorial.org) and second:

Virginia's ***Women Veteran License Plate*** was launched in 2022 after the Virginia General Assembly unanimously approved it. The plate was designed by Virginia women veterans and unveiled at the Virginia War Memorial during Virginia Women Veterans Week. The plate is intended to educate, unify, and empower Virginia's women veterans. Virginia is the 18th state to have a license plate specifically for women veterans.

More details can be found@ https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles/license-plates/search/support-women-veterans

Pancake Breakfast and Pasta Dinner A Record-Breaking Success!

By Dennis Taets, Treasurer

We're thrilled to share that both the Pancake Breakfast and the Pasta Dinner saw record attendance it's clear that the CVG was truly missed!

The Pancake Breakfast brought in a profit of ***$1,375***, while the Pasta Dinner earned ***$1,550***. Additionally, the raffle and silent auction raised an impressive ***$2,025***.

So, how will these funds be used? Profits from the breakfast and dinner will go toward covering essential operating expenses such as insurance, filing fees, and office supplies. Proceeds from the silent auction will be donated directly to our supported charities.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these events—your participation and generosity make it all possible!

The El Jimador dinner was a tremendous success and we will be back again next year.

CVG Events for 2026

CVG has a full calendar of events planned for 2026 here at celebrate, so mark your calendars.

Some events have already passed, however there are plenty of events planned for the rest of the year, with July 4th approaching fast. In addition there may be more events added to the calendar for later in the year. Stay up to date with our events at https://celebrateveterans.org/upcomingevents or scan the QR Code at the bottom of this article.

CVG General Membership QuarterlyMeetings will be held onMondays in the RiversideLodge Ballroomfrom 2PM to 4PM onthefollowing: January 12,April20, July 20 and October19.

CVG Executive Committee Monthly Meetings will be held onTuesdays in the Lodge Yoga Room from 2PM to 4PM on the following dates:

Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 10, APR 14, May 12, Jun 16, Jul 14, Aug 11, Sept 15, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 15

CVG Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday March 14, in the Riverside Ballroom. Table set up is scheduled for Friday night the 13th from 8PM to 9PM. Kitchen is open to us from 6:30AM to 11:30AM. Serving will run from 8AM to 10AM.

A CVG Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for April 13 in the Riverside Lodge Ballroom, (this is an invitation only/RSVP event for "CVG event volunteers") to express our grateful appreciation for their selfless service and support of CVG. More info to follow.

Memorial Day Remembrance on Friday May 22 (co-hosted with Friday Cheers) in the Riverside Lodge Billiard/Bar Room from 5:30PM to 7:30PM.

Memorial Day Ceremony on May 25 in the **Riverside Lodge Ballroom from 9AM to 10AM.**

CVG July 4 BBQ ,in the Riverside Lodge Ballroom & Patio Area from 11:30AM to 2PM. Table set up will be on Friday night the 3 from 8PM t 9PM,and we have full access to the kitchen and outdoor grills from 6:30AM to 4:30PM on the 4th

CVG Pasta Dinner is scheduled for Thursday October 8, Table set up will be on Wednesday night the 7th from 8PM to 9PM, and we have full access to the kitchen on the 7 and 8 th.

Celebrate Veterans Quarterly Meetings:

- Volunteer Luncheon-April 15th
- General Meetings- April 20th
- General Meetings - July 20th
- General Meetings - October 19th

Meet The Team

Steve Roberts
President

Angelo Valle
Vice President - Operations

Tony Marco
Communications Director

Craig Witt
Treasurer

Jim Delgado
VA Affairs

Walt Egee
Secretary

Fred Soto
Chaplain

Theresa Leonetti
Member at Large

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Celebrate Veterans: Life on the Home Front is a publication of the Celebrate Veterans group. Published Quarterly, electronically only. Join or support our group by going to www.celebrateveterns.org. You do not need to be a Veteran to join or be involved.

Staff: Steve Roberts, Executive Editor, Bill Cox, Editor in Chief, Joel Rosenblatt, Official Trouble Maker.

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Have an idea for an article? Contact the Celebrate Veterans group at the above noted website.

July 4th BBQ!

Celebrate Independence Day with CVG, sign-up and pay here!

The Celebrate Veterans Group invites you to our 4th of July picnic, filled with great food, good company, and community spirit.

Enjoy a great meal and the chance to support our veterans. All proceeds will benefit programs and initiatives that support veterans and their families.

See below for details.

When: July 4th, 2026, lunch @ 11:30AM - 2:00PM
Where: The Riverside Lodge in the Ballroom
Who: Everyone in the Celebrate by Del Webb community is invited along with your guests.
Why: Fundraiser to support Veteran's Charities
What: We will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, salads(potato & coleslaw), cookies, water and condiments.

Cost: Adults - $8
Kids, ages 4-10, - $4
Kids 3 and under - FREE!

We ask that you sign-up and pay in advance so that we have an accurate headcount to make sure we have enough food for everyone that attends!

There are two convenient ways to signup and pay.

1) Sign up and pay conveniently online at www.celebrateveterans.org/july4th

Or

2) Sign up in the white binder and deposit your check in the receiving box located under the large clock opposite the fireplace at the Riverside Lodge. Please indicate your check number when you register in the binder.

This is one our most heavily attended events, however there is no limit to the number of attendees, but please don't hesitate to signup!

Deadline for sign-ups - June 30th, 2026