

10th Annual Operation ED-U-CATE Project 2016-2017 VVA Chapter 1069 - Bio & Photo Album/Booklet/CD Project

VVA chapter 1069 is one of the youngest chapters in the country, officially formed in 2012 with a current membership of 86. El Campo is a small rural farming and ranching community located in south Texas.

From the very beginning of our chapter's existence, we have tried various ideas for bringing the chapter membership closer together. Our main goal was to somehow have each member share their military/Vietnam experience with the rest of the membership. Another goal was to provide some detailed information about their Vietnam tour, so that it would be easier for the membership to discover similar Vietnam tour details, such as time in country, location, organization, etc. We also wanted the veteran to be able to share his/her military/Vietnam experience with their family members.

Recently we decided to try something new, so we started the "Bio & Photo Album/Booklet/CD" project. The idea was to collect (on a voluntary basis) from our membership, an abbreviated military & Vietnam War tour biography of each member, along with several Military/Vietnam tour photos. Each Bio would consist of two or more pages, the first page containing the basic military/Vietnam information along with a current photo. In addition, the veteran may provide a story describing their military/Vietnam experience. Finally, one or more pages containing their favorite military/Vietnam photos along with a brief caption for each photo.

One person in our chapter is responsible for collecting each member's Bio & Photo information and then creating the final bio package; (1) all pages of the member's Bio & Photos are put into a large Chapter Family Album, which is available for viewing at every chapter meeting. (2) A personal Bio & Photo booklet is created for the member to take home. The member can request as many booklets as the veteran requests. Also included in the booklet is a CD containing all the material and images that was used to create the Bio & Photo Album/Booklet which the veterans may later use to reproduce more copies of the booklet. This is free to our Veteran membership.

So far, this project has been very successful. At this point in time, we have 21 members who have participated, with others in the works. Another unintended benefit of this project is that recently two of our chapter members have died. Fortunately, they both had participated in this project, and so we were able to make copies of their Bio & Photo booklets and present them to family members at their funerals. The families were very much appreciative.

The personal Bio & Photo booklets have also been very popular with member's family members, such as brothers, sisters, children and grandchildren. And, as it turns out, in many cases, these booklets are the only references that family members have of that veteran's military/Vietnam experience and history. Photos also accompany this program essay.

VVA Chapter 1069
El Campo, Texas, P.O. Box 1075
Chapter Website: <http://www.vva1069.org>