

NEVER FORGET OUR VETERANS...

YES! I want to help veterans from Vietnam, Iraq and other wars recover from wartime service, and I want to help make sure America never forgets its veterans. Here's my gift to VVA:

\$xx \$xx \$xx Other _____

Name and Address

Name and Address

Name and Address

Name and Address



VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA
8605 Cameron St., Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910
www.vva.org

If my sons, Daniel and Steven, need help after their service in Iraq, it will be there for them with your help. Thank you for caring for all of America's veterans.



Please make your tax-deductible gift payable to Vietnam Veterans of America and mail it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Thank you! See reverse side to make your gift by credit card.



ALAN E. COOK

In Service to America

NATIONAL TREASURER

A rare moment when the whole family was together -- the photo I keep on my desk. (From the left, that's Daniel, me, my wife Cindy and Steven.)



Dear Mr. Sample,

For three generations, the men in my family have felt the duty to serve in our nation's armed forces right after high school, and for three generations, we answered that call during wartime.

We didn't really plan it that way, but serving in wartime has become a family tradition.

My two sons, Steven and Daniel are now in Iraq, and I go to bed every night and wake up every morning with a prayer that they are alive and safe. Some people think it must be easier to be the father of a soldier if you have served yourself. It isn't. I know firsthand how crazy and dangerous a war zone is, and how easy it is to lose your life or be permanently disabled. It scares me more for my sons than it did for me.

Now I know how my father must have felt when I shipped out for Vietnam. And how his father must have felt when he left for Korea.

As the one who represents the generation in the middle of this family tradition, I find myself in a unique position to understand and care about the motto of Vietnam Veterans of America: **"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another ..."**

And as the National Treasurer of VVA, I know, personally how much the support of friends like you helps us to keep our commitment to my fellow Vietnam veterans, and to all the new veterans from the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

I hope you'll renew your support for VVA by sending a generous gift of \$xx, \$xx, or even \$xx or more to help veterans who need benefit counseling, emergency assistance, and morale-boosting

(over, please)

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- Check made payable to VVA
- Visa Mastercard Discover
- American Express

Number
Exp. Date
Signature



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
 8605 Cameron St., Suite 400
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

www.vva.org

A copy of the current financial statement of Vietnam Veterans of America is available by writing VVA, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or by calling (301)585-4000.

Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

Registration Number with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services: SC-00658

The official registration and financial information of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

A copy of the license to solicit charitable contributions as a charitable organization or sponsor and financial information may be obtained from the department of human resources, solicitation licensing branch, by calling (919) 733-4510. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

This mailing represents an important way for VVA to raise necessary funds. If you now support VVA, thank you for your ongoing commitment.

activities. It also helps us work to make sure veterans - especially those from our most recent wars - are not forgotten in Washington.

I went to Vietnam in 1972 and was one of the last 5,000 American soldiers there. I was a jeep mechanic, and for the most part, wasn't too close to the worst of the fighting.

Maybe because I had a relatively easy time - apart, of course, from being 10,000 miles from home and in a war zone - I wanted to help the guys who weren't as lucky as me.

I went to college on the G.I. Bill and got a degree in Business Management. Then when I heard about Vietnam Veterans of America, I knew I had to get involved. A couple of other guys and I started a new chapter in Oakland, Calif. Over the past 20 years, we built it up into one of the most active chapters for Vietnam vets in the country.

Putting my business and financial skills to use I was elected Treasurer for the VVA California State Council and in 2003 I was elected National Treasurer for the entire organization. I am honored to have this responsibility.

I see, first hand, what VVA does for veterans. I know how much vets need and appreciate the camaraderie of fellow vets in their local VVA chapters. I know how much they need help to get the health, education, and housing benefits they deserve. This is especially true for vets who are disabled, or who are now suffering medical problems like diabetes that can be related to Agent Orange and other hazards of their service in Vietnam.



Every time I look at this photo of my eldest son Daniel, I see myself as a young soldier in Vietnam.

I also know what a constant battle it is to protect veterans' benefits from federal budget cuts.

Maybe it's because of all the Vietnam veterans I've known over the years that I worry so much about my sons. Of course, I worry about their safety in Iraq. But I also worry about how they'll fare after the war - even if they come home in one piece - like I did.

I know what they might need when they return home. I want to make certain help is there.

(continued on next page)

It is largely a result of VVA's efforts that trained counselors are in Iraq with the troops, preparing them for battle and helping them recover after what comes their way. This won't prevent problems like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that took such a huge toll on Vietnam veterans. But I do believe that thanks to the support of friends like you, we have made progress that will help our soldiers cope better and recover sooner.

These efforts are part of keeping that promise not to abandon the next generation of veterans.

We're helping the veterans who are coming home wounded or disabled get the medical care they need. We're also assisting Gulf War, Afghan War, and Iraq War veterans with benefits counseling and other essential services to help them rebuild their lives after wartime service.

And we're making sure that VA healthcare and other benefits aren't the victims of short-sighted budget cuts that forget the service of our new veterans, and neglect the sacrifices they continue to make even after they come home.



Daniel received the Army Commendation Medal with a "V" which is awarded for acts of valor during combat operations. He's a very brave young man.



This was a joyful day! We welcomed Daniel home at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky after his first tour in Iraq. He's now back in Iraq serving his second tour.

Nearly 200,000 American men and women have now served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Both my sons have seen significant combat. Daniel, my oldest, is on his second tour there. I'm enormously proud of them for volunteering, and serving so bravely.

But I hope and pray that America will never forget that they have put their lives on the line for our nation's war against terror. With your help, VVA will help them and stand up for them. We will make

(over, please)

sure their sacrifice is never forgotten.

I hope you will continue to support all veterans by sending a gift to VVA today. (I also hope you will say a short prayer for the safety of my sons.) Many thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

Alan E Cook

Alan E. Cook
National Treasurer

P.S. My sons enlisted because they wanted to serve their country. Sometimes my youngest worries, though, that no one really cares what he and his buddies do for America. His concern hit him especially hard recently, when he lost his closest friend to a roadside bomb. Because I know that people like you support VVA and America's veterans, I tell him he's wrong. People like you will always care about those who put on our nation's uniform and risk their lives. Thank you.



My youngest, Steven, is a radio operator. This was taken while his platoon was on patrol in Iraq. I know he's in danger everyday, but I'm so proud of his service to America.

*Thank you and
God bless you.*