

VVA Awards Banquet

John Rowan, who served a record eight terms (2005-2021) as Vietnam Veterans of America's National President, will receive the VVA Lifetime Achievement Award at the Saturday night Awards Banquet. Rowan—who was a linguist in the U.S. Air Force's 6990 Security Squadron in Vietnam and at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa in 1966-67—has been an active member of Vietnam Veterans of America since soon after the organization was founded in 1978. In addition to being National President for sixteen years, he served as the chair of VVA's Conference of State Council Presidents, on the VVA Board of Directors, and as president of the New York State Council.



Rowan began his veterans' advocacy in 1978 when he joined the Board of Directors of the Veterans Upgrade Center in Brooklyn, New York. In 1981 he helped found Chapter 32 in his hometown of Queens, New York. Rowan attended the first VVA National Convention in 1983 where he was elected to a seat on the first VVA Board of Directors. During his time as VVA president membership increased steadily and Rowan was a powerful voice for all Vietnam War veterans on the national, state, and local levels.

David Ferriero, the recently retired Archivist of the United States—the head of the National Archives—will receive the VVA Lifetime Achievement Award at the Saturday Night Awards Banquet. Before being appointed to lead the National Archives in 2009, Ferriero headed the academic libraries at the Massachusetts of Technology and Duke University and then became the director of the 91-branch New York (City) Public library system.



He was the first librarian to run National Archives, taking a job that today has facilities in 15 states and in Washington, D.C., including 13 presidential libraries and The National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, which, among other things, houses the records of millions military veterans' records.

David Ferriero, a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America, joined the U.S. Navy in 1967, and served a tour of duty as a corpsman in the Vietnam War in 1970 with the 1st Marine Division's 1st Medical Battalion in Da Nang and then on the hospital ship, the USS Sanctuary in Da Nang Harbor. "I am tremendously honored to be receiving the VVA Lifetime Achievement Award," he said, "and for this opportunity to accept it for all the people who never made it back."

Diane Carlson Evans, who led the hard-fought effort to build the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C., will receive the VVA Lifetime Achievement Award at the Saturday night Awards Banquet. She served a life-changing 1968-69 tour of duty as a nurse in the operating and recovery rooms at the U.S. Army's 36th Evacuation Hospital in Vung Tau and the 71st Evac in Pleiku.



In 1983, Diane Evans became a founding member of VVA Chapter 5 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and for many years was a forceful veterans advocate. That advocacy—and her personal experiences in the war and after coming home—led to the idea of a memorial at The Wall in Washington to honor the American women who served in the Vietnam War. The effort came to fruition in 1992 with the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. She continued to chair the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation until 2015.

Diane Carlson Evans will be signing copies of her new memoir, *Healing Wounds: A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10-Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C.*, on Saturday afternoon before the Awards Banquet.

Lowe's Companies, Inc. will receive the VVA President's Award for Supporting America's Veterans at the Saturday night Awards Banquet.



The home improvement company, which began in 1921 as a small-town hardware store in North Carolina, today employs more than 300,000 associates at nearly 2,200 stores in the U.S. and Canada. Lowe's will be honored for its longstanding support of veterans and active-duty military, including its military discount program and veteran-friendly employment practices.

In addition to providing an everyday 10 percent discount to active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their spouses, Lowe's works with military partners such as the USO, AMVETS, Building Homes for Heroes, and Purple Heart Homes to support affordable housing and workforce development for veterans.