



**IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

July 8, 2017

No. 17-24

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Pioneering PTSD Researcher Charles Figley to Deliver Keynote at VVA's 18th National Convention

(Washington, D.C.)—Dr. Charles Figley, a Vietnam veteran who has done pioneering work in recognizing and treating Post-traumatic Stress Disorder since the mid-1970s, will deliver the Keynote Speech at the August 9 Opening Ceremonies of Vietnam Veterans of America's 18th biennial National Convention at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown New Orleans.

"We expect Dr. Figley's Keynote to get the Convention off to a great start," said VVA National President John Rowan. "He is one of us—a former Marine who served in Vietnam—and there are few have done more to help Vietnam War veterans deal with PTSD. That's why Vietnam Veterans of America honored him last year with our Excellence in the Sciences Award."

After joining the Marines Corps out of high school, Charles Figley served in Vietnam as corporal. He holds MA and Ph.D. degrees from Penn State. In 1977 he established the Family Research Institute, and in 1978, he wrote *Stress Disorders Among Vietnam Veterans*, which helped recognize PTSD as a psychological condition for the first time. A former professor in the College of Social Work at Florida State University, Dr. Figley is currently the Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair and director of the Tulane Traumatology Institute at Tulane University in New Orleans.

More than 900 delegates from VVA chapters across the nation are expected to join hundreds of other Vietnam veterans and guests in New Orleans, along with members of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, which will be holding its National Convention in conjunction with the VVA event. The delegates will set the organization's course for the next two years, hear from an array of speakers, attend information sessions, and take part in special events.