



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.
P.O. Box 3218
Ventura, CA 93006-3218

April 2010

Officers

Dave Betti, President
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Richard Camacho, Vice President
(805) 384-9138
Diane Miller, Secretary
(805) 827-3753
Doug Temple, Treasurer
(805) 984-0489
David Ha, Chaplain
(805) 482-3722

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Fabio Allodoli
(805) 938-3686
Ron Beaman
(805) 212-0512
John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139
Bob Holmes
(805) 641-3880
Marie Pounds
(661) 297-2464

Committees

POW/MIA – Dave Betti
(805) 649-3283
Listening Post – Jan Camacho
(805) 384-9138
James Ray Scholarship – David Ha
(805) 482-3772
Membership – Marie Pounds
(661) 297-2464
Parades – John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139

Greetings all:

Well, if you haven't heard, the Vietnam Combat Veterans "Moving WALL" is coming to Ventura County. The next meeting of the WALL committee will be on April 17, 2010, at Ivy Lawn at 9 AM.

We now have a web site for the WALL for points of contact if you need to get hold of anybody for anything, it is as follows: <http://lzventura.com/>. We hope that we will see a lot of you veterans as there will be plenty of work and assistance will be needed once the WALL arrives, so I hope that all of you can be available when the time comes, and you are needed.

I want to thank all of you and you know who are for your donations to the WALL committee for the purpose of helping finance this wonderful experience.

It is going to be a very busy year for the VVVC! We have Vung Tau coming up on April 11th, so I hope to see all of you there again this year!

We are also going to list in the Listening Post the DAV schedule for transportation purposes. The DAV now has a van shuttle running out of the Veterans home on Saticoy, so this is going to be a lot more convenient for a lot of veterans.

The next scheduled parade will be July 4th in Ojai, Calif., so we hope that you would be able to participate.

The VVVC recently held its final nominations and elections of officers for 2010-2011, and I want to congratulate all of the new incoming officers, this year is going to be a very exciting year for the VVVC, so welcome aboard!

The Veterans home in Saticoy has more new veterans now admitted, and various veterans organizations have been doing the BBQ (on weekends) as requested by the staff at the home, and it has been very good for all involved.

We will also start putting a copy of our VVVC minutes in the newsletter so you all can see what has been happening, and of course see what is coming up in the near future.

We will again this year be attending some of the local high schools and making presentations to the students about Vietnam as we do each and every year. This will be Richard Camacho's' (23rd) year, and I have to tell you, it is quite an experience.

I am very happy that the VVVC is as strong as it is. Many veterans' organizations have fallen by the waysides over the years, either due to lack of participation, members passing on, or lack of interest. You veterans have made this organization what it is today, and you have made it as recognizable as it is today, you should be very proud of yourselves, I know I am. (cont. pg. 2)



Aug. 26th through Aug. 30th
Ivy Lawn Memorial Park

President's Column Cont.

See all of you at the next meeting; we may have to add more tables as the meetings have been getting as crowded as the parades.

Semper Fi.
Respectfully:
Dave Betti

PS-We need your articles for the Listening Post, we want to hear about you, and from you, so send anything you want or can to the VVVC Listening Post editor, she tells me my articles are getting a little long winded, hahahahaha, but don't tell her I told you that!

2010/2011 VVVC Officers & Board

Officers:

Dave Betti, President (805) 794-8679

Davisbetti@aol.com

Richard Camacho, Vice President (805) 384-9138

camacho4@roadrunner.com

Doug Temple, Treasurer

DTempWill@aol.com

David Ha, Public Affairs & Chaplain

Kawikah@aol.com

Board Members:

Fabio Allodoli-Fallodoli@roadrunner.com

Robert "Bob" Holmes-bobmaestrusa@yahoo.com

Ron "Bear" Beaman- cihbear@aol.com

John Cabrera (Parades Chairman)- JJuanmoti@aol.com

Marie Williams Pounds (Membership Chair)

Vice President's Column:

As we prepare for the coming of the Moving Wall this August, a few of us have been visiting other Veteran organizations to request donations. Dave Betti and John Cabrera attended VFW's Post 1679 meeting, David Ha and I attended Camarillo's American Legion Post 741, and John Cabrera, Dave Betti and I attended Oxnard's Post 48 meeting. Each time, I hear the same comments, "the Vietnam Veteran's have been doing a great job". It's always such a pleasure to hear these kinds of comments from the older members of each post, and it reminds me that the VVVC has always had a reputation of getting things done. I expect no less from the VVVC in August when we host the Moving Wall, and honor all those fellow veterans and their families that have paid the ultimate price while serving their country.

As you share this upcoming display of the "Moving Wall" with friends and sponsors, you may hear the same comment that was made to me. "Wasn't that "wall" in Thousand Oaks last year? To which I've responded, "That was the Dignity Wall, we are hosting the "Original Moving Wall", not to be confused with the "Traveling Wall" or the "Wall that heals", or Budweiser's Wall". The "Moving Wall was built in 1985 by Vietnam Combat Veterans for other Vietnam veterans and their families that couldn't make it to Washington, DC to see the monument. The last time the Moving Wall was in Ventura County was during "Seven Days in May" 1997.

All I can say is that when you work the "Moving Wall", your life will never be the same, it's an experience that will live with you forever. I worked the "Moving Wall" in 1989, 1991, and 1994, no two were ever alike, and what an experience each display gave me.

Until next month,

Simper Fi

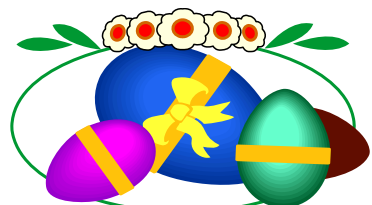
Richard Camacho

Chaplain's Column:

Please remember to pray for the following:

Dave Betti
Bob and Wilma Holmes
Moving Wall
Ron Beaman
John and Jane Smiley
Bob Schol
Kevin Sheehan
Jan Camacho

The 2009 Armed Forces Almanac hopefully was distributed at the March meeting if you didn't receive a copy just send me an email or call me.



Happy Easter

WHO AM I?

I was born on Sept. 02, 1949.

I was in the United States Navy.

I was assigned to Naval Air Station, Point Mugu.

I entered the United States Navy September 19, 1967.

I was transferred to Naval Reserve Manpower Center, Bainbridge, Maryland.

WHO AM I?

I was an Airport-Control-Operator (Air Trans).

I was an AC 3 (E-4).

WHO AM I?

I was released from duty and my authorizing officer was C.J. Frink, LTJG, Enl PERS Officer.

WHO AM I?

I spent (2) years, (3) months and (12) days on foreign and/or sea service.

WHO AM I?

-If you know who this is, please send the Listing Post editor your answer, and the winner will be announced at the next VVVC meeting of April 17, 2010.

You have to be present to win.

Moving Wall Pledges and Donations:

The VVVC has started receiving pledges and donations for the Moving Wall at Ivy Lawn cemetery from August 26th to August 30th 2010.

Among those we have received contributions from are Ivy Lawn cemetery, Carl V. Wade of the cemetery burial detail and Ventura VFW Post #1679.

Personal contributions have come from Joe Richardson, Robert Holmes, John Cabrera, Pete Duncan and Roy Nichols.

Donations can be made to: Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc., P.O. Box 3218, Ventura, Ca. 93006-3218, or at our monthly meetings held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 6:00PM at the new Veterans Home of California at 10900 Telephone Rd., Ventura, Ca. 93004

Doug Temple, VVVC Treasurer

St. Patrick's Day Parade – Ventura

Waiting for the parade to begin.

John's van decorated for the parade.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Friday, Apr. 2nd - Good Friday

Sunday, Apr. 4th - Easter

Sunday, Apr. 11th - Vung Tau

Camarillo Grove Park, Camarillo
Meet at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, Apr. 17th – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Rd.
Ventura, CA 90604
Board Mtg. 5:30 p.m.
General Mtg. – 6:30 p.m.
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Saturday, Apr. 24th – Flag Retirement Ceremony

12:00 p.m.
Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Rd.
Ventura, CA

Sunday, May 9th - Mothers' Day

Saturday, May 15th - VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Rd.
Ventura, CA 90604
Board Mtg. 5:30 p.m.
General Mtg. – 6:30 p.m.
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Monday, June 4th – Flag Day

Saturday, June 19th – VVVC Mtgs.

Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Rd.
Ventura, CA 90604
Board Mtg. 5:30 p.m.
General Mtg. – 6:30 p.m.
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Sunday, June 20th – Fathers' Day

Saturday, July 3rd – Ojai 4th of July Parade

More information coming.

Aug. 26th through Aug 30th – The Moving Wall

Ivy lawn Memorial Park
Ventura, CA
For more information contact:
Dave Betti - 649-3283
Or
Richard Camacho - 384-9138

Ventura DAV Van Schedule:

Times are approximate. The DAV van will transport any qualified Veteran, at no cost to the Veteran, to the Sepulveda VAMC Out-Patient Clinic. Veterans should call the DAV Reservation Line Office at (805) 659-7525 for rides and information. Transportation is also provided from the Sepulveda facility to the West Los Angeles Medical Facility at no cost to the Veteran. **Reservations must be made at least three day in advance of their appointments.** The Veteran must be able to enter and exit the van without assistance. **DAV vans are not wheelchair accessible.** Priority is reserved for service connected patients. Veterans must arrive at least 15 minutes early of the pickup time. Drivers may wait up to five minutes if the schedule allows. Van departure for Sepulveda is 2:00 p.m. or sooner from the north end of building 200.

Times are approximate.

06:45 a.m. – California Veteran’s Home, Ventura
06:55 a.m. - Mimi’s Restaurant (Near Main & Mills)
06:58 a.m. – Old Rite Aid Building (Bus Stop near Telegraph)
07:12a.m. - Carl’s Jr. Restaurant (Victoria Ave.)
07:30 a.m. – Carl’s Jr. Restaurant (Channel islands Blvd. near Victoria Ave.)
07:35 a.m. Center Point Mall (Channel Islands Blvd. at Saviers Road)
07:40 a.m. – Oxnard Transit Ctr. (Fourth St. near Oxnard Blvd.)
07:50 a.m. –Carl’s Jr (Las Poses Rd. near Hwy. 101)
08:05 a.m. Public Service Bldg. (near Hwy. 101 in Thousand Oaks)
08:20 a.m. – IHOP Restaurant (Kaman Rd at Hwy. 101, in Agoura Hills)

Who Am I 2?

I would like to include pictures of our members while they were in the military. If you have old pictures of yourself and would like to be included, please send them to me at camacho4@roadrunner.com or bring them to the meeting.

Here is one to get us started.

Jan Camacho, LP Editor



EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES MEETING OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF VENTURA COUNTY

March 20th, 2010

-COMMITTEE REPORTS-

*ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS by Diane Miller

5:30pm

Dave Betti, Richard Camacho, John Cabrera, Doug Temple, Fabio Allodoli, Bob Holmes, and Diane Miller. David Ha and Marie Pounds excused. We had a quorum.

TREASURERS REPORT: Given by Doug Temple.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: No report available.

Dave would like to send cards of invitations sent to past visitors of the Wall. Bobby Holmes offered to take care of this.

Dave mentioned that we would like to give a life membership to Terri Taylor Gonzales.

LISTENING POST REPORT: Given by Richard Camacho; 42 copies were e-mailed. 30 copies were mailed. Cost of copies was \$12.34, stamps \$13.20 for a total cost of \$25.54. Articles are needed.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: No report available.

OLD BUSINESS: The contract for The Moving Wall has been signed. The plaque for the flag pole came in last week and will be installed.

NEW BUSINESS: John Cabrera thanked everyone who participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The next one will be in Ojai on July 3rd. Fabio Allodoli gave the dates of July 30th to August 01st as those of the Stand Down.

THE WALL: Richard Camacho showed the new flyer with the Ivy Lawn logo and the web site added. During general meeting he will make a motion that any left over money go into the CD for the next time. We need to provide plaques both large and small and the price cutoff for them. We will have a coffee can for donations at Vung Tau. Bobby Holmes asked about the names from Ventura and we will be getting a plaque from Terri Gonzales with them on. Fabio Allodoli suggested getting water bottles and saving dimes in them, which would equal \$47 which could be used for the plaques.

ADJOURN MEETING

M/M Bobby Holmes

M/S Fred Allodoli

DISCUSSION:

MOTION CARRIED 5:45pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED-

D. Diane Miller per Dave Betti

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
VIETNAM VETERANS OF VENTURA COUNTY, INC.**

March 20, 2010

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00pm by Dave Betti

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER CONDUCTED by Fabio Allodoli

MOMENT OF SILENCE/MISSING POW.MIA'S

INTRODUCTIONS – 15 in attendance

-COMMITTEE REPORTS-

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS by Diane Miller, David Ha and Marie Pounds excused absence.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report given by Doug Temple

M/M Fabio Allodoli

M/S John Cabrera

DISCUSSION:

MOTION CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

None available

-MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from January and February meetings

M/M Fabio Allodoli

M/S Doug Temple

DISCUSSION:

MOTION CARRIED

-POW/MIA REPORT

Not available

-MERCHANDISE REPORT

No report at this time.

-PARADES REPORT

Given by John Cabrera

Thanks given to those who participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade. The next parade is July 3rd in Ojai. March 28th in Whittier is the Welcome Home Day events.

-LISTENING POST REPORT

Given by Jan Camacho

E-mailed 42 copies were e-mailed, 30 copies mailed. Total cost was \$25.54. Also need articles from people. Will now post minutes of meeting as of March 2010.

There is a new return address label regarding The Wall.

M/M Bobby Holmes

M/S John Cabrera

MOTION CARRIED

-SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Not available.

(cont. next column)

General Membership Minutes (cont.)

-OLD BUSINESS

Nothing brought up.

-NEW BUSINESS

Fabio Allodoli informed us that the Stand Down will be July 30th to August 1st.

Vung Tau will be April 11th 7:30am but need to be early.

It was suggested that new members be listed in the Listening Post.

The 50/50 draw proceeds will be used to replace the point of the flag pole with an eagle. The winner of the draw was Bobby C.

Richard Camacho informed us that permission was granted to use The Moving Wall logo. Confirmation of room for the driver has been sent to them. Bill Roderick will be the main speaker. We have a flyer and press release ready with web site and all logos required. A motion was made that all left over money go into the CD for future Wall visits. Next meeting at Ivy Lawn is on April 17th at 9am.

M/M Richard Camacho

M/S Richard Lev

DISCUSSION:

MOTION CARRIED

Dave Betti suggested we bestow a life membership on Terri Taylor Gonzales of Ivy Lawn for her many years of service and devotion. A motion was then made. It will be presented at the next meeting.

M/M Fabio Allodoli

M/S John Cabrera

DISCUSSION:

MOTION CARRIED.

Nominations:

President – none, Vice-President – none, Treasurer – none, Board of Directors – none Secretary – Diane Miller nominated by Richard Camacho 2nd by John Cabrera. A motion was made to make it a white ballot. Elections are now closed and finalized.

M/M Richard Camacho

M/S Rick Brandle

DISCUSSION:

MOTION CARRIED.

(cont. pg. 6)

General Membership Minutes (cont.)

-CLOSING PRAYER by Fred Allodoli

ADJOURN MEETING at 7:20pm

Next scheduled meeting will be 17th April 2010. Will also be installation of officers.

M/M Bobby Holmes

M/S Doug Temple

DISCUSSION:

MOTION CARRIED.

-RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED-

D. Diane Miller, Secretary as per DAVE BETTI

VVVC Website :

Why is a Web Site Important for VVVC?

Most of the general public now turns to the Internet when seeking information on almost any topic. They use powerful search engines like Google, Yahoo and Bing, who actively index and categorize every page posted on the Internet.

The top 5 reasons a non-profit membership organization like VVVC should have a web site include:

1. To publicize the existence and purpose of the organization to potential members both local and global.
2. To inform the membership, media and interested public on the latest news and activities of the organization at a cost much less than print based media.
3. To assist members in finding information on topics and issues relevant to the organizations goals by providing links to other sites on the Internet.
4. To provide information on the organization to anyone interested, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.
5. To make it easier for the general public, small businesses and corporations to support the organization by donations of time, services and/or money.

In the next issue of the Listening Post I will expand on each of the above 5 reasons.

Paul Lamar

VVVC Website Designer

VA Proposes Change to Aid Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange March 25, 2010 *Proposed Regulation Change Adds Illnesses to List of Diseases Subject to Presumptive Service Connection for Herbicide Exposure*

WASHINGTON – Well over 100,000 Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam and other areas will have an easier path to qualify for disability pay under a proposed regulation published by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that adds three new illnesses to the list of health problems found to be related to Agent Orange and other herbicide exposures.

“This is an important step forward for Vietnam Veterans suffering from these three illnesses,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “These warriors deserve medical care and compensation for health problems they have incurred.”

The regulation follows Shinseki’s October 2009 decision to add the three illnesses to the current list of diseases for which service connection for Vietnam Veterans is presumed. The illnesses are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson’s disease; and ischemic heart disease.

The Secretary’s decision is based on the latest evidence of an association with widely used herbicides such as Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, as determined in an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Even though this is a proposed rule, VA encourages Vietnam Veterans with these three diseases to submit their applications for compensation now so the Agency can begin development of their claims and so they can receive benefits from the date of their applications once the rule becomes final.

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted over the next 30 days. The final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received.

“We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will,” Shinseki added. “Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence.”

Over 80,000 of the Veterans will have their past claims reviewed and may be eligible for retroactive payment, and all who are not currently eligible for enrollment into the VA healthcare system will become eligible.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. military used more than 19 million gallons of herbicides for defoliation and crop destruction in the Republic of Vietnam. Veterans who served in Vietnam anytime during the period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange and other herbicides left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present.

The new rule will bring the number of illnesses presumed to be associated with herbicide exposure to 14 and significantly expand the current leukemia definition to include a much broader range of leukemias beyond chronic lymphocytic leukemia previously recognized by VA.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a “presumed” illness don’t have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This “presumption” simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits. \

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA’s services for Veterans exposed to the chemical are available at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange.

The following POW/MIA Synopsis and song lyrics were sent to me by Daniel Hersh. Daniel, a VVVC member, is a 20 year activist for the POW/MIA cause. He was so moved by LT. CMDR Pike's case that he has written a song lyric for Lou Ann Pike, the LT. CMDR's wife. I am sorry I was not able to fit the newspaper article into the LP. I will have it at the April meeting for our members to see.

Jan Camacho, LP Editor

Case Synopsis: PIKE, DENNIS STANLEY, LT. CMDR., U.S. NAVY

Name: Dennis Stanley Pike

Rank/Branch: L/CMDR 02 USN

Unit: Attack Squadron 192

Ship: Aircraft Carrier USS Kitty Hawk

Date of Birth: 02 July 1940

Home City of Record: Bagdad, AZ

Base: Lemoore Naval Air, CA

Loss Date: 23 March 1972

Country of Loss: Laos

Loss Coordinates: 152200N 1073400E

Status: Missing in Action

Category: 2

Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: A-7E Corsair

Other Personnel in Incident:

Remarks:

Synopsis: LT. Commander Dennis Pike was flying an A-7E aircraft when his plane went down just inside Laos near the border of Laos and South Vietnam about 15 miles northwest of the city of Dak Pek, South Vietnam in Saravane Province, Laos. He radioed: "I have to eject." That was the last contact with him. No information of substance has surfaced concerning the fate of Dennis Pike since that day, at least officially.

The likelihood of significant further information existing that would help resolve the disposition of LT. Commander Pike's case is considered to be extremely high. This is due in no small part to the date of his downing, March 23, 1972. Three days later, on March 30, 1972, North Vietnam invaded the Northern provinces in force. For several weeks prior to that date, the area where LT. CMDR. Pike went down was subject to greatly increased military and intelligence action by both the communists and the forces of South Vietnam.

Dennis Pike is one of nearly 600 Americans who disappeared in Laos. Not one American held by the Lao was released at the end of the war in 1973. Many of these were alive on the ground and known to be captured. The Lao admitted holding American Prisoners but these men were never negotiated for, (Please see: "An examination of U.S. Policy of POW/MIAs" by the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Republican Staff, dated Thursday, May 23, 1991.

Daniel Hersh
American Hands Music
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(818) 312-5806

The Ballad of Dennis Pike

- 1) This is a story about Dennis Pike
And brave Lou Ann, his lovely wife
She hails from Lemoore on the California plain
- 2) The dawn was bright, the South China Sea blue
It was March Twenty-Third, 1972
How the carrier Kitty Hawk gleamed in the light
As her A-7 Corsairs roared off to fight.
- 3) High over the jungles of Laos they flew
'Til the Ho Chi Minh Trail came into view
Brave Lieutenant Pike led the attack
With death and thunder, they drove Charlie back
- 4) Fierce as eagles our warbirds turned home
But one of the six limped back alone
Trailing fire and smoke 'til her engine failed
Down into the jungle Lieutenant Pike bailed
- 5) In the early morning the telephone rang:
Lemoore Naval Air? "This is Da Nang"
It's with great regret that we must say,
One of our pilots is M.I.A.
- 6) Sixty clicks shy of the South China Sea
A foot in the jungle, but still runnin' free,
It would never cross Lieutenant Pike's mind
That the county he loved would leave him behind.
- 7) For nine long months Lou Ann had no word at all
Then the Navy stopped taking her calls
"Classified Information" the desk Sgt. Said,
"Besides, by now he's probably dead."
- 8) Lou Ann gets by, waiting in Lemoore
For an old familiar step, just outside the door
Where she last kissed her man, 22 years ago
Why he's been gone so long, only God and the Navy know
- 9) There's a name in stone on the Vietnam Wall
For a man who answered his country's call
Same name as on a California home
Where a Navy wife still waits all alone

Eternal Father strong to save,
Eternal Father strong to save...

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County
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Ventura, CA