



Listening Post

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

April 2011

Officers

Dave Betti, President
(805) 649-3283

Richard Camacho, Vice President
(805) 384-9138
Breanna Wilehlmi

Doug Temple, Treasurer
(805) 984-0489
David Ha, Chaplain
(805) 482-3772

Board of Directors

John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139

David Ha
(805) 482-3772

Robert Holmes
(805) 641-3880

Larry Seguin
(805) 320-4116

Dave Wilson
(805) 469-0281

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

Presidents Message:

Greetings all, and belated St. Patrick's Day!

Well, I guess I can say I am back in the saddle now, hopefully for a lot longer than it has been?

There has been a lot going on in the VVVC, inside and out. We have started stacking up more and more chairs in the meeting rooms due to such a large attendance, and to think years ago they wanted to merge the VVVC with the VVA in Santa Barbara, Calif., I think not!! (The comment may not settle well with some, but it does with me!)

You all have sure turned this organization into one of Ventura County's most respected veterans club and you all should be proud, and I am very sure you are.

If most have not heard as of yet, (and you will at the next VVVC meeting), we are losing a very respected lady whom we all have come to know, and love, and have lunch with, that veteran is our own Ms. Shannon Bank of Oxnard Family Circle. She will be leaving her post at the end of this month, and is moving to Minnesota with her husband. We are sure going to miss her and her seminars, what are we to do now? I know she has a few things in the works, so it will all work out, hopefully all will be able to see her at our March meeting.

I know everyone is prepared for Vung tau, and we are excited, cooks arrive between 7-8 AM, and the rest arrive prior to serving, approximately 11:30 a.m. The event is on April 03, 2011, at Camarillo Springs Park. Be sure to bring your coolers, and hats.

I've been in touch with the GSA office (Security) at the Ventura County Government Center regarding this year's 9/11 ceremony. The VVVC has been asked to participate in this ceremony marking the tenth anniversary of 9/11. We will be involved with local City, State and County Fire Depts. as well as the Police Depts. from our area; more info will be forth coming as I receive it and talk with Richard Camacho more about it!

I have also sent out some info regarding next year's 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration event scheduled for 2012 that will take place in various parts of the United States. As I receive more information, I will forward it on.

I honored tell you that the schools are booking the members of the VVVC again, but I will let Richard tell you about that, he is as excited as we all are. It's always a pleasure, and he knows how to book them!

One last bit of info, I have been informed by Shannon Bank that her office has been contacted by Congresswoman Lois Capp's office about setting up a meeting with some members of the VVVC to see about resolving some issues and concerns that have been raised by some of our veterans. I will keep you all posted on this.

Okay, one more bit of info, kind of sad, for all of us, if you have not heard one of our reps from the VSO (Veterans Service Office) here in Ventura where you go and file claims, has passed away. We were recently informed that VSO Paul Shorter had passed away, we haven't heard anything about Mike McManus and hopefully soon he will return, but I wanted to let you know about the passing of Paul Shorter, he will be missed. (cont. pg2)

President's Message (Cont.)

We are going to have to see if they (the County) have plans to fill these vacancies at that office, as you know it can get very busy in there. I am going to make contact with Ms. Marissa Mach who heads up the office but will talk to Mike McManus and John Jackson first, I will keep you posted.

One more bit of info, don't forget Memorial Day on May 30, 2011. I know it's a month away, but we could sure use a couple more people to assist in directing parking, which will free up Ivy Lawn personnel during the morning; one of our members, namely Richard Lev has been assisting/directing traffic and parking for many years. Thanks Richard!

Kudos to the VVVC working party that Chairman John Cabrera has been handing out, lots of work, and it looks great, and wait until Memorial Day! I knew that you guys still had it in you, c'mon, you're Vietnam vets, we all know how to dig holes and Doug does real well, hahaha!

Semper Fi!
Dave Betti

Donations:

I know I sound like a broken record, but "Thanks Again" for all your help at the cemetery. I recently had someone ask about the usage of the donation and 50-50 money. My answer to that is, it is all well spent on "projects", like the cemetery, parade entries, bottled water, flagpoles, flags, eagles for flagpoles, it all goes to repair projects, or whatever it takes to help others when they ask for help. Just last week we helped the Oak View American Legion Post 686 with their flag pole with your support.

A lot of people were under the impression that our organization was fading away. We reach out our hand to help others when called upon, now we get calls on a regular basis; thanks to you for all your support with the flag and 50-50 donations they really help us a lot.

Brother John,

Scholarship Chairman's Message:

In the next few months I will be sending out the documents for the 2011 SSgt James M Ray scholarship. I would like solicit some ideas concerning subjects on what to have students write on. If you have any ideas please email them to me at Kawikah@aol.com. Thank you

Have a blessed day. Aloha.
David Ha

Vice President's Message:

Once again, the March General membership meeting was attended by many, plus we had three new members sign up. It was nice to see Ed Evans at the meeting; Ed thanked the membership for the plaque that was given to him and Renee for their work at the Wall display last August.

The election for 2011 – 2012 Officers and Board members is complete, the following will be given the oath of office at the April 16th meeting:

Officers

President – Dave Betti
Vice-president - Richard Camacho
Secretary – Breanna Wilhelmi
Treasurer – Doug Temple
Public Affairs - Vacant

Board Members

Robert Holmes
John Cabrera
Larry Seguin
David Ha
Dave Wilson

Come to the April 16th meeting and welcome the above Officers and Board members as they assume their positions.

Just a quick reminder, April 3rd, Vung Tau at Camarillo Springs Park;

April 21st, we are speaking at Moorpark High;

April 26th and 27th, we are speaking at Chaminade High.

I want to thank all of the members that continue to come out each Wednesday at Ivy Lawn for the work parties on the Avenue of the Flags. Because of your volunteer work, those 600 plus flags will be flying straighter this year.

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho



GET WELL WISHES!

-I know we may be a little late, but I wanted to say get well to our membership chair **Marie Pounds**.

I am a little late getting this out, but our thoughts and prayers have and will always be with you!

-**John and Jane Smiley**, I had the pleasure of meeting Jane Smiley a few weeks ago at the local car wash, and she looked better than me, she looked great. I was told that John is recovering nicely, but still has problems with his knees, but he is slowly recovering. He cannot drive as of yet, but soon enough, you know John, he won't let that Camaro set very long, hahaha. Get well John, at least let Jane get you on Facebook?

-Get well wishes to **Jean and Charlie Ray**. Sure miss talking to you both, the last time I spoke to Charlie he sounded better than me. It is always an honor and a pleasure to speak to them both, they always seem so happy, and they sure know how to spark me up, thanks folks!!

Take care all ,get well, see you all soon.
Dave Betti

Ivy Lawn Work Party:

On March 9th, we set twenty-one sleeves in the ground for flags at Ivy Lawn cemetery. Also, the area between the two buildings has been cleaned up and organized. All of the pipes on the ground have been sorted and even some weeds have been cut.

On Wednesday the 16th, we began going through damaged poles and removing clips and replacing bad clips with good on some of the good poles. We even used the pipe straightener on some bad poles and have a pretty good system now for that. Our goal is to go through all of the poles. We only have 300-400 left. Workdays are usually Wednesdays' from 8:30 to 11:30. Again, thanks everybody for all of your help.
Doug Temple



This year, VVVC members were once again asked to speak at Newbury Park Adventist Academy. Members spent two days speaking to History classes at the Academy. Pictured in above picture are: Bill Shea, Bobby Holmes, Larry Seguin, Stephen Laing, (teacher at NPAA), Fabio Allodoli and Tim Tobin.

Marines March:

In case some haven't seen the newspaper in the last few weeks, or haven't heard about a group of Marines that walked from San Francisco, Calif. (Half Moon Bay) to San Clemente, Calif. these past few weeks, I will give you a brief little story, and maybe you can check out their web site!

I was able to speak to Sgt. Dan Arcand as they were passing thru Ventura County on their way to camp at McGrath State beach but it seems as though some folks from Ventura had paid to have the Marines stay at the local Marriott here in town, that's about as good as it gets, I have to say kudos to the folks whom paid for that lodging, and also to the folks whom met the Marines as they made their way in to Ventura County.

Their web site is as follows:

(<http://www.americanspartaninc.com/>)

THE MISSION OF AMERICAN SPARTAN INC IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS, IN ORDER TO HELP THEM TRANSITION BACK INTO THE CIVILIAN WORLD.

Welcome to American Spartan, Inc. Founded in 2010 by a group of active duty United States Marines, American Spartan, Inc. is dedicated to helping veterans wounded in combat.

"As casualties climb during our nine year, two fronts, War on Terror, there is a greater demand for financial and moral support for wounded veterans. Thus, there is a greater need for organizations like this, and who better to start one than US combat veterans."

-Chairman & Founder, Sergeant Daniel Arcand.

Important Dates:

Sunday, Apr. 3rd – Vung Tau

Meet at Camarillo Grove Park at 7:30 AM

Saturday, Apr. 16th – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road, Ventura CA

Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM

General Mtg. – 6:00 PM

Potluck, Bring your favorite dish.

Tuesday, Apr. 19th – Passover

Friday, Apr. 22nd – Good Friday

Sunday, Apr. 24th – Easter

Sunday, May 8th – Mother's Day

Saturday, May 21st – VVVC Meetings,

Veterans Home, Ventura Ca

Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM

General Mtg. - 6:00 PM

Monday, May 30th - Memorial Day

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