



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

April, 2012

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Committees

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Presidents Column:

Greetings all:

Well, by the time you get this newsletter the votes will be in and you will have new VVVC officers for the 2012-2013 year! (The new slate of elected Officers and Board members are listed to the left)

I want to say congratulations to all of the new incoming officers and a very special thanks to all of the officers who will not be returning this year and let them know how much they have meant to this organization and its membership!

If you haven't stepped up to the plate, it's never too late to take on a task in the VVVC, there is and always will be something going on.

Over the years the support has been great and although some may step aside and will be truly missed, especially by me, I know that other will step in and that means a lot to all of us here at the VVVC!

Also, on Saturday April 14, 2012 at the Oxnard Family Circle there will be a DAV Veterans Information Seminar at 10:00 a.m. at their location. The seminar will include benefits and services that the veteran may not be aware of so please try and attend!

I want to welcome back and welcome home long time VVVC life member Tom Moore. In case some don't know, a few weeks ago I received a phone call from down under (Australia) about 3 AM but I was asleep in Barbados, as in the island, so about 12:30 PM that day, the phone rang again, and it was Tom Moore himself, and he wanted me to tell everyone hello!

I recently sent Tom and letter and gave him a few of the VVVC decals as he had told me the one on his vehicle was fading and he needed another one, "ha ha ha", so wait until he gets his mail?

Okay now, please don't forget about Vung Tau on April 1st at Camarillo Springs Grove Park. There will be a lot of food to cook and serve. There will also be and lot of vendors, so bring lots of money!

Kudos are in order to John Cabrera (VVVC Parades Chairman) for his picking up the new flags (American & POW/MIA) to replace the ones at the Veterans Memorial site at the Ventura County Government Center. I guess the Security folks are working on contacting other veteran's organizations, such as the D.A.V., VFW and American Legion here in Ventura to start helping out with the flags being replaced as needed when the time comes? I can say this, it's about time, and the VVVC just replaced the flags, so now it's time for the other veteran organizations to step up to the plate. This has been an ongoing battle for as long as I can remember!

(Cont. pg. 2)

President's Message (cont.)

One last bit of info, thanks to all of the vets who came out and helped BBQ and serve food when American Legion Cmdr. Steve Weber called for assistance. This was homecoming for the Seabees who arrived home a few weeks back, and it was great, it was awesome to be able to work alongside our veterans, and Joe Reyes, what a guy, we can't thank Steve Weber (American Legion) enough for including the VVVC in this honorable event, and all of the veterans who participated were very much appreciated by the returning Seabees! Great job all!!

The next VVVC meeting of 21 April 2012 will be the swearing in of new officers for the VVVC, I hope that everyone will attend this historic event!!

To all of you, who attended the Memorial Service for Wilma Holmes, thank you! I know it meant a lot to Bobby Holmes, and I know that Wilma was looking down on all of us and it was a very beautiful service indeed, she would have been choked up like a lot of us were. The church was crowded, and the reception after the service was touching, thanks all, and God Bless Wilma Holmes, may she rest in peace. See you all at the VVVC meetings!
Dave Betti

Parade/ Work Party Chair's Message:

As I was working on one of my many projects for our organization, I thought to myself, who really supports us? There are several that really assist us in various ways, starting out with our members with their contributions and donations, businesses that donate to us, or give us a great deal, stores, like Wal-Mart, G Force Printing, Art & Jenny's Sewing Machine, Aswell Trophy and now the County of Ventura, Ivy Lawn Cemetery, along with several more.

Because of these people and businesses we really save a lot. I can't thank our many supporters enough. We need to support them in return.

As you well know, the St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled due to rain. I'd like to thank Doug, Joe Cat, and Ron Fitzgarrald who showed up and help put the trailer away. Our next parade will be July 4th in Ojai.

John Cabrerra



Vice President's Message:

It's that time of the year again, when we start scheduling our presentations with local middle and high schools. Currently we have the following schools on calendar:

April 13th, 06:30 AM – 3:00 PM Moorpark High;
April 18/19th Chaminade High 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM
April 23rd Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
May 8th, 8:45 AM – 12:15 PM; Pacific High, Ventura;
May 15th, Buena High, Ventura 9:45 AM – 2:30 PM;
May 18th, Thousand Oaks High 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM;
May 24th, Anacapa Middle School Ventura 8:00 AM – 2 PM;
May 30th, Redwood Middle School, Thousand Oaks 8: AM – 3 PM;

We are waiting responses from the following schools:
Newbury Park Adventist Academy,
John Fulton Prep (Van Nuys, CA)

I've also received an email from Rafael Perez, advising that he has submitted a proposal for a Vietnam War Studies class at California University at Channel Islands (CUSI), in which we will support by presenting our Vietnam Experience.

This will be my last message as Vice President, as your newly elected VP will be inputting his message next month. However, you'll continue to see submission from me in the future either under a "Sound Off" column or something.

I want to thank all of the membership for the surprise plaque that I was presented with at the March meeting; it means so much to me.

Hope to see many of you at the Vung Tau run on April 1st; or as our weekly work party at Ivy Lawn; or our next meeting on April 21st when we install the new slate of officers and board members.

Semper Fi
Richard Camacho, VP

Treasurer's Message:

On March 17th we met to elect new officers for the coming year. Best of luck to all the new Officers and Board members and may we as a group, have a great year continuing to recognize veterans and assist when we can, continue our services to school programs, our assistance at the VA home and our work with Terri Gonzales and the Avenue of Flags at Ivy Lawn cemetery.

Doug Temple

Chaplain's Corner – The Least We Can Do

I had the distinct privilege to drive a WWII veteran to a doctor's appointment to West LA VA facility. His name is Jim Beladino. We had a wonderful time of sharing from his growing up years in Upper State New York during the Depression, through his army days up to now where he and his wife are now living in Leisure Village. He spoke about his family and I believe one brother and 5 sisters. He loves to garden and loves growing tomatoes. He is quite a cook also as he was sharing some of his recipes with me. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with him and all his stories, his mind is still very sharp remembering dates, times, names of people and events. This is despite his injuries in which he lost his left eye (fitted with a glass eye) and the loss of his hearing on the left side.

He was a tank driver assigned with GEN George Patton. Jim said he rarely saw "Old Blood and Guts" up in the front where he was assigned. Jim told me that his tank was shot by a bazooka and the tank hatch actually protected him if not he would not be here today. I told him that God was not done with you and had more things for you to do. He turned to me and just smiled.....God Bless you, Jim

Happy Birthday to all those who have birthdays in March.
Happy Anniversary to all those who have anniversaries in March

David and Marilyn Ha (32 years)

Patriot Guard Riders Events in California

KIA:

CPL Edward J. Acosta, 21, La Mesa / Victorville, CA

Welcome Home Events:

US Marine: Cpl Tony Montelli, Oakland, CA

US Air Force: SrA. Joshua Elliott, USAF, Sacramento, CA

Fallen Veterans:

LtCol (Ret) Charles "Chuck" Shallenberger, USAF,
WWII/Korea Veteran

Dixon, CA. He served in World War II as a P-38 pilot with the 44th "Vampire"

Fighter Squadron of the 13th Air Force. He flew 102 combat missions;

he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and four Air

Medals. Recalled in the Korean War, he spent a year in Seoul Korea

with the 5th Air Force.

US Air Force Veteran, Glen "Marty" Martin, Susanville, CA.

Glen "Marty" Martin served his country proudly in the United States Air Force from 12 Jun 1951 to 11 Jun 1955.

(Cont. next column)

Please continue to pray for the families and all of our service personnel's safe return home and the healing of our nation/land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

David Ha
Chaplain VVVC



At our March meeting, outgoing Vice President, Richard Camacho was surprised with a plaque thanking him for his time and service to the VVVC.

You're cordially invited

Oxnard College

"Love A Vet"

Dinner Fundraiser

(Enchilada Dinner with Drink)

April 12, 2012

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Casa Lopes Restaurant

325 South "A" Street, Oxnard

Live Music – O.C Belly Dancers

Silent Auction – 50/50 Drawing

Ticket:

\$25 – VIP

\$15 in Advance (until April 11th)

\$20 at the door

Contact Leo Orange 986-5800 x7630

VVVC voting procedures:

The following is being printed from the VVVC By-Laws to clear up some confusion over voting by proxy:

During the election held on March 17, 2012, several members called Dave Betti and proceeded to give him their verbal votes, as they were unable to attend the meeting. However, per the VVVC By-Laws, all proxies must be in writing and signed by the originator and filed with the Secretary.

*VVVC BY-LAWS-

Page 5. Section 9. PROXIES; (A) Every member shall have the right to vote in person or by an agent authorized by a written proxy (the agent must be a member of the corporation), signed and filed with the secretary. The proxy may be written to cover a single issue or all issues brought to a vote.

Important Dates:

Sunday, Apr 1st – Vung Tau

Meet at Camarillo Grove Park @ 7:30 AM

Friday, Apr 6th – Passover

Good Friday

Sunday, Apr. 8th – Easter

Saturday, Apr. 21st - VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Rd. Ventura
Board Meeting – 5:30 PM
General Meeting – 6:00 PM
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Sunday, May 6th – Mother's Day

Saturday, May 19th – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Rd. Ventura
Board Meeting – 5:30 PM
General Meeting – 6:00 PM
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Friday, May 25th – Family Flags & Organization Flags will be put up at Ivy Lawn Cemetery.

Monday, May 28th – Memorial Day

Memorial Day Services will be held
At Ivy Lawn Memorial Park. More
information coming.

Saturday, June 2nd. – Flags will be taken down at Ivy Lawn

Sunday, 6/17 – Father's Day

What We Do at JPAC (Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command) – Mission Overview

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, located on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, was activated on Oct. 1, 2003. Created from the merger of the 30-year-old U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, and the 11-year-old Joint Task Force – Full Accounting, JPAC is commanded by a flag officer.

The mission of JPAC is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts. The highest priority of the organization is the return of any living Americans that remain prisoners of war.*

**To date, the U.S. Government has not found any evidence that there are still American POW's in captivity from past U.S. conflicts.*

The command is made up of approximately 400 handpicked Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Department of the Navy, civilians and contractors. The laboratory portion of JPAC, referred to as the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL), is one of the largest and most scientifically diverse laboratories in the world, and the only accredited Skeletal Identification Laboratory (ASCLD-LAB) in the United States.

Three permanent overseas detachments assist with command & control and in-country support during investigation and recovery operations: Detachment One located in Bangkok, Thailand; Detachment Two in Hanoi, Vietnam; and Detachment Three in Vientiane, Laos. A fourth detachment, Detachment Four, is located in Hawaii and is responsible for recovery team personnel when they are not deployed.

The core of JPAC's day-to-day operations involves investigating leads, recovering, and identifying Americans who were killed in action but were never brought home. This process involves close coordination with other U.S. agencies involved in the POW/MIA issue, including the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, U.S. Pacific Command, Department of State, the Joint Staff, Defense Intelligence Agency, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, and the U.S. Air Force's Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory.

In order to ensure mission success and the return of all unaccounted-for Americans, JPAC routinely engages in technical negotiations and talks with representatives of foreign governments to promote and maintain positive in-country conditions wherever JPAC teams deploy.

On average, the CIL identifies an MIA about every four days. Since 2003, JPAC has identified more than 560 Americans, and more than 1,800 since the accounting effort began in the 1970's.

VA Launches Personalized Health Benefits Handbook

February 22, 2012

WASHINGTON – Veterans enrolled in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs have begun to receive personalized booklets that explain their health care benefits and contain other useful information.

“VA is committed to providing our Nation’s Veterans with consistent, clear information about the services available to them,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The new booklet, called a Health Benefits Handbook, will provide a personalized listing of health benefits based on each Veteran’s specific eligibility. The handbook will also have contact information for their local VA medical facilities, appointment scheduling information, guidelines for communicating with their clinical team and, as applicable, information about copays.

Distribution of the handbooks began this month, with all 8.5 million Veterans enrolled in VA’s health care system scheduled to receive their handbooks by 2013. Veterans will receive updates to their handbook to reflect changes to their benefits or eligibility.

VA operates 152 medical centers and more than 800 community-based outpatient clinics. Last year, inpatient facilities treated more than 690,000 patients, while outpatient clinics registered more than 79 million visits.

For more information about the Health Benefits Handbook, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhbh or call VA’s toll-free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Institute of Medicine Reports on Agent Orange

On September 29, 2011, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released, “Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2010,” a review every two years of the long-term health effects of herbicides on Vietnam Veterans. VA is assessing this IOM report to determine whether there will be any changes to its policies.

VA contracts with the IOM of the National Academy of Sciences, a nongovernmental organization, to scientifically review evidence on the long-term health effects of Agent Orange and other herbicides on Vietnam Veterans. IOM determines whether the evidence points to a statistically valid association that would suggest or establish a relationship between diseases studied and herbicide use.

VA continues to conduct research on the effects of Agent Orange and monitor the health issues of Vietnam War-Era Veterans.

Help VVMF and HISTORY® Honor Service Members Memorialized on The Wall

HISTORY is proud to join the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund’s (VVMF) Call for Photos, a nationwide campaign to collect a photograph for each of the 58,272 men and women whose names are inscribed on The Wall. Collected photographs, like the ones below, will be displayed in the future Education Center at The Wall and will also appear online on the VVMF’s Virtual Memorial Wall.

HISTORY and VVMF have partnered to advance the collection of the more than 35,000 photos still needed to complete the display for The Education Center at The Wall. Anyone with a photo of a service member listed on The Wall is urged to scan and submit their photo online.

Regardless of whether or not the Memorial Fund has a photo of the individual already, we encourage you to submit it anyway. We are trying to collect as many photos of each individual as possible. If you have a photograph, you can submit it by clicking here.

If you need more information about how to add a photograph to the collection, please contact the Memorial Fund at (202) 393-0090 or via email at mjohnson@vvmf.org.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Bullhead City, AZ

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

