



Listening Post

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

August, 2012

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Presidents Column:

Hello all:

Well, since the last VVVC meeting in June, lots of folks were on vacation, and trips, and I hope everyone had a great time and has returned safely.

The VA clinic in Oxnard is still without Lilly whom has wanted to return but it seems that the VA itself is dragging its feet on her return waiting on paperwork. I also wanted to mention that if anybody has Dr. Aiello as their doctor at the VA clinic in Oxnard, he has moved to a bigger office at the clinic and during my recent visit to see him I noticed he had this huge wall that has pictures of veterans on it, so I asked him are those his patients? He replied yes, he had just started that, so if you have a military picture of yourself, you may want to give it to Dr. Aiello and he will put on his bulletin board, and I think that is a great idea, and he had lots of pictures! I hope that with the new construction going on they can get some folks in there to assist with all of the veterans they are now receiving in.

If you have a military calendar, look at all of the things that have happened in August such as the first atomic bomb mission in Hiroshima, the battle of Bunker Hill, and so on, lots of stuff happened back in the day, and hopefully the future generation will remember those and us who were involved in so much of this.

This year seems to be going by very fast, man, as you get older it really does, thank God for our meds to slow us down, hahaha.

You all are to be commended for the July 4th parade in Ojai, Calif., you really looked sharp, and the weather was perfect! Kudos to John Cabrera for keeping all of us busy!

I have continually been lining up guest speakers for the VVVC because a lot of times these folks contact us, or I run in to people at different events and they want to speak at our meetings, and so far I have been very happy with our guest speakers, I hope you have to.

Thanks again to all whom have helped with the Stephanie Blair project, I know it seems like it is going on longer than expected, but it concerns me not because she is a veteran, and it shouldn't matter who or what it is, we just take care of our own!!

I think things are rolling along smoothly I hope with the family of Jim French, I know that John Johnson (CVSO) has been involved and assisting the family with all VA issues and forms, thanks John and Mike!

I had a kid tell me the other day that this veteran stopped by to have his car serviced here in Ventura at the local Jaguar dealer and he said to tell me hi? A jaguar really? Tell Dave Betti Hi? Hum, all of my friends drive vans, trucks, cars, dualies, scooters, motorcycles, & jeeps, gee; I wonder who it could have been? HEY Paul, we need to talk, buddy, glad you are well!!

(Cont. pg.2)

President's Message (cont.)

I want to give in this newsletter an honorable mention to my son, Sutton Betti (www.suttonbetti.com) who recently was awarded a contract by the City of Iowa Falls, Iowa. My son, who most know is an artist and does sculptures has been contracted to make a bronze a life size (5'9") tall sculpture of Tuskegee airman Joseph Gomers (www.josephgomers.com). I am honored and very proud of my son, I will also be attending the unveiling later this year! Great job Sutton, all of us veterans are very proud of you!

This year is going by so quickly, and before you know it, it will be Fair time, POW/MIA Day, Richards 1/4 reunion in Laughlin, Nevada & Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor day, & yes, nominations of new officers for 2013-2014.

I guess that's it for now, but one more honorable mention, I hope you all have enjoyed the newsletter, because Richard and Jan Camacho sure make it a very nice newsletter and very informative, and I spoke to Jan recently and thanked her like you all should and her comment to me was, "you all deserve the best for what you have been through! Well Jan, thanks, but without you, we wouldn't have the best, you make it happen, thanks again, and to all of you!
See you at the next VVVC meeting.
Dave Betti

*PS-Don't forget to stop by and see Jay at Jay's Automotive here in Ventura, he is located at: 1564 Callens Road, Ventura, Calif. (805.658.9907), his brother Phil, also takes care of the miscellaneous work at the local VFW here in Ventura!

This information is for those of us who were with some veterans during our tours of duty in Vietnam who have had their information incorrectly put on the web site called (www.Findagrave).

I became very upset that incorrect information had been put on this web site and I have since contacted the necessary folks to correct this error. Maybe some of you may want to check out this web site also and to see if you have some brothers on this site that were incorrectly listed how they died.

I was told this was input from the Marine Corps, well that doesn't make a difference to me, the correct info needs to be told and put on that site!

Dave Betti

Subject: Cpl Highland -FindAGrave KIA 26 June 170

I assume you are Davies, Cyril B., Service No.2539539, MOS 0311 (<---nope, that's how messed up they are)

I have edited the page somewhat, the brief comments were taken from the 7th Marines Command Chronology so I pulled the 1/7 Command Chronology TTU 1201052036 Page 29, Para.145, which confirms that Cpl Highland struggled with a VC in the brush before he was killed.

Thanks for your input.

Vice President's Message:

One of my favorite sayings is, "It don't take much, but it do take doin'". I know its bad grammar, but I find myself saying it over and over again, especially when accomplishing those small yet necessary tasks we face each day, you know the ones...the unscheduled annoying ones. But some of those small tasks can carry great significance at times, especially to others in our lives. Another favorite saying of mine is, "Don't allow what you can't do keep you from doing what you can." Sometimes small things accomplished are far greater than great things planned and left undone because we lack the resources, wisdom or energy to accomplish them. I am very grateful for the VVVC. I am grateful I get the honor to help out at Ivy Lawn with the flags, that I get to fellowship with my brothers and sister once a month at the Veterans Home in Saticoy, that I get to be in parades and that I get to share from time to time in our schools. Sure, I would like to do more; contribute more, but I won't allow what I can't do keep me from doing what I can. How about it? A couple of hours a month aren't much. A dollar or two in the 50/50 or a little something in the James M. Ray Scholarship Fund. How about a phone call or note to or coffee sometime with a buddy? We are unique and so are our opportunities to continue to serve. It don't take much, but it do take doin'.

Dave Wilson,
VVVC, Vice President

Hill 55:

Recently a few weeks ago, one of our members, Simon C. had given me a book to read titled "Heart of the Third Sector" Hill 55-A Vietnam combat Report by George A. Hill. I have to tell you, if any of you were stationed at, or near Hill 55 you should read this book.

Near the heart of that region (Hill 55), in what was classified during 1966 by General Wood B. Kyle as the Da Nang un-cleared sector, a dominate hill 8 1/4 miles southwest of the old Da Nang air strip overlooks the bloodstained countryside. The elevation (Hill 55/Camp Muir/Nui Dat Son) is now a major stop in central I-Corps for tourists... A stone monument-one of several erected by the communists at former major U.S. combat bases, now stands on the hill to honor the communist sacrifices-*and there were many*.

Hill 55 never fell to the communists while under U.S. control. Capitalism in the now S.R.V. (Socialist Republic of Vietnam) is beginning to expand-the U.S. is a trading partner.

Lt. Col. Muir was the first Marine Corps Lt. Col. killed in ground combat after the March landing. There were (27) U.S.M.C. Lt. Col.'s killed in the Vietnam War; (21) were pilots.

I found this book very informative, and yet startling with many photos I have never seen of Vietnam, I also found this book very informative and filled full of history that many of us whom had been there never even knew about, it is very good reading.

(Cont. pg. 3)

Hill 55 (cont.)

I hope you have a chance to read this book, and I will bet that most of you Vietnam veterans will even say that yes, I was there, or I was at Dodge City, or Happy Valley, Yen Valley or Charlie Ridge, Thuy Bo, or even Indian Country, because it's all there!

Enjoy, I sure did.

Dave Betti

2012 James M. Ray Scholarship Report:

The Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County (VVVC) is now accepting applications for the 2012 SSgt James M Ray scholarship. This announcement has been forwarded to the local colleges. This year we are awarding (3) \$350 scholarships if you know anyone who is interested, scholarship applications can also be downloaded from our website at: www.VVVC.org

The following are important dates:

July 2012 send out announcement

1 Sept 2012 - Application deadline

10 Sep 2012- Notify Winners

15 Sept 2012-Award Scholarship at General meeting

David Ha,
Scholarship Chair

Treasurer's Message:

At this time I would like to thank fellow member Dave Tapie for his hard work and perseverance in helping fellow veteran Stephanie Blair in her recent hardship involving home repairs. Dave has been the key man in soliciting donations, lining up qualified people to make the necessary repairs, as well as contacting legal representation in hopes of keeping her from losing her home.

Dave is the epitome of what this organization stands for: helping veterans in need.

Doug Temple, Treasurer, VVVC

Current Membership Report / Marie Pounds

Life Memberships 70

Annual Memberships 38

Total Members 108

Formal – 73; Informal – 33 = 69.4% Veterans

Memberships Expiring in August:

Paul Lemar – August 19, 2012; Dale McIntyre August 19, 2012;

Diane Miller August 19, 2012;

Sue Tappie August 19, 2012; Ralph Gonzalez August 19, 2012;

Anna Dennett August 19, 2012;

Alan Templeman August 27, 2012

Expired Memberships:

19 memberships have expired since June 2008

Parade/Work Party Chairman's Message:

Our last event was the Ojai parade. We had a really good turnout. I'd like to thank Hannah Beth Jackson and Das Williams. The people of Ojai sure do show up and cheer for us. We had a great Honor Guard, they made a great showing.

We also had an awesome Bar-B-Que at Ivy Lawn thanks to Jeanne Clark, the new President of Ivy Lawn and the Board of Directors. Great food and a great day.

The next parade will be the Ventura County Fair Parade on Saturday, August 4th. I will be Ventura High School at 8:00 AM. The parade will start at 10:00 AM. Hope to see you there.

We have started working on Wednesdays again. We started out with about 45 flag sleeves to repair, we are now down to about 18 left to do. We have a great system and a great group of guys that just keep steadily working.

There are about 50 flag poles that need to be straightened and welded, as well as new clips. Everything should be completed by Veterans Day. As far as the flags, 25 have been repaired. If I can finish 25 additional, that should complete the flags also.

Thank you for all your support,
Brother John C.



Hannah Beth Jackson and Assemblyman Das Williams joined VVVC members lead off the parade.

Ojai Fourth of July Parade

VVVC members join in prayer before the parade.





General Giap was a brilliant, highly respected leader of the North Vietnam military. The following quote is from his memoirs currently found in the Vietnam War memorial in Hanoi

'What we still don't understand is why you Americans stopped the bombing of Hanoi. You had us on the ropes. If you had pressed us a little harder, just for another day or two, we were ready to surrender!

It was the same at the battle of TET. You defeated us! We knew it, and we thought you knew it.

But we were elated to notice your media was helping us. They were causing more disruption in America than we could in the battlefields. We were ready to surrender. You had won!

General Giap has published his memoirs and confirmed what most Americans knew. The Vietnam War was not lost in Vietnam - it was lost at home BY Walter Cronkite's poor reporting and Congress, who would not provide funding for the Paris Accords Peace Agreement.



Camarillo's Old Town MusicFest

wine ~ food ~ art ~ good times

Sept 22nd
2012
Saturday

8:00PM
The Family featuring Sheila E
with the band...
11:00PM

11:00PM
Kendra Chamelle
with the band...
1:00AM

1:00AM
Gates open
...
...
...



Sheila E. and The E Family

Festival proceeds benefit arts and music education in the Pleasant Valley School District.

General Admission/Festival seating \$8.50
Includes...
...
...

Active Military - (Free admission with proof of ID)

Student Discount Price \$3.50 with proof of ID

Music Circle \$10.00
Includes...
...
...

OldTownMusicFest.com

Important Dates:

Saturday, Aug. 4th – Ventura County Fair Parade
Meet at Ventura High School at 8:00 Am.

Saturday, Aug. 18th – VVVC Meetings
10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Monday, Sept. 3rd – Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11th – Patriot Day
Fly your flag in remembrance of 9/11 victims and their families.

Saturday, Sept. 15th – VVVC Meetings
10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Friday, Sept. 21st – POW/MIA Recognition Day
(More information coming.)

Saturday, Oct. 20th – VVVC Meetings
10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.



**Resolution
of
The Board of Supervisors of Ventura County
Proclaiming
County of Ventura
A Purple Heart County**

Whereas, the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to any member of the United States Armed Forces wounded or killed in combat by a declared enemy of the United States. It was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; and

Whereas, Purple Heart Counties and Cities have been established across the United States through the efforts of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chartered by an Act of Congress to support combat-wounded veterans and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly - make sure we never forget; and

Whereas, residents of the County of Ventura have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and community in the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas, Veterans have paid the high price of their service by leaving their families and communities and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

Whereas, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from Naval Base Ventura County have been vital in maintaining our freedoms and way of life; and

Whereas, Ventura County has a large population of highly decorated military members, active duty and retired, as well as Purple Heart recipients, living in our community; and

Whereas, the designation of the County of Ventura as a Purple Heart County will signify our response to the call to duty by recognizing and honoring those brave patriots who bear the Purple Heart Medal.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors do hereby proclaim the County of Ventura a Purple Heart County in honor of the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform, wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. The Board further encourages residents, the County and all our Cities to remember and recognize local veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.

Presented on this 19th day of June 2012

Chair of the Board of Supervisors
John C. Zaragoza, Supervisor 5th District

Steve Bennett, Supervisor 1st District

Linda Parks, Supervisor 2nd District

Kathy Long, Supervisor 3rd District

Peter C. Foy, Supervisor 4th District



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