



Listening Post

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

December 2010

Officers

Dave Betti, President
(805) 649-3283

Richard Camacho, Vice President
(805) 384-9138

Breanna Wilhemi, Secretary

Doug Temple, Treasurer
(805) 984-0489

David Ha, Chaplain
(805) 482-3772

Board of Directors

Ron Beaman
(805) 212-0512

John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139

Bob Holmes
(805) 641-3880

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 Column:

President's Message:

Hello everyone!

The good news is that we are finally catching up on passing out the last of the plaques to the many folks and organizations that had contributed to the Vietnam Veterans Moving WALL this past August. The recent Veterans Day ceremony at Ivy lawn was a huge success, from the guest speaker, to the mimes! The color guards were spectacular, and there were a lot of veterans from different eras in attendance. You could sure see the camaraderie.

The holidays are upon us, I was hoping that the VVVC would like to possibly at our next meeting in December, have our potluck with the veterans in the Saticoy home this year. It would sure be something different, and I know that Santa Claus has already given his word he will be there! So keep this in mind for our next VVVC meeting this month.

I wanted to say thank you to Diane Miller for being there as the VVVC secretary but unfortunately she had to recently step down due to health reasons. I have to tell you, she will be back, she is a fighter, and her pace is right beside all of us in this big family of ours, so get better soon Diane, we are waiting for your return, and we are all here for you!

In case you have not noticed, there were two brand new flags placed at Ivy Lawn this past Veterans Day by the mausoleum. I want to thank our little sister, Terri for putting up these flags, and the names on them read, Dennis Michael Hoffman, better known as "Hooper", and The Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc., "Welcome Home". You really rock Terri just like Hodgepodge said!

I hope that everyone will mark their calendars for December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day at the Veterans Memorial site. The ceremony is on December 7th, on a Tuesday, and begins at 11 AM, and your host for the day will be Max Van Der Wyck! I hope as many of you will come as possible!

One last bit of info, next year, January 2011 we will be holding nominations for new officers for the year 2011-2012. We have many positions to fill, so we hope that you would come and step up to the plate and take on some of these positions. What better organization to think of representing than the VVVC!

Let's keep on getting any and all info out to the veterans who need assistance, and by all means, contact any veteran if the need arises to seek help with claims and all. We recently had the opportunity to meet Ms. Marissa Mach the Senior Program Manager for the Human Services Agency who is responsible for the veterans filing claims at the VSO office here in Ventura County. We have been assured that all of your veteran's needs, claims and any kind of assistance will be met, and I truly believe this, Ms. Mach is very dedicated to making sure that things happen, and if they don't, she can get to the bottom of it very quickly, we are very lucky to have her on board. If anyone has any problems, please, let us know! We hope that our good buddy Mike McManus comes back very soon, I sure miss talking to him, and bugging him in his office, hahaha!

(cont. pg. 2)

President's Message (cont.)

This is about it for me, until the next meeting. Everyone be safe, and welcome our new members. We are going to have to add on more tables and chairs if we get bigger, which we are! Take care all, see you soon!
Semper Fidelis
Dave Betti

A Message from Dave:

Greetings:

I wanted to share with all of you some info about my plans. My family and I will be moving from our residence by December 9, 2010. It's unfortunate that our landlord filed bankruptcy and the house is now going in to foreclosure which is owned by Bank of America.

Our current plans are to stay up here in Oak View, Calif. for the time being, until we find another residence. We will keep our cell phones with us at all times, but I may be off the computer for awhile. If we need to be contacted, our good friends Richard and Jan Camacho may be contacted if it is that important to reach us.

No worries though all, just a minor setback for us. We have already gotten a storage facility, and we have a new address which I will give you below! Please keep your spirits up, and my family and I would like to thank all of you whom have been there and continue to support us. This is what makes us all proud of what we do for each other.

Happy Holidays,
Dave Betti

P.O. Box 1132
Oak View Calif 93022



On November 9th, a special plaque was presented to Supervisor Kathy Long by the officers and board members of the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County for her support of the Moving Wall and the VVVC. Thank you Supervisor Long for your support of not only the VVVC, but also for the veterans of Ventura County.

*Happy Holidays
Everyone!*

Vice President's Message

Last month I had the pleasure of participating in an inventory of the Flags used by the Avenue of the Flags for Memorial and Veterans Days. The task took two days to complete, but, we were able to give our little Sister Terry Taylor Gonzales a full accounting of all Fags by category from Ready to Fly, to repair and required to retired. In all honesty, when I first took a look at the building where the flags were stored, the sight of all of those Black Widow webs sent chills up my back. As we carefully unrolled each of the flags (with dignity and honor), it was amazing to read the names and dates of each flag. Many were friends and former veterans. I'm glad that I wore shorts while completing this task, the hair on my legs gave me plenty of warning as the spiders began to climb up my legs. Lunch was provided for all of us each day by Terry.

On November sixth, I once again went to Ivy Lawn to assist in putting up the flags for Veteran's Day. The Sea Cadets have this procedure down pat; they did not require any help from anyone else. While I watched the Sea Cadets and Boy scouts go about their mission, it reminded me of years past when we, members of the VVVC stood watch over those flags all weekend. This required that we slept and patrolled the grounds each night until the flags came down.

I would like to see more Veterans come out and assist in the putting up and taking down of these flags; it's a way to honor those who have gone on before us.

Jan and I will not be attending the December general meeting, as we will be heading to Albuquerque, NM for our semi-annual New Mexico fix. However, it's been a year since our last trip due to the Wall being here. My wish is that all of you and your families have a great holiday. Remember, this is a hard time for some vets.

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho

Treasurer's Message

I had a chance to spend the week of Veteran's Day in Las Vegas with John Cabrera and his cousin Richard, Dicky Pina and some vets and their wives from Nebraska. What a motley crew, but what a great group of people who signify what it is to be a veteran, and even prouder to be Vietnam veterans.

From the time we arrived until we left right after the parade, these veterans were reliving their times in country as at most reunions and enjoying each other's company the whole time. And when the trailer was being prepared for the parade, their eyes light up when John breaks out his "toys." The guys grabbed them and held them like they have found long lost friends, truly a sight to see and to respect. This was my second parade in Las Vegas, and I'm already planning for next year.

Doug Temple,
Treasurer

Parade Chairman's Message

The Oxnard Parade will be December 4th. I will pick you up behind the City of Oxnard Building parking lot at 8:00 AM. That is where the parade ends. Due to the new rules of riding in the trailer back to the beginning of the parade, we are unable to transport participants back to their cars.

I'd like to thank everyone that helped with the Avenue of Flags. It took two days to account for the flags, separate retired flags, repair and to dry out the flags. I would also like to thank Terri and Jean for everything they did for both days. If anyone would like to help with a few more projects, it will be on Wednesday mornings. Please give me a call at (805) 483-5139.

The Las Vegas trip was cold and windy. We had a large group. We looked great Bobby, Richard, and Doug made it up there this year. We also had a special guest, Terri's sister Jeanne and little JJ. We all had a great time.

Thanks Again,
John Cabrera



A special presentation was made by VVVC President Dave Betti to board member and parade chairman John Cabrera for all his hard work over the past years. John has always been one of the first to step up to the plate when there is something that needs to be done. Thank you again John for all you do for the VVVC.



This picture was taken in October at morning formation at Port Hueneme. The unit that I made the plaque presentation was the Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) for their support and assistance provided for the Moving Wall.

David Ha
Chaplain/Scholarship Chair

American Cemetery, Florence Italy

By: Fabio Allodoli

While visiting my family in Italy, which I had not been back since we moved to the United States 52 years ago, my cousin took me and my wife to the American Cemetery of WWII, since I had asked him if we had time if he could take us there.

The cemetery is located just outside of Florence, on a rolling hilltop with an incredible landscape. There was a major battle not far from there up in the Apennine Mountains where the Nazi's were dug in high in a monastery's mountain top. That was the DMZ between the Nazi's, the American Forces and British forces. The GI's who fought in capturing this monastery; the majority of the men who fought in this battle are buried in this cemetery. It was a huge stronghold. As soon as you get past the main gates it was absolutely breath taking. The majority of the walls and just about everything else is solid white marble, with various color marble where several maps of Italy and where some of the major battles had taken place including the movements of troops, is done in mosaic.

There are over 4,000 men buried there and another 212 who have not been identify. As a matter of fact the week before we went there to the cemetery, there was an article in the Italian newspaper that the remains of two unknown men, had been identify through DNA.

I took a ton of pictures of the facilities, but the highlight of it all, was when I was walking out, and turned around to take a final picture nearby the flagpole a saw a man walking up the steps to the flagpole and began lowering the flag. I asked him "do you do this by yourself all the time" and he said "yes", and then he asked me if I was an American, which I replied and said yes I am, and a Vietnam Veteran. He then asked me would you like to help me, lowering the flag, I said absolutely, so we lowered the flag and as we were lowering the flag he said he was a Vietnam Vet and said welcome home, I replied Welcome home.

Through the excitement I forgot to ask him his name. I asked him how he got to be there, and said he was born in Sicily and he and his family moved to N.J., and then he later went it the military service and landed him in Vietnam. After many years he returned back to Italy and recently had moved to Florence where he is now in charge of the facility. As soon as he lowered the flag, he then asked me to help him fold the flag and said absolutely, and folded the flag. My wife snapped some pictures and he and I shook hands and left.

What an honor that was! To go back to Florence Italy after 52 years, now as a U.S Citizen and a Vietnam Veteran and then asked by another Vietnam Vet who had almost the same circumstances as I did, and participated in lowering and folding the U.S. Flag. As I was walking out and thinking of the event that just took place the hairs on my arms were standing up, and got very emotional. Whoa!!!!

Important Dates:

Thursday, Dec. 2nd – Hanukkah

Saturday, Dec. 4th – Oxnard Christmas Parade

See Parade Chairman's Message for details.

Tuesday, Dec. 7th – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Veterans Memorial at Govt. Ctr.,

11:00 AM

Saturday, Dec. 18th – VVVC Christmas Party & Meeting

Ventura Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road

Ventura, CA

Buffet Dinner w/ Residents

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

\$7.00 per person

General Mtg. 6:00 PM

Friday, Dec. 31st – New Year's Eve

Saturday, Jan. 1st – New Year's Day

Saturday, Jan. 15th – VVVC Meetings

Ventura Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road

Ventura, CA

Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM

General Mtg. – 6:00 PM

Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Monday, Jan 17th – Martin Luther King Day

Monday, Feb 14th Valentine's Day

Saturday, Feb. 21st – VVVC Meetings

Ventura Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road

Ventura, CA

Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM

General Mtg. – 6:00 PM

Potluck, bring your favorite dish

Monday, Feb. 21st – President's Day

A Note from the Listening Post Staff:

On behalf of the LP staff, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2011.

Happy Holidays,

Jan & Richard Camacho



Boy Scouts placing flags at Avenue of Flags for Ivy Lawn's Veterans Day Ceremony. This is what happens when you have Marines assisting with the project.

WARNING TO VETERANS:

I got this from the Bullhead VFW. I don't know of anybody approached by this VA Services.

I thought you might.

Dave Betti

Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.

<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty

Staff Attorney

Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of General Counsel

Application for Membership

Mail completed application and fees to:
Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.
P.O. Box 3218, Ventura, CA 93006-3218

Membership Type (Please check one):

(____) **Annual Member** => \$20.00 (Check this line if you are a NEW member)

(____) **Renewing Member** => \$15.00 (Check this line if you are renewing your membership)

(____) **Lifetime Member** => \$150.00 (May also be paid in three monthly installments of \$50.00)

Membership Class (Please check one):

(____) **Formal:** Check this line if you were on active duty between **January 1, 1959** and **May 7, 1975**. ALL new Formal applications require a copy of your DD-214. ALL current Formal Members must have their DD-214's on file with the Membership Chair, or they will be listed as Informal Members.

(____) **Informal:** Check this line if you did not serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, or did not serve during the time specified for Formal Membership. If you did serve at any time, we also ask for a copy of your DD-214.

NOTE: One applicant and fee per application, please. Renewal requires completion of this form.

=> Please type or print <=

NAME: _____
Last First Middle Initial

ADDRESS: _____
Street & Number Apt. # City State

PHONE NUMBER: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____
Area Code + phone number

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

“I hereby certify that I am at least 18 years of age, of good moral character, and I am dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc. I agree to abide by the By-Laws and amendments in all respects. My word is my bond. If I do so ever fail this pledge, I am aware that my membership in the VVVC may be forfeited.”

Signature of applicant Date

General Membership Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. the 3rd Saturday of each month at:

**The Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Road
Ventura, CA 93004**

Treasurer: _____ **Date:** _____

Membership Chair: _____ **DD-214: Yes No On File**

Sponsor: _____

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P.O. Box 3218
Ventura, Ca 93006-3218