



# Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

December, 2016

## Officers

Dave Wilson, President

(805) 469-0281

Ron Fitzgarrald, Vice President

(805) 218-3489

Joseph Richardson, Secretary

(805) 659-2387

Doug Temple, Treasurer

(805) 477-8830

Richard Camacho, Public Affairs

(805) 384-9138

## Board of Directors

John Cabrera

(805) 483-5139

Jess Echavarria

(805) 200-7386

Ed Evans

(805) 524-3594

David Ha

(805) 482-3772

Larry Seguin

(805) 320-4116

Howard Tench

(805) 312-1977

## Committees

### Chaplain

David Ha

(805) 482-3772

### POW/MIA

Ron Fitzgarrald

(805) 218-3489

### Listening Post

Laurie Ann Richardson

(805) 659-2387

### James Ray Scholarship

Joe Richardson

(805) 659-2387

### Membership

Marie Pounds

(661) 297-2464

### Parades/Work Party

John Cabrera

(805) 483-5139

## Presidents Message:

This past Veterans Day I had the privilege to work with Ron Fitzgarrald, David Ha and Mike Weiner at the Ojai American Legion event. We started out with breakfast at 07:30 consisting of scrambled eggs with biscuits and sausage gravy, orange juice and coffee. The ladies auxiliary did a fantastic job serving everyone who came. We set up a couple of tables outside and enjoyed the warm Ojai weather. We had one gentleman sign up for the VVVC, sold over \$60.00 in merchandise and got over \$40.00 for the James M. Ray scholarship fund. We met with a number of veterans, Reigns of Hope brought a miniature horse and one lady showed off her two year old show dog by doing a number of tricks in front of our table. Around 14:00 hrs. we broke down and headed home. It was great getting to meet new faces.

Just a reminder: we continue with our nominations for the Officers and Board of the VVVC this month.



### **From the recliner of the VP:**

Life really is short! Hopefully everyone read my article last month about "Got your six".

Just a short reminder of what transpired.

I have a classmate from Wisconsin that was picked to go on the honor flight for Vietnam veterans to go to Washington DC.

He had a list of 4 brothers-in-arms to take pictures of their names and unfortunately in the rush to get ready to leave he left the list at home. This is one of the great things about the internet, we can stay connected. I contacted him via Face book and told him, "send me the names and I'll take pictures for you and post them to your f/b page.

Well I found 3 of them and posted the pictures on his f/b page but couldn't find the 4<sup>th</sup>. While I was trying to find the 4<sup>th</sup> name at the wall, I left him a message on Face book with my phone number. He called and told me thanks for doing that and it meant a lot to him. That was October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Here's an update;

Little did I know that that would be the last time I was to talk to my friend.

He came home from DC and wasn't feeling up to snuff, thought it was just a bug he caught while in DC. Well, it wasn't. 9 days later I and my other classmates lost a dear friend.

I am truly thankful I was able to help for one last time. Until we meet on the other side, R.I.P. Don.

Ron Fitzgarrald, VP

### **Membership Chairperson's Message:**

VVVC December 2016 Membership Report

Annual Members 35

Life Members 93

**Total Members 128**

Marie Pounds

Membership Chair

### **POW/MIA Chairperson's Report:**

Fifteen more brother-in-arms came home to rest on home soil. They are:

#### **KOREAN WAR**

**Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lawrence J. Smith**, 25, of Crowley, Louisiana

**Army Cpl. Joseph Trepasso**, 20, of Buffalo, New York

**Army Cpl. Roy C. Fink**, 20, of Buffalo, New York

**Army Pfc. William V. Giovanniello**, 22, of Brooklyn, New York

**Army Cpl. Wayne Minard**, 19, of Furley, Kansas

**Army Pfc. Lavern C. Ullmer**, 23, of Dayton, Ohio

**Army Sgt. James E. Martin**, 19, of Anacoco, Louisiana

**Army Cpl. Donald E. Matney**, 18, of Seymour, Missouri

**Army Pfc. William W. Cowan**, 19, of White House, Tennessee

#### **WWII**

##### **U.S.S. Oklahoma:**

**Navy Fireman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class John H. Lindsey**, 22, born in the Philippines and raised in Waukegan, Illinois

**Navy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class William E. Welch**, 18, of Springfield, Ohio

##### **Tarawa Atoll:**

**Marine Pfc. Nicholas J. Cancilla**, 18, of Altoona, Pennsylvania

**Marine Pfc. Ben H. Gore**, 20, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky

**Marine Corps Pfc. Wilbur C. Mattern**, 23, of Oelwein, Iowa

#### **INDIA**

**Army Air Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frederick W. Langhorst**, 24, of Yonkers, New York

Ron Fitzgarrald

POW/MIA Chairman

### Future Events:

Nov. 26 – Christmas Parade in Santa Paula. We meet at Santa Barbara St. & 10<sup>th</sup> at about 8:30 AM to decorate. It is a local event so I hope everyone can make it. We have a lot of fun.

Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – The fifth Wednesday of the month, we have a dinner at the American Legion in Oak View. It is right off of Park Road and Old Ventura Road, about 300 yards north on the left side (next to an open field). We usually get there about 5:30 PM. They serve dinner about 6:15 PM. It is local so hopefully everyone can join us. (This month's dinner will be pork loin)

### Just A Note:

Just a note to let you know we had a great time in Las Vegas on Veterans Day. I need to thank Deb and Ken from Davenport, Iowa for all their help and decals and Richard and Cherri from Lincoln, Nebraska for the nice gift of t-shirts. Deb and Cherri took their time to do the mugs. Jess & Doug brought snacks to the hospitality room. And thanks to J.R. for paying for the meals at the luncheon (for those who had to pay).

I'd like to thank the members that came to the parade – Joe & Laurie, Howard & Carol, Richard and Hilda, John & Bobby and many more. There were 28 of us that went out to eat after the parade. What a great turnout. Both the bus and the trailer were full. We had a great group and a lot of fun.

Thank you all for the great turnout!

Brother John Cabrera  
Parades Chairman

### Other Happenings:

**Dec. 13 – At the Board of Supervisor's Meeting VVVC will be presenting a plaque to Kathy Long for all her support of VVVC. This will be her last Board of Supervisors meeting.**

**Dec. 17 – Operation Snowflake (see flyer)**

### Member News

On a sad note John Smiley has taken a turn for the worse – please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

And on a happier note – Congratulations to Brianna (Jimmy Ray Scholarship winner) and AJ Demers on the birth of their daughter Everly Rose.

### Nominations/Elections

At the November meeting the following nominations were accepted:

President	David Wilson
VP	Howard Tench
Secretary	Joe Richardson
Treasurer	Doug
Public Affairs	Ron Fitzgarrald
Bd Members	Larry Seguin
	Ed Evans
	David Ha
	Manual Gonzales
	Barry Jenkins

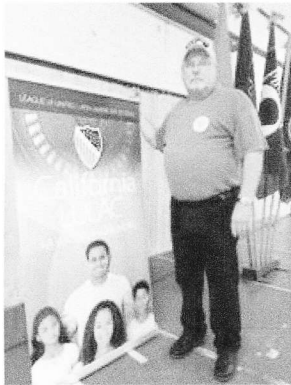
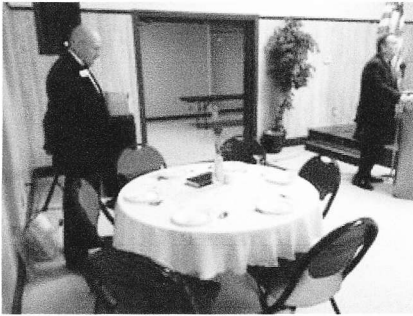
Further nominations will be accepted at the December meeting.



A 'Full House' at our November meeting!

### Other News...

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Ron Fitzgarrald was honored, on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, to be invited to explain how the POW/MIA flag came to be, and perform the Missing Man Table/Honors Ceremony for the League of United Latino American Citizens.



### From The Editor...

Going to Las Vegas on Veterans' Day is really a blast! This was my first time and I had so much fun hanging around with you guys and being in the bus during the parade. You just can't imagine the amount of people who come out and cheer for us as we drive by. All of the wives were in the bus (or hanging out the windows of the bus and we were having a really good time!) and all the guys were in the trailer. I gotta say when they all stood up and saluted the judges it was awesome! Everywhere we went people were thanking them and giving them free meals. It made my heart feel good that these guys were finally getting the praise they should have gotten when they came home from the war. Joe & I went out to the Las Vegas Raceway Saturday night to watch the Duel In The Desert (an oval dirt track which the modified racing cars were running) and we got in line to get tickets (we heard we could get a discount on them) and before we even got to the ticket window a guy came up and asked if we needed tickets and thanked Joe for his service. He didn't ask us to pay for them; he just saw us get in line and bought them for us. How cool is that! All total we had about 28 of us (including wives or family) that day and night. If you ever get the chance to go to Las Vegas with these guys, GO! You'll have the time of your life (if you survive it all)!

On the next page I've put some pictures of that day starting with breakfast at McDonalds, decorating (or tearing down the decorations, I'm not sure which) the trailer and bus, and all the guys in the trailer and a few of us wives in the bus.

Laurie Richardson  
Editor







# OPERATION SNOWFLAKE

VENTURA COUNTY MILITARY COLLABORATIVE PRESENTS

AN EVENT TO HELP VENTURA COUNTY MILITARY AND VETERANS

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WAYS TO DONATE:

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