



Listening Post

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

February 2011

Officers

Dave Betti, President
(805) 649-3283

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

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:

Greetings all, and Happy New Year!

I want to begin this article by saying thank you to all of the members who had stopped by to see me recently during my stay in the hospital! I would also like to thank everyone involved who had helped my family move from our residence in Oak View, Calif. this past December.

Once my wife had told me that she had gone to the residence and saw all of these vehicles waiting out front to attack our moving, she got all choked up, as did I! I can't thank you all enough for always being there, this is what makes the VVVC so special, and the prayers and support, just made me feel a whole lot better, thanks again everyone!!

I have received so many cards, pictures, and flowers, I will probably have to move to a (5) bedroom house just to accommodate everything.

I also wish to thank my BIG brother for keeping all informed and stepping up to the plate like he has so many times in the past, we are very lucky to have such a great man, and his wife!

This will be my first article that I will be submitting this new year and I know that it is time again for nominations of officers for the year 2011-2012. I would hope that all of you who have held positions in the past would continue on in that capacity.

I do expect to start attending VVVC meetings again probably in February of this year! If I can make the January meeting this month, I will try, but currently I have some medical things that need to be cleared up before I go out and start to do things again!

I see we have Valentine's Day rapidly approaching, and before you know it, it will be time for Vung Tau, again, (April 3). I hope that all of you will have a great Valentine's Day, and I know that all of you will be out to help at Vung Tau, I cannot say enough things about the VNVMC, just a very special club and friends to all of us!

I also want to thank Jean and Charlie Ray for the beautiful prayer they had sent me, it really hit home, and meant a lot, thank you both! Take care all, and thanks so much for being a part of our lives, and we will see all of you soon,

I got to get caught up on the parades I missed, and get ready for the new year!

One more bit of info, if anybody has to use the MOPH (Military Order of Purple Hearts) in West Los Angeles, Calif. I have to tell you, they have a new rep there now, and his name is Teneal. I have sent paperwork work to them during my stay in the hospital, and the next thing I know, I am getting phone calls and copies of my paperwork sent back to me for everything they file for claims on my behalf!

I am very impressed; I also want to thank John Jackson for all he has been doing for me, what great communication they all have.

See all of you soon.
Respectfully,
Dave Betti

Vice President's Message:

It's good to see that our President Dave has submitted a president's message. Don't worry Dave, your officers and Board members are ready to take the point until you return.

First off I want to update nominations that have been received so far for 2011 – 2012:

Remember, nominations will be opened during our January meeting for the following positions, and those listed have agreed to run again or to be nominated:

President: Dave Betti

Vice-president: Richard Camacho

Treasurer: Doug Temple

Secretary: Breanna Welhelmi

Board of Directors (five positions): Robert Holmes, John Cabrera, Larry Seguin, David Ha.

I'm still waiting for a reply from Ron Beaman, or anyone else that is interested in being an officer or board member.

I look forward to another great year for the VVVC; we have the St. Patrick's Day parade coming up in March and Vung Tau on April 3. I've already been contacted by our Brothers from "F" Troop of the VMVNC regarding our support and advised them that we would be there to cook and serve as always.

In light of the recent health issues that we experienced during December, I recommend that each of you download the "Very Important Papers" from our web site, fill them out and make sure that your family knows where they are kept or even give a copy to several family members. Also, based on what Jan experienced with her brother-in-law and sister, I would recommend obtaining a copy of California Hospital Association Form 3-1 "Advance Health Care Directive", which must be signed by you and your doctor. This form reflects your wishes as to how to proceed should you not be able to answer at the time. We have an electronic copy of this document. Face it, we are not getting any younger and the time to plan is now, ask Dave Betti about this.

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho

Treasurer's Message:

The New Year is upon us and the flag revitalization project at Ivy Lawn cemetery is underway. Augers used for cleaning out the sleeves that the flagpoles fit in are being rebuilt or repaired. Poles are being sorted out for repairs. Some of the sleeves need to be realigned to level and more flags need to be sorted and repaired. This work is usually done on Wednesdays, so if anyone has a little extra time and is willing to donate some, it would be greatly appreciated. If you have an interest, you can contact me or John Cabrera for details.

Doug Temple,
Treasurer

Supporting Our Own

Triple E Inspections (Home Inspections)
Edward E. Evans (former VVVC VP)
420 Blaine Street
Fillmore, CA 93015-1457
Phone: 805-524-3594
Email: dachief93@aol.com

This is not a paid advertisement, but rather a referral. Ed Evans is a long time friend and fellow Vietnam Veteran, (Seabee). I've worked with Ed in the past, by being his gopher on jobs. If you want a home inspector that will look out for your best interest, contact Ed.

Richard Camacho

From the Editor:

On Page 3 of this month's Listening Post is an article about Breanna's (our secretary) father Gerald. I asked her to do this so you would all know what motivates Breanna to do all that she has done for the VVVC.

Because of her father, Breanna has devoted herself to helping any Vietnam Veteran in any way she can. She served as our Volunteer Coordinator for the Moving Wall in August 2010, and has stepped forward whenever the need has arisen.

Both Breanna and David (her boyfriend) have given so much to this organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both. You have both made the VVVC a stronger organization with your love and dedication.

Jan Camacho,
LP Editor

P.S. **WELCOME HOME GERALD!** Thank you for sharing your amazing daughter with us.



*Happy
Valentines
Day!*



My father's name is Gerald Glenn Wilhelmi. He volunteered for the Army when he was 17 years old. He was living on the road with his friend in Washington State, moving about here and there. He enlisted on December 10, 1968. He went through intake and was given a short leave for Christmas- just enough time for him to visit his family and let them see his new haircut. He left 8 brothers and sisters at home with his mother.

My father completed his 2-month basic training at Fort Lewis, Washington. Then, he completed his 8-week Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) training as a 12 - combat engineer in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was given a leave and then on May 13, 1969 he boarded an aircraft in Oakland, California for his duty in Vietnam. He arrived at the Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base in Vietnam, and was sent to the Induction Center at Ben Hoa for 6 days. During that time, he was re-assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry due to a lack of persons available for that troop. From that point, he was at the Blackhorse base camp. He said he was an E4, but that some called him an "acting jack". At the camp he went on various missions and had many different duties. He was trained to operate different vehicles- mainly the track (tank) - and given general chaperone and driving assignments. He was sent to Quan Loi during the monsoon season (he doesn't remember the date, just the red clay and the horrible weather). From there he was given more assignments driving and escorting convoys to bunkers for salvage and destruction. A few times he went to Cambodia and Tay Ninh- there were other cities but he only remembers what the area looked like, and not the actual names.

In May or June of 1970 he was sent home on leave. He has a hard time remembering, but after his leave, he was at Fort Knox, Kentucky for 6 months. Afterward, he was sent to Germany for a year and was stationed at Camp Wildflecken (he called it Chicken Flicker) where he did all sorts of things. He said that Germany was nothing like Vietnam, but that he had a horrible time while doing 30-day service at the NATO site because he had second-degree frostbite.

He came home in December of 1971, into Fort Dix, New Jersey and then flew to see his family that had relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada. He asked me to note that he has a hard time remembering the dates and certain things because he wasn't feeling well, but as soon as his health was better, he would be able to clarify information. Thank you for letting me share this information with you all.

Breanna Wilhelmi,
VVVC Secretary

Important Dates:

Friday, Feb 4th – Ventura County Homeless Summit

Oxnard Family Circle
5000 South C Street, Oxnard, CA
2 – 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 14th – Valentine's Day

Saturday, Feb. 19th - VVVC Meetings

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

Monday, Feb. 21st – President's Day

Saturday, Mar. 12th – Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade

More information coming.

Saturday, Mar 12th – DAV Veterans Benefit Seminar 2 P.M.

Oxnard Family Circle
5000 South C Street, Oxnard, CA

Sunday, Mar. 13th – Daylight Saving Time Begins

Set your clocks ahead one hour.

Thursday, Mar. 17th – St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, Mar. 19th – VVVC Meetings

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

Sunday, Apr. 3rd – Vung Tau, Camarillo Grove Park

Those who would like to help cook and Serve, please contact Richard Camacho.

Saturday, Apr. 16th – VVVC Meetings

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

Tuesday, April 19th – Passover

Sunday, Apr. 20th – First Day of Spring

Friday, Apr. 22nd – Good Friday

Sunday, Apr. 24th - Easter



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