



Listening Post

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

January 2010

Officers

Dave Betti, President
(805) 649-3283
Richard Camacho, Vice President
(805) 384-9138
Diane Miller, Secretary
(805) 827-3753
Doug Temple, Treasurer
(805) 984-0489
David Ha, Chaplain
(805) 482-3722

Board of Directors

Fabio Allodoli
(805) 938-3686
Ron Beaman
(805) 212-0512
John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139
Bob Holmes
(805) 641-3880
Marie Pounds
(661) 297-2464

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:

Happy Holidays to all:
I want to first say I hope everyone had a very pleasant holiday!

As most of you know, at our next January 2010 meeting will be open for nominations of officers for the VVVC for 2010-2011. I encourage all of you to attend and seek a position within this great organization.

There has been much going on these past few months, and between all of the great parades and all, I know some probably would like to come up for some air?

I want to pass on to all of you a recent phone call I received a few days ago from Mr. Charlie Ray, yes Charlie Ray. I was so honored, he had asked me to tell all of you, Merry Christmas and Happy New year, he sounded great, and I was able to speak to Jean Ray for a few minutes, but we will have more conversation as she has her hands very full at the moment.

I should inform all of you if you don't already know, the VVVC will now be meeting at the new Veterans Home in Saticoy beginning January 16, 2010. We will have our Board meeting at 5:30 PM sharp and general membership meeting at 6 PM sharp and try and be done no later than 8 PM. We will still be having our potlucks, but will probably be limited as to what if anything we can store until things get smoothed out. This should also be a lot easier for those traveling from the valley, closer anyway. The Veteran's Home administrator Brenda Manke has given us the go ahead.

I for one would especially like to thank Steve Weber and the American Legion for continually opening their doors to us, and we hope to continue our relationship to this great post, and great man!

A little early notice, Vung Tau will be on April 11, 2010, at the same location as it has been, so we will of course be ready to assist.

Thanks to all of the members who recently attended the past Pearl Harbor day at the Ventura County government center this past December 7th. I want to especially thank John Cabrera and Doug Temple for the beautiful job they did on providing and making sure the plaque was attached to the American flag pole at the Veterans Memorial site dedicated to Ross Buzzell and Max Van Der Wyk, what a beautiful job, and memorial service!

The brothers from the VNVMC "F" Troop are also to be thanked very much for their support.

There is a lot happening this year, and I don't have much room here to tell you all the things coming up, and going on, so you will have to attend the meetings to find out, I have only so much space here, hahahaha!

Happy New year, be safe, and see you next year!
Respectfully:
Dave Betti

Vice President's Column

At the December general meeting, our scholarship winners were presented certificates after each read their essays to the members present. Both were very touching and showed many hours of research. If you weren't there, you missed some great readings.

Our trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico, was great. We left Camarillo on December 19th and arrived in Flagstaff, AZ that afternoon, where we found snow and temperatures in the teens. When we left on Sunday Dec. 20th, it was 8 degrees and Jan's CR-V handled the cold weather great.

On Monday we met up with John and Espy Holguin and their grand-daughter Yvette. John served with me in Vietnam; they drove up from Vado, NM, where they reside on land that was granted to his Great Grand-father in the 1900s.

During lunch at Sadie's Mexican Restaurant, John shared a letter he received from Governor Richardson, appointing John to the Board of Directors for New Mexico's Veteran's Museum. The State Senate will confirm John's appointment during the first week of 2010. What an honor for John.

Our trip back was a bit slower than going, it snowed in Albuquerque the night before we left, giving us 3 inches of new snow. Leaving Albuquerque was a top speed of 25 mph due to the icy road conditions and all of the accidents along the way. We did encounter more snow in the Gallup, NM area, and finally reached Flagstaff, AZ where it was in the low teens once again due to snow the night before. We loaded the CR-V on Thursday Dec. 24th it was -3 and the CR-V had a hard time starting, but we made it out and on to CA.

All I can say is that New Mexico is like California was 50 years ago, as you walk down the street, people look you in the eye and greet you as you pass by. Some day, when the time is right, Jan and I will relocate there for our golden years.

Simper Fi

Richard Camacho



As a new year begins, please continue to pray for our POW/MIA's from all wars.

In case some didn't know, one of our past presidents **Mr. Frank Lindsey** has been very ill. I don't think his wife Sherry would mind if I said to the family, get well soon Frank.

In case some don't know, Frank and I had the same employer, which was Ventura Unified School District! I can tell you so many times I had run in to Frank during my job, that when we had the time we would hang around and talk shop. By the way, and I am sure most of you know Frank is an excellent painter, and avid hunter.

When I became a member of the VVVC Frank Lindsey was president, and I still have my membership card with his signature on it. What I liked about Frank was he had some very good stories about hunting, and he always kept me laughing, and I got to tell you, here is a man who loves to hunt, and loves his family very much!

When Frank was redoing one of our bus yards, a few years ago, before he retired, he had told me that there isn't anything he doesn't love about life. He would tell me straight up, what is good, and what is bad, but Frank never ever complained about anything bad. I was kind of dumbfounded? I asked him doesn't anything bother you at all? He replied, "Dave, look at all of what we have been through in our lives, look at what we have, look at what has meaning and look at what doesn't matter!" We all have a common bond, all of us, I just smile, go through the day, and never let anything bother me, I have been ill so many times in my life, that I cannot complain, but one thing is for sure, the family is my strongest tie, my family is my life, and it's the only thing that matters to me!

Well Frank, you have always left a lasting impression on me, you have always made me look up when others looked down. I wish you much great health, and I respectfully thank your family for sharing you and your life with me. Best wishes Frank, and a speedy recovery. God Bless you. Dave Betti
A coworker & Veteran.



2009 James M. Ray Scholarship Winners

Kristin Rice (L.) and Katelen Eich (R).

The Creation Of Viet Nam Vets:

When the Lord was creating Vietnam veterans, He was into His 6th day of overtime when an angel appeared.

"You're certainly doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And God said, "Have you seen the specs on this order? A Nam vet has to be able to run 5 miles through the bush with a full pack on, endure with barely any sleep for days, enter tunnels his higher ups wouldn't consider doing, and keep his weapons clean and operable.

He has to be able to sit in his hole all night during an attack, hold his buddies as they die, walk point in unfamiliar territory known to be VC infested, and somehow keep his senses alert for danger.

He has to be in top physical condition existing on c-rats and very little rest. And he has to have 6 pairs of hands."

The angel shook his head slowly and said, "6 pair of hands....no way."

The Lord say's "It's not the hands that are causing me problems. It's the 3 pair of eyes a Nam vet has to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through elephant grass, another pair here in the side of his head for his buddies, another pair here in front that can look reassuringly at his bleeding, fellow soldier and say, "You'll make it" ... when he knows he won't.

"Lord, rest, and work on this tomorrow."

"I can't," said the Lord. "I already have a model that can carry a wounded soldier 1,000 yards during a fire fight, calm the fears of the latest FNG, and feed a family of 4 on a grunt's paycheck."

The angel walked around the model and said, "Can it think?"

"You bet," said the Lord. "It can quote much of the UCMJ, recite all his general orders, and engage in a search and destroy mission in less time than it takes for his fellow Americans back home to discuss the morality of the War, and still keep his sense of humor The Lord gazed into the future and said, "He will also endure being vilified and spit on when he returns home, rejected and crucified by the very ones he fought for."

Finally, the angel slowly ran his finger across the vet's cheek, and said, "There's a leak...I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak", said the Lord. "That's a tear."

"What's the tear for?" asked the angel.

"It's for bottled up emotions, for holding fallen soldiers as they die, for commitment to that funny piece of cloth called the American flag, for the terror of living with PTSD for decades after the war, alone with it's demons with no one to care or help."

"You're a genius," said the angel, casting a gaze at the tear.

The lord looked very somber, as if seeing down eternity's distant shores.

"I didn't put it there," he said.

A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his life wrote a blank check Made payable to "The United States of America " for an amount of "up to and including my life". That is Honor, and there are way too many people in This country who no longer understand it."

Important Dates

Saturday, January 16th – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home
1900 Telephone Road
Ventura, CA
Board Mtg. – 5:30 p.m.
General Mtg. – 6:00 p.m.
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Monday, January 18th – Martin Luther King Day

Sunday February 14th – Valentine's Day

Monday, February 15th – Presidents Day

Saturday, February 20th – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home
1900 Telephone Rd.
Ventura, CA
Board Mtg. – 5:30 p.m.
General Mtg. – 6:00 p.m.
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

From the Listening Post Staff

We would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a happy and healthy 2010.
Jan & Richard Camacho