



Listening Post

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

January, 2013

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President's Message:

Happy New Year everyone!
Well, it has been a great 2012, and here we are, 2013!

So now it's that time of year again, yes, January, February and March will be nominations for VVVC officers and board members for 2013 – 2014.

We will have elections of Officers and Board Members in March of 2013, and we hope that all of you will step up to the plate and join us; we will have many positions open!

I want to thank all of you whom have held your positions in the VVVC very much, you all were great and are to be commended!!

I hope you all continue on in the capacity you held, you did great!!

All of the parades, events, driving down to Camp Pendleton, Calif., as well as Pearl Harbor Day and celebrating the VVVC' 27th year in existence. How could it get any better than that?

Well, I have just gotten word that Vung Tau will not be held in Camarillo Springs this year, it has been moved to the Rancho San Antonio Boys Home in Chatsworth, Calif. I will send more information as I get it.

Okay everyone, see you next year!

Dave Betti

Vice President's Message:

I am looking forward to 2013 and the opportunity to again go into our schools and share with the young people our Vietnam experience.

Getting old is hard enough, but to think that we are considered "living history" is just weird. It took me over 30 years to face my experience, much less share it with anyone. I still have trouble talking to my counselor about some things. As a matter of fact, I have even skipped a session knowing what we were supposed to discuss.

On the positive side; something happened the other day that was quite rewarding. A young man from our church had just returned from Afghanistan. He had received an Administrative Discharge [Honorable] for medical reasons and didn't know where to go next. He felt lost and directionless. He wants to deal with his medical issues so as to reenlist.

Learning from my own past mistakes, I was able to encourage him to first get registered with the VA. Next I was able to recommend some options concerning getting an education based on his military training.

As we talked the young man realized that he had options he had never considered before and helps for his medical conditions.

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Vice President's Message (cont.)

I never would have been able to help him the way I did if it had not been for those who encouraged me to apply for my entitlements from the VA and if I had not the opportunity to share with others some of what we went through in country and at home.

Dave Wilson

Treasurer's Message:

VVVC has had a really good year in 2012 in getting things done. We were involved in helping a veteran get her home back while making necessary repairs and upgrades. We reached out to many classrooms in the area to help teach the students about the Vietnam Era. We continued our work at Ivy Lawn cemetery assuring that the flags would fly on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We continued to give out scholarships at the college level, and we continued to help veterans wherever we could.

Let's hope we can continue to do these things as well in 2013. Happy New Year!

Doug Temple

Chaplain's Message:

The following is from the Patriot Guard Riders California website:

Welcome Home

The family of Petty Officer 3rd Class Aijalon Rivas has invited the Patriot Guard Riders to join them as they welcome home Aijalon when she returns from an 8 month sea deployment. Aijalon serves as a Culinary Specialist (CS) aboard the USS Enterprise.

Veterans Passing

SPC Lauren Delos Reyes served three years on active duty for the 21st Cargo Transfer Company, Ft. Lewis, WA. She was currently serving as an Army Reservist when she passed away in a car accident. Lauren was only 27 years old and leaves behind two children, siblings and her parents.

William K "Bill" Paulsen. Mr. Paulsen is a US Navy Veteran, Storekeeper Third Class, with service from 1944 to 1946.

Continue to keep Steve Weber in your thoughts and prayers for healing as he took a nasty spill on his bike.

God bless you all and have a prosperous New Year.

David Ha

Work Party/ Parade Chair Person's Message

How time flies. Another year has gone by. We had a lot of projects and have a lot more to look forward to.

I first need to thank Jeanne Clark and the board from Ivy Lawn who donated the granite stone for Max Van der Wyk's plaque for Pearl Harbor Day.

I also want to thank everybody who helped to put the flags up for Veterans Day, but most of all for helping take them down also. I couldn't have done it without your help. It took three day and a lot of devotion.

We need to repair 103 sleeves and 180 poles, as well as sew (mend) about 100 flags.

With the recent rains and a few doctor (VA) appointments, we've decided to start up work on January 9th to repair poles. We ordered more snap hooks and eyelets to repair the poles.

I'm very proud to be with all of you!
Brother John Cabrera

Expiring Memberships:

The following memberships will expire in January 2013:

Richard Pina 1/25/13

Adriane Somner 1/21/13

Please renew your membership if you want to continue to receive the LP Newsletter.

Thank you on behalf of Marie Pounds, Membership Chair.

Important Dates:

Tuesday, Jan. 1st – New Years Day

Saturday, Jan. 19th – VVVC Meetings

Ventura Veteran's Home
10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM
Pot luck, bring your favorite dish.

Monday Jan. 21st – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday, Jan. 30th – 5th Wednesday Dinner

American Legion Oakview
475 Old Ventura Ave., Oakview
Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Soldier Missing from Vietnam War Identified:

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Sgt. John R. Jones, of Louisville, Ky., was buried Dec. 6, in Arlington National Cemetery. On June 4, 1971, Jones was part of a U.S. team working with indigenous commandos to defend a radio-relay base, known as Hickory Hill, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. When enemy forces attacked the site, Jones and another serviceman took up a defensive position in a nearby bunker. The following morning, Jones was reportedly killed by enemy fire and the other soldier was captured and held as a POW until 1973.

From 1993 to 2010, joint U.S.-Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted several investigations, surveyed the site and interviewed multiple witnesses, including those involved in the battle. During that time, analysts from JPAC and DPMO evaluated wartime records and eyewitness accounts to determine possible excavation sites. In 2011, another joint U.S.-S.R.V team located human remains in a bunker suspected to be the last known location of Jones.

For the identification of the remains, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental records and mitochondrial DNA that matched Jones' mother and brother.

Since 1973 more than 900 servicemen have been accounted for from the Vietnam War, and returned to their families for burial with military honors. The U.S. government continues to work closely with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to recover all Americans lost in the conflict.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO website at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call 703-699-1169.



Soldier KIA During Vietnam War Identified:

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, killed in action during the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Capt. James M. Johnstone, of Baton Rouge, La., was buried Dec. 12, in Arlington National Cemetery. On Nov. 19, 1966, Johnstone was the pilot of an OV-1A Mohawk aircraft that crashed while conducting a daytime reconnaissance mission over Attapu Province, Laos. Nearby U.S. aircrews reported seeing the wing of Johnstone's aircraft hit a tree during a climb to avoid a nearby ridgeline. No parachutes were seen exiting the aircraft. Heavy enemy presence in the area prevented recovery efforts.

From 1993 to 2009, joint U.S.-Lao People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.) teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), interviewed multiple witnesses, and conducted several investigations and excavations of the crash site in Attapu Province. The teams located human remains, military equipment, an identification card bearing Johnstone's name, and aircraft wreckage of an OV-1A, which correlated with the last known location of Johnstone's aircraft.

To identify the remains, scientists from JPAC analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, such as dental comparisons.

Today, the U.S. government continues to work closely with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to recover Americans lost during the Vietnam War.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO website at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call 703-699-1169.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial, San Antonio, TX

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