Listening Post

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

January, 2016

Officers

Richard Camacho, President
(805) 384-9138
Ed Evans, Vice President
(805) 524-3594
Joseph Richardson, Secretary
(805) 659-2387
Doug Temple, Treasurer
(805) 984-0489
Ron Fitzgarrald, Public Affairs
(805) 659-2614

Board of Directors

John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139
Jess Echavarria
(805) 200-7386
David Ha
(805) 482-3772
Larry Seguin
(805) 320-4116
Dave Wilson
(805) 469-0281

Committees

Chaplain
David Ha (805) 482-3772
POW/MIA
Ron Fitzgarrald
(805) 659-2614
Listening Post
Jan Camacho (805) 384-9138
James Ray Scholarship
Richard Camacho (805) 384-9138
Membership
Marie Pounds (661) 297-2464
Parades
John Cabrera (805) 483-5139

Presidents Message:

Hope you all had a great Christmas and that your new year is a great one. I have a lot of information to get out in the message, so let's begin.

First, during the December 2015 Executive Board meeting, the Board and Officers proposed the following change to Article VII – Election of Executive Board: Delete from Article VII Section 1 subparagraphs (A), (B), (C) and (D), and amend it to read: (A) All nominations of qualified candidates for election to the Executive Board shall be taken from the floor of the general meetings at least 90 days before the date of election. (B) Nominees must confirm willingness to serve. (C) Subject to the time frame established in Article VII, Section 1 (A) and Section 1 (C), any member, in person or by proxy, may place names in nomination.

The above proposed Bylaw change was voted on and approved by the VVVC membership at our December 2015 meeting. This change does away with forming a nominations committee, and allows nominations from the floor during any of the general membership meetings up to 7 days prior to the election on March 19, 2016.

With the approval of the above Bylaw change, I opened nominations for the 2016 slate of Officers and Board Members.

A new 2016 Nominations and Voting Proxy form has been sent out to be posted on the VVVC web page, for those members that do not live local, as well as those members that may be on travel during the elections and want to vote or place a name in nomination. The Voting Proxy must be received by the VVVC no later than 12 March 2016, to be counted.

I want to thank those members that have served as Officers and Board Members for 2015, we have accomplished quite a bit, and I appreciate your continued support.

As we prepare for this next year, I'm hoping that other members will step forward to serve as board Members or Officers. We need new ideas and new blood to continue our mission of supporting not only Vietnam Veterans, but all veterans in Ventura County.

In closing, a reminder that there will be a Veterans Claims Expo on February 18th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo, CA. This is by appointment only, so please call Congresswomen Brownley's Office to schedule an appointment, (805) 379-1779.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

Semper Fi
Richard Camacho

Vice-President's Message:

On the 16th of November was the first and second of four appointments to see Dr. Roxanne Chrenshaw, Ph. D. BCB at the old Oxnard clinic. The last two visits were at the NEW clinic off of Wooley Road, Oxnard.

The new clinic is well laid out. They have six new check-in windows, large waiting room. Everything is new. A few bugs still need to be worked out, but all in all it was a great experience.

I hope we all made it through the holidays and remembered our brothers and sisters still serving and sacrificing at duty stations here and abroad.

Also, nominations have begun. It's surprising how time has passed so quickly. I really encourage members to step up and run for an office.
Ed Evans
DaChief

Parade/Work Party Chair Person's Message:

Another year has passed. We lost a brother and a few to medical reasons. We need to keep the very one in our minds and remember to keep in touch because we do care.

The Santa Paula Parade was a cold day, but we looked great, with a bus pulling the trailer. Yes a bus, a school bus I found. We had a great time. I couldn't have done it or had it ready without the help of my brothers and sisters. Thanks to Rambo (Jesse) Echavarria, Richard Pena, Doug Temple, Howard Tench, Craig Johnson, Joe Richardson, Ron Fitzgarrald, and Mike Weiner. And to anyone else that I may have forgotten, please forgive me. It doesn't look like a lot of work, but putting in the seats and bolts, working on the shocks, cleaning parts, going after partS, we have been busy, all of this just to prepared for the parade. Ed Evans also had his jeep in the parade. The guys really decked out the bus, trailer and jeep. Thanks to all of those who came out in the cold.

As for me and wife Sharon, we'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year to you all. All of you will be forever in our hearts.
Brother John

Possible VVVC Fund Raiser

During the December2015 Board Meeting, we discussed the possibility of doing a fund raiser with California Pizza Kitchen. This might be an event that we could hold four times a year. A flyer would be sent out to members and friends before the event, when you present the flyer to your server, California Pizza Kitchen will donate 20% of your dinner check to the VVVC.

We need to know how many members would be willing to participate in this before we commit to this. If this is something you or your family or friends would be willing to participate in, please contact Larry Seguin, (805) 642-3594 or email bseguin@aol.com
Thanks,
Richard Camacho

POW/MIA Chair Person's Message:

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today December 1, 2015 that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.
Marine Cpl. James D. Otto, 20, of Los Angeles, will be buried Dec. 8, in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington D.C. In November 1943, Otto was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting, approximately 1,000 Marines were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded. Otto was reported killed in action on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943.

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today December 4, 2015 that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.
Army Sgt. Robert C. Dakin, 22, of Waltham, Mass., will be buried Dec. 12 in his hometown. On Dec. 12, 1950, Dakin was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and was declared missing in action when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir during a heated battle. A military board later amended his status to deceased when no information was available pertaining to his loss.
Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which we now believe contain the remains of at least 600 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents included in the repatriation indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the area where Dakin was believed to have died.
In June 1999 and July 2001, remains were recovered in Kujang County, North Korea, and in October 2000, additional remains and personal effects were recovered along the Kuryong River, North Korea.

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today December 10, 2015 that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.
Army Sgt. 1st Class Billy D. Hill, 21, of Wichita, Kan., will be buried Dec. 17, in Killeen, Texas. Hill was assigned to the 282nd Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade, as a gunner on a UH-1D helicopter. On Jan. 21, 1968, the helicopter he was in with five other soldiers was struck by enemy fire and crashed near Khe Sahn, Vietnam. One of the two crew members who survived the crash stated he believed Hill was struck by enemy fire just prior to the crash. Hill was declared missing in action following the crash.
On April 8, 1968, soldiers searched the crash site area and recovered the remains of two of the soldiers of the helicopter. The remains of Hill and one other soldier remained unrecovered. On Dec. 12, 1975, a military review board amended Hill's status to deceased. (Cont. pg 3)

POW/MIA Chair Person's Message (Cont.):

Between 1993 and 2014, seven investigations were conducted regarding the whereabouts of Hill, but no remains were attributed to him.

In 2014, members of DPAA's predecessor organization, the Joint Personnel Accounting Command, reanalyzed unknown remains returned from Vietnam during a unilateral turnover in 1989, which were reportedly recovered in the vicinity of Khe Sahn.

To identify Hill's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and two types of DNA analysis, including mitochondrial DNA analysis, which matched two cousins, and Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat DNA and autosomal DNA analysis, which matched his.

Happy New Year from our house to each and everyone in the VVVC!

Ron & Pat Fitzgarrald

Important Dates:

Friday, Jan. 1st – New Years Day

Saturday, Jan. 16th – VVVC Meetings

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

Monday, Feb. 15th – Presidents Day

Thursday, Feb. 18th – VA Claims Expo

4001 Mission Oaks Blvd.
Camarillo, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
By appointment only. Call (805) 379-1779 to make an appointment.

Saturday, Feb. 20th – VVVC Meetings

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

Past Presidents:

I'm trying to generate a listing of all of the past presidents of the VVVC; unfortunately, we don't have all of the LP's in our files. Here is what I came up with, if you can fill in any of the blank dates, it would be greatly appreciated.

Richard Camacho

1985 Robert Keuser
1986 Robert Keuser
1987 Richard Camacho
1988 Richard Camacho
1989 Richard Camacho
1990 Richard Camacho
1991 Richard Camacho
1992 Richard Camacho
1992 Gary Parker
1993 Gary Parker
1993 Steve Weber
1994 Steve Weber
1994 Richard Camacho
1995 Richard Camacho
1995 Skip Thomas
1996 Skip Thomas
1997 Skip Thomas
1998 Frank Linsday
1999 Jim Britton
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009 Dave Betti
2010 Dave Betti
2011 Dave Betti
2012 Dave Betti
2013 Dave Wilson
2014 Richard Camacho
2015 Richard Camacho

On December 21st, Jennifer Vasquez received an award from Congresswoman Brownley, for her Outstanding Community Support. Congratulations Jennifer

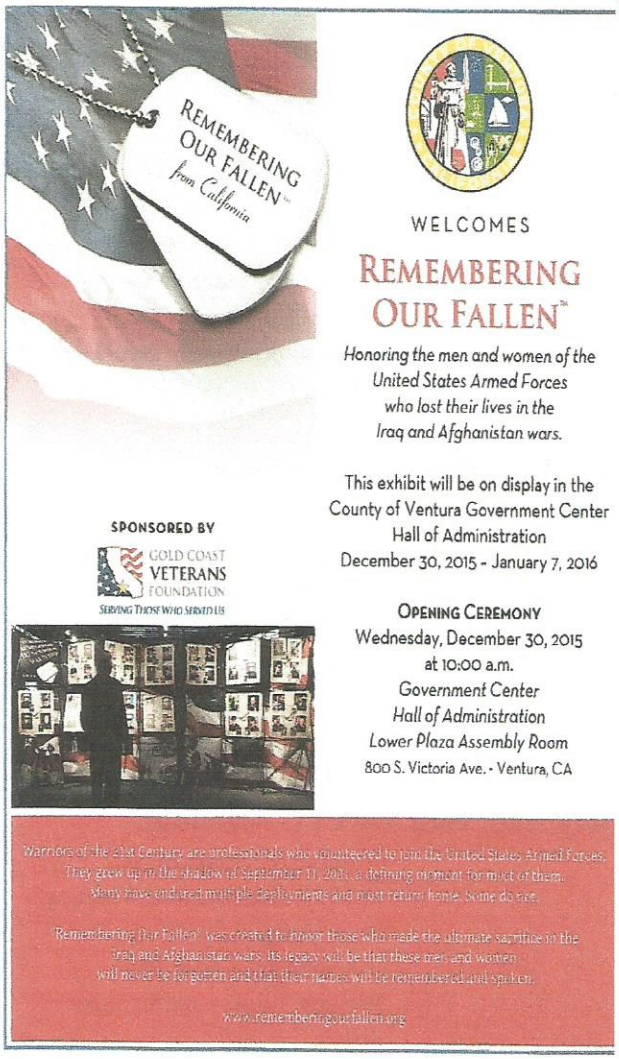
Santa Paula Christmas Parade:

John Cabrera debut his new Parade (former school) Bus for the Santa Paula Christmas Parade. Not only can it carry people, but he can also tow the trailer. Ed Evans also brought his Sea Bee Jeep to the parade. It was a great showing; many members came out and ride in the trailer and bus.

2016 VVVC Executive Board Nomination

Please note, nomination for the 2016 slate of officers and board members will be remain open until March 12, 2016. For those members that cannot attend the March 19, 2016 membership meeting to vote, you will be able to go to the VVVC web page and down load the Voting Proxy form, then fill it out and send it to the VVVC P.O Box. The new updated form has been sent out to be uploaded. All proxies must be received at the P.O. Box by March 12, 2016 to be counted.

Nominations as of December 19, 2015
President – Dave Wilson
Vice President – Larry Seguin
Secretary – Joe Richardson
Treasurer – Doug Temple
Public Affairs – Richard Camacho, Ron Fitzgarrald
Board Members (6) – John Cabrera, Jess Echavarria, Ed Evans, David Ha, Howard Tench



VVVC PROXY BALLOT

I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that I am a paid up member in good standing in the VIETNAM VETERANS OF VENTURA COUNTY, INC. and that the person designated below, (also a paid up member in good standing), has the authority to vote for me at the 19 March 2016 VVVC General membership meeting.

She/he shall vote:

_____ as they wish,

_____ as I have designated on this ballot by the name below.

***This ballot proxy must be received by the VVVC Secretary no later than seven (7) days in advance of the date of the General membership meeting of 19 March 2016, either in person, or by U.S. Mail (VVVC P.O. Box).**

_____ _____

Name of Absentee Voter (Please Print) Name of Designated Voter (Please Print)

_____ _____

Signature of Absentee Voter (Date)

Name of person(s) and position(s) voting for:

_____ President

_____ Vice President

_____ Secretary

_____ Treasurer

_____ Public Affairs Officer

_____ Board member

_____ Board Member

_____ Board Member

_____ Board Member

_____ Board member

_____ Board member

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