



# Listening Post

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

July 2010

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POW/MIA – Dave Betti  
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Membership – Marie Pounds  
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Parades – John Cabrera  
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## Presidents Message:

Greetings all:

Things are looking very good for the VVVC this year, as it always does. I am getting back on my feet, and I was just told today (June 7th) that my heart rate is back to normal, and that I have been removed from one of the blood thinners, thanks all for your continued support and being there!

There are a few that I want to pass on to you:

On June 30, 2010, the American Legion held their annual barbeque at the American Legion in Oak View, Calif. I went a few months ago, and chiefs John Cabrera and Chef Doug Temple were also there cooking up a great meal. I was very pleased to see also VVVC Pete Duncan and RT Lee at the dinner, so you may want to mark your calendar and attend this great dinner they put on the 5th Wednesday of designated months.

I have been informed that VVVC life member John Smiley was scheduled for knee surgery on June 9th and would probably be at CMH (Community Memorial Hospital) for 4-5 days. Let's keep John and his family in our prayers.

Thanks to all of you for making Memorial Day another success, the color guards were great, as were the wreath layers and the place was packed.

Before I sign off, if you happen to see Terri Taylor-Gonzales, wish her a Happy Birthday. It is a secret, but her birthday was June 5th, so don't tell her you got it from me?

Hello and thanks to Jean and Charlie Ray who checked on me, even while Charlie was in the hospital, they always come through for us, no matter what, thanks all! See everyone at the next WALL and VVVC meeting this month.

Semper Fidelis  
Dave Betti



August 26<sup>th</sup> through August 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ivy Lawn Memorial Park

**Candlelight Vigil, Thursday Aug. 26th – 7:00 p.m.**

**Welcome Home Ceremony, Saturday Aug. 28th – 11:00 a.m.**

## Memorial Day Update:

Greetings all:

I just wanted to tell you all how proud I am of all of you!

The Memorial Day service at Ivy Lawn was great.

I am always amazed how well things always come together when there is any kind of ceremony at Ivy Lawn. It's very obvious that a lot of other unnamed businesses could use a few lessons from Ivy lawn, how great it was!!

I want to thank the following members for their participation at the Memorial Day ceremony: Paul Lamar, Diane Miller and John Smiley for the placing of the VVVC wreath. David Ha, Richard Pena and Ron "Bear" Beaman for the Color Guard. Richard Camacho for making the announcement that the Moving WALL would be coming to Ivy Lawn Memorial Park in August. (He had two microphones at our KHAY interview and now he got to speak as I was brushed aside, hahahha, kidding.) And a special thanks to Mr. Richard Lev for helping with parking.

I also want to thank Jan Camacho and my wife Carrie for manning the VVVC Wall Information table and answering all questions that were asked by the folks who showed up. Thanks to both Jan and Carrie who stayed after the ceremony ended, the VVVC received over \$500 in donations for the Wall.

If it had not been for Richard and Jan Camacho making up the signs, the donation box and such, this probably would not have happened. The volunteer signup sheet had (32) people who signed up to volunteer when the WALL arrives.

I would also like to thank VVVC members John Cabrera and Doug Temple who got up early and headed over to the American Legion in Oak View, CA to cook breakfast which consisted of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. It was a great breakfast, and they cooked a lot of it. I would suggest to all of you that next year you head up to the American Legion in Oak View for a great breakfast.

Now, on to Libby Bowl and the report I received. I heard the speech that Fabio gave was a heart touching benediction. I knew he gave great benedictions as I have heard some of his speeches and he is just remarkable.

I have to thank John Cabrera and Doug Temple again for attending the service at Libby Bowl. I won't tell anybody, but I heard from some female friends (singers) of mine that Doug Temple had also given a speech. Way to go Doug and everyone.

You made Memorial Day what it is today, a day of remembrance, and honor! Great job all, and you know what it's about.

Semper Fi.

**Dave J. Betti/President**

## Vice Presidents Message:

I want to bring everyone up to date on the status of the Moving Wall. The cost of the Wall is covered; all meals have been secured for the entire time of the display, thanks to Jeanne Clark from Ivy Lawn. The site has been surveyed and marked by the Seabees; they will also provide two (2) tents and some cots. Lights and generators will be provided by the Air National Guard.

La Quinta Inn has once again provided a room for the driver for the entire display.

I've prepared a letter requesting a donation of lumber and screws from Home Depot, which my father is hand carrying to the Region Manager of Home Depot.

At the Memorial Day service, we had 32 volunteers that want to assist us during the display sign up. Speaking of which, we have received a six page "Volunteer Handbook" from Task Force Omega, which we will be using during two Volunteer training sessions in July at the Veterans Home in Saticoy.

My father has also made arrangement to secure on a "Loan" type basis landscaping shrubs and other plants to decorate the Wall. I plan on taking my father to the Fontana display at the beginning of July, so that he can get a feel of what we will need.

We have two copies of "Etched In Stone", the DVD program of the names on the Wall, that were donated by Congressman Gallegly's office. The only difference between the Moving Wall and the Wall in DC is six names that were recently added. Jan has obtained those names and their locations.

We have at least three guest speakers scheduled so far, with a possibility of a couple more. Most will be given 5 - 10 minutes to speak.

It is my sincere desire to honor the "Grunts" who served in Vietnam during this display, as well as those that paid the ultimate price. I look forward to seeing all of you during the next two meetings.

Until next month,  
Semper Fi  
Richard Camacho

Greetings All,  
Great news, Wednesday night (6/3) Jim Britton was presented with a pin for (20) years of service with the Marine Corps League at their monthly meeting in Simi Valley, Calif. Congratulations to Jim Britton for (20) years of service with the MCL.

Jim also requested and received a donation of \$250 from the MCL for the Wall.  
Thanks again Jim, I am proud of you!

Dave J. Betti/President

### Chaplain/Scholarship:

The following is a review of the 2010 James M Ray Scholarship.

12 June - send out applications  
1 August - forms due back  
30 August - announce winners  
18 September - present winners

I will keep you posted as time progresses.  
God bless you all.

David Ha  
Chaplain / Scholarship Chair

### Speakers at Anacapa Middle School:



Pictured from left to right are:

Afghanistan Veteran Brett Phillips, Laurie Curtis-Abbe (teacher), Richard Camacho, Dave Betti, Tim Tobin and Bobby Holmes.

### Webmaster Column:

Hey everyone! I am pleased to report that I finally found some time to work on the website. Here is the summary of the updates I did:

1. The Calendar and News pages are all up-to-date with info on the meetings, moving wall and parades .. etc.. note the links to the various groups
2. Note that all links are in White... i.e. if you click on any white text it will open a new web page or email
3. The latest membership application is now down-loadable from the JOIN menu (thanks for the PDF Jan!)
4. The Links menu is also up-to-date for each category. Note that a lot of the original POW/MIA pages that were on the old web site have been removed because they were bad or missing links.. If you know new ones let me know and I will put them in .. same for all the categories
5. The Listening Post (under NEWS) is now available back to November 2009
6. Fixed numerous layout issues on text and CAPS

Please take some time to explore the pages and if you have some ideas on how to improve or constructive criticism please feel free to comment.

Some of the things I would like to do (and have been suggested) in the future are:

1. Add a "slideshow" of past events like parades, Vung Tau and participation in Memorial/Veterans Day.
2. A Bio page for members... i.e. what units they served in and when and where (this was a suggestion)
3. A "Guest Book"
4. A "site meter" (another suggestion)
5. A down-loadable form for making donations to the organization (we might actually have this????)
6. Expand the "Scholarship" page to include past winners ... (we probably need their permission in writing for this???)

My next priority is the [www.lzventura.com](http://www.lzventura.com) website. I will be adding a menu and scrolling news bar! How exciting!

Paul Lamar,  
VVVC Webmaster

## Seabee / Marine History in Vietnam

The second instance of significant of U.S. Naval activity in Vietnam took place 108 years later and, this time, the Seabees were prominent participants. The 1954 Geneva agreements, which recognized the North Vietnamese communist government of Ho Chi Minh, also contained a provision which gave the Vietnamese populace an opportunity to choose whether they would live in the north or the south of a country newly divided roughly at the 17th parallel. Prior to 18 May 1955, the expiration date of this provision, nearly 800,000 Vietnamese emigrated from north to south. Their exodus, in which four nations participated, has since come to be known as the "Passage to Freedom." During the mass migration, the South Vietnamese government built reception centers and provided basic amenities, the French supplied ships and planes, and the British provided an aircraft carrier. For its part, the United States organized Navy Task Force 90, comprising more than 50 ships. Through the concerted effort of these four governments, 310,000 refugees were evacuated from North Vietnam. In addition, 68,857 tons of military equipment and 8,135 military vehicles which, furnished to France under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program, were kept from North Vietnamese hands.

As members of Task Force 90, Amphibious Construction Battalions One and Two took part in the "Passage to Freedom." In DaNang, where the USS Constitution had stopped more than a century before, a detachment from Amphibious Construction Battalion One built and operated a recreation facility for U.S. personnel involved in the ferrying operation. Another detachment from the same battalion constructed a refugee tent camp and accompanying water and power supply facilities at the mouth of the Saigon River. This Seabee-built camp served as a reserve living area for the overflow of refugees from Saigon. Since the Geneva accord specifically prohibited the landing of foreign military units or the establishment of foreign military installations in French Indo-China, the Seabees of this detachment were required to wear civilian clothes and to remove all U.S. markings from their equipment. Nevertheless, as a result of their humanitarian efforts, the Seabees of Amphibious Construction Battalion One were awarded the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation. Detachments from Amphibious Construction Battalion Two were originally scheduled to build a causeway across the beaches adjacent to the North Vietnamese city of Haiphong. Over this causeway military equipment and refugees were to be transferred to the many ships lying offshore. The plan, however, was soon abandoned because of French opposition and the later discovery that the previously selected beaches were unsuitable for such a causeway. Instead, all loading operations were carried out from the Haiphong waterfront, and the Seabees were diverted to the south to help their comrades with the construction of the massive refugee camp. The Seabees labored for about one month in Vietnam and, before being relieved, made an important contribution to the success of this historic "Passage to Freedom."

Fabio Allodoli,  
VVVC Board Member

## Six New Names Added to Wall

This past Memorial Day, six new names were added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. The six names being added met the Department of Defense (DOD) criteria for addition to the Wall: all of the men died as a result of wounds sustained in the combat zone during the Vietnam War. In addition to the six names that were added to the Wall, the designation of 11 others were changed from MIA to Casualty.

Names added to the Wall and locations on the Wall are:

John Edward Granville, Los Angeles, CA,  
Panel 06W Line 034

Clayton Kenneth Hough Jr. Holyoke, MA,  
Panel 08W Line 033

Edward Francis Miles, Manhasset, NY,  
Panel 26W Line 055

Michael Joseph Morehouse, Covington KY,  
Panel 26W Line 001

William Lynwood Taylor, Tampa FL,  
Panel 07W Line 081

Ronald Michael Vivona, Suffolk NY,  
Panel 50E Line 36

## Wall Donations:

As of June's mailing, we have taken in over \$1,200 this month alone toward the Moving Wall, helping us achieve our goals.

We still have a couple of month's to go, so if anyone might know of a group or organization that would be interested in donating to such a cause, contact Dave Betti or Richard Camacho or direct them to: [lzventura.com](http://lzventura.com).

We also received \$89 in donations to the James M. Ray Scholarship Fund and Greg Sandoval donated his winnings from the June meeting 50/50 Drawing to the Flag Fund.

Doug Temple  
Treasurer

## Who Was I?



This month's picture is of Joseph Richardson. In his words:

“The picture 'at sea' near the river mouth of the Cau Viet??? River ... near the DMZ was taken as our platoon landed in Jan 68 to establish a base camp and security for what would become the site of a Seabee built landing for supplies to be taken up-river. The five tractors that made this initial landing encountered numerous assaults by NVA for the first nearly 30 days prior to artillery joining us in mid-March. The Seabees landed and built the ramp and groundpounders joined and provided security for the encampment in late June ... I left Viet Nam from this base in Sept of 68.”

## A Request from the Editor:

I have run out of pictures for our “Who Was I” column. If you have enjoyed seeing these pictures and want the column to continue, please send your pictures to me at [camacho4@roadrunner.com](mailto:camacho4@roadrunner.com).

Jan Camacho,  
Listening Post Editor



HAPPY  
4<sup>TH</sup>  
OF  
JULY!

## Important Dates:

### Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ojai 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

Meet at Main St. & Clubhouse Rd. 8:00 a.m.

### Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> of July

### Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> – VVVC Meetings

Ventura Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road

Ventura, CA

Board Mtg. – 5:30 p.m.

General Mtg. – 6:00 p.m.

Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

### July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup> – Stand Down

### Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – Ventura County Fair Parade

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Ventura High Sch.

### Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – VVVC Meeting

Ventura Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road

Ventura, CA

Board Mtg. – 5:30 p.m.

General Mtg. – 6:00 p.m.

Potluck, bring your favorite dish

### August 26<sup>th</sup> through August 30<sup>th</sup> - Moving Wall

Ivy Lawn Memorial Park

### Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – Candlelight Vigil at the Moving Wall – 7:00 p.m.

### Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> – Welcome Home Ceremony at the Moving Wall – 11:00 a.m.

### Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day

### Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> Patriot Day

### Friday, September POW/Mia Recognition Day

Candlelight Vigil at the Government Center

### Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, - VVVC Meetings

Ventura Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road

Ventura, CA

Board Mtg. – 5:30 p.m.

General Mtg. – 6:00 p.m.

Potluck, bring your favorite dish

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