



# Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

July, 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

John Cabrera

(805) 483-5139

David Ha

(805) 482-3772

Robert Holmes

(805) 641-3880

Larry Seguin

(805) 320-4116

Dave Wilson

(805) 469-0281

## 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: IN MEMORY OF CHARLIE RAY

Greetings all:

Well by now, most of you know it's that time of year, school is out, vacations mount, and you can hear the kids shout!!

I just heard that Jan Camacho the other day as she is fully retired, and she deserves it very much, now she can do the travels with all of us, but first we are going to have to let her unwind? I especially want to say congratulations Jan, and thanks for teaching all of our children all of those years!

The VVVC has been very busy as most of you know, what with schools, and I am again going to let Richard Camacho go in to detail in his article, but I can say this, what a very busy time we have had since January 2011.

We have another parade coming up on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Ojai, CA, John Cabrera wants everyone there by 8:00 AM, and we are leading the parade.

The 29<sup>th</sup> of this month will be the 5th Wednesday and the American Legion in Oak View, CA will be having their potluck starting at 6:00 PM. If you plan to attend, please bring a side dish or a dessert, I hope to see you all there.

It will be good to have our treasurer Doug Temple back in town by the time you read this, I sure missed him, that's one important job he handles and takes very serious. Thanks Doug, and welcome back!

We will be taking a trip down to MCRD San Diego (Marine Corps Recruit Depot) next month with Terri Taylor-Gonzales and Richard and Jan Camacho and my wife and daughter and Jennifer Vazquez (bugler) to attend Jennifer's brother, Rafael Tinajero's graduation from boot camp on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We shall have some pictures for you upon our return.

If you didn't get an invitation to the book signing by Jannette Jauregui for July 7th at 6 PM, give me a holler, she has a new book coming out called: Ventura County Veterans: World War II to Vietnam. I have heard that some of the local Vietnam veterans are in this book?

The VVVC would like to thank the local chapter of the VNVMC for their recent donation to the James M. Ray scholarship program; with their continued support of this scholarship it helps our club to help students who are going on to college and further their education, thanks again!

I have recently received more info regarding the special ceremony for 9/11 this year. There will be a ceremony on that date at the Ventura County Government Center and it will be attended by many local and state officials, I hope

Well, I better end this soon, or my page will be shortened and I will be reprimanded, hahaha, take care all, thanks for all of the support, see you at the meetings.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Betti

## Vice President's Message:

### PASSING OF CHARLIE RAY

At 2:45 PM EST Sunday 6/26, Jean Ray called me to say that Charlie had passed away an hour earlier. If you care to drop Jean a note, her address is

2401 Arbor View Circle, D'Iberville, MS 39540

This was a record year for presenting our Vietnam Experience to schools in the Ventura /Los Angeles Areas. Presentations were given at Newbury Park Adventist Academy (2 days), Moorpark High School, Chaminade Prep (2 days), Pacific High School, Thousand Oaks High School, Robert Fulton College Prep, Anacapa Middle School, Redwood Middle School and Buena High School.

I want to share two comments we received after our presentations made at Pacific High and Buena High. Ms. Angie Weatherford of Pacific High thanked us for giving her a new insight on her father who is a Vietnam Vet. Ms. Cheryl Wheeler of Buena High, came up and gave Dave Betti and I a hug that almost crushed us and said now I understand why my ex-husband acted the way he did, thank you for giving me a new understanding. All of the schools have indicated that they want us back next year. For me, 2012 will be my 25 year of speaking at Moorpark High.

Next month a few of us are heading down to MCRD San Diego, to attend Rafael Tinajero' graduation from boot camp. Rafael is the brother of Jennifer Vazquez (our bugler) and Monserrat Morales (one of our faithful volunteers). We (Dave and I) found out that due to their jobs, none of his family would be able to attend his graduation. For all that this family has done for us, we couldn't let Tinajero graduate without any of his family there, so Dave Betti and his family, Terri Taylor Gonzales and the Camacho's will be heading down on the 28<sup>th</sup>, so that we can make the early Colors Presentation at 8:00 AM on the 29<sup>th</sup> and the graduation afterwards.

Late update, I received a phone call from a Vietnam Veteran on Thursday 6/17 who received one of my VVVC cards from his son's girlfriend. He told me he has been looking for a group to join and get help and or assistance in dealing with the VA. Our last presentation was at Buena High School, in the last class, one of the young ladies was talking about the problems her Grandfather was having dealing with the affects of Vietnam. As she spoke her eyes began to tear up. I gave her one of my cards and asked her to have her Grandfather contact me. As the students left, three more young ladies stopped and asked me for a card.

Until next month,  
Semper Fi  
Richard Camacho

## Parade/Work Party Chairman

I'd like to thank everyone that helped at Ivy Lawn on Memorial Day. I personally thank everyone that attended the 'special service' afterward, it meant a lot to me.

We have VVVC patches for sale, large 10" is \$15 and the small 3" is \$2. You can either call me or see Bobby G. at the meetings.

I hope everyone is ready for the best summer parade, the July 4th parade in Ojai. We will meet at 8 am Country Club Road. We are entry # 1.

Hope to see you all there.

Brother John Cabrera



## Missing Vietnam War Airman 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.

Air Force Capt. Darrell J. Spinler of Browns Valley, Minn., will be buried on June 18 near his hometown. On June 21, 1967, Spinler was aboard an A-1E Skyraider aircraft attacking enemy targets along the Xekong River in Laos when villagers reported hearing an explosion before his aircraft crashed. The pilot of another A-1E remained in the area for more than two hours but saw no sign of Spinler.

In 1993, a joint U.S.-Laos People's Democratic Republic team, led by Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), interviewed villagers who witnessed the crash. They claimed Spinler's body was on the river bank after the crash but likely washed away during the ensuing rainy season. The team surveyed the location and found wreckage consistent with Spinler's aircraft.

In 1995, the U.S. government evaluated Spinler's case and determined his remains unrecoverable based on witness statements and available evidence. Teams working in the area revisited the location in 1999 and 2003 and confirmed Spinler's remains had likely been carried away by the Xekong River. However, in 2010, JPAC conducted a full excavation of the location and recovered aircraft wreckage, human remains, crew-related equipment and personal effects.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command used dental x-rays in the identification of Spinler's remains.

## How many Americans are "missing" in Southeast Asia?

At the end of Operation Homecoming in the spring of 1973, 2,646 Americans did not return from Southeast Asia -- they were "unaccounted for." Since then, 957 have been "accounted for" by (1) recovering and identifying remains; (2) return of a small number of individuals after Operation Homecoming; (3) recovering the remains of several individuals as a group whose remains are not separately identifiable.

Currently, 1,689 Americans are "unaccounted for" in Southeast Asia:

- X Vietnam: 1,296
  - X North Vietnam : 476
  - X South Vietnam : 820
- X Laos : 328
- X Cambodia : 58
- X China (territorial waters) : 7

**These figures were last updated on: May 30, 2011**  
**Figures include 468 at sea or overwater losses**

## Important Phone Numbers:

Thank you to Oxnard Family Circle for providing this information.

Veterans Rehabilitation Program @ Oxnard Family Circle

1-805-385-4180

Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Ctr.

1-818-891-7711

Crisis Hotline/Suicide Prevention

1-800-273-8255

Oxnard Veterans Health Clinic

1-805-604-6960

DAV Transportation Network

1-805-659-7525

Veterans Service Office Human Service Agency

1-805-477-5155

Ventura Veterans Home

1-805-659-7500

Ventura Vet Center

1-805-585-1860

24 Hour VA Nurse Line

1-877-252-4866

Greater LA Automated Telephone System

1-800-952-4852

West Los Angeles Medical Center

1-310-478-3711

Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center

1-213-253-2677

VA National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

1-877-424-3838

## Important Phone Dates:

**Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> - Fourth of July & Ojai Parade**

Meet at 8:00 AM @ Country Club Road

**Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> - 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.

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> - Sea bee Days**

Port Hueneme

**Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> - Ventura Fair Parade**

More information coming.

**Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> - 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, September 5<sup>th</sup> - Labor Day**

**Sunday, September 11th - Patriot Day**

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> - 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.

**September 29<sup>th</sup> - October 3<sup>rd</sup> - The Moving Wall**

Santa Barbara, CA

**October 6<sup>th</sup> - October 9<sup>th</sup> - The Moving Wall**

Garden Grove, CA



Happy  
4<sup>th</sup> of  
July!



Leonard Heck patrolling the Delta checking boats for arms and munitions, and river banks for enemy ambushes.

## West LA VA Medical Center Finalizes Plans for Modernization

June 22, 2011

*Expands Homeless Program, Building Renovation, Inpatient Care*

LOS ANGELES — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) posted the Master Plan for the West Los Angeles (WLA) campus, which includes plans to expand the homeless program by renovating buildings on the historic campus.

“Secretary Shinseki is committed to ending Veteran homelessness in Los Angeles and throughout the country by 2015. Though much work remains, VA has made significant progress to reduce homelessness over the past two years under his leadership,” said GLA Director Donna M. Beiter, RN, MSN. “This Master Plan builds on VA’s progress to end Veteran homelessness and ensures that land use at West Los Angeles will continue to put the needs of Veterans first – now and into the future. The West Los Angeles campus is a sacred and peaceful place for Veterans to heal, and VA is committed to ensuring Veterans and their families receive the care and benefits they have earned.”

The WLA Master Plan, introduced for public comment in January 2011, outlines potential modernization projects that provide direct benefit for Veterans through VA programs and services on the WLA campus. The plan calls for an expansion of GLA’s homeless program through the renovation of Buildings 205, 208, and 209. This renovation will create additional opportunities for long-term therapeutic and supportive homeless programs at the WLA campus focusing on the most chronically homeless disabled Veterans.

(continued next column)

## West LA VA Medical Center Finalizes Plans for Modernization (cont.)

Other projects under consideration as funds become available include: constructing a new inpatient tower (clinical expansion), centralizing research activities and locating them adjacent to the clinical area, expanding the Los Angeles National Cemetery onto the WLA campus and collocating the VA regional office onto WLA grounds, offering Veterans comprehensive services in one location.

Under the Master Plan, as each existing land use agreement expires, renewal will be determined based upon the priorities and guiding principles established in the Master Plan. This plan ensures that all future proposed land use will be evaluated based on three critical priorities: direct benefit to Veterans, fulfillment of VA’s mission, and compatibility with the community. The Master Plan conforms to the relevant laws in effect on the date of publication. A change in law, such as the Administration’s proposed Civilian Property Realignment Act, could impact this property. If these laws change, VA will update the Master Plan accordingly. In addition, this plan is intended to be flexible and does not provide an implementation schedule, nor does it commit funding for specific projects.

The Master Plan will be available for public viewing Wednesday at [www.losangeles.va.gov](http://www.losangeles.va.gov).

To view the Final Notice available Wednesday visit: [http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-15739\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-15739_PI.pdf)

The Master Plan will be published in the Federal Register Thursday at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the VA GLA Public Affairs Office at (310) 268



Robert Fulton College Preparatory School  
ROTC Classes  
Van Nuys, CA  
Richard Camacho, MSGT Luis Morejon, Tim Tobin

## Rules for Rendering Hand Salute of U.S. Flag

### New Law Allows Retirees and Vets to Salute Flag

Traditionally, members of the nation's veteran's service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag only while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed service members, military retirees, and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. flag.

A later amendment further authorized hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. This was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14, 2008. Here is the actual text from the law: SEC. 595. MILITARY SALUTE FOR THE FLAG DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES NOT IN UNIFORM AND BY VETERANS. Section 301(b) (1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

(B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and

(C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart;

Note: Part (C) applies to those not in the military and non-veterans. The phrase "men not in uniform" refers to civil service uniforms like police, fire fighters, and letter carriers - non-veteran civil servants who might normally render a salute while in uniform.



### From the Editor:

On Saturday (6/25) we had the honor of taking Andrea Tinajero and her mother out to dinner. Andrea, who sounded Taps at many the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremonies for the VVVC is on her way to the US Naval Academy. Congratulations Andrea! We will miss you.

## Memorial Day at Ivy Lawn:



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

