



# Listening Post

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

June 2010

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Parades – John Cabrera  
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## Presidents Column:

Greetings all:

My speech this time will be a little short. I am sure by now all have heard that I have been under the weather, in the “wake up” call sort of way. I cannot thank all of the veterans, wives, teachers and hospital staff for keeping me in your prayers, and thoughts.

I want to thank my very dear friends, Richard and Jan Camacho for standing by myself and my family, and for being there as you all have. If Richard and Jan had not stepped up to the plate, I don't know what I would have done, nor would my family.

I am truly blessed to have all of you as my closest friends. I have read the emails, and I have even responded to a few, but just to have my friends give the support and love to my family made my healing process a lot easier, and I could not have done it without all of you.

I realize that when one of our own becomes sick, or distraught, there is always somebody to pick you up and move you forward, it sure showed in the VVVC! You all should be very proud of yourselves. This is one great BIG family, and like many have said, we take care of our own!

Thanks again to all of you who gave up so much of your time, sleepless days and nights, and home chores to pay me a visit, call me, send cards and flowers and letters. I know change is due, and believe me, its beginning today.  
Thanks again, see all at the meetings,

Respectfully,  
Dave Betti



The Moving Wall  
August 26<sup>th</sup> through August 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ivy Lawn Memorial Park  
Ventura, CA

Candlelight Vigil - Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>  
Welcome Home Ceremony - Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>  
(More information coming.)

### **Proud To Be a Veteran:**

I was having breakfast with my wife this morning at Pete's restaurant here in Ventura County when the waitress approached our table to take our order. I was not ready to order as of yet, so she gave us about another (5) minutes and returned. When I was done ordering my breakfast, it was next my wife's turn to order. The waitress took our order and left. My wife then asked me if I had seen the chain the waitress was wearing around her neck. I replied yes.

The waitress returned with our breakfast, and I had to ask about her chain with dog tags she was wearing. I at first did not notice the dog tags until she turned them over. The waitress was wearing dog tags of a recent funeral she attended for a dear friend of hers.

He was killed in Fallujah, Afghanistan. There was a picture of the young Marine on the dog tags that were passed out at the funeral in Thousand Oaks, Calif. recently for this Marine. This young hero was the first Marine to be killed from Thousand Oaks, Calif., and the fifteenth to be killed from the County of Ventura. The waitress by the way I came to find out was the girlfriend of this young Marine who was only 20 years old at the time of his death. He died by a car bomb and gun shots during an ambush in that Country.

If you go and have breakfast at Pete's restaurant any time, be sure and let them you know you are a veteran? Why you ask? We feel their pain, we know what it's like to lose a brother, and we want them to know he did not die in vain.

God bless this Country, God bless the soldiers, and God bless this young lady!

Semper Fi till I die,  
Dave Betti

### **Moving Wall Donations Update for May 2010:**

We have received two donations this month from Bob Holmes and Dorothy's Wagon in Camarillo. If anyone knows of an individual, group, or organization that might be interested in donating to the Moving Wall, they can contact Dave Betti or Richard Camacho or go to [lzventura.com](http://lzventura.com).

Doug Temple  
VVVC Treasurer

### **DAV Shuttle Reservations:**

If you need to make reservations for the DAV Shuttle to West Los Angeles, you can do so by calling the DAV Shuttle Office located at the Ventura Veteran's Home at the number below.

(805) 659-7525

### **Vice President's Column:**

First off, I would like to thank all of the members that took the time to visit our President Dave Betti while he was in CMH. I would also like to thank all who responded to my emails and sent messages back for Dave and his family, which I printed off and took to Dave each day. The responses do help speed up the recovery.

Although I knew that Dave would make it through this set back, I was still concerned about the fact that there was a chance that I might lose a great friend and fellow Viet Vet. Again, thanks for being there for Dave and his family.

As I write this article, we have presented our Vietnam Experience to three schools, and will have presented to a fourth school by the time you read this. I want to thank the following veterans for joining me: Dave Betti, Bob Holmes and Tim Tobin, Moorpark High school on April 9, 2010. Bob Holmes, Tim Tobin and Ed Evans, Chaminade High school on April 22, 2010. Tim Tobin, Fabio Allodoli and Bill Shay, Newbury Park 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Academy on May 13 - 14, 2010.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> Tim Tobin, Dave Betti, Bob Holmes, Fabio Allodoli and myself are scheduled to speak at Anacapa Middle school in Ventura. It has been a busy year for us.

Wall update, as of our last meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, Chief Johnson and his crew had surveyed and laid out markers for the positioning of the Wall. We now need to set our two ceremonies, Wednesday night candle light vigil and Saturday Welcoming. We will have flyers available for the membership at our July meeting.

Until next month,  
Semper Fi  
Richard Camacho



*Flag Day - June 14<sup>th</sup>*

*Fly your flag for all to see.*

### **Chaplain/Scholarship:**

It was nice and a blessing to see Dave Betti back. It was also nice to see Jane Smiley again and remember to keep them in your prayers for continued healing. Also remember to keep Kevin Sheehan in your prayers.

I had the distinct privilege to be part of the flag line for two veterans that were buried this month. I rode with the Patriot Guard Riders as an escort from the memorial service to the grave site. It was very humbling.  
Remember the cross in the Mojave Desert? I may be assisting with the "new" raising of the cross....

Welcome to Breanna Wilhelmi and her boyfriend David!!!!  
Remember you, David and your David are always welcomed here...God Bless you and your desire to assist this organization.

### **S/SGT James M. Ray Scholarship Update**

June - Send out applications  
July - Review applications  
August - Select winners  
Sept - Present winners

Again thank you all, for those who have continuously and generously donate to the S/SGT James M Scholarship.

Until next time, God Bless you all

David Ha  
Chaplain

### **Parades:**

I just would like to thank the good Lord that Dave is doing fine now, it could have been far worse.

I know there is a lot on our plates in the upcoming months, but we need all the support we can get.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ojai 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Meet at 8:00 a.m.  
As of today we were mentioned about being their Honor Guard to lead the parade off. What an honor!

August 7<sup>th</sup> – The Ventura County Fair Parade (more information coming)

Again, we are going to be busy. We need all the help and support we can get.

Thank you,  
John Cabrera

### **New and Renewing Members:**

**New Life Members:**  
Terri Taylor Gonzalez  
Sharon Cabrera

**Renewing Members:**  
Ken Dalryaple  
Joe Reyes  
Adriane Sumner

### **A letter from one of our new members:**

Recently I received a nice letter from Dave Betti, voting me in as a lifetime member of the VVVC. This is a great honor as I personally did not serve in the military. My service is to serve those who did. My work and dedication to this organization I know is greatly appreciated, but it doesn't touch what all of you as individuals and an organization do.

Thank you kindly to all of those who thought of me and made this decision a lifetime.  
Sharon Cabrera

### **Who Am I 2? aka Who Was I?**



Last month's picture was of VVVC President Dave Betti.

This month's picture was sent to us by VVVC life member and former principal of El Rio Elementary School Rafael Perez. He served with C Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 4<sup>th</sup> ID and Convoy Security. The picture was taken at the end of 1966 in/around Pleiku outside their bunker.

Pictured left to right are Ed Evans of Kansas, Richard Gallegos of East LA and Rafael Perez of Wilmington. In Rafael's words, "Ed has a beer as we were resting after a mission and acting casual... you know young men and their bravado".

Thank you Rafael for sharing this picture and your thoughts with us.

## Seabee History you didn't know, and especially in Southeast Asia.

Beginning in 1964 the United States military buildup in South Vietnam interrupted the normal peacetime deployment pattern of the Naval Construction Force. The Seabees were slated to play an important and historic role in the growing Southeast Asian conflict. By autumn of 1968, when Vietnamese requirements reached their peak, world-wide Seabee strength had grown to more than 26,000 men, serving in 21 full-strength Naval Mobile Construction Battalions, 2 Construction Battalion Maintenance Units, and 2 Amphibious Construction Battalions.

**In what "year" were the Seabees first used as a military unit: Answer: 1942, yes and no.**

**The Seabees got its name from Admiral Morrell, however the work they performed was more than just construction after training they were ready to defend for themselves and also help all other branch of the U.S. forces.**

**I believe that the Seabees did not really make a name for themselves until the Vietnam War, as it was stated above the involvement in Vietnam included 21 full strength Battalions.**

**But here is a bit of history that most people don't know, and since the information is rather long we'll divide it up in various new letters.**

The U.S. Navy and Seabee activity in Southeast Asia, however, long predated the Vietnam War. In fact, the first U.S. Navy involvement in Vietnam took place as early as May 1846. In that year, the USS Constitution, while on a world cruise, anchored in Danang Bay to take on water and foodstuffs. While there, Captain John Percival, USN, the Constitution's skipper, received a request for assistance from Bishop Dominique Lefevre who had been imprisoned and condemned to death by Thieu Tri, Emperor of Cochin China.

In response to the bishop's plea for help, Captain Percival led a rescue party of 80 sailors and marines ashore. After seizing three Mandarins as hostages, he quickly dispatched a letter to the Emperor demanding the release of Lefevre. The message either went unheeded or undelivered, because a reply was never received. Deciding on an alternative course of action, Percival released the three Mandarins when they steadfastly promised that they would personally seek Lefevre's release. Still later, after hearing no more from the Mandarins and fearing that he had been tricked, Captain Percival set sail for Macao, where, nine days later, he apprised the French authorities of Lefevre's plight. A warship was promptly dispatched and, as a result, Bishop Lefevre was finally rescued. Thus, the story of the first United States intervention in Vietnam ended happily.

To be continued.

Fabio Allodoli

## VA Updates On Line Form:

Submitted by Bob Holmes.

U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly  
banner<<http://www.house.gov/gallegly/images/eghead1.GIF>>

VA Updates Online Application for Health Benefits  
The Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its online Form 10-10EZ  
<<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>>, "Application for Health Benefits."

According to the VA, the revised online application provides enhanced navigation features that make it easier and faster for Veterans to apply for health care benefits. The new version also allows Veterans to save a copy of the completed form for their personal records.

A significant enhancement allows Veterans to save their application to their local desktop and return to the application at any time without having to start over. Previously, Veterans had to complete the form in a single session.

The updated online form  
<<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>>  
, along with the revised VA Form 10-10EZ, reduces the collection of information from Veterans by eliminating some questions.

In addition, there are minor changes to simplify the wording of questions and provide clarity in the instructions. Further enhancements to the online application are expected to be delivered in increments throughout 2010, according to the VA.

Veterans may contact VA at 1 (877) 222-8387 (VETS) or visit the VA health eligibility website <<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility>> .



## The United States Flag

(Article from Veterans Administration website)

The flag of the United States is one of the oldest national standards in the world. General George Washington first raised the Continental Army flag in 1776, a red-and-white striped flag with the British Union Jack where we now have stars.

Several flag designs with 13 stripes were used in 1776 and 1777, until Congress established an official design on June 14, 1777 — now observed as Flag Day. The act stated, “That the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” Washington explained it this way: “We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty.”

### The First Flag

No records confirm who designed the original Stars and Stripes, but historians believe Francis Hopkinson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, probably modified the unofficial Continental flag into the design we now have.

The State Navy Board of Pennsylvania, on May 29, 1777, commissioned Betsy Ross to sew flags for Navy vessels. Legend credits Ross with having sewn the first flag to meet the specifications outlined by Congress, while changing the stars from six points to five to speed her work.

The flag was first carried in battle at Brandywine, Pa., in September 1777. It first flew over foreign territory in early 1778, at Nassau, Bahama Islands, where Americans captured a fort from the British.

After Vermont and Kentucky became states in the 1790s, Congress approved adding two more stars and two more stripes to the group that represented the original 13 colonies, now states. This was the “Star Spangled Banner” of which Francis Scott Key wrote in 1814.

### 1818 Law Sets Final Form

As other states entered the Union, it became obvious that stripes could not be added continually, so in 1818 Congress reestablished the 13-stripe flag for the original 13 colonies and allowed for additional stars for new states.

The law specified that stripes should be horizontal, alternately red and white, and the union, or canton, should display 20 stars for the states then in the union. But it did not specify color shades or arrangement of the stars, and wide variation persisted. During the Civil War, gold stars were more common than white and the stars sometimes appeared in a circle.

The first time the Stars and Stripes flew in a Flag Day celebration was in Hartford, Conn., 1861, the first summer of the Civil War. In the late 1800s, schools held Flag Day programs to contribute to the Americanization of immigrant children, and the observance caught on with individual communities. As a patriotic custom, the Stars and Stripes still flies in front of schools when classes are in session.

## The United States Flag (continued)

In 1916, the president proclaimed a nationwide observance of Flag Day, but it was not until 1949 that Congress voted for Flag Day to be a permanent holiday. When the 49th and 50th stars were added in 1959 and 1960, the standards of design became even more precise. The regulated design calls for seven red and six white stripes, with the red stripes at top and bottom. The union of navy blue fills the upper left quarter from the top to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe. The stars have one point up and are in nine horizontal rows. The odd-numbered rows have six stars. The even-numbered rows have five stars, centered diagonally between the stars in the longer rows.

### Important Dates:

**Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> – Flag Day**

**Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> – VVVVC Meetings**

Veterans Home  
10900 Telephone Road  
Ventura, CA  
Board Mtg. – 5:30 p.m.  
General Mtg. – 6:00 p.m.  
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

**Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> – Father’s Day**

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m.

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

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> to August. 1<sup>st</sup> – Stand Down**

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

More information coming.

**Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – VVVC Meetings**

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**

**Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> - Labor Day**

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



Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> through Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ivy Lawn Memorial Park  
Ventura, CA