



# Listening Post

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

June, 2011

## Officers

Dave Betti, President

(805) 649-3283

Richard Camacho, Vice President

(805) 384-9138

Breanna Wilehlmi

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:

Greetings all and Welcome Home!!

There has been a lot of activity in the VVVC these last few months, and I must say, what a turn out at the work parties, meetings, speaking engagements and communications.

The Ivy Lawn work crew has been great, I am very proud of all of you for the continued upkeep and repairs needed to maintain all of the flags, poles and replacements of items needed to continue on what Eddie Leighton Sr. had cherished doing with the Ave. of Flags.

The VVVC meetings have been getting bigger and bigger as we go along, we may have to ask for a bigger room, or add on to the existing one, hahaha.

The schools have been great, and Richard will explain that in his article in this newsletter.

I have been getting phone calls and requests from veterans about claims and medical appointments with the VA. I am very happy to announce, courtesy of Marissa Mach/County of Ventura, that VSO (Veterans Service Officer) Mike McManus has returned to his office. I hope that all will call him and welcome him back and give him all of the support needed. There is also a new job announcement in case anybody is interested, you can find more info about the job announcement at the County of Ventura web site <http://portal.countyofventura.org/portal/page/portal/VCHSA> it's to replace VSO Paul Shorter who recently passed away. I wish to express our condolences to his family as he will be missed.

If any veterans are having problems with treatments, appointments or any other VA related issues, here is our Veterans Service Officers web site:

<http://portal.countyofventura.org/portal/page/portal/VCHSA/VeteransServices>

The VVVC has been invited to attend a presentation by the VNVMC (Viet Nam Veterans Motorcycle Club) on 05 June 2011 at 1:30 PM at the Veterans home in Saticoy, CA; This is a Sunday and the VNVMC is requesting that members of the VVVC attend as they will be making a presentation to the Veterans Home. It's a surprise!

The VVVC color guard will be out in force this Memorial Day, so I hope to see all of you there at Ivy lawn on 30 May, 2011. Our VVVC Board member Larry Seguin will be laying the wreath for our club!

It's that time of year again, and school is almost over. I know most of you know that Jan Camacho will be retiring this year, and we want to congratulate her on her retirement, and also wish Richard and Jan Camacho Happy Anniversary, they just celebrated (12) years, CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

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### **President's Message (cont.)**

The next potluck at the American Legion will be on 29 June 2011 at 6 PM in Oak View, CA. They always serve great food, and desserts, and this is always held on the 5th Wednesday of each month. They just request we bring a side dish or dessert, and come as you want; it's a free meal and a great time! The American Legion Post is right behind the only restaurant in Oak View, CA, just look for the American flag flying in the air.

I hope to see all at the next VVVC meeting, until then, be safe, and Thank you for your service!

Respectfully:  
Dave Betti

### **Parade/Work Party Chair's Message:**

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade is coming up. Once again, we will be leading off in Ojai as the Color Guard.

Just to let you know I have some 3 inch sew on patches for \$2.00 each. Anyone interested in purchasing them, see me.

I'd like to really thank all the members and friends that helped out at Ivy Lawn; that showed respect, honor and dignity to all the jobs that needed to be done for all the Veterans that passed before us. There is still more to do before Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

We all worked so hard thinking it only needed "some" work, but none of these things had been maintained for years and these Veterans deserve better.

My thanks to all who helped, we couldn't have gotten this far without your help. You know who you are and I won't forget my brothers and sisters.

Thank you,  
Brother John

### **Scholarship Chair's Message:**

The announcement for the 2011 SSgt James M Ray scholarship will go out in June. Hope all is well with all of you. Take Care and God Bless.

PS: Welcome to all our new VVVC members!!

David Ha

### **Vice President's Message:**

By this time of the year, our school presentations are over except for Anacapa Middle School; however, due to actions by Tim Tobin and John Walker, we have received five additional requests to speak. So far we have made presentations at Newbury Park Adventist Academy (2<sup>nd</sup> year), Moorpark High (24<sup>th</sup> year), Chaminade Prep (2<sup>nd</sup> year), Pacific High School (1<sup>st</sup> year), Thousand Oaks High (1<sup>st</sup> year), Robert Fulton College Prep ROTC (1<sup>st</sup> year), Anacapa Middle School (4<sup>th</sup> year). We still Have Rosewood Middle School (1<sup>st</sup> year) and Buena High School (1<sup>st</sup> year) to go.

For those of you that don't know Tim Tobin or John Walker, let me introduce them. I met John Walker in February of 1966 as we both descended the Grey Hound Bus and planted our feet on those infamous yellow foot prints at MCRD San Diego. We both went on to graduate as part of Honor Platoon 136. We met outside of the Ventura IHOP a few years back and John informed me that he is on Ventura School Board. John Also serves as a member of the Honors Detail with Carl Wade. I first met Tim Tobin when I was working for DCMA as an Administrative Contracting Officer assigned to then Litton Agoura Hills. Tim was Litton's Government Liaison and we would negotiate prices and contract terms for weapon systems for the Air Force and Marines.

I also want to mention that the Board has decided not to hold on to all DD 214s that have been submitted in the past for membership. If you want your DD214 back, please let me know as soon as possible, as I will shred them at the end of June. In the future, new members will have to show a copy of their DD 214, but the VVVC will not retain them to protect our member's personal information.

I want to commend John Cabrera for all of the work he has spearheaded at Ivy Lawn; I look forward to each Wednesday in anticipation of what grueling job he has for us. Because of the work party's efforts, those flags should be flying a lot straighter this year

I also want to thank all of our members for their constant support as we continue to grow and support all Veterans of Ventura County

One last reminder, Santa Barbara VVA will host Devit's Travelling Wall from Sept.29<sup>th</sup> through October 3 of this year. From Santa Barbara it will head down to the City of Garden Grove from October 6<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Until next month,  
Semper Fi  
Richard Camacho

Greetings all:

I received a phone call from VNVMC, (Viet Nam Veterans Motorcycle Club) Chapter "F" president Ringo. Viet Nam Veterans Motorcycle Club)

The VVVC has been invited to attend a presentation ceremony being held at the Veterans Home in Saticoy, Calif. on Sunday 05 June, 2011 at 1:30 PM. The VNVMC will be making a presentation to the Veterans Home and also to the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

You all have been invited to attend this event and to be present during the presentations. I will also announce this event at the next VVVC meeting of 21 May 2011. There is nothing to bring, just that your presence is requested.

This event is on a Sunday, so please mark your calendars and I will also make sure it is in the VVVC Listening Post.

Respectfully  
Dave Betti

### Important Dates:

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – VNVMC Presentation to Veterans Home**  
10900 Telephone Road, Ventura, CA  
1:30 PM

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

**Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> – VVVC Meetings**  
Veterans Home  
10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA  
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM  
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM  
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> – Fathers Day**

**Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Potluck**  
Oakview, CA

**Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> – Fourth of July**  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Ojai  
Meet at Country Club & Ojai Road  
at 8:00 AM. We are #1 in the parade.

**Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> - VVVC Meetings**  
Veterans Home  
10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA  
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM  
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM  
Potluck, bring your favorite dish

**Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> – Ventura County Fair Parade**  
Mark your calendars. More information coming.

### Vietnam Statistics:

#### First and last US Casualties

- {First casualties-1945; 1954; 1956, 1957; 1959}:
  - 26 September 1945 - OSS Lt. Col. A. Peter Dewey killed in Vietnam.
  - 6 May 1954 - CIA pilot James 'Earthquake McGoon' McGovern and co-pilot Wallace Buford killed in Laos during the battle of Dien Bien Phu. {McGoon remains found 2002 and identified in 2006}
  - June 8, 1956 - The first official death in Vietnam is U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Richard B. Fitzgibbon, Jr. of Stoneham, MA who was killed by another U.S. airman.
  - 21 October 1957 - Captain Harry Cramer killed in Vietnam.
  - 8 July 1959 - Major Dale R. Buis and M/Sgt Charles Ovnand {Chester Melvin Ovnand} killed by sniper; first and second names listed on Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
  - 22 December 1961 - SP4 James Thomas Davis, 3d Radio Research Unit (Army Security Agency), killed in an ambush in Vietnam, The Wall: Panel 01E - Row 004.
- {Last casualties-1975}:
  - 29 April 1975 - US Marine Embassy Guards McMahon and Judge killed. {Corporal Charles McMahon & Lance Corporal Darwin L. Judge}
  - 12–15 May 1975 — 15 US servicemen killed during the Mayaguez Incident and 3 MIAs killed later by the Khmer Rouge in Democratic Kampuchea.

#### Prisoners of War

- First POW seized
  - December 26, 1961 - George F. Fryett was the first seized POW, he was released in June 1962.
- Last POW seized
  - January 27, 1973 - Phillip A. Kientzler was the last POW to be seized, he was released March 27, 1973.
- Longest held POW
  - 8 years, 355 days - Floyd James Thompson was captured on March 26, 1964 and released March 16, 1973. Spent 10 days short of 9 years as a POW, he is the longest held POW of the Vietnam war and longest held POW in the United States history.
- Second longest held POW
  - 8 years, 7 months - Everett Alvarez Jr. was captured on August 5, 1964 and released February 12, 1973.
- Last POW recorded
  - Charles E. Shelton-pronounced dead in September 1994.

## Vietnam Experience:



April 26<sup>th</sup> & April 27<sup>th</sup>  
Chaminade High School, North Hill, CA  
Richard Camacho, Frank Mutz (teacher),  
Ed Evans and Tim Tobin.



May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Pacific High School, Ventura, CA  
Dave Betti, Angie Weatherford  
(teacher) and Richard Camacho



May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Thousand Oaks High School  
Thousand Oaks, CA  
Tim Tobin, Robert Haar (teacher),  
Richard Camacho, Dave Betti and  
Ryan Geisler (teacher).



**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**FLY YOUR FLAG WITH PRIDE!**

### A Note from the Editor:

Once again I am asking for your help. If you have any short articles, old pictures, a funny story or just something you would like to say, please send it to me and I will (space permitting) include it in the Listening Post.

You can send them to me at [camacho4@roadrunner.com](mailto:camacho4@roadrunner.com) or at the address below.

Thank you,  
Jan Camacho  
6204 Paseo Encantada  
Camarillo, CA 93012



# Application for Membership

Mail completed application and fees to:  
Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3218, Ventura, CA 93006-3218

## Membership Type (Please check one):

- Annual Member => \$20.00 (Check this line if you are a NEW member)
- Renewing Member => \$15.00 (Check this line if you are renewing your membership)
- Lifetime Member => \$150.00 (May also be paid in three monthly installments of \$50.00)

## Membership Class (Please check one):

**Formal:** Check this line if you were on active duty between **January 1, 1959** and **May 7, 1975**. ALL new Formal applications require a copy of your DD-214. ALL current Formal Members must have their DD-214's on file with the Membership Chair, or they will be listed as Informal Members.

**Informal:** Check this line if you did not serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, or did not serve during the time specified for Formal Membership. If you did serve at any time, we also ask for a copy of your DD-214.

**NOTE: One applicant and fee per application, please. Renewal requires completion of this form.**

=> Please type or print <=

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street & Number Apt. # City State

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code + phone number

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

"I hereby certify that I am at least 18 years of age, of good moral character, and I am dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc. I agree to abide by the By-Laws and amendments in all respects. My word is my bond. If I do so ever fail this pledge, I am aware that my membership in the VVVC may be forfeited."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant Date

**General Membership Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. the 3rd Saturday of each month at:**

The Veterans Home  
10900 Telephone Road  
Ventura, CA 93004

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ DD-214: Yes No On File

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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P.O. Box 3218  
Ventura, Ca 93006-3218

