



Listening Post

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

June, 2012

Presidents Column:

It's that time of year again, and Ivy lawn has been preparing for their big Memorial Day ceremony, I hope we see all of you at the service on 28 May 2012.

I know it is a little early, but did you know that in December, the VVVC will have been in existence since 1985? It's more like, 12/07/1985 (also Pearl Harbor day), and signed and dated by none other than Robert "Fox" Keuser!! WOW, (27) years ago this club was started, you all should be very proud, I think this December we are going to have our own celebration honoring the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc. and all of its members.

I want to take the time now to thank Mike McManus and John Jackson for assisting so many veterans, but I want to especially thank them for helping and assisting Kevin Sheahan, (I can tell by that smile on Kevin's face he is really happy, get better Kevin, everyone says HI!!), and especially the family of Jim French, thanks guys!!

Please don't forget that Ventura County STAND DOWN is coming up on July, 20, 21, & 22 at the Calif. National Guard Armory here in Ventura.

I hope that by the time most of you get this newsletter you will have heard, or seen that Lilly, the nurse who was always assisting Dr. Sylvester is returning to the Veterans Clinic in Oxnard, hopefully by the time you read this she will be back, GREAT NEWS, and WELCOME Back Lilly!!!

As most know, some of us veterans have been speaking at schools with Richard Camacho, and it has been one heck of a release, an a great experience, so great in fact, that in this newsletter, I am going to share a story about a veteran I served with in Vietnam, that will be someplace else in this newsletter.

It soon will be Fathers Day, and let's don't forget that Flag Day is quickly approaching 14 June, 2012, so get your flags out and hanging proudly.

One more bit of info here, thanks to Paul Lamar for getting the VVVC a sponsor for our website, and its none other than JAYS AUTOMOTIVE! I was very happy to hear what Paul had done, and I have been a customer of Jays Automotive for probably over 15 years when he used to work on my Yukon and my mother's car, he is a very knowledgeable mechanic, and an all around great guy, so give Jay a try, I have, or just stop by and say Hi!

The local VA clinic (Oxnard) has hired more nurses, and they are gearing up to hopefully expand over at the clinic due to the increase in veterans now coming home! We shall keep you updated on this.

Okay all, enough of my article, thanks again to all for the support, and to all of you that make this club what it is today, by attending all of its functions, work parties, funerals, parades, meetings, speaking engagements, and any veteran events, you are making for veterans their transitions easier, and informative and making them feel like we should have felt years and years ago, wanted!

Thanks all, see you at the meetings, or out and about!
Semper Fi!

Dave Betti

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Vice President's Message:

I really enjoy the honor and privilege it is to share my Vietnam experience with the young people in our schools. I enjoy the comradeship of being with Richard Camacho, Dave Betti and others as we share. During my presentation I have a PowerPoint slide that shows a number of service people with the caption, "There is no such thing as an unwounded soldier." Like many of us returning home to a rather hostile greeting, I denied my military service and especially being in Vietnam. Like many of us, I also just wanted to move on with my life. I felt the nightmares, panic attacks and other emotional hurts would just go away in time. I did not talk about the Nam with any one except my wife, and that to a very limited amount. I returned in 1969 and it wasn't until July, 2010 that I finally began to face my experiences and how they were affecting me. My physical health conditions were a result of Agent Orange. Even though other Vets for years kept telling me I had PTSD, I didn't think so until, during my evaluation and a three page letter to the Doctor from my wife, I was told by a professional my emotional difficulties were manifestations of PTSD. I think I did not want my conditions to be a result of Vietnam because I did not want to continue to have that experience victimize me over and over again. I felt ignoring it; giving alternate explanations into my behavior would resolve my issues. They did not. Some cures are painful, but untreated hurts are more painful, not only to ourselves, but especially to others in our lives who love us. I would like to encourage all my Band of Brothers [and Sisters], regardless of service or conflict; get help. It is there. Remember, "There is no such thing as an unwounded soldier."

Dave Wilson,
VVVC Vice President

Treasurer's Message:

Last month was a good month for membership. We had three membership renewals and two life memberships. Don't forget the 4th of July parade in Ojai is on a Wednesday this year.

Doug Temple,
VVVC Treasurer

Famous Quotes:

"Television brought the brutality of war into the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms – not the battlefields of Vietnam."

Marshall McLuhan, Montreal Gazette May 16, 1975

Chaplain Corner:

The following are some events that have happened this past month to our California veterans.

Passing of Veterans:

MSGT (Ret) Lucio Martinez, USA / USAF, Korea / Vietnam Veteran, Fairfield, CA, he did tours in both Korea and Vietnam. He began his military service in the US Army with the 1st Calvary Division at Fort Hood. After 3 years he began his transition to the US Air Force and served another 22 years before retiring.

Arnold Cornett, USN, Vietnam Veteran, Palo Cedro/Igo, CA. Arnold served in the Navy for 11 years and saw action in Viet Nam on the river boats.

Elbert Leon Kees, USCG, WWII Veteran, Redding, CA. He served in the United States Coast Guard from 1943 until 1948 aboard the USS Richey DE 385. The USS Richey did escort duty in both the Atlantic and in the Pacific protecting valuable cargo ship and rescuing crews from damaged and sunken allied ships.

KIA

SPC Chase S. Marta, 24, Marysville, CA. SPC Chase Marta died May 7, in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Lt Christopher E. Mosko, USN EOD Mobile Unit 3. Lieutenant Christopher E. Mosko died while conducting combat operations in Nawa district, Ghazni province, Afghanistan on 26 April. He was assigned as a Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Platoon Commander to Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, Afghanistan. He was stationed at EOD Mobile Unit 3, San Diego, California. Lt Mosko was awarded the Bronze Star (w/Valor) and the Purple Heart posthumously along with his many other decorations.

Wounded in Action and Recovering:

EOD2 Jordan Stevenson, Palo Alto, CA, 14 MAY 12; EOD5 Jordan was deployed to Afghanistan and was assigned to an Army SOCOM Unit. Jordan had just climbed a 30 foot ladder, breaching a Taliban compound, and upon clearing the top of the ladder, came face to face with a Taliban fighter who was holding his wife as a human shield. Fire was exchanged, and Jordan neutralized the enemy combatant, but also was shot in the head at close range with an AK47 and fell from the wall onto the rocks below. It was not expected that he would survive his wounds, and the doctors stated that even if he did survive, chances are he would never walk, or talk, or even breath or eat on his own again

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Chaplain's Corner (continued)

Through sheer strength, courage and determination and the love and support of his family, Jordan is now doing all of that and more.

Please continue to pray for the families and all of our service personnel's safe return home. Remember to keep Kevin Sheahan, John Smiley, Larry Sequin, Jim Beladino, in your thoughts and prayers.

David Ha,
VVVC Chaplain

Parade/Work Party Chair's Message:

I'd like to start off by letting everyone know that we were asked to lead off the 4th of July parade in Ojai, so we will need some flag carriers for the lead off.

As for the flags at Ivy Lawn on Memorial Day, everyone stepped up to the plate again. We put hundreds of eyelet bolts on, drilled and welded poles, sorted flags and cleaned the area.

David Ha made new flag information sheets, Fred made some new augers to clear the flag pole sleeves, Richard Pina traveled to Rancho Cucamonga to get 400 new eyelets at a great price.

Thanks to Richard Camacho, Dave Betti, Ron Fitzgerald, Doug Temple, Dave Wilson, Bobby G, Ralph and Mike and anyone else whom I may have forgotten to mention (it is hard to keep track of everyone) your help is greatly appreciated. My thanks to all of you that help make this possible.
Brother John

Expiring Memberships:

The following annual memberships will expire in June 2012:

Norman Michaud - 6/14/12

David Ogden - 6/4/12

Roy Villa - 6/28/12

Please renew ASAP.

Happy Father's Day

26 JUNE 1970:

Let me share with you a story that happened to me while in Vietnam, that because over the years of speaking at schools with Richard Camacho, and the fact that we are able to share some things, I think the time is right NOW to share this story of a Marine buddy of mine.

We shall call it: **26 JUNE 1970:** On this day, it was hot, very hot, we were on a patrol in the Quang Nam province. It was a squad of 7th Marines from H & S 1/7. We had come to an area that was pretty much surrounded by trees and bushes, so, our squad leaders, Sgt. Brown & Sgt. Fierce told us all to take a break, and set up a perimeter, and rest a bit.

So I, and about (6) other Marines were going to set up this poncho on sticks to lie under to get us out of the sun. Well, we had the poncho up and Rusty (as we called him), says guys, I got to take a crap, we all laughed, and so did Rusty!

So he was my a-gunner at the time, so he grabbed some butt wipe and his .45 pistol and walked in to the bushes by our poncho where we had just set it up, and we all knew where he was at, so we kind of just kicked it for about not even (1) minute when we heard an explosion come from the bushes where Rusty had gone.

We all grabbed our weapons, and then all of a sudden we hear Rusty yelling, "help me, somebody help me, God please, help me, Mommy, help me".

The next thing we know, we are taking enemy gun fire from our left flank, so I grabbed my machine gun and some ammo and headed towards where the gun fire was coming from and proceeded to fire my M-60 in the enemy direction, all the time Sgt. Brown and Sgt. Fierce were looking for Rusty!

Probably after about (15) minutes of firing and getting no fire back in return we stopped and secured the area and checked on everyone.

What happened we had found out later that day was that there was a VC (Viet cong) hiding in the brush where Rusty had gone to take his crap, but he (Rusty) had stumbled on to the Viet cong who was about to toss a hand grenade on to where we had just set up the poncho hopefully killing as many of us as he could, while they had ambushed us from our left flank, but because of Rusty finding this Viet cong, they had a fight, and Rusty got knocked to the ground, the Viet cong tossed the grenade and ran, and then there was the explosion, and all hell broke loose.

The medivac helicopter arrived probably (10) minutes after everything had settled and took Rusty away, while in the air we had learned that Rusty had saved our lives, but because of the seriousness of his wound, he died on the helicopter before it got back to our base.

You see, Rusty had absorbed the blast of the grenade which had blown his whole left side off; he lived long enough to warn us before he went in to shock, and died on that helicopter.

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26 JUNE 1970: (cont.)

We will never know, but I can tell you this, this is what heroes are made of.

Here is Forest G. "Rusty" Highlands info.

*CPL - E4 - Marine Corps - Selective Service

Length of service 1 years

His tour began on Dec 1, 1969

Casualty was on Jun 26, 1970

In QUANG NAM, SOUTH VIETNAM

HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY

MULTIPLE FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS

Body was recovered

Panel 09W - Line 95

Important Dates:

Saturday, June 2nd – Flags Taken Down @ Ivy Lawn

Thursday, June 14th – Flag Day

Fly your flag proudly!

Saturday, June 16th – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura

Board Mtg. – 5:30 Pm

General Mtg. – 6:00 PM

Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Sunday, June 17th – Father's Day

Wednesday, July 4th – Fourth of July

Ojai 4th of July Parade

Saturday, July 21st – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura

Board Mtg. – 5:30 Pm

General Mtg. – 6:00 PM

Potluck, bring your favorite dish



Duluth, MN Vietnam Veterans Memorial

TEN NAMES TO BE ADDED TO VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Washington, DC – The names of ten American servicemen will be engraved on the black granite walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the status designations will be changed for 12 others whose names are already on The Wall, announced Jan C. Scruggs, Founder and President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF).

“We will add the names as close as possible to their dates of casualty, so these servicemen can remain in the company of those they served with,” said Scruggs.

The ten names being added this year meet the Department of Defense (DOD) criteria for addition to The Wall: all of the men died in connection with combat related incidents during the Vietnam War.

Names Being Added to The Wall:

PFC Johnny Owen Brooks, U.S. Army, Stockton, CA

PFC Larry Morgan Kelly, U.S. Army, Akron, OH

SP4 David Lawrence Deckard, U.S. Army, Louisville, KY

ATC Joseph William Aubin, U.S. Navy, Bridgeport, CT

ATR3 Richard Carl Hunt, U.S. Navy < Guy Mills, PA

LT Walter Allan Linzy, U.S. Navy, Nashville, AR

ATR3 Richard Dwaine Stocker, U.S. Navy, Jacksonville, AR.

LTJG David McLean Desilets, U.S. Navy, Palm Desert, CA

AN Albert Kalahana Kuewa, U.S. Navy, Honolulu, HI

CPL Frank A. Neary, U.S. USMC, Ocean, NJ

Status Changes:

Beside each name on the Memorial is a symbol designating status. The diamond symbol denotes confirmed death. The cross represents missing in action. When a service member's remains are returned or accounted for, the diamond is superimposed over the cross. In addition to the ten names being added this year, 12 designation changes will be made as well. They include:

• Army Capt. Charles Ronald Barnes of Fullerton, PA, Panel 29W, Line 50

• Army Sgt. 1st Class William Theodore Brown of La Habra, CA, Panel 16W, Line 22

• Army Sgt. 1st Class James Leslie Moreland of Anaheim, CA, Panel 38E, Line 7

• Army Sgt. 1st Class Donald Monroe Shue of Kannapolis, NC, Panel 16W, Line 24

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TEN NAMES TO BE ADDED TO VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

- Navy Lt. Cmdr. Edward James Broms Jr. of Meadville, PA, Panel 50W, Line 41
- Navy Cmdr. Frank Clifford Green Jr. of Waskom, TX, Panel 1W, Line 55
- Air Force Col. Leo Sydney Boston of Canon City, CO., Panel 7E, Line 7
- Air Force Maj. Thomas Edward Clark of Emporium, PA, Panel 33W, Line 84
- Air Force Maj. Bruce Edward Lawrence of Phillipsburg, NJ, Panel 53W, Line 21
- Air Force Col. Gilbert Swain Palmer Jr. of Birmingham, AL, Panel 41E, Line 53
- Air Force Lt. Col. Edward Dean Silver of Junction City, OR, Panel 53W, Line 23
- Air Force Maj. Charles Milton Walling of Phoenix, AZ, Panel 9E, Line 119

The Origins of Flag Day

That the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white in a blue field, representing the new constellation.

This was the resolution adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The resolution was made following the report of a special committee which had been assigned to suggest the flag's design.

A flag of this design was first carried into battle on September 11, 1777, in the Battle of the Brandywine. The American flag was first saluted by foreign naval vessels on February 14, 1778, when the Ranger, bearing the Stars and Stripes and under the command of Captain Paul Jones, arrived in a French port. The flag first flew over a foreign territory in early 1778 at Nassau, Bahama Islands, where Americans captured a British fort.

Observance of the adoption of the flag was not soon in coming, however. Although there are many claims to the first official observance of Flag Day, all but one took place more than an entire century after the flag's adoption in 1777. The first claim was from a Hartford, Conn., celebration during the first summer of 1861. In the late 1800s, schools all over the United States held Flag Day programs to contribute to the Americanization of immigrant children, and the observance caught on with individual communities.

The most recognized claim, however, comes from New York. On June 14, 1889, Professor George Bolch, principal of a free kindergarten for the poor of New York City, had his school hold patriotic ceremonies to observe the anniversary of the Flag Day resolution. (Cont. next column)

The Origins of Flag Day (cont.)

This initiative attracted attention from the State Department of Education, which arranged to have the day observed in all public schools thereafter.

Soon the state legislature passed a law making it the responsibility of the state superintendent of public schools to ensure that schools hold observances for Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day and Flag Day. In 1897, the governor of New York ordered the displaying of the flag over all public buildings in the state, an observance considered by some to be the first official recognition of the anniversary of the adoption of the flag outside of schools. Another claim comes from Philadelphia. In 1893, the Society of Colonial Dames succeeded in getting a resolution passed to have the flag displayed on all of the city's public buildings. Elizabeth Duane Gillespie, a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin and the president of the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania, that same year tried to get the city to call June 14 Flag Day. Resolutions by women were not granted much notice, however, and it was not until May 7, 1937, that Pennsylvania became the first state to establish the June 14 Flag Day as a legal holiday. Flag Day is a nationwide observance today, but Pennsylvania is the only state that recognizes it as a legal holiday.

Bernard J. Cigrand, a school teacher in Waubeka, Wisconsin, reportedly spent years trying to get Congress to declare June 14 as a national holiday. Although his attempts failed, the day was widely observed. "Father of Flag Day" honors have been given to William T. Kerr, who was credited with founding the American Flag Day Association in 1888 while still a schoolboy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Both President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations asking for June 14 to be observed as the National Flag Day. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved the national observance, and President Harry Truman signed it into law.



FLAG DAY

June 14, 2012

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Ventura, Ca 93006-3218

