



Listening Post

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

March 2010

Officers

Dave Betti, President
(805) 649-3283

Richard Camacho, Vice President
(805) 384-9138

Diane Miller, Secretary
(805) 827-3753

Doug Temple, Treasurer
(805) 984-0489

David Ha, Chaplain
(805) 482-3722

Board of Directors

Fabio Allodoli
(805) 938-3686

Ron Beaman
(805) 212-0512

John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139

Bob Holmes
(805) 641-3880

Marie Pounds
(661) 297-2464

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:

Hello again everyone!

It's that time of year again, no not Christmas, it's time again for nominations and elections of new VVVC officers for 2010-2011.

I am sure by now everyone knows that the VVVC is now meeting at the new Veterans Home! Our first meeting took place this past January, and what a turnout we had, and the Clinic administrator Brenda Manke and her husband were on hand to greet all of you coming through that brand new door! The special treat that evening was of course, the phone call from Jean and Charlie Ray! Who would have thought that the young man on the other end of the phone was Mr. Ray himself? It was an honor.

I am sure that everyone knows that they are admitting veterans to the new Veterans home here in Ventura. I got word today that they have also just admitted the first female veteran in to the new home also. It shouldn't be very long before all of the rooms are filled up, and we will be able to not only visit with the veterans in their rooms, but also cook for them as well as serve, which is what the VVVC did Saturday, Feb. 20th at the new Veterans home. We hope to have many more BBQ's and serve meals to our veterans who are now in the home.

I guess most have heard by now that the VVVC will be bringing the Moving WALL to Ventura County this August 2010. We have already had our first meeting at Ivy lawn, and that's where the WALL will be set up. The next scheduled meeting will be February 27th at 10 AM at Ivy Lawn. So as things progress, we will keep you posted.

This year again, some members of the VVVC will be speaking at various schools including Moorpark High school and Anacapa Middle school here in Ventura County. It is sure nice to have the schools finally take notice of Vietnam and let the students have some insight as to what it was like, and what it was all about.

A subject I wanted to touch on briefly is called "Phony's on line." No doubt times have changed, we now have stateside civilians running amok in uniforms wearing complete with decorations from Army-Navy stores. Some of these folks are quite comical since they don't do their homework. Some of them are caught in a uniform mix of different services.

While the debate still rages as to whether or not it is wise to award a championship trophy to every little league player, military honors are not sought or 'won,' they are received only by the recommendation of their peers.

AMVETS has set up a new website to call more attention to the problem and expose the phonies.

ReportStolenValor.org is the place to go to see if your local hero ever made it to boot camp or to inquire about his Navy Cross with the four stars on it!

I guess I have made enough noise this time, so I hope to see everyone at the next meeting, and if you have any news to share with us, please let the Listening Post editor know so we can update the membership as to what you have been up to, or what's new in your world.

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President's Column cont:

See everyone soon, and again thanks to all of the members for their continued support in the VVVC, and special thanks to a great guy, Steve Weber, Cmdr. American Legion Oxnard, Calif. for allowing all of us to have our meetings at their post, and for being so supportive of all veterans!
Thanks again Steve.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Betti

PS-I didn't forget, GET WELL wishes to Bob Schol, Frank Lindsey and Jane Smiley!

Important Dates:

Saturday, Mar. 13th – Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade

For more information contact
Parade Chairman John Cabrera.

Sunday, Mar. 14th - Daylight Savings Time Begins

Saturday, Mar. 20th –VVVC Board & General Meetings

Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Rd.
Ventura, CA 93004
Board Mgt. – 5:30 p.m.
General Mtg. – 6:00 p.m.
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Sunday, Mar. 28th – Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Celebration 11:00 a.m.to 6:00 p. m.
California High School
9800 Mills Ave.
Whittier, CA 90604

Friday – Apr. 2nd – Good Friday

Sunday, Apr. 4th - Easter

Sunday, Apr. 11th – Vung Tau

Camarillo Grove Park
More information coming.

Sat. Apr. 17th – St. Patrick's Day

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Board Mgt. – 5:30 p.m.
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Potluck, bring your favorite dish

Vice President's Column:

After our last general membership meeting, I want to clear up some questions about the upcoming Wall in August. There have been several questions regarding donations and escorting the Wall. First off, it has always been standing policy that any donations given at the site of the Wall go to John Devit's donation box to support the Wall. Any donation that we the members receive before the Wall will go to the VVVC's Wall account for any and all expenses. As for the "No Escort" policy, this is an issue of liability for John's organization, I know that others have provided an escort; however, the VVVC will abide by the policy of no escort. There has also been request to review the contract, to which I want to respond, the contract signed by Dave Betti contains the same conditions that we have had to abide by in the past. Now with that said, let's focus on getting the word out to the Ventura County residents and especially the Vietnam Veterans and families of those that paid the ultimate price. This display will be to honor all those affected by the Vietnam War.

Just received notification from Ventura PD that if they have to provide traffic control due to escort, the VVVC will be charged for the man hours. Until next month,

Simper Fi

Richard Camacho

New Veterans Service Officer:

Mike McManus will be replacing George Compton as Ventura County Veterans Service Officer.

New Veterans Services Office:

As of February 22nd, the new address for the Veterans Services Office will be:

855 Partridge Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 477-5155

Hrs – 9:00 am. To 4:00 p.m.

A Note from the Editor:

I am very glad that I have been able to get the Listening Post out to you each month, but now I need your help. If anyone has an interesting article, a personal story to share or just something to say, please send it to me at the email address below.

Thank you,
Jan Camacho
Listening Post Editor
camacho4@roadrunner.com

Chaplain's Column:

It was great to see John and Jane Smiley at the last VVVC meeting. We will continue to pray continued healing for both of you. Remember to keep Kevin Sheehan and Bob School in your prayers and hope to see both of you again at our meetings. I want to thank John Cabrera for the business cards. I had an opportunity to talk to a Vietnam Vet and encouraged him to become a part of our organization. I have his email and will send it to Jan so that he can get our Listening Post.

Scholarship Update

I'll be working on putting together the 2010 James Ray scholarship invitation packages and will keep you all posted.

David Ha
Chaplain

CalVet Launches Survey To Help Prioritize Services to California's Veterans

Sacramento – The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) today launched an online survey (California Veterans Needs Assessment Survey) to get input from veterans, military personnel, and family and friends to help it prioritize its efforts in addressing the state's veterans' needs.

"I have directed the California Department of Veterans Affairs to put together this online survey to help us know how to better coordinate the numerous services provided at all levels of government." said Governor Schwarzenegger. "I encourage all our veterans, especially combat veterans, to fill out this important survey. Thank you for taking a few minutes to let us know how we can better serve you."

To participate in the survey, residents are asked to go to CalVet's website at www.calvet.ca.gov or the California Veterans website at www.veterans.ca.gov and click on the button that says "Veterans Needs Assessment." See attached PDF file of survey.

"We look forward to receiving input from California residents so we can better focus our efforts in assisting and serving the veterans of our Golden State," said Roger Brautigan, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. "Over the next three months we hope to receive numerous responses to our survey from veterans, their families, and friends."

"This survey will help CalVet to prioritize where the State of California focuses its efforts in addressing veteran needs," said Jack Kirwan, Deputy Secretary for Administration. "By participating in this survey, respondents will be telling CalVet and elected officials what policy areas they see as needing to be addressed. This will help CalVet to better serve veterans by bringing to our attention their first-hand knowledge of veteran needs and how to best address them."

The California Veterans Needs Assessment Survey will also give an opportunity to respondents to inform CalVet if they would like to receive additional information regarding veterans' benefits and other services for themselves or veterans they know.

Editor's Note: This article was taken from the CalVet website at:

<http://www.cdva.ca.gov/news/nfv020110.pdf>

