



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

Breanna Wilehmi, Secretary

Doug Temple, Treasurer
(805) 984-0489

David Ha, Chaplain
(805) 482-3772

Board of Directors

Ron Beaman
(805) 212-0512

John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139

Bob Holmes
(805) 641-3880

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:

President's Message

Greetings all:

Well, let's try this again, I hope that this time I can stay around for more than one or two weeks, hahaha!

I owe everyone a great big thank you for standing by again, while I go through more medical stuff, and I am sure that this time it will surely subside, at least that's what the doctors say?

I have heard that the VVVC has been busy at Ivy Lawn redoing this and redoing that, and still making great progress on everything they do out there, you all involved are to be commended! I have seen where a couple of flags have been moved by the mausoleum, and I won't tell you whose flags got moved where, you will have to see it yourself. I was very happy to see all of the brothers, and the ladies from Ivy Lawn a few weeks back, working together and making things a whole lot easier out there to understand!

It's that time again for the schools to be calling on you Vietnam veterans to make your appearance! If you receive an email from Richard Camacho, I would hope that you will answer and be a part of something that I have been involved with Richard since he asked me a few years back, and that's to speak about your experience in Vietnam!

I have been truly blessed to go and listen to our brothers speak, and it does me good as I can relate to what is happening to us, and see how all of the students react.

I want to change the subject here; I would like to see the VVVC start to give out more certificates of appreciation. I have spoken to Richard Camacho on this briefly, and we have both agreed that the VVVC needs to recognize the business, and local folks here in Ventura County and beyond for what they do for veterans, and to the businesses who have always displayed the POW/MIA flag, such as Brooks Institute and so on. If you know of someone, let us know, I would like to see the VVVC make these presentations so folks know that we are not an organization that only comes out for parades, Memorial day and Veterans Day!

We must carry on our tradition of everyone knowing what Richard has said so many times in the past, "the VVVC is a can do organization"! The VVVC will always shine, as long as all of you can participate, and support all of the veterans and the cause for which we are constantly fighting for!

There is a new web site, unless some of you have already heard of it, I saw it last week in the newspaper, it is called "Vets Journey Home". I saw where they are having retreats for all veterans in the mountains up in San Marcos and they call it a healing, for PTSD and other symptoms. The cost is no charge to veterans, but you can get more info by going to their web site which is: <http://www.vetsjourneyhome.org/who.html>

Please check out this site, it's not the same as counseling for veterans, it may surprise you as to how long, and where they go, and what each day consists of, it's all there to help us veterans!

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President's Message (cont.)

I should end my article soon, but before I do, I have to say we have parades coming up, schools to speak at, and Vung tau is around the corner.

I have just been informed that one of the members of the VNVMC is leaving for a possible stay for at least (3-4) years in Florida! I would like to see the VVVC do something for this great guy, whom you all know as Hodgepodge! So, keep an eye on the newsletter, and we will keep you informed as to what we are going to do before he leaves!

I better sign off now, but before I do, I want to wish a speedy recovery to the following members:

Diane Miller, get well soon, we all miss you, Marie Pounds, get well soon so I can start calling you at home again, John and Jane Smiley, get well soon so I can keep up with your emails and texts!

Everyone, thank you again from myself, and my family! See you at the meetings:

Dave Betti

PS-Don't forget, the meeting in March 2011 will be final nominations and elections of VVVC officers for the 2011-2012 year!

Parade Chairman's Message:

Thanks again to all of those that were able to help with the nylon flags that needed inspection and for all the work around the cemetery. We were able to replace 75 sleeves and rebuild about 30 of them. We have been meeting on Wednesdays about 8:30 in the morning, at the shed; our next project is to inspect all the poles.

Our next upcoming event is the Ventura Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 12, we will meet at 8:30 in the old part of town next to the museum. Hope to see you all there.

After a discussion that Dave Betti had with Jack, we were asked for our assistance to help the Oak View American Legion with a flag pole project. Doug Temple, Richard Pena and I will look into this project.

Most of all thanks to all of your donations that have made these projects possible.

Brother John



Vice President's Message

First off I want to update nominations that have been received so far for 2011 – 2012:

Remember, nominations will be opened during our March meeting for the following positions, and those listed have agreed to run again or to be nominated:

President: Dave Betti

Vice-president: Richard Camacho

Treasurer: Doug Temple

Secretary: Breanna Welhelmi

Board of Directors (five positions): Robert Holmes, John Cabrera, Larry Seguin, David Ha, Dave Wilson

I'm still waiting for a reply from Ron Beaman, or anyone else that is interested in being an officer or board member.

I want to thank the following for joining me on Tuesday Feb 23rd, to speak to the students of the Newbury Park Adventist Academy: Dave Betti, Tim Tobin, Fabio Allodoli, Larry Seguin and Bill Shea. Also I want to thank the following for speaking on Wednesday Feb 24th, while Dave Betti and I met with the people from Garden Grove: Tim Tobin, Fabio Allodoli, Larry Seguin, Robert Holmes and Bill Shea.

I want to thank the following members for taking the time to meet with Elaine Mae and Kimberly Huy from the City of Garden Grove, to discuss lessons learned from our August 2010 Moving Wall display: Dave Betti, John Cabrera, Doug Temple and David Ha. We gave Elaine and Kimberly a lot of information as well as resources to use in planning their event which will take place in October. Also a BIG THANK YOU to the staff of the Ventura Veterans Home for allowing us to use a small conference room for this meeting.

On Thursday Feb 17th, Dave and I spoke to the veterans at the Family Circle in Oxnard, regarding the VVVC. As a result, we had six of their veterans show up at our meeting on the 19th.

I also want to thank John Cabrera for allowing me to be part of the work parties at Ivy Lawn; it's a very rewarding experience.

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho

Treasurer's Message

The project at Ivy Lawn cemetery is in full swing now. Most of the flags have been repaired and we are now pulling the ground sleeves for the flagpoles, making them all the same size and resetting them all straight. Next we will be working on the poles themselves, straightening them and making sure that they are all the same length. We work on Wednesdays from 8:30AM until around 11:00AM. All volunteers are welcome. For more information, contact John Cabrera or Doug Temple.
Doug Temple.

Chaplain's Message:

God bless everyone and continue to pray for Dave, Diane and others for God's complete healing. Hope all is well with everyone else.

David Ha,
Chaplain

New Members:

We would like to welcome new members, David Boomstrom, Gary McElroy, Johnny Mills and Ronald Mills to our organization. We are honored to have you all as members.

Dave Betti,
President

Marines License EGA:

The Marine Corps market is going to change! The Marine Corps has decided (finally) to license the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, "USMC", "U.S. Marine Corps", and derivatives.

This is going to affect a lot of people who purchase items anything Marine!

I received this info if you receive the magazine called Sgt. Grit! The designs must meet new licensing guidelines, so they will be adding new and altering old designs to comply.

There will be a royalty percentage that will require Sgt. Grit to change the price on many items.

The new prices will be updated on the Internet as soon as they have more information.

If you haven't been to Sgt. Grit's web site, and you are a Marine, you can check them out at: www.grunt.com

Semper Fi:
Dave Betti

October 09, 2010

WILMINGTON - A North Carolina man charged with posing as a highly decorated Marine colonel faces new charges that he lied about Vietnam battle injuries and took more than \$30,000 in veteran's benefits.

Michael Hamilton of Richlands was indicted by a federal grand jury this week. The 67-year-old does not have a listed telephone number and could not be reached by The Associated Press on Friday.

The indictment was first reported by the *Daily News* of Jacksonville. The indictment alleges Hamilton fraudulently said during a VA compensation medical exam that he had been in combat situations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia that included stabbings and atrocities such as his best friend's decapitation.

Hamilton is accused of receiving more than \$30,000 in disability payments in the past three years for service-related ailments.

Important Dates:

Saturday, Mar. 12th - Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade

Meet in old part of Ventura next to Museum @ 8:30 AM.

Sunday, Mar. 13th - Daylight Savings Time Begins

Set your clocks ahead one hour.

Thursday, Mar. 17th - St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, Mar. 19th - 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.

Wednesday, Mar. 30th - Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Hot Dog Lunch (free to Veterans)

11:30 AM to 12:30PM
Ventura Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Rd.
Ventura, CA

Wednesday, Mar. 30th - 5th Wednesday Dinner 6:00 PM

American Legion
475 Old Ventura Ave.
Oak View, CA

Sunday, Apr. 3rd - Vung Tau, Camarillo Grove Park

Those who would like to help cook and serve contact Richard Camacho.

Saturday, Apr. 16th - 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.

Thursday, Apr. 19th - Passover

Friday, April 22nd - Good Friday

Sunday, Apr. 24th - Easter

Sunday, May 8th - Mother's Day

Saturday May 21st - VVVC Meetings

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10900 Telephone Rd. Ventura, CA
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