



# Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

March, 2012

## Officers

Dave Betti, President  
(805) 648-3283

Richard Camacho, Vice President  
(805) 384-9138

Secretary - Vacant

Doug Temple, Treasurer  
(805) 984-0489

Public Affairs - Vacant

## 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

Chaplain – David Ha  
482-3772

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 everyone:

I guess it's that time of the year again, no, not Christmas shopping, any way's, hahahaha! I will be giving you some info about POW/MIA Sgt. Bergdahl who is still missing in action in Afghanistan in the POW/MIA column of this newsletter, so you can get caught up to date on his whereabouts and his attempts of escape.

Now, as most know, we are still in the middle of nominations of VVVC officers for the 2012-2013 year, so please come on down and get involved, take a position, or come on down and vote, you sure as heck can't go wrong here, look at the club now!

I have to say hello to new VVVC member Simon Camarillo (and my new hunting partner), whom has invited me to go on a pig hunt hopefully next month, and as soon as I finish up this darn Hunter Safety course I had to take, haha!

In case some have forgotten (Marines haven't), on 19 Feb. 1945 Marines landed on Iwo Jima, and I still have my late father's diary from that day and time, and I must say, WOW!

You know last year I went along with Richard Camacho, his wife Jan, his son Richard Camacho Jr., my wife Carrie and Terri Taylor-Gonzales to attend a Marine graduation at MCRD in San Diego, Calif., and occasionally I will flash back and see all of us attending this ceremony. But what has stuck in my mind and my heart is when the MC (Master of Ceremonies) asked all Marine veterans to stand up and be acknowledged, and when we all did the crowd went crazy and applauded all Marine vets in the audience. I have never been prouder.

When the three of us, Richard, myself, and Richard Jr. took a picture by the Eagle, globe and anchor, hell, I was so honored that I could have cried. It's like we are an era that has gone by, we survived all of the things Marines go through, and here we are, back at our old stomping grounds. If that doesn't make you proud, I don't know what would.

All of my life I had been wanting to return to MCRD, even to pay my respects to my late father, and possibly see if Jack Webb would walk through those arches, and sure enough, it wasn't Jack Webb, but three damn proud Marines standing there, and yes, reflecting on what once was!

Okay, now I better write a article before somebody says I am talking to much Marine stuff here, hahaha, so !!

Get well wishes to our VVVC brothers, Fabio Allodolli, and Simon Camarillo, and our deepest condolences to Bobby "Robert" Holmes on the recent loss of his loving wife Wilma Holmes. A Memorial Service for Wilma is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, please see newsletter for time and location.

Next month I would like to have us pay our respects to Wilma by having her family possibly allowing the VVVC to include some pictures of Wilma & Bobby in the newsletter as we all knew her, and to pay our respects!

(Cont. pg.2)

### President's Message (Cont.)

We have schools starting to call again for vets to speak, and the VVVC work party at Ivy Lawn is in full swing. This club is very busy, so stay tuned for more info, we have Vung tau coming up faster than Christmas.

One last bit of info, I recently went and watched the movie "Red Tails", with a World War II vet and his son, and if you have the chance to see this movie, it's a must, lots of action, and sadness, but I sure understood what the heck they had to go through back then, and it was a shame, but as usual, the United States government is always a day late and dollar short in recognizing true heroes at their best! That's all for now, see you at the meetings, hello to DJ Steve Weber!

Semper Fi everyone!

Dave Betti

PS-Hello to our oldest Honorary Life member, Marie Adkinson, March 1990!

### Treasurer's Message:

Even with wind and rain, we are catching up with work at the cemetery. Our Wednesday work parties are moving right along, always with a new or refurbished tool or adapting a new way of doing a particular job. We are accomplishing more work in a shorter amount of time. Thanks to everybody who shows up donating your time helping with this honorable cause.

Doug Temple  
Treasurer

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

The New Year is here and seems to be moving quite fast. Some of the upcoming events are as follows:

- Mar 17<sup>th</sup> – Ventura St Patrick's Day Parade
- April 1<sup>st</sup> – Vung Tau at Camarillo Grove Park
- May 25<sup>th</sup> – Family & organization flags placed at Ivy Lawn

For the new year just starting, it seems we have a lot on our plates. We have a work crew again on Wednesday mornings at Ivy Lawn Cemetery. Those that would like to come out and work are welcome. We have new tools and a great team of Brothers that work very hard. So far we have repaired 30 sleeves and have about 70 more to do. We are also redrilling flag poles and replacing clips. My thanks to all of those who have come out and helped. It is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all of you that called me and came over, sent cards with their condolences.

We also need to keep Wilma and Bobby in our hearts.  
Brother John C.

### Vice President's Message:

My sincerest condolences to Robert Holmes on the unexpected passing of his wife Wilma due to ALS, Bob we are all here for you.

We had a great turn out of members and visitors at our February meeting, During February's meeting; it was nice to see Bob Schol and Pam Fulton.

Dave Betti conducted the second round of nomination for Officers and Board Members of the VVVC for 2012-2013 slate.

Nominated were the following:

President: Dave Betti

Vice President: Larry Seguin, Dave Wilson

Secretary: Jane Smiley

Treasury: Doug Temple

Public Affairs: Stan Leighton, Richard Camacho

Board Members (5): John Cabrera, David Ha, Robert Holmes, Richard Camacho, Dave Wilson, Ron Fitzgarrald.

I'm glad to see that newer members were nominated for the above positions; this will provide new ideas as to the direction of the VVVC in the future.

Our March meeting will be your final chance to nominate someone to any of the above positions, as the elections will take place that same night.

Be sure to check the "Important Dates" section of the newsletter, as it lists all of the events the VVVC is involved in.

Those of you who are considering refinancing your present mortgage as well as those who are looking to buy a house, I would highly recommend that you contact one of our life members Dave Tapie (AKA Mr. VA). Jan and I just went through Dave and were able to obtain a refinance, which significantly reduced our mortgage payment. You can contact Dave Tapie at (805) 389-0505 or [dave@tapies.com](mailto:dave@tapies.com).

Until next month,

Semper Fi

Richard Camacho, VP





**In Memory of Wilma Holmes  
May 17, 1958 – January 30, 2012**

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of our friend Wilma Holmes, who passed away on January 30, 2012 from ALS.

One of Wilma's favorite quotes (taken from her Face book Page) was "Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There is no courage unless you're scared, (Edward Vernon Rickenbacker).

Wilma showed amazing courage in her battle with ALS. While this disease took its toll on her body, it never was able to diminish her spirit. She always had that smile on her face that would instantly put a smile on the faces of those around her.

She fought this disease valiantly, not only for herself but also for others who had ALS by participating in the Walk to Defeat ALS this past November. She was a gentle soul with the courage of a warrior.

Rest in peace Wilma, we love you and miss you.

**Wilma Holmes Memorial Service:**

2:00 P.M. Saturday March 3, 2012

Community Presbyterian Church

1555 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001

**Chaplain's Corner:**

As some of you know, on occasion I ride with the Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) motorcycle club. They are a group of men and women who honor our fellow veterans by attending funerals and more pleasantly welcome home events. Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Each mission has two basic objectives:

1. Show sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.
2. Shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors. We accomplish the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means.

Below are some of the events the PGR supports that are happening here in California.

**KIA**

Pfc. Cesar Cortez, 24, of Oceanside, Calif., died Feb. 11, in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Cortez was assigned to 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Fort Bliss, Texas.

**Welcome Home Events**

Cpl Sarah Erwin USMC (San Jose)

Cpl Joshua Kelly USMC (San Jose)

SPC Thomas Kayl, US Army

Note: SPC Kayl is a combat veteran of three deployments, two in Afghanistan and one in Iraq.

**Fallen Veteran**

2Lt Mary Lyons Munsch, 89, WWII USA Canoga Park, CA 10 Feb 2012

Mrs. Munsch served as a 2nd Lieutenant from Oct 1944 to April 1946 in the US Army Nurse Corps. She was stationed on Tinian Island in 1945 when the Enola Gay made its first raid on Hiroshima. Once Japan surrendered she was transferred to the island of Kyushu to the town of Fukuoka to help set up the 309th General Hospital. She earned the A-P Theatre Ribbon, 1 Overseas Service Bar and The Victory Medal.

Please continue to pray for the families and all of our service personnel's safe return home.

David Ha

Chaplain VVVC

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl:

Captured 30 June 2009 in Afghanistan's Paktika province by guerrilla (Taliban) forces under Mullah Sangin and his brother Mullah Balal.

In August or September (2010/04/08) Sgt. Bergdahl tried to escape from his captors who were holding him prisoner, but was re-captured.

Since his capture, again, Sgt. Bergdahl has been moved several times, sometimes going across the border and back to avoid detection.

When Sgt. Bergdahl was first captured, the militants demanded \$1 million in ransom, the release of some (21) Taliban prisoners, and Pakistani neuroscientist Aafia Siddiqui (the MIT-educated Siddiqui is serving an 86 year sentence in America for trying to kill U.S. Soldiers while in Police custody in Afghanistan).

The Executive Director for Task Force Omega of Kentucky, Inc., Mr. Danny "Greasy" Belcher has been firing off letters to The Honorable Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to ask her to trade prisoners, negotiate, or whatever it takes to bring Sgt. Bergdahl home, once and for all!

If you would like to submit letters, or get involved in the release of Sgt. Bergdahl, you can contact him at the following address:

\*Task Force Omega of KY., Inc.  
1206 Planck Road  
Flemingsburg, Kentucky 41041  
Office phone/Fax (606) 845.0435  
Danny "Greasy" Belcher

\* Do we want to get involved?

Think about this: Recently the U. S. Government traded Russian spies for American spies and we also saw (2) hikers ransomed for \$1 million dollars in Iran, and Israel traded hundreds of prisoners for one soldier the enemy was holding. WE don't negotiate with terrorists? Hum?

Submitted by Rafael Perez

### A Thank You to all Vietnam Vets from a Marine in Iraq

A guy gets time to think over here and I was thinking about all the support we get from home. Sometimes it's overwhelming. We get care packages at times faster than we can use them. There are boxes and boxes of toiletries and snacks lining the center of every tent; the generosity has been amazing. So, I was pondering the question: "Why do we have so much support?"

In my opinion, it all came down to one thing: Vietnam Veterans. I think we learned a lesson, as a nation, that no matter what, you have to support the troops who are on the line, who are risking everything. We treated them so poorly back then. When they returned was even worse. The stories are nightmarish of what our returning warriors were subjected to. It is a national scar, a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us.

After Vietnam, it had time to sink in. The guilt in our collective consciousness grew. It shamed us. However, we learned from our mistake. Somewhere during the late 1970's and on into the 80's, we realized that we can't treat our warriors that way. So ... starting during the Gulf War, when the first real opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did it to right the wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treat our troops of today like the heroes they were, and are, acknowledge and celebrate their sacrifice, and rejoice at their homecoming ... instead of spitting on them.

And that support continues today for those of us in Iraq. Our country knows that it must support us and it does. The lesson was learned in Vietnam and we are all better because of it.

Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. I think admirably of all those who have gone before me. From those who fought to establish this country in the late 1770's to those I serve with here in Iraq. They have all sacrificed to ensure our freedom. But when I get back home, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam Vet I encounter for THEIR sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors. We as a country learned from our mistake and now we treat our warriors as heroes, as we should have all along. I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from other wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and I. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice.

Semper Fidelis,

Major Brian P. Bresnahan  
United States Marine Corps



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## Submitted by Rafael Perez:

Greetings,  
Fellow Chargers.

As some of you know, in 2004, I retired after 31 years in education, the last 20 as an elementary school administrator. In July of that year, I applied, and was appointed to work as a faculty member in the School of Education, California State University Channel Islands, in Camarillo, CA.

I have lectured in several education and communication classes for the past eight years.

As is common practice, for some professors, on the first day of classes, is to have students introduce themselves. I ask that the students meet with someone that s/he does not know. The students introduce themselves and interview each other. I usually use the following format/questions:

- Name,
- Major,
- High school attended/mascot,
- Year (Senior, Junior),
- Long/Short term goals,
- What are their expectations from our class, and,
- Tell us something that we would never guess about the individual.

After all students have been introduced, I share the same information about myself.

I followed our list, and when I arrived at "never guess," I paused for a moment and explained that I was going to tell them something that I had never mentioned to any other students/class.

Of course, as I looked about the class, I could see them sitting up, attempting to guess as to what I might tell them.

I looked around again, took a very deep breath, and I told them that I was an infantryman, with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, in Vietnam.

The class was quiet for a moment. I took a step toward the computer, to prepare for my Power Point lecture.

**Suddenly, the students erupted in applause!** I could not, immediately, quite comprehend what I was hearing. I turned to face them. It took all of my emotional strength to maintain my composure! I thanked them...at that moment that was all that I could do.

A good day for me; and other Vietnam Veterans!

You all stay healthy.  
See you in Washington, DC, in 2013.

**Welcome Home.**

## Nominations as of Feb. 18, 2012:

### Officers:

President – Dave Betti

Vice President – Larry Seguin  
Dave Wilson

Secretary – Jane Smiley

Treasurer – Doug Temple

Public Affairs – Richard Camacho  
Stan Leighton

### Board of Directors:

John Cabrera  
Richard Camacho  
Ron Fitzgarrald  
Bobby Gonzales  
David Ha  
Bobby Holmes  
Dave Wilson

Elections will be held March 17th, 6:00 Pm at the General Membership meeting.

### Important Dates:

**Saturday, Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Memorial Service for Wilma Holmes**  
2:00 PM at Community Presbyterian Church  
1555 Poli St. Ventura, CA

**Saturday, Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> – Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
Meet across from Mission @ 8:00 AM

**Saturday, Mar. 17<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, Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> – Vung Tau, Camarillo Grove Park**  
Meet at 7:30 AM in park.

**Sunday – Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> – Easter**

**Saturday, Apr. 21<sup>st</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.

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