



# Listening Post

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

May 2010

## Officers

Dave Betti, President  
(805) 649-3283  
Richard Camacho, Vice President  
(805) 384-9138  
Diane Miller, Secretary  
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(805) 482-3722

## Board of Directors

Fabio Allodoli  
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## Committees

POW/MIA – Dave Betti  
(805) 649-3283  
Listening Post – Jan Camacho  
(805) 384-9138  
James Ray Scholarship – David Ha  
(805) 482-3722  
Membership – Marie Pounds  
(661) 297-2464  
Parades – John Cabrera  
(805) 483-5139

Greetings everyone:

Well, since the last meeting, a lot has been happening within the VVVC walls! We just finished Easter vacation, we recently finished off Vung Tau, and we just finished off speaking at Moorpark High school. You all should be very proud of yourselves, I am!

I have never seen any veterans organization turnout for this many events as I have seen these past few months. I know next month we shall be busy again, as always.

We have Mother's day on May 9th, VVVC meeting on May 15th, Moving WALL meeting at Ivy Lawn on May 15th in the a.m. and Memorial Day on May 31st, in which the VVVC will also have their Color Guard. I won't even get in to the month of June as of yet?

Please don't forget the Moving WALL web site at: <http://lzventura.com>. This site is for contact info regarding the WALL. The donations just keep pouring in for the WALL, the response has been great!

I want to wish Charlie Ray a very Happy Birthday which he just celebrated on March 20, 2010. I am happy to report he is doing well, and guess who has a birthday this month? Yes, Jean Ray has a birthday this month and we at the VVVC wish her a very Happy Birthday as well. I love talking to her, she keeps me in line, and is the politest lady I have ever talked to on the phone, and funny to the end.

I know recently some have heard about the injury Skip and Becky Thomas' grandson Toby recently had, and we wish him nothing but the best. I am very happy to report that he is recovering very well, and things have been getting better for the little guy! We all wish Tina not to worry about anything; she knows that the VVVC is here if she needs us or anything.

I crack up each time Skip would tell me what he (Toby) has been up to and how he is coping with his injury, I can tell how happy Skip is by the way he tells the story about some of the things Toby has been doing, and saying. We all wish him a speedy recovery, and with grandparents like Skip and Becky, you know he is going to be home soon.

The Listening Post editor has requested that if you have pictures of yourselves from your military days she would like to get a copy of them and put them in the newsletter, so we all can see who is who? I think that's a great idea.

I guess this about wraps up my section of the newsletter; I shall see you all at the next meeting.  
Semper Fi:  
Dave Betti

## Vice Presidents Message:

By the time you read this article, we'll have completed our scheduled speaking engagements at Moorpark and Chaminade High Schools. The Moorpark presentation was provided Dave Betti, Tim Tobin, Bobby Holmes and I. (This was Bobby's first time at Moorpark). Chaminade presentation was provided by Ed Evans, Tim Tobin, Bobby Holmes and I. This was our first visit to Chaminade.

As the month of May begins, my thoughts go back to Con Thien, where 1st Battalion Fourth Marines were attacked by two divisions of NVA on May 8, 1967. I usually call Jeff Parker, (MCB4) and fellow radio man Larry Pricollo; both were at Con Thien with me that day.

Also this month we will be speaking at Anacapa Middle School on the 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. I look forward to this class, as the students are always so well prepared for our visit.

All is going well with the Wall committee, last meeting we were joined by Chief Wesley Johnson of the 31st SRG, who will be supporting our display of the Wall in August. Chief Johnson did a site visit and provided recommendations on how to lay out the Wall.

On Friday April 9th, Dave Betti and I had our first radio interview with Charley Parker and Scott Alexander of KHAY Radio 100.7 FM. Charley and Scott have agreed to interview us once a month until the Wall arrives.

Don't forget Mother's Day is May 9th.

Until next month.  
S/F  
Richard Camacho

## A Note from the Editor:

In order to keep Listening Post expenses down, it was decided at the April meeting that Monthly Meeting Minutes will **not** be posted in the Listening Post, but will be read at the beginning of each meeting.

Jan Camacho,  
LP Editor



August 26<sup>th</sup> through August 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ivy Lawn Memorial Park, Ventura, CA

**Chaplain/Scholar** Below is the tentative schedule for the 2010 S/SGT James M Ray Scholarship:

### 2010 Scholarship Timeline

June - send out applications  
July - review applications  
August - select winners  
September - present winners

If you have any suggestion for this year's topics please feel free to send them to me.

Final thoughts.....

Just got through reading two books. I normally don't read much but these books caught my attention. The first one my wife bought at a Christian bookstore entitled "Two Years is a Lifetime" Memoirs of a US Marine in Vietnam by Paul Mefferd. The other one entitled "Loon, A Marine Story" by Jack McLean available at the Camarillo library.

It brought back memories about what was happening over in Vietnam. Remember, I graduated from high school in 1972. All these events also were spoken by my three older brothers two of them in station at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Danang and the other on a NMCB-5 Detail Foxtrot (Keinang?) In the Delta building PBR bases.

Any way, 5 Nov 2008, I had the great honor and privilege in attending, I call it a "Welcoming Home Celebration" for a Lcpl Luis Palacios, and I want again to thank Richard Camacho for the invitation and for the introduction to Col. Negron. After reading the second book, I now know as Paul Harvey says "the rest of the story"

David Ha  
Chaplain/ Scholarship Chair

## Who Am I Two? aka Who Was I?

Last month's picture was of your Vice President, Richard Camacho. It was taken in October of 1967 at Camp Evans. Below is this month's picture.



## A Big Thank You to the VNVMC:

I want to acknowledge in this newsletter a big Thanks to the VNVMC (Viet Nam Veterans Motorcycle Club) for allowing the VVVC to once again participate and BBQ at their recent motorcycle run at Camarillo Springs on April 11, 2010. I wish to especially thank them for their donation to the VVVC for the James M. Ray scholarship at this event.

In case some of you didn't make it, it made me very proud to have Richard Camacho, Skip Thomas (past presidents) and John Cabrera (Board member) along with myself represent the VVVC on stage for the presentation of the donation from the VNVMC!

I wish to thank all of the members who came out that day and stayed even though we got a little drizzle, and continued to cut the meat before cutting their fingers, ha ha ha ha!

A special thanks goes out to James and Richard Lev for continually staying with the cutting of the meat, and keeping those meat trays supplied! I can't see anybody else using that cutter better than James Lev, thanks James! I know next time we are getting these two vets some aprons, they got covered in juice, and they smelled great!!

To all of the servers, from Jan Camacho, Skip Thomas, Marie Pounds, Lance and a slew of others, thanks for keeping the line moving. I thought Bobby Gonzales did a very good job putting on the meat tenderizer?

The meat cutters who trim the fat off of the food, John Cabrera, Doug Temple, Richard Camacho, Skip Thomas, David Ha, and I know there were a few more, who's names I have drawn a blank? I thank you also.

To everyone who I have not mentioned, please keep in mind I did not forget you, you continue to support the VVVC in everything we do, and you will always be a part of this club! If it wasn't for all of you who turned out, we could not have done the great job that was required, and you once again, pulled it off!

There is true comradeship amongst all who were there, I even saw a lot of different clubs participate and make this event what it always has been, a true **Vung Tau!**

Thanks again to all of you!

## Moving Wall Donation Update:

As of this mailing we have received two more donations toward the Moving Wall, from Oxnard American Legion Post#48 and a cash donation from people attending Vung Tau. We also received a substantial check from VVMC toward our James M. Ray Scholarship Fund. We still have a few months before the Moving Wall arrives, so if anyone might know of a group or organization that would be interested in donating to such a cause, contact Dave Betti or Richard Camacho, or direct them to lzventura.com.

Doug Temple, Treasurer

## Pictures from Vung Tau:

The cooking crew doing their job:



Their work was well rewarded when the VNVMC presented Dave Betti with a check for the James M. Ray Scholarship fund.



## Parades:

I'd just like to start this off by saying "Thank You" to all that helped with the Bar-B-Que. It was a lot of fun, and went really smoothly.

Just to let you know about a few upcoming events:

The Annual Arcadia Event will be May 29<sup>th</sup> at Arcadia County Park from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Ojai 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade will be Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Ventura County Fair Parade on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> in downtown Ventura.

John Cabrera,  
Parade Chair

Happy Mother's Day

## Get Well Wishes:

I wish to send out get well wishes to the following VVVC members:

- Mr. Charlie Ray
- Kevin Sheahan (who I am pleased to announce is now on the lung transplant list at UCLA).
- Toby Thorpe (Skip and Becky Thomas' grandson)
- Ron "Bear" Beaman
- Fabio Allodoli
- Bob Schol

Please take a moment and keep them in your prayers and thoughts.

Dave Betti

## Sharing Our Experiences with Students

Last month marked my 23<sup>rd</sup> year of speaking/sharing my Vietnam Experiences with the students at Moorpark High School. When I first started, their history book only had one paragraph on Vietnam, now there are two chapters.

The first year I spoke alone, however, during the last 22 years the following brothers joined me at one time or another: Juan Albarran, Raul Caballero, Jack Finneran, Jeff Parker, Ed Evans, Jess Echavarria, Jess Ramirez, Hopper, Gouge, Pharaoh, Ice Man, Dave Betti, Tim Tobin, and Bob Holmes.

Over the years, this experience has helped many of those above, to begin a healing experience. Mrs. Jeanine Alexander and Mr. Will Donley of Moorpark HS have often told us that the seniors talk about the Vietnam Vets to the new junior class. Each year we address some 300 – 400 students in the junior class. I look forward to my 24<sup>th</sup> year in 2011.

S/F  
Richard Camacho

**Letter to the Editor:** What an awesome Listening Post you published this month. I am proud to be a member of this group, even if I am inactive at this time. Just for the record, I am on my third appeal to the VA for my lungs. The last I heard, they, had lost my records. Anyway, as I sit back here and gradually deteriorate, still waiting to get on the list for the double lung transplant at UCLA, I have some things to look forward too. I always enjoy reading about my brothers and sisters in the news articles you write and I wish to congratulate all of you on your participation in keeping the chapter open and well respected in the community. I wish I could do more, however, I have more difficulty breathing now and I really appreciate the prayers and mine go out to the friends I see are also having rough times right now. I miss you all and pray that safe keeping is in store for all of you and we will meet again soon, hopefully,

Kevin Sheahan

## Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, 5/9 – Mother's Day**

**Saturday, 5/ 15 – VVVC Meetings**

Veteran's Home  
10900 Telephone Rd.  
Ventura, CA 93004  
Board Mtg. - 5:30 p.m.  
General Mtg. - 6:00 p.m.  
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

**Saturday, 5/29 – Remembering Our Veterans**

**Past, Present & Future  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Arcadia County Park  
405 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Arcadia, CA 91006

**Monday, 5/31 – Memorial Day**

**Monday, 6/14 – Flag Day**

**Saturday, 6/19 – VVVC Meetings**

Veteran's Home  
10900 Telephone Rd.  
Ventura, CA 93004  
Board Mtg. - 5:30 p.m.  
General Mtg. - 6:00 p.m.  
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

**Saturday, 7/3 – Ojai 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**

Meet at 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday, 7/17 – VVVC Meetings**

Veteran's Home  
10900 Telephone Rd.  
Ventura, CA 93004  
Board Mtg. - 5:30 p.m.  
General Mtg. - 6:00 p.m.  
Potluck, bring your favorite dish

**July 30th to August 1<sup>st</sup> - Stand Down**

More information coming.

**Saturday, 8/7 – Ventura County Fair Parade**

Meet at 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday, 8/21 – VVVC Meetings**

Veteran's Home  
10900 Telephone Rd.  
Ventura, CA 93004  
Board Mtg. - 5:30 p.m.  
General Mtg. - 6:00 p.m.  
Potluck, bring your favorite dish

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

***Application for Membership***

***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)

***"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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
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Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> through Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ivy Lawn Memorial Park  
5400 Valentine Road  
Ventura, CA