



Listening Post

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

May, 2011

Officers

Dave Betti, President

(805) 649-3283

Richard Camacho, Vice President

(805) 384-9138

Breanna Wilehlmi

Doug Temple, Treasurer

(805) 984-0489

David Ha, Chaplain

(805) 482-3772

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

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 all:

First off let me say congratulations to all of the new incoming officers for 2011-2012. I am very happy to see new members step up to the plate, and I am sure they are very happy to accept these positions in the VVVC!

As most of you know, the Military families are being evacuated from Japan. They are arriving in California and are in need of our support. The USO's at Travis AFB, LAX, SFO, and San Diego, Calif. are assisting families. Please contact your local USO and offer your help or donation (water, snacks, comfort items, etc.). Financial contributions can be sent to USO Northern California, P.O. Box 23228, San Jose, California, 95123. Get the word out! This is what we do best-support our Veterans and their families.

There has been much discussion about redoing the Veterans memorial site, just as soon as I can get more info on this I will pass on at the next VVVC meeting.

This year, for 9/11 there will be a ceremony at the Ventura County Government center. The VVVC has been asked to participate, along with the local City and State Fire and Police Depts. from Ventura County. This ceremony will take place September 1, 2011 (Sunday). There will also be an honoring ceremony for military personnel that lost their lives on 9/11. They will also have a helicopter on hand, not sure which one as of yet, this to be confirmed as I get more info from the Government Center. I will keep you posted as I get more info.

We will be having a guest speaker at the next VVVC meeting this month, providing his schedule allows. We have had him before, he does video history recordings for veterans, and once he finishes the veterans story and records it, he then sends it to Veterans History Project in Washington, DC. This is all done on a DVD and submitted to the archives where it is documented, and then sent to the museum for display with your story and history.

This year, we will once again be involved at Ivy lawn for Memorial Day services. We will need (4) VVVC members (Color guard) to carry flags and then of course we will be laying the wreath. I will get names at the next VVVC meeting.

Before I close I want to thank everyone who participated and helped out at Vung Tau this year. It went very well indeed, and the VNVMC could not have been happier, we will be back next year, and the compliments and emails I have been getting sure have been great! The compliments range from how well the food was, to how well the food line went, to how well the camaraderie was, to how well everyone had a great time. The cleanup crew was also to be commended, not a scrap left of anything, anywhere. Great job everyone, and thanks again for making another successful Vung Tau for the VNVMC!

See everyone at the meetings:
Dave Betti

Vice President's Message:

Jan and I missed the April 2011 meeting; we were in Laughlin, NV trying to finalize dates for my 2012 Marine reunion, which we are hosting.

For those that don't get the LP via email, you were not sent the notification regarding the "Giants" fan that was attacked after the opening game at Dodger Stadium. We were notified that this gentleman is the nephew of John Devitt, the owner of the Traveling Wall we hosted last August. Our prayers go out to John and his family that his nephew recovers.

By the time this newsletter gets out, we will have spoken at Moorpark High and Chaminade. We still have Anacapa Middle School this month and Tim Tobin has informed me that he is working on Thousand Oaks High. It's hard to believe that I've been going to Moorpark for 24 years, it seems like only yesterday we started there.

As we approach Memorial Day, I can't wait to see the fruits of our labor when all of the flag poles are standing straight up and not leaning. The past few Wednesdays we've been repairing the poles by replacing broken hooks as well as straightening poles that are bent. We've accomplished a lot under the guidance of John Cabrera, and the many volunteers that continue to come out each Wednesday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

This year we need some volunteers to help with parking prior to the beginning of the event. This will free Ivy Lawn's personnel to do what they have to do.

From what I understand, Santa Barbara VVA will be hosting the Moving Wall in September and then it will go to Garden Grove. Both groups have called me for information on hosting the Wall. I would like to get a group together to make a day trip to Garden Grove and assist with their Wall. Who knows, we may even see Aaron and Lisa.

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho

Scholarship Chairman's Message:

First of all I want to thank those who sent suggestions for subjects for the 2011 SSgt James M Ray scholarship; I will try to incorporate them. If you have any other suggestions feel free to submit them. The applications will be sent out during June.

Aloha, and God bless.

David Ha

Ivy Lawn Work Party Update:

As of this mailing, we have been working on flagpoles exclusively this month. We have been through all 800 or so poles that were in the trailer, straightening poles and repairing broken or missing hooks. We still have to go through some more sleeves and set a few more new ones. Thanks to everybody for donating their time and for all of their hard work.

Our usual work time is 8:30AM till 11:30AM on Wednesdays, but you might get a call from John Cabrera any day to see if you might be able to help out.

Thanks again!
Doug Temple

Vietnam Veterans Documentary:

Producer/director and Vietnam Veteran, Doug Dobransky, is filming a documentary on Vietnam Veterans.

It will be a series of interviews with Vietnam vets about your treatment on your return home, how you felt then and how you feel about it today.

Please contact Doug if you are willing to discuss this issue. You may email him at: dougwho276@cs.com or call 181.762.7716.



Memorial Day Services

Monday, May 30th

10:30 AM

Keynote Speaker: Capt. Jim McHugh

Commanding Officer of

Naval Base Ventura County

VA Changes Billing Process for Third Party Pharmacy Prescriptions

Change Will Not Affect Co-pay Status of Veterans

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a new billing process for charging third party insurers for outpatient prescription medications provided to Veterans for conditions unrelated to their military service. This change will not affect Veterans' co-payments for prescriptions.

“This is a simple change that makes sense for delivering Veterans' health care,” said Gary Baker, chief business officer of VA's Veterans Health Administration. “VA should recoup from insurers the actual costs for prescriptions provided to Veterans rather than a flat fee that is the average of all medication costs.”

Starting March 18, VA began charging third party insurers of Veterans for the full costs of prescription medications plus an administrative fee of \$11.40, rather than the flat fee of \$51 that is currently billed.

The rule change, published in the *Federal Register* on Oct. 6, 2010, will contribute to VA's mission of providing exceptional health care that improves health and well-being. The new billing process will be similar to how the private sector bills for prescription medications.

Veterans who receive prescriptions through VA for illnesses that are not related to their disabilities resulting from military service, currently pay a maximum of \$9 in co-pay per 30-day prescription, with many Veterans paying no co-pay at all.

Veterans with questions about their health care benefits can call the VHA Health Resource Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/>.

Important Dates:

Sunday, May 8th – Mother's Day

Saturday, May 21st – Armed Forces Day

Saturday, May 21st – VVVC Meetings

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

Monday, May 30th – Memorial Day

Tuesday, June 14th – Flag Day

Saturday, June 18th – VVVC Meetings

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

Sunday, June 19th – Fathers Day

Monday, July 4th - Fourth of July

Saturday, July 16th – VVVC Meetings

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



Veteran's Experience at Moorpark High School:

On April 21st VVVC members were once again present to share their personal experiences of the Vietnam War. Pictured above, left to right are Bill Curtz, USMC Retired, Ed Evans, USN Seabees Retired, Richard Camacho, USMC, Martha Mihalovits, Teacher MHS, Dave Wilson, USA, Jeanine Alexander, Teacher MHS, and Dave Betti, USMC.



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

