



Listening Post

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

November 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) 482-3772

Board of Directors

Fabio Allodoli
(805) 983-3686
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

President's Column:

Greetings all:

It's getting very, very close to the holidays again, Marine Corps Birthday, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. I hope all will have a beautiful holiday, and will continue to support whatever endeavor you chose to participate in!

I want to thank the scholarship winners this year and I must say the essays really touched every one's hearts, as they do each and every year!

I want to welcome all of the new members and thank all of you who continue to come out to the meetings, and have helped with the Vietnam Veterans WALL. Your participation is what keeps this club going, and getting bigger all the time. If we keep getting the crowd like we had the last meeting, we may have to ask Brenda Manke to add on another room for our membership, ha, ha, ha!

There are lots of parades coming up, and as usual John Cabrera will have us all involved and what a great job he does, we are truly blessed by this man.

The recent VNVMC (20) year anniversary was a huge success as far as I am concerned, and it showed at the party, these guys and gals are the greatest, and they have so much respect for all of you and I know you all feel the same way! We were truly honored, and I was very happy to see John Cabrera and Doug Temple at the party. Thanks Guys!

A bit of info here if I may, if you file a claim with the VA, please take along any and all documentation you may have and tell those Veteran Service Officers (VSO's) to make copies and attach them to your claim before they send in any of your claims. This will eliminate any problem the VA may have regarding your claim and preventing them from sending you that letter titled, DENIED! I have gotten that directly from the VA, not a VSO.

I still haven't heard from Mike McManus (VSO), but we are hoping he will return very soon, get better soon Mike!

I haven't heard from anybody about any POW/MIA balloons falling from the sky since we had the ceremony, but I am sure we will hear something very soon.

I hope that all will join me, along with Max Van Der Wyck for the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony at the Veterans memorial site this December. Please keep an eye on your computer, and newspaper for the correct time and date.

One last bit of info, it seems that we have a couple of vets, or non-vets selling merchandise at various storefronts. If you happen to run in to these two guys, you are within your right to ask them; (1) who they represent, and (2) whom they are selling merchandise for? They currently have no permits to sell these items, and they are not representing any organization from Ventura County as far as we can find out at the moment. They have been confronted in the past, and have been run off at various locations, but if we keep on questioning them, they may soon stop period!! I shall see you at the parades and meetings, so until then, have a great day!
Dave Betti

Vice President's Column:

If you didn't make the October meeting, you missed another great meeting. We had to add tables and chairs due to the number of guest that had arrived.

Jan and I are recovering from my 1st Battalion 4th Marine Association reunion in San Antonio from Oct 6 – 10. We had a lot of new faces there as well and a great barbeque put on by one of our Marines Narcsi Pulido. We also had the privilege of attending a production of "The Frontlines", which was put on by the Rose Theater Co. It addressed the feelings of those who are back home while their loved ones are at war as well as the feeling of those on the front lines. It was well written and made a big impact on all who attended.

Both Jan and I look forward to our yearly reunions, as it provides me with a place to relax among those I fought with in Vietnam, while it allows the spouses to discuss new / old problems and solutions they have found during the year.

I want to thank the VVVC family for the plaques that were presented to Jan and I for our work on the Wall. As I've mentioned in the past, it wouldn't have been possible without all of you assisting us. It took teamwork to make sure it was a success. Thank you once again.

I also mentioned at the meeting that Jan and I received a book from John Pagel, Chairman of the Southern California Task Force Omega, entitled "More than merely Names", it a complete listing of all former and still missing POW / MIAs. If any of your are interested in obtaining a copy you can write Task Force Omega, Inc., 14043 North 64th Drive, Glendale, AZ 85306. The cost is \$28 for the book, plus \$6.00 for shipping and handling.

Please look for the Knott's Berry Farm Veterans Tribute in this newsletter. I recommend that each member take advantage of this offer for free admission.

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho

Military Tribute Days:

Knott's annual tribute to our Military, past and present, starts November 1st. FREE admission for Veterans or current serving military personnel and one guest with proper I.D. presented at turnstile: (DD214, Veterans Administration Hospital ID or Active Military Service ID.) Plus purchase up to six additional tickets for just \$15.99 each! Tribute ends Thanksgiving Day. Eligible person must be present. Dependent I.D.'s will not be accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Not much to report this month other than if we are done paying bills for The Moving Wall, we should be able to make a sizeable contribution to our investment CD

Doug Temple,
Treasurer

Parade Chairman's Column:

It is that time of year again!

The Santa Paula Christmas Parade will be Saturday, November 27th. We need to be there at 8:30 AM. The parade will begin at 10:00 AM. We will meet at 7th Street and Santa Barbara St.

The Oxnard Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 4th. The parade will start at 10 :00 AM and the route is starting out at 9th Street & "A" Street and ending on 2nd Street. We will need to be there by 8:30 AM. This year we will need to have some people meet at 2nd Street to help carpool back to 9th Street as they do not want us to ride in the back of the trailer .

REMINDER: These parades are rain or shine.

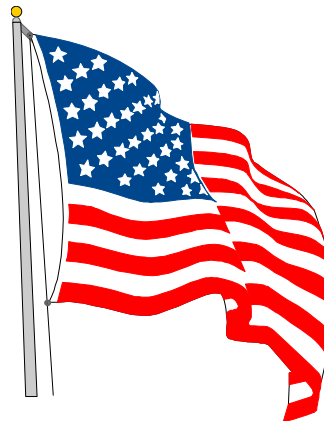
I will be in Las Vegas for the Veteran's Day Parade on November 11th. I will be in Las Vegas the 6th through the 12th.

John Cabrera
Parade Chairperson

New Members:

Welcome to new members Ronald Fitzgerald and Larry Seguin. We are honored to have you as members.

Dave Betti,
VVVC *President*.



Election Day
Tuesday
Nov. 2nd
Don't forget
To vote!

Agent Orange & PTSD Update:

AGENT ORANGE: On August 31, 2010, VA published the final regulation establishing all chronic B-cell leukemia's, Parkinson's disease, and ischemic heart disease as related to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Veterans diagnosed with these diseases will only have to show they were in Vietnam sometime between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, to qualify for service-connected disability ratings and compensation. For more information visit www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/agentorange/benefits.asp

PTSD: The VA's new rule regarding Stressor Determinations for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA doctor confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor. Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. This final rule simplifies the development that is required for these cases. VA expects this rulemaking to decrease the time it takes VA to decide access to care and claims falling under the revised criteria.

Dave Betti



Happy Veterans Day

Celebrate Veterans Day

At

Ivy Lawn Memorial park

Thursday, November 11th

At 10:30 AM

DAY ONE AND COUNTING

Randolph at Hill 55 near Da Nang on his 2nd tour in 1969:

My journey to Southeast Asia began in March, 1964 with platoon 325 at the Marine Recruit Depot in San Diego. Our Drill Instructor would read to us about Vietnam and predicted that 60% of us would be killed there. My next —good time news about same was June, 1965. I was embarked aboard the *USS General W.M. Mitchell*, a troop transport ship in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. I had orders for the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa and not the 60% place called Vietnam.

When they opened the door of the C-119 transport plane in Da Nang, a wave of humid heat hit me. It was like nothing I had experienced before. I had grown up in south Texas and this, by far held a pat hand on bad air. The additional combination of spent brass, gun emplacements, barbed wire and my assignment to a unit —outside the wire was beginning to look like a highway to hell. That road took me through —Dog Patch and on to a dried up a dried up rice paddy area known as a —CP. It was surrounded by a platoon of M-48 tanks and a battery of 8 inch howitzers on tracks.

I reported in to the company CP and was issued an M-14, bayonet, two canteens, and two hand grenades, half a dozen magazines and ammo for same. They told me I would be leaving for Chu Lai in a day or so. And this gear was sufficient for the time being. A Private First Class does not get the silverware of the rich and famous or assigned a suite. My quarters for that night amounted to a crate filled supply tent and a half full case of C-rations. The rats were the only entertainment that first night. Their show was not taken too lightly either. I found a crate large enough to sleep on at a safe distance from that rodent dance.

A sergeant from the CP came by and told all the FNGs which fighting hole to man if we were attacked. When the sun faded away the night light of the moon illuminated my surroundings and the shock of being here set in. I ate some C-rations and attempted a short time later to sleep. This was not to be. I heard the scream of a Marine and small arms fire erupted. It was a short burst that sent a dozen Marines making a mad dash to their fighting holes. I found myself in one trying to make some sense about me. The perimeter fighting holes were manned and stayed that way for the remainder of the night. An M-48 tank began a sweep outside of our perimeter. I was definitely glad it wasn't on the hunt for me.

An M60 from a line company to our left opened up with a 20 round burst. A lot of noise from our, side but still no incoming fire was received. This was not the John Wayne movie of war that I had seen in the theaters back home. The call came just before daybreak to stand down. In the morning I learned that one of our sentries had been jumped by the VC and knifed. He would be okay. The line company to our left was not so lucky. They had one Marine dead. He was killed by friendly fire.

Tio Sam Randolph

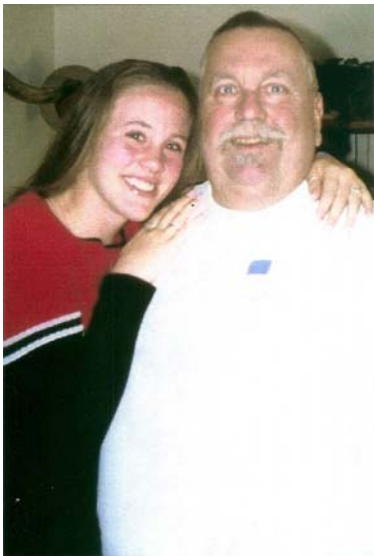
A Letter from One of our Scholarship Winners:

Dearest Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County,
I was one of the recipients of the S/SGT James M. Ray
Scholarship 2010. I want to first start off by saying thank you
again, not only awarding me the scholarship but also for
allowing me to be a part of your meeting, which by the way is
something I will never forget.

I am not (generally) a very emotional person but being there
and hearing firsthand the stories of your members brought out
a lot of feelings I haven't experienced in a long time. I wish
my dad could have been there and as awful as it sounds, I
think hearing that others went through similar experiences
would have helped him feel better about his time in Vietnam.
I have never been in a room so full of broken hearts but I left
with a feeling of renewed hope and a sense that although I am
only one person, I can make a difference in the lives of people
around me.

I never thought my written words could or would evoke such
emotion but I am glad your family was able to connect with
me and I feel truly honored to have been a part of a group of
so many miraculous people even if it was for one night. You
have impacted me in a way I doubt I will ever be able to put
into words. I know that the trials of my life are nothing
compared to what many of you have been through but I will
continue to live my life with the thought of you and the people
like you in my heart and in my head. You are all heroes. Just
know that it is never too late to get a warm welcome and just
due. You will never be forgotten, of that you can be sure.
From the bottom of my heart, WELCOME HOME!!!

Love Always,
Brianna Shea Deyling
&
Sgt. William Gary Deyling



Brianna included this
picture of her and her
dad. On the back of the
picture was written
"Our last picture
together, 2003"

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, Nov. 2nd – Election Day

Sunday, Nov. 7th – Daylight Savings Time Ends
Set your clocks back one hour.

Thursday, Nov. 11th – Veterans Day
Services at Ivy Lawn at 10:30 A.M.

Saturday, Nov. 20th - VVVC Meetings
Ventura Veterans Home
10900 Telephone Road
Ventura, CA
Board Mtg. – 5:30 P.M.
General Mtg. – 6:00 P.M.
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Thursday, Nov. 25th – Thanksgiving Day

Saturday, Nov. 27th - Santa Paula Christmas Parade
Meet at 7th St. & Santa Barbara
@ 8:30 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 4th – Oxnard Christmas parade
Meet at 9th Street & "A" Street
@ 8:30 A.M.

Tuesday, Dec 7th – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
More information coming in
December Listening Post

Saturday, Dec. 18th – VVVC Christmas Party & Meetings
More information coming in
December Listening Post



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

Application for Membership

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

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

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

“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 at 6:00 p.m. the 3rd 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: _____

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O.Box 3218

Ventura, CA 930063218