



Listening Post

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

November, 2011

Officers

Dave Betti, President
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Richard Camacho, Vice President
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Katie Odgen, Secretary
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Board of Directors

John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139

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Chaplain – David Ha
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POW/MIA – Dave Betti
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Listening Post – Jan Camacho
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James Ray Scholarship – David Ha
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Membership – Marie Pounds
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Parades – John Cabrera
(805) 483-5139

Presidents Column:

Hello all:

This is going to be the last you will hear about the VVVC Christmas party. The party this year will be at the Veterans Home here in Saticoy, CA. The VVVC will of course be cooking up chicken and hot dogs, all of the chicken will be prepared for the grill by the Veterans Home cooking staff!

The scheduled date will be DECEMBER 17, 2011 at 12:00 Noon in the dining hall at the Veterans Home. The outside area will be decorated with Christmas decorations, and our own Santa (Bobby Holmes) Claus will be on hand to pass out gift cards to all of the veterans in the home.

We are going to need a **head count** by **DECEMBER the 14th** as to who will be attending; the cost is \$7 per person, and well worth the expense!

VVVC members will bring any kind of desserts you may wish to bring, but please keep in mind that some of the folks in the Veterans Home may not be able to eat Pecan Pie, but I can, hahaha.

I better let you all know that the Veterans Day services at Ivy Lawn will be from 10:30 AM until 12 PM, and after the services there will also be services at the Veterans Home here in Ventura County at 2 PM and I hope you all can make it.

Please don't forget the December 7th Pearl Harbor day services at the Veterans Memorial site. The time I haven't gotten from Max Van Der Wyck as of yet, but it will be on December the 7th as it is each year, so watch your emails please!

Finally, last but not least, as most of you know, soon the VVVC will be starting nominations (January, February, and March) and Elections (March) of next year for new VVVC officers. There will be plenty of positions available from President down to the Public Affairs officer. I encourage all of you to at least make an attempt to fill these positions; I cannot commit myself at this time to being President again next year due to traveling with my family and other personal reasons. It's time that some of you step up and fill some of these positions, not later on, not in a few years, the time is NOW!

I have been very pleased with the VVVC and I cannot thank all of you enough for electing me as your President, and I have enjoyed it 100%, and thank all of you for your support! But it's time for some of you, and you know who you are to take the VVVC in other directions, other than what we have been doing for so many years, we need new blood, and we need new leadership, and you can make the difference, so think about it, read your by-laws as to what qualifications you need, and let's see you up here!

Well, now that I have garbled on long enough, if I don't end this soon, there may have to be a special edition Listening Post to make up for me being long winded?

One more bit of info, THANKS to Paul Lamar for handling the VVVC web site, you have done an outstanding job, and I hope you stay with it! You're the BEST!

Take care all, see you at the meetings, and functions, lets all have a great holiday this year!

Semper Fidelis!!!!!!

Dave Betti

Vice President's Message:

My Marine Reunion in St Louis went well; we had well over 100 people at our steak dinner. I was able to call and speak to Lenard Huebert, one of our 81mm mortar crew members that I have not seen or spoken to in over 44 years. The last time I saw him was in a Da Nang hospital in December 1967.

Through Hebert I will be able to contact the last FO that I was teamed up with before my return to the US in January 1968.

If any of you are thinking of going to a reunion for one of your units, by all means go, you'll be surprised by the fact that once you get there, time has stopped, by that I mean that you're right back with those you fought with and trusted your life to.

Jan and I are now gearing up for another trip to Laughlin to finalize our 2012 reunion at the Avi Casino sometime in early October 2012. Our proposed 2013 Reunion will be in Charleston, SC, to be hosted by "DOC" and Nora Jones.

Now on to the VVVC, we have some serious planning to do, with the proposed donation of \$25,000 by the Roberts family to set up a trust to assist Vietnam veterans in need. Dave is forming a committee to address some of our concerns.

Ivy Lawn work party has resumed on Wednesday mornings from 8 A.M. until whenever it gets too hot or we run out of supplies. John Cabrera has been doing some serious supervising and a lot of work has been completed. One project I want to get done is the repainting of the Section Markers, as they are very faint or non-existent. As soon as I get some templates and paint, we can get this done in one work party day.

As we approach the end of the year as well as the holiday season, remember those serving on station all over the world and especially those who are homeless or away from their families. Don't forget our Christmas dinner at the veterans home and gifts for the resident veterans.

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho



I want to thank all of you who participated in the recent City of Agoura parade this past Saturday! I can tell you, being behind the two horses which you cannot see in front of us, it was a great parade, and this photo does not do the members of the VVVC justice, but it's a picture just the same.

I especially want to thank John C. and Doug T. for loading all of the equipment, and Kevin Sheahan for making the drive and David Ha for scouting out the area before we got there! We even had a new man, named Richard attend and ride on our float who was also responsible for sponsoring the Boy Scouts from Agoura, CA, this person is also a member of the Optimist Club and is a Vietnam Veteran, so he had a great time riding on our float as all did!

There were a lot of Loki loos, and the Grand Marshall was Don Most? I know you all know who Don Most is, right? Okay, how about Donnie Most, oh okay, how about Ralph Malph from Happy days?

I thought we looked great, but I tell you, I am glad we don't get under the movie lights, because Don Most sacred me, YIKES!

I should mention, they gave the VVVC a great welcome, and we even got invited to attend a fundraiser next year for the Relay for Life in Agoura, CA. We were invited by a female veteran who is also a cancer survivor.

Thanks to all who made the drive, and made the parade, now see what parades are coming up next?

Dave

Thanks:

David H, Bobby G., Dave and Sue W., Kevin S., Doug T., John C., Richard (Optimist Club), Palitsa (mother was riding horse in front of us), Fred. K., and if I forgot anybody, excuse me!

A Note from a Member:

I just came back from the 25th division reunion in Hawaii. There were 9 guys from my company in Vietnam. If you ever have the opportunity to go to a reunion, it is definitely worth it. It healed a lot of wounds for me.

Paul Calcaterra, VVVC Life member



KUDOS AND THANKS TO: Dave Tapie and Mike McManus

This article is to say KUDOS and THANKS to a few of our members whom recently stepped up to the plate!
I want to tell you a little bit about a Vietnam veteran and his wife who recently lost their house but had made contact with one of our VVVC life members, **Mr. Dave Tapie (aka Mr. VA)**. In case most of you don't know, I'll fill you in a little bit that the above mentioned family had contacted Dave Tapie whom is a **Real Estate agent** in case you don't know, well, they needed help in trying to save their home, but it was to no avail. The Vietnam veteran mentioned here is also on a feeding tube and is disabled, courtesy of Agent Orange.

While Dave Tapie had been trying to get their home saved as the veteran could not work, he was put in touch with our own **CVSO (County Veteran Service Officer) Mike McManus** who also jumped in to assist the veteran and his wife. They (the veteran and his wife) had been put in touch with many organizations to assist, and even were put on a list to possibly get in to the Veterans Home here in Ventura County, but they are almost near capacity.

The last I heard was that they may have to move to either a Veterans Home in Barstow, Calif. or Lancaster, Calif. I have been told that the VA (Veterans Administration) is taking very good care of the family at the moment due to the veteran being on a feeding tube, and their income being so limited! This is where the Kudos and Thanks comes in to Dave Tapie and Mike McManus! These two gentlemen both stepped up to the plate, took the bull by the horns, and amazingly helped keep this family from ending up on the streets, but mostly, got them a place and shelter and food and medical care so at least the veteran can have some peace and quiet, and I for one would like to thank both Dave and Mike for handling a situation that I am most sure we veterans would not have known where to send this family for assistance!

If anybody needs any assistance from Dave Tapie and/or Mike McManus, you know where they can be reached, if not, give me a holler, we will hook you up!

KUDOS and THANKS to: VVVC life member Mark Tellou:

I am sure that most of you know recently a member of the VNVMC (Viet Nam Veterans Motorcycle Club) was about to get married. The member of the VNVMC had recently lost his job, his girlfriend had just gotten laid off from her place of employment, and they were getting ready to get married in a few weeks.

So, VVVC member Mark Tellou donated (5) cases of wine to the new couple for their wedding party and recently I received this letter in the mail and it goes like this:

Dear Dave;

We wanted to thank you (Mark Tellou) for your generous gift of the (5) case of wine for our wedding.

Thank you so much!

Signed:

Mike and Krista

-How cool is that!

(continued next column)

KUDOS AND THANKS (cont.)

Does it get any better than that, yes it does, two weeks ago Mark Tellou donated some denaro (money) to the newly married couple and they are about to find out about it at the next VNVMC meeting which I think is coming up this month! I am very proud of what you have done for this prospect of the VNVMC, and am especially proud to tell you that we all cannot thank you enough for all that you do, that includes all of the vino, the green backs, and the recent donation to the VVVC for the upcoming Christmas party.
Thanks again Mark!
Dave Betti & the VVVC family



Scholarship winner Brianna Deyling and Scholarship Chair David Ha.



Scholarship winner Alejandra Vera and Scholarship Chair David Ha.



We were honored to have our 2011 James M. Ray Scholarship winners read their winning essays at our October meeting. If you were not able to attend the meeting and would like to read their essays, they are posted on our website www.vvvc.org.

Veterans Day Specials

All Applebee's are offering free meals on Nov 11 for active military and veterans, must show military or veteran ID.

Golden Corral offering free meals on Nov 15th

Fee Free day at all National Parks Nov 11th

McCormick & Schmick's complimentary lunch or dinner Sunday Nov 7th

Outback Steak House Free Blooming Onion and beverage of choice

Knott's Berry Farm Nov 1st - 26th, free admittance for Active Military/veteran and one guest each day, plus 6 additional tickets can be purchased at \$17 each. Must show active military ID, DD 214 or VA Card for free admission.

Home Depot and Lowes offering 10% discount to all active military and veterans each day.

Chilli's will offer any lunch combo free to veterans from 11 am to 5 pm



Veterans Day Activities:

Once again Ivy Lawn Memorial Park will be hosting their Veterans Day Ceremony at 10:30 AM. The event will be emceed by Tim Gallagher, board member of Ivy Lawn and the keynote speaker will be Jannette Jauregui, author of the book Ventura County Veterans.

A reception will also be held at the Ventura Veterans home at 2:00 PM. Participants in this event include guest speakers, the Santa Paula VFW's Color Guard, Rifle Squad and Bugler and the Pacific Crest Highland Bagpipes. Jannette Jauregui will also be attending this event.

At 3:00PM, in the dining hall. there will be entertainment provided by Skip (Veterans Home resident) & Marlene.

Important Dates:

Sunday, November 6th – Daylight Savings Time Ends
Set your clocks back one hour.

Tuesday, November 8th – Election Day

Friday – November 11th – Veterans Day
Veterans Day Ceremony at Ivy Lawn Memorial Parl, 10:30 AM.

Saturday, November 19th – VVVC Meetings
Veterans Home
10900 Telegraph Rd, Ventura
Pot luck, bring your favorite dish.

Thursday, November 24th – Thanksgiving Day

Saturday, November 26th – Santa Paula Christmas Parade
Meet at Santa Barbara & Tenth at 8:00 AM.

Saturday, December 3rd – Oxnard Christmas Parade
Meet on 9th Street at 8:00 AM.

Wednesday, December 7th – Pearl Harbor Day

Saturday, December 17th – VVVC Christmas Party
12:00 noon in the Dining Room at the Veterans Home.
10900 Telephone Rd, Ventura
Cost - \$7.00 per person. Need head count by 12/14.

Saturday, December 25th – Christmas Day

Saturday, December 31st – New Years Eve

Veterans Day



Happy Veterans Day!

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 93006-3218

