



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

November, 2016

Presidents Message:

As I sit to write this article, it is the month of October just days past Columbus Day. Looking ahead to November and one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving, I list the many things for which I am thankful. One of the many things I am thankful for is our freedom. I truly believe the Veteran has a deeper appreciation of this honor than most. I was reading a quote by Thomas Paine (1737-1809) from his Pamphlet series entitled, *The American Crisis*, which he signed “*common sense*”. General George Washington had Paine’s first essay, issued December 23, 1776, read aloud to the Colonial Army at Valley Forge. Quoting from that essay, “tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly; ‘tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated. The Cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind. Where, say some is the King of America? I’ll tell you, friend, He resigns above.” (1) The phrase, “what we obtain too cheaply, we esteem to lightly” really struck me. As we go down the streets during the parades we participate in, I can’t help but notice so many who just sit there at the passing of the Colors. I can’t understand with all social injustice around us, law suites being presented to get “One nation under God” removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. Really? Excusing someone from the Pledge because it offends them? Not standing showing respect during our National Anthem because it offends them? That is their right under the freedom us Veterans fought to achieve and preserve. I too have the freedom to be offended at their disrespect. I’d better stop before I blow a gasket. Veterans, every one, know the price of our freedoms and we esteem such freedom highly and are thankful to those who gave in full measure to secure this precious “celestial an article”.

Dave Wilson

(1) *America’s God and Country*, 1994, William J. Federer, FAME Publishing, Inc.
pg. 490

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Listening Post

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From the recliner of the VP:

"I got your six.....!"

This past Saturday, Joe Richardson, Howard Tench and myself went to the dedication of the Moving Wall in Santa Barbara. This is the third time I've visited one and it will always remind me of how I learned about the VVVC when the wall was at Ivy Lawn, that was 6 yrs ago.

That brings me to this latest experience. I have a classmate from Wisconsin that was picked to go on the honor flight for Vietnam Veterans to Washington DC. He had a list of 4 brothers-in-arms to take picture of their names and unfortunately in the rush to get ready to leave he left the list at home. This is one of the great things about the internet, we can stay connected. I contacted him via Facebook and told him, "send me the names and I'll take pictures for you and post them to your f/b page. Well, I found 3 of them and posted the pictures on his f/b page but couldn't find the 4th. When I got home I continued to try to find that 4th name, still no luck. Don't know if his name was spelled wrong or if he went by another name or if he actually lost his life in Vietnam. I felt bad that I let him and his friends down. He called and told me thanks for doing that and it meant a lot to him. I'll still keep looking.

Ron Fitzgarrald, VP



Treasurer's Message:

This month's book for the Veterans Book Club was "In Country" by Bobbie Ann Mason, also a movie by the same name.

It's a very good book about a young girl trying to find out about her father who was killed in Vietnam before she was born. She also finds her uncle and his friends who are also Vietnam vets, are unwilling to tell their stories about the war. The story culminates with a visit to the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC.

The book was originally published in 1985 and considers Agent Orange and PTSD as these subjects were just coming to the forefront.

The Veteran's Book Club meets the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Camarillo Library.

Doug Temple

Membership Chairperson's Message:

VVV November 2016 Membership Report

Annual Members 32

Life Members 93

Total Members 125

Memberships Expiring in November 2016:

Darcy Glassletter 11/20/16

Please renew your membership at your earliest convenience.

Marie Pounds

Membership Chair

POW/MIA Chairperson's Report:

Seventeen more brothers were finally welcomed home last month and they are:

KOREAN WAR

Army Master Sgt. Charles J. Brown, Jr., 20, of Ozone Park, New York,
Army Cpl. William H. Smith, 18, of Hornell, New York
Army Cpl. Donald R. Hendrickson, 19, of Janesville, Wisconsin
Army Sgt. 1st Class James P. Shunney, 19, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island
Army Cpl. Milton T. Bullis, 19, of Detroit
Army Sgt. 1st Class Louis M. Baxter, 22, of Massena, New York

WWII

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Robert W. Ward, 22, of Pontiac, Michigan
Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Ben B. Barnes, 23, of Miller, South Dakota
Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Donald L. Beals, 22, of Brookings, South Dakota
Marine Sgt. Fae V. Moore, 23, of Chadron, Nebraska
Marine Pfc. Ronald W. Vosmer, 22, of Denver, Colorado
Marine Pfc. James S. Smith, 19, of Liberty, Mississippi
Navy Seaman 2nd Class Lewis L. Wagoner, 20, of Douglass County, Missouri
Navy Lt. j.g. Aloysius H. Schmitt, 32, of St. Lucas, Iowa
Navy Seaman 2nd Class Rudolph V. Piskuran, 19, of Elyria, Ohio
Navy Fireman 3rd Class Edwin C. Hopkins, 19, of Keene, New Hampshire
Navy Seaman 2nd Class James N. Phipps, 24, of Rainier, Oregon

Ron Fitzgarrald
POW/MIA Chairman

Notes from the Secretary:

"Operation Snowflake" sponsored by the VCMILC will be Dec 17th. VVVC board approved a donation of \$500 and anything anyone else that wishes to donate can be sent directly to them

<http://www.vcmilc.org/operation-snowflake.html>

Heads-up, we will be setting up a work-party date with the staff at Ivy Lawn cemetery in the near future to sort out the family flag poles and flags (6x10) from the rest of the display flags (5x8). Those interested in being notified of the time and date, please send your interest and contact information to me at

cpljosephpr@gmail.com

My thanks to all those that visited, participated, or supported the moving wall while in Santa Barbara. The board has decided to apply for a date for the wall to be presented in Ventura, probably in 2018.
Joe Richardson. Secretary

Another Busy Month...

Went to the Collaborative and heard Jacqui Irwin and Julia Brownley's views on Veteran issues and also things to look forward to in the future. Howard, Dicky and myself went to Santa Barbara to help put up the Wall. A great crowd of kids came out to help install the panels. We met with driver, Paul and Kim, great people. They have been on the road for awhile, coast to coast. Afterwards they will be going to New Mexico.

I will be in the Las Vegas Parade on November 11th and whoever would like to make the trip are more than welcome to join.

Our next event will be the Christmas Parade in Santa Paula on November 26th. We meet at Santa Barbara and 10th Street (next to the railroad tracks). All are welcome.

Next on the 5th Wednesday (November 30th) of the month. I hope everyone can make it out to Oak View American Legion for a nice free dinner. We have a lot of fun and good food. Hope to see all of you.

John Cabrera
Parades Chairman