

Listening Post

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

November, 2019

Officers

Dave Wilson, President (805) 469-0281

Howard Tench, Vice President (805) 312-1977

Joe Richardson, Secretary (805) 659-2387

Brenda Seguin, Treasurer (805) 320-4115

Ron Fitzgarrald, Public Affairs (805) 218-3489

Board of Directors

Debora Ehrich (805) 775-9987

David Ha (805) 482-3772

Joe Reyes (805) 415-2521

Louis Morris (805) 207-8692

Committees

Chaplain/Housing Improvements

David Ha (805) 482-3772

POW/MIA

Ron Fitzgarrald (805) 218-3489

Listening Post

Laurie Ann Richardson (805) 659-2387

James Ray Scholarship

Joe Richardson (805) 659-2387

Membership

Joe Richardson (805) 659-2387

Parades/Work Party

Fundraising

Manny Gonzales (805) 988-4462

President's Message:

November 2019

I was deeply honored to have officiated the memorial service for our "den mother" Janice Camacho. The outpouring of love for Jan and support for Richard was awesome. I know Richard will miss Jan very deeply as will we all. Our Honor Guard did a fantastic job. I believe the whole service was moving. Richard has received many cards of condolences as well as donations to the James M. Ray scholarship fund in Jan's name. Richard has also expressed his desire to resume arranging the Vietnam School presentations. On a side note, and not being political, I appreciate more than I can express my gratitude to Congresswoman Julia Brownley. On her way to Guam, She and Cheri Ogle stopped by to see Jan the very evening Jan passed. Cheri attended the memorial service and Congresswoman Brownley even gave Richard a call the next morning.

One other topic: The Nominations. The nominations for our officers and directors will conclude at our November 16th meeting with our elections on December 21. We still do not have anyone in nomination for Treasurer. Please give consideration for supporting the VVVC in serving in this capacity.

David Wilson

(continued from page 1)

September began our Nomination process for our Executive Board. Presently our Officers and

Directors are:

President: David H. Wilson Vice-President: Howard Tench Secretary: Joe Richardson Treasurer: Brenda Seguin

The five Directors are: Dale Dean, Debra Erich, David Ha, Louis Morris and Joe Reyes.

Nominations from the September 21, 2019 meeting

and the October 19, 2019 meeting are:

President: David H. Wilson Vice-President: Howard Tench Secretary: Joe Richardson

Treasurer: Open (Brenda Seguin will not be able to

serve another term)

Public Affairs: Ron Fitzgarrald

Directors: (there is no limit on how many may be nominated. The top 5 vote getters in December will be elected)

Directors: Robert Buckley, James Connor, Debra Erich, Jess Eschavarria, Louis Morris and Joe Reyes.

Nominations will continue in October and November in our General Meeting. **Proxy nominations need to be in by November 6** so that a nominee can be contacted as to their willingness to serve.

Please note these excerpts from our by-laws concerning the nomination and election process:

Article VIII. Election of Executive Board

Section 1. Nominations and Salutations for Votes

- (A) All nominations of qualified candidates for election to the Executive Board shall be taken from the floor of the general meeting at least 90 days before the date of any election.
- (B) Nominees must confirm willingness to serve.
- (C) Subject to the time frame established in Article VII, Section 1 (A), any member, in person or by proxy, may place names in nomination.

Section 2. Election Committee

The Election Committee will consist of three (3) nonnominated members. The committee will be responsible for setting up the election procedures, preparing the election materials, counting the ballots, preserving the ballots for possible re-count, preparing ballots for storage per retention schedule and presenting the results to the President for announcement.

Section 3. Vote Required to Elect Executive Board Members

Candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected in accordance with Article VII, Section 1 (B).

Article IX. Executive Board

Executive Board shall consist of five (5) Directors and the following Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Affairs. A member of the Executive Board can hold only one (1) elected office.

Section 1. Qualifications

- (A) Must be a current member of the corporation in good standing.
- (B) Must present a professional attitude and positive image at all times when representing the corporation.
- (C) Other special membership requirements are as follows:
 - (1) Up to, but not to exceed 40% of the Executive Board may be informal members.
 - (2) A minimum of 60% of the Executive Board shall be Formal members.
 - (a) The President must be a War Zone Veteran.

David H. Wilson

POW/MIA REPORT Oct - 2019

17 Brothers-in-arms have been accounted for and/or returned home & 6 remain MIA

World War II: 8

Marine Corps Reserve 1st Lt. Justin G. Mills, was accounted for Aug. 9, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. John R. Bayens, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Robert J. Hatch, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Pfc. Louis Wiesehan, Jr., was accounted for Sept. 23, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Norman A. Buan, was accounted for Aug. 27, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Jack B. Van Zandt, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Earl F. Ferguson, 26, of Minneapolis, was accounted for Sept. 30, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following primary next of kin briefing.)

* Marine Corps Pfc. Quentin W. McCall, 22, of Union Church, Mississippi, was accounted for on Sept. 27, 2019. (The official DoD release will be updated following the primary next of kin briefing.)

USS Colorado: 1

Navy Reserve Seaman 2nd Class Moyses A. Martinez, 19, of Dulce, New Mexico, was accounted for June 10, 2019.

USS Oklahoma: 2

Navy Seaman 2nd Class D.T. Kyser, was accounted for Aug. 9, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Pfc. Marley Arthurholtz, was accounted for Sept. 18, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Currently there are 72,641 (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 6

Army Cpl. Kenneth E. Ford, was accounted for Sept. 18, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Jerome V. Hummel, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Sgt. David C. Sewell, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin Army Pfc. John A. Shelemba, was accounted for Sept. 12, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Sgt. 1st Class Riley Burchfield, was accounted for Sept. 3, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Pfc. Ray P. Fairchild, was accounted for July 29, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated Army Pfc. John A. Shelemba, was accounted for Sept. 12, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Sgt. 1st Class Riley Burchfield, was accounted for Sept. 3, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Pfc. Ray P. Fairchild, was accounted for July 29, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Mr. Timothy E. Bell, of Mobile, Ala., DoD contractor, was lost on April 9, 2004, while working in Baghdad, Iraq. (continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Korean War: 20

Army Sgt. 1st Class Phillip C. Mendoza, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 9, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Marine Corps Pfc. Billy E. Johnson, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 7, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Pfc. Junior C. Evans, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 19, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Sgt. Gerald B. Raeymacker, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 9, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Charles H. Grubb, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 27, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Gudmund C. Johnson, Jr., killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 27, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Gerald N. Wilson, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 29, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army 1st Lt. Robert C. Styslinger, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 29, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd, 22, of Navarre, Ohio, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on June 24, 2019.

Army Sgt. Donald L. Murphy, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 3, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Pfc. Harold K. Knight, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 3, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army 1st Lt. George S. Crisp, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 3, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Joe T. Avant, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 10, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Autrey J. Betar, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 10, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. William J. McCollum, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 11, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing,)

Army Pfc. William J. Winchester, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 10, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Asa E. Vance, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 10, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Wilfred K. Hussey, Jr., killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 10, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Lloyd B. Odom, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 12, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Army Cpl. Henry L. Phillips, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 17, 2019. (Official DoD release will be updated following Primary Next of Kin briefing.)

Currently there are 7,602 Americans remaining unaccounted for from the Korean War.

(continued on pg. 5)

(continued from page 4)

Vietnam: 0

Currently there are 1,574 American servicemen and civilians remaining unaccounted for from the Vietnam War

Iraq Theater & Other Conflicts: 6

Operation El Dorado Canyon, 1986 MIA: 1

Capt. Paul F. Lorence, of San Francisco, U.S. Air Force, was lost on April 15, 1986, over Libya.

Operation Desert Storm, 1991 MIA: 2

Lt. Cmdr. Barry T. Cooke, of Austin, Texas, U.S. Navy, was lost on Feb. 2, 1991, in the Persian Gulf.

Lt. Robert J. Dwyer, of Worthington, Ohio, U.S. Navy, was lost on Feb. 5, 1991, in the Persian Gulf. Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003-2010 MIA: 3

Mr. Kirk Von Ackermann, of Albuquerque, N.M., DoD contractor, was lost on Oct. 9, 2003, while working in Forward Operating Base Pacesetter, Iraq.

Mr. Timothy E. Bell, of Mobile, Ala., DoD contractor, was lost on April 9, 2004, while working in Baghdad, Iraq.

Mr. Adnan al-Hilawi, of Orlando, Fla., DoD contractor, was lost on March 3, 2007, while working in Baghdad, Iraq.

Ron Fitzgarrald POW/MIA Chairman

This is a direct connection for CITC (Care In The Community) 818-891-7711 Ext. 35855

Sick Call....

Please continue to think about and/or say a prayer for our members:

John Smiley recovering from a bad fall, He is at the Victoria Care Center Room 83, and he would love to have some visitors!

David Wilson back surgery in December,

Brenda Seguin hip replacement surgery in October.

Sharon Cabrera surgery for dislocated shoulder.

Simon Camarillo

Steve Weber suffering from severe cancer. Laurie Richardson back surgery in November.

Everyone – please stay safe and healthy out there!

VVVC October 2019 Membership Report

Annual members 52

Life members

117

Free members Total members

5 174

One annual moved to life Dave Moodie One new life member William Cahill

3 Annual members moved to expired

Refugio Hernandez 1514

1518 Dana Aten

1519 Rhonda Frye

5 Annual memberships are overdue

1520 Joe Morris

1384 Joe Catrambone

1388 David Ortiz

1389 Brenna Wilhelmi

1403 Ralph Gonzales

1 Annual memberships due

1479 Ken Price

Sec/Membership Chair Joe Richardson

Happenings – List of activities coming up:

Bd of Supervisors - 11/5

Pacific High School – 11/5

Take A Vet to School Day - 11/7

Veteran's Day Celebration Honoring Veterans At Oxnard College Performing Arts Bldg. – 11/7

Community's Conversation About Aging – 11/8

Oxnard Veterans Day, presentation & parade – 11/11

Veteran's Parade in Las Vegas - 11/11

Oxnard Elk's Lodge Spaghetti Dinner – 11/11

Coast Carts Golf Tournament – 11/11

Newberry Park School - 11/18 & 11/19

Work Day at Ventura Home - 11/23

Snowflake meeting - 12/14

Operation Snowflake - 12/21

Also check the VVVC Events Calendar



Honoring our Veterans

Board of Supervisors' recognition of Veterans Day 2019, calling attention to veteran mental health



November 5 at 10 am

Hall of Administration BOS chambers 800 S. Victoria Ave Ventura







VVVC 2019 Event Calendar

OCTOBER

- 28 AFTS "TTAC" Graduation
- 28 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 30 AFTS "TTAA" Graduation

NOVEMBER

- 1 VCMC Free Legal Clinic
- 4 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 5 Board of Supervisors
- 5 Pacific High School
- 7 Take a Vet to School Day
- 8 Community's Conversation About Aging
- Oxnard Veteran's Day, presentation & parade
- 11 Las Vegas Veteran's Parade
- 11 Coast Carts Golf Tournament
- 12 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 12 AFTS "TTAC" Graduation
- 14 Collaborative Meeting
- 16 VVVC Meeting
- 18 & 19 Newberry Park School
- 19 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 23 Work Day at Ventura Home
- 26 AFTS "TTAC" Graduation
- 29 AFTS "TTAA" Graduation

DECEMBER

- 3 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 6 VCMC Free Legal Clinic
- 7 Color Guard at Camarillo Christmas Parade
- 12 Collaborative Meeting
- 14 Snowflake meeting
- 19 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 21 VVVC Meeting
- 21 Operation Snowflake
- 20 AFTS "TTAA" Graduation
- 23 AFTS "TTAC" Graduation

Volume 63 No. 3 July-September 2019

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS FOR BURIALS OUTSIDE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ANC)

The funeral director (preferred) or a family member can contact the HQMC Military Funeral Honors Section at (866) 826-3628 or (703) 432-9524 to request Military Funeral Honors for a veteran. The funeral director (or family member) must be able to provide the Marine's complete name, SSN, rank, status (retired or veteran), date of birth, date of death, and place of death/interment. In addition, a copy of the Marine's DD-214 needs to be provided for verification of "honorable service". If a DD-214 is not readily available, it can be requested through the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. The following link provides additional details:

 $https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/webcenter/portal/MF_MPS_CA/MilitaryFuneralHonors?_afrLoop=1698068779136830\#!\% 40\%40\%3F_afrLoop\%3D1698068779136830\%26_adf.ctrl-state\%3D1bpb10pnxz_137$

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS FOR BURIALS AT ANC

A family member will need to contact ANC directly. The following link provides information on eligibility, required documents, and additional resources for scheduling and attending funerals at ANC. Marine Barracks Washington provides Military Funeral Honors for Marine burials at ANC.

http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Scheduling-a-Funeral

Agencies Providing Aid and Assistance To Surviving Spouses

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000

Gold Star Wives of America: 1-888-751-6350, www.goldstarwives.org

Military Funeral Honors: 1-866-826-3628 or (703) 432-9524

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: (703) 696-4904, <u>www.nmcrs.org</u> National Military Families Association: 1-800-260-0218, <u>www.nmfa.org</u> Society of Military Widows: 1-800-842-3451, <u>www.militarywidows.org/</u>

<u>home.aspx</u> Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: 1-800-959-8277, <u>www.taps.org</u>

sistemed i logitali i loi balvivoisti i dod yey de l'i y

SOME THINGS YOU WILL NEED TO DO:

- Gather important documents for claims processing (e.g., birth certificate, will, etc.)
- Begin to make funeral and burial arrangements

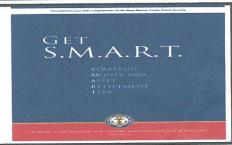
GOLD STAR WIVES OF AMERICA, INC.

- Start claim process for applicable benefits (e.g., SBP, VA life insurance, Social Security)
- Determine immediate and short-term financial needs and income sources
- Arrange for help with legal affairs of the deceased
- Notify joint account agencies (e.g., credit cards, banks, auto registration home/auto insurance)
- Review survivor's own legal documents for possible revision
- Obtain multiple certified death certificates (6-12 copies)

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

No doubt your financial requirements and responsibilities are very different from when you were on active duty. The Society provides retirees a useful guide: Strategic Money and Asset Retirement Tips.

Download your free GET S.M.A.R.T. guide at: www.myimpactwithnmcrs.org/getsmart





Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies

1. REPORT THE DEATH TO DFAS at 1-888-332-7411 to stop retirement pay to avoid indebtedness. If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability from the VA or civil service retirement from the Office of Personnel Management, contact that agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later.

You may also report the death online at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html. Additional information from DFAS is available at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html.

For families located overseas, the commercial number is 216-522-5955, select option 3 to be directed to the appropriate representative.

NOTE: DFAS will forward a confirmed death listing to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of this newsletter under the Taps column.

- 2. Within 7-10 business days after reporting the death to DFAS, you should receive a letter containing the following documents:
 - a. SF1174 Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service
 - b. Annuity account forms and instructions (if the decedent was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan)
 - c. W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments
 - d. Direct Deposit form

Complete the forms you received with your letter and return them with a copy of the retiree's Death Certificate that includes cause of death to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retired Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

If you need assistance completing your claim forms, please call 800-321-1080.

- 3. REPORT SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ELECTION, *if applicable*. Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected SBP. If you are uncertain whether an election was made, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.
- 4. UPDATE YOUR MILITARY ID CARD. Your status has changed, and as the survivor of a deceased Marine, your ID card must be updated to reflect it due to the Marine's death. Access your nearest ID site at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl or call HQMC (MMSR-6) at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310 to obtain the sites closest to you.
- 5. NOTIFY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION at 1-800-SSA-1213 (www.ssa.gov) to apply for the \$255 death benefit, *if applicable*.
- 6. CONTACT THE VA at 1-800-827-1000 FOR BURIAL AND OTHER VA BENEFITS, such as VA disability payments. Acopy of the sponsor's DD 214 is required. Visit www.va.gov for more information.
- 7. CONTACT THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT at 1-888-767-6738 if the sponsor was receiving civil service pay.

In this issue...

The Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (/exposures/publications /military-exposures/meyh-1/ILER.asp)An individual, electronic record of exposures for service members and Veterans is under development.

Gulf War Veterans and Presumptions (/exposures/publications/military-exposures/meyh-1/presumptions.asp) For Veterans who served since August 2, 1990, VA presumes service connection for certain health conditions and provides disability payments and health care benefits.

Sleep Apnea in Gulf War Veterans (/exposures/publications/military-exposures/meyh-1/sleep.asp)There are several types of sleep apnea, and some research has been conducted on Gulf War service and sleep apnea.



New Resources on the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (/exposures/publications/military-exposures/meyh-1/resources.asp) VA created new materials and updated information on the registry.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Your Health (/exposures/publications/military-exposures/meyh-1/PFAS.asp)Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that have been used to fight fuel fires.

Spotlight on the Work of an Environmental Health Coordinator and Clinician (/exposures/publications /military-exposures/meyh-1/registry.asp) Mr. William Kingsberry and Dr. Shoba Battu work together to make sure that Veterans receive environmental health registry exams. Find out about their roles and about environmental health registries.

Research Update: WRIISC's Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence (/exposures/publications /military-exposures/meyh-1/AHBPCE.asp) The New Jersey WRIISC was designated as the site for the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence (AHBPCE) and continues its research program.

VA's Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center Program (/exposures/publications/military-exposures /meyh-1/programs.asp) VA offers programs for Veterans who are concerned about health effects from toxic embedded fragments or depleted uranium.

National Academies to Review Long-Term Health Effects of Antimalarial Drugs (/exposures/publications /military-exposures/meyh-1/antimalarial.asp)VA has contracted with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the long-term health effects of antimalarial drugs.

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Program (/exposures/publications/military-exposures /meyh-1/registry-milestones.asp) The Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry program reached its five-year anniversary in June 2019. With this milestone, VA has achieved many important goals and continues to strive for improvement.

Download free viewer and reader software (http://www.va.gov/viewer.htm) to view PDF, video and other



Office of Inspector General Department of Veterans Affairs

News Release Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-4683

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2019

VA Office of Inspector General and Department of Justice Announce VA Health Care Fraud Task Force

Task Force Will Focus on Health Care Fraud in VA's Expanding Community Care Program

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) today announced the establishment of the VA Health Care Fraud Task Force to combat fraud in VA's expanding health care programs.

As part of the Task Force, a VA OIG attorney will be detailed to serve as a special prosecutor in the Health Care Fraud Unit of the Fraud Section. fraud at VA with DOJ's proven track record prosecuting health care fraud through its Medicare Section). The Task Force initially will focus on investigating and prosecuting health care fraud in VA's growing Community Care program, under which eligible veterans may receive health care from a private provider in their local community (rather than from a VA medical facility). The Task Force combines VA OIG's substantial experience investigating health care Fraud Strike Force, which resides within the DOJ Criminal Division's Fraud Section (Fraud

providers). Similar to the Medicare program, these Community Care providers submit claims to VA for payment for their services. the VA MISSION Act significantly increased veterans' access to health care by expanding their ability to receive health care from approved non-VA providers (referred to as Community Care approximately 9 million veterans at over 1,200 medical facilities. Beginning on June 6, 2019, The VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, providing care to

forces operating in 24 districts. The Medicare Fraud Strike Force is a partnership among DOJ's inception in March 2007, the Medicare Fraud Strike Force has charged nearly 4,200 defendants Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney's Offices, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS OIG). Since its The Fraud Section leads the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, which maintains 15 strike who have collectively billed the Medicare program for more than \$19 billion.

environment. As the VA MISSION Act expands VA's Community Care program, this is one of those rare opportunities in government where we can be proactive and get ahead of the curve by experts at detecting and investigating health care fraud in VA's complex and diverse health care Inspector General Michael J. Missal. "Our agents in the VA OIG Office of Investigations are system. We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to tap into the wealth of knowledge and "Combating health care fraud is one of our highest priorities at VA OIG," said VA expertise of DOJ and the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, particularly in the fee-for-service

partnering with the Fraud Section and leveraging its proven strategies for combating fraud in the Medicare program. This Task Force sends a clear message to anyone considering committing nealth care fraud at VA - we will protect our veterans' health care system at all costs."

designed to assist the men and women who have served in our nation's military," said Assistant Attorney General Brian A. Benczkowski of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "This new Task Force leverages the proven success of the Department's Strike Force model and will aggressively target fraud in the VA's expanding health care programs." "It is beyond the pale when individuals commit fraud against health care programs

In coordination with the recently announced Medicare Fraud Strike Force enforcement impacting VA's health care programs in August and September 2019. These cases are being prosecuted and investigated by U.S. Attorney's Offices nationwide and/or the Fraud Section, along with agents from the FBI, HHS OIG, DEA, IRS-CI, and other federal law enforcement actions, VA OIG partnered with DOJ to bring charges and/or obtain guilty pleas in cases agencies.

Among those charged include:

fraud, making false statements in health care matters, and involuntary manslaughter. The case is information, see https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdar/pr/fayetteville-doctor-arrested-charges-wire-In the Western District of Arkansas, charges were brought against Dr. Robert Levy, the former Chief of Pathology at VA's Health Care System of the Ozarks, alleging wire and mail being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kyra Jenner and Bryan Achorn. For more raud-mail-fraud-making-false-statements-and

In the District of Colorado, charges were brought against Ronald Vaughn, the owner of a illegal gratuities to a VA employee in exchange for referrals for his company. The case is being home health care company, who subsequently pled guilty to paying more than \$1 million in nttps://www.justice.gov/usao-co/pr/man-pays-va-employee-1-million-illegal-gratuities prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anna Edgar. For more information, see

including nearly a million dollars in CHAMPVA coding fraud. The case is being prosecuted by https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/health-care-fraud-and-opioid-enforcement-action-bringsowner of a third-party billing company, who subsequently pled guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud for submitting fraudulent claims to various government health care programs, In the Middle District of Florida, charges were brought against Teresa Johnson, the Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelley Howard-Allen. For more information, see multiple-charges-across-middle

Attorney William Brady. For more information, see https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/former-In the District of Massachusetts, charges were brought against Kathleen Noftle, a former nurse at the VA Medical Center in Bedford, for allegedly diverting morphine meant to be given to veterans under her care in the hospice unit. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. va-hospice-nurse-charged-diverting-and-tampering-morphine-meant-dying-veterans

VVVC 2019 Event Calendar

OCTOBER

28	AFTS "TTAC" Graduation
28	NCTC "CM" Graduation

30 AFTS "TTAA" Graduation

NOVEMBER

1	VCMC Free Legal Clinic

- 4 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 5 Board of Supervisors
- 5 Pacific High School
- 7 Take a Vet to School Day
- 7 Veteran's Day honoring Veterans at Oxnard College Performing Arts Bldg.
- 8 Community's Conversation About Aging
- Oxnard Veteran's Day, presentation & parade
- 11 Las Vegas Veteran's Parade
- 11 Coast Carts Golf Tournament
- 12 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 12 AFTS "TTAC" Graduation
- 14 Collaborative Meeting
- 16 VVVC Meeting
- 18 & 19 Newberry Park School
- 19 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 23 Work Day at Ventura Home
- 26 AFTS "TTAC" Graduation
- 29 AFTS "TTAA" Graduation

DECEMBER

- 3 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 6 VCMC Free Legal Clinic
- 7 Color Guard at Camarillo Christmas Parade
- 12 Collaborative Meeting
- 14 Snowflake meeting
- 19 NCTC "CM" Graduation
- 21 VVVC Meeting
- 21 Operation Snowflake
- 20 AFTS "TTAA" Graduation
- 23 AFTS "TTAC" Graduation



Community Conversation About Aging

With Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA)

Join us for a community conversation about the benefits and challenges of aging in Ventura County. There will be a Panel of Experts explaining the resources currently available, but we want to hear from you, the community:

What resources do you think are needed to help you optimally age here in Ventura County?

You will have the opportunity to interact with community organizations at various Resource Tables.

We hope to see you there!

NOVEMBER 8 • 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Doors open and Registration at 9:30 am

Location: UFCW, Orchid Room 816 Camarillo Springs Rd., Camarillo

16 Camarillo Springs Rd., Camarillo RSVP (805) 477-7300, Option 3







Join us at the FREE "Wheel to the Sea" event

"A challenge hike for Veterans, wheelchair users and volunteer pushers"

Saturday, Nov 2, 2019, 8AM-6:30PM

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Malibu, CA

This exciting community event is especially designed to serve individuals in wheelchairs, including Iraq, Afghanistan and other military Veterans (and their families). Non-wheelchair users with minor Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD, blindness, deafness or debilitating illnesses are also welcome to push a wheelchair or join in the event. Fueled with a hearty breakfast, we embark on this five mile naturalist-led hike through Point Mugu State Park. The trail includes rocky terrain, slopes and mud or stream crossings in times of wet weather. These natural obstacles provide challenges and opportunities for teamwork and trust building. The event culminates at the beach with a family style barbeque and use of specialized beach wheelchairs. All who participate will benefit from the physical challenge, social interaction and camaraderie offered from this unique outdoor adventure.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED

To donate and/ or register please contact Ciana@WildernessInstitute.com

or Register on-line at: www.meetup.com/Wilderness-Adventures (Registration deadline 10/27/19, unless full before).





Celebrating 35 Years Since 1984

CA State Parks, Kiwanis of Thousand Oaks and Chatsworth

Mtns. Recreation Conservation Authority Volunteer Mountain Bike Unit



It was everything I expected, and more! I've been training for the upcoming National Veterans Wheelchair Games for the wheelchair slalom event, kinda like the x-games for wheelchairs. Competition is fierce but if I can roll that course yesterday I think I'll be ok."

Larry Foster, Volunteer Service Specialist Department of Veteran Affairs

It's a great challenge to get outside and enjoy the day. Before I lost the use of my legs in '79, I was very active, I did a lot of backpacking and sailing. There's not many activities for the disabled. But, The Wilderness Institute really bends over backwards."

Rick Dunkin, Wheelchair participant

"Wheel to the Sea rocks (and rolls)!" "This event is an extremely rewarding, inspiring and therapeutic experience. Giving to another person, allowing each of us to go beyond our individual limitations, and reconnecting with nature has empowered me physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Michael Tardif, Veteran volunteer and naturalist

Life in a wheelchair is full of challenges. I love to face those challenges head on. This hike is a good way to do it. I see this as a great example of what the physically challenged can do, and it is a great confidence builder for those who have never done something like this before.

Evan Somers, wheelchair participant

"Helping others, challenging themselves and experiencing the therapeutic benefits of being in nature empowers Veterans, participants and volunteers to realize that they are capable of achieving anything they put their mind to: life purpose, career, family, friends and passion in attaining their goals." **Brad Childs, Executive Director, The Wilderness Institute**

Contact us to help your group achieve extraordinary results through other therapeutic programs Veterans Challenge * Vet-to-Vet Connect Mentoring * Vet Cadre Training * Family That Plays Together *

* Challenge Ropes Courses * Wilderness Survival * Orienteering * Rock Climbing * Eco- Challenges *

Ciana@WildernessInstitute.com

www.WildernessInstitute.com

If <u>YOU</u> are not in these pictures, please think about <u>PARTICIPATING</u> in <u>WHAT WE DO</u>





















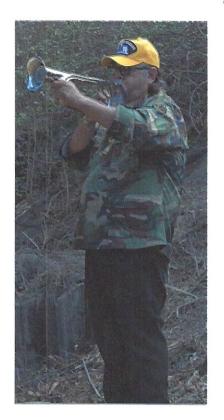








A <u>BIG</u> part of our commitment is MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS



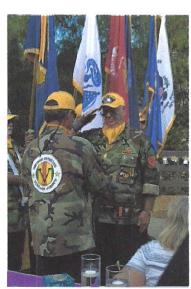








WHY NOT in the pictures





Jim Baker Funeral

All Veterans are by law Given Military Honors @ their Funeral







Flags displayed with NO Veterans present

Saved by the 173 Airborn and the DAV as only 4 VVVC members showed

























VCMC Meeting Of Many Minds











Reins of Hope **Fundraiser Color Guard**











Good food **Great Cause**



VCMiLC Kim Evans **BEST Christmas** For Military Families

