



Listening Post

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

October, 2011

Officers

Dave Betti, President

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Richard Camacho, Vice President

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Committees

Chaplain – David Ha

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POW/MIA – Dave Betti

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Listening Post – Jan Camacho

(805) 384-9138

James Ray Scholarship – David Ha

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Membership – Marie Pounds

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Parades – John Cabrera

Presidents Column:

-Remembering 9/11-

I wanted to put this information in the newsletter as recently I met a man whom was scheduled to be on flight 93 but was talked out of his flight by a buddy of his who wanted him to stay in town and have a few drinks?

The Flight 93 National Memorial is scheduled to be dedicated on Sept. 11, 2011, near Shanksville, Pa.

The site honors the 40 passengers and crew members who perished there when Flight 93 crashed, thwarting a fourth terrorist attack.

A memorial plaza will include a white marble wall bearing the names of the victims. Future plans call for a memorial grove of 40 trees, an interactive visitor center and a Tower of Voices made of 40 wind chimes!

The man I am talking about, John Talley, some may know him, he is retired from the Naval Base Ventura County and knows some of you.

This man has a vast history of military duty, and is also a Vietnam veteran, and has been all over the world working for the government (Naval Base Ventura County) like Richard Camacho.

I mention Richard's name because their paths have crossed many times while John was working at Naval Base Ventura County while he (Richard) was there!

I recently met him (John), and his wife, Nancy Talley at the Humane Society where John and I share numerous work and repair projects.

His story was recently in the newspaper as many did not know he was scheduled to be on Flight 93 that dreadful day.

I am very privileged to be able to share a table with this fine man, and what a book of knowledge he has.

I hope very soon to bring him to one of our VVVC meetings and introduce you to John and Nancy Talley!

I cannot ever imagine what it must feel like to not have been on that flight that day?

Dave Betti

Vice President's Message:

This organization was established in 1985, at that time there were a total of 19 annual members. I joined the VVVC in May of 1986, that year we had a total of 120 members, both annual and Life.

During the last 25 years that I have been a member, I've held the offices of President, Vice-president, Treasure, Secretary and Public Affairs. There was a period of two or three years that I didn't hold an office.

The reason I'm bringing this up is that I don't plan on running for an office next year; it is time for some new blood and new ideas to take the reins. I've promised Dr. Selby at the VA clinic that I would back out of holding an office, and I intend to keep that promise.

We currently have 106 members, (76 Life and 30 annual) on our roles, with an additional 18 expired annual members that we need to get active again.

I will stay active as a member and continue to assist next year's leadership in any way that I can. Nominations will be opening after the first of the year; I challenge each of you to start considering nominees for next year's slate of officers and board members. This is your organization, you must keep it alive.

I wanted to thank all who came out to the POW/MIA ceremony on September 16th; we still have 170 California's unaccounted for from Vietnam. Don't let them be forgotten.

Just a reminder, the Traveling Wall will open in Santa Barbara on October 1st, it is being hosted by VVA Chapter 218, if you can assist them by volunteering, please contact Don Matter at (805) 284-6372 or email him at donmatter51@yahoo.com.

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho



**Happy
Halloween!**

Treasurer's Message:

I went to my first military reunion on September 8-11 in Norfolk, Va. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I knew I wanted to go. It was well worth it even though nobody from my division was there. After 40 years, I didn't recognize anybody until we started talking and looking at old cruise books. We really got old!

Our "skipper" was there, Rear Admiral Buddy Yates. Back then he was only a captain. He was 45 years old when he came on board, so he's close to 90 now and still sharp as a tack, with a great sense of humor. From him, I learned a lot about the ship that we never knew back in '68-'70.

I also did a couple of tours on ships, namely the battleship Wisconsin and the U.S.S. Cole. Quite a surprise, she pulled into the dock sometime Friday night and I happened to see her Saturday morning and was able to go on board. What a story was told about when they got blown up in Yemen in 2000, very interesting. This was the first reunion of the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy CV-67[formally CVA-67]. They have tentatively scheduled another one for 2013, and I'll be sure to be there.

Doug Temple

Scholarship Chairman's Message:

I am pleased to announce that Alejandra Vera and Brianna Deyling are the 2011 SSgt James M Ray scholarship winners. The above winners will be invited to the October 15th general membership meeting to read their essays and be presented their SSGT James Ray Scholarships.

Have a blessed day. Aloha.

David Ha

Parade/Work Party Chairman:

I'd like to say we must have looked pretty good in our last parades, as we were asked to participate in the Reyes Adobe parade on October 1st. The line up time is 8:00 AM. This is a good opportunity to be seen elsewhere and it is close to home. Exit Reyes Adobe of the 101, go north one mile to Lake Lindero. Call me if you need to 890-9273. Your participation is a great honor to the VVVC.

The new flag pole is up at the Government Center. We saw the arrival and installation. It was a very humbling moment for me.

Weekly work parties at Ivy Lawn continue. We start at 8:00 AM.

Thank you again for all your help.
Brother John Cabrera



New concrete flagpole installed at the Veterans Memorial.

Important Dates:

Saturday, October 1st – Reyes Adobe Parade
Meet @ Lake Lindero, 8:00 AM

Moving Wall Dedication Ceremony
Chase Palm Park, Santa Barbara 12:00 PM

Sunday, October 2nd – Moving Wall Candlelight Vigil
Chase Palm Park, Santa Barbara
6:30 PM

Saturday, October 15th VVVC Meetings
Veteran's Home
10900 Telephone Rd. Ventura
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

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

Friday, November 11th – Veterans Day

Saturday, November 19th – VVVC Meetings
Veteran's Home
10900 Telephone Rd. Ventura
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Thursday, November 24th – Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 26th – Santa Paula Christmas Parade
More information coming.



Greetings,

Richard, I recall that you told me that I would have a good time at the reunion; even though I was very anxious. But, I did. We hugged, we laughed and we cried. It was as though those 45 years had not passed. As soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen, we never forget the bond we share; having been in combat. We were all a little grayer, and some of us could never, ever get back into our fatigues, now! But, as I looked around the rooms, these Vietnam Veterans, these men that had served their country, these men that had been yelled at and spat on, upon their return home, stood tall. You could actually hear, see and feel their pride!

I am already getting ready for our 2013 reunion in Washington, DC!

Pictured Above:

Members of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade; 1966.

(L-R) Delbert Milligan; Bill Pelch; Joe Mahoney and Rafael Perez.



On Saturday, September 11 a flag raising ceremony was held at the Veteran's Memorial at the corner of Telephone Rd. and Victoria Ave. to unveil a brand new 45' Flagpole at the site which replaced the old 30' pole. The day before Jerry English, City council member, Jim Monahan, President of Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County Dave Betti and Vietnam Veteran John Cabrera were on hand to get the project going.

OFFICIAL DoD COUNT OF:

Troops Killed in Iraq: **4480**
Troops Killed in Afghanistan: **1791**
Wounded in Action: **45795**
Source: Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America

Please keep the families of these heroes in your thoughts and prayers.

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