



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

September & October, 2020

Officers

Dave Wilson, President
(805) 469-0281

Howard Tench, Vice President
(805) 312-1977

Joe Richardson, Secretary
(805) 659-2387

Toni Morris, Treasurer
tmorriz@verizon.net

Ron Fitzgarrald, Public Affairs
(805) 218-3489

Board of Directors

Debora Ehrich
(805) 775-9987

Robert Buckley
(805) 988-2980

Joe Reyes
(805) 415-2521

Louis Morris
(805) 207-8692

Jess Echavarria
(805) 984-7476

Committees

Chaplain/Housing Improvements

David Ha
(805) 482-3772

POW/MIA

Ron Fitzgerald
(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

None

Fundraising

Manny Gonzales
(805) 988-4462

President's Message

2020 has been quite the challenging year so far, hasn't it? For myself personally, I have had back surgery, abdominal surgery and cataract surgery. My eldest son and granddaughter have moved in with Sue and myself from New Haven, CT. It was a year ago July my daughter-in-law passed away. The Church I pastor has not been able to meet since March as well as our VVVC. I really miss our meetings. Also, September should have been the beginning of our nomination process for the Executive Officers and Directors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of things. Trying to stay away from people at least 6 feet has been a lot of fun. I still feel weird wearing a mask when I go into the bank. I miss going to a Dodger game and filling up with Dodger Dogs, peanuts and a slice of pizza. I miss going to the show at the Roxy theater in Camarillo. Well I could go on and on. So could we all.

I hope everyone is doing well, given our circumstances. We also have national elections coming up in November. Two items for discussion which are wild fires for debate are Politics and Religion. My Facebook followers may notice that I do not post anything political. I do not endorse any particular candidate because I know not everyone would agree with me and it would only cause division.

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As a Pastor of the Oxnard Bible Church and President of the VVVC division and strife is the last thing we need. Concerning religion, well you see my posts are mainly Bible verses.

Something else the COVID-19 restrictions has produced in me. I have become more increasingly a Grumpy Old Man. I see all the projects around the house and yard and yet because of the recovery limitations as a result of my surgeries, I can't do anything. Because of the COVID-19 I can't go anywhere.

Well, I had better end this gripe session with this thought, there is still so much more I am grateful for. All my surgeries came out well, my wife hasn't shot me yet, it is still a good day to be on this side of the grass, the sun will come up tomorrow and we still are a band of brothers.

David Wilson

POW/MIA REPORT August – 2020

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

6 remain MIA and unaccounted for

European & Pacific Theaters: 2

Army Sgt. John E. Hurlburt, 26, was accounted for Aug. 19, 2020.

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Charles G. McMackin, 26, was accounted for Aug. 17, 2020.

USS West Virginia: 1

Navy Seaman 1st Class Carl S. Johnson, 20, was accounted for on Aug. 19, 2019.

USS Oklahoma: 2

Navy Fire Controlman 2nd Class George Gilbert, 20, was accounted for on Aug. 24, 2020.

***Navy Fireman 1st Class Frank E. Nicoles**, 24, of Eau Claire, Wi. was accounted for on May 5, 2016.

Total from World War II: 5

Currently there are 72,543 Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 1

Army Sgt. James N. Stryker, 20, was accounted for Aug. 5, 2020.

Currently there are 7,558 Americans still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Vietnam: 0

Currently there are 1,573 American servicemen and civilians still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War

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Vietnam: 0

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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

POW/MIA REPORT Sept – 2020

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

6 remain MIA and unaccounted for

European & Pacific Theaters: 3

Army Pvt. Warren G.H. DeVault, 24, was accounted for Sept. 14, 2020.

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Gabriel J. Eggud, 25, was accounted for Sept. 17, 2020.

***Army Pfc. Oliver Jeffers**, 31, of Huntsville, Tennessee, was accounted for April 23, 2020.

USS Colorado: 1

Navy Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Harold L. Dick, 22, of Tipton, Missouri, was accounted for on Nov. 26, 2018.

USS Oklahoma: 2

Navy Musician 1st Class Joseph W. Hoffman, 24, was accounted for on Sept. 8, 2020.

Navy Mess Attendant 3rd Class Isaac Parker, 17, was accounted for on Sept. 8, 2020

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The reason the numbers of our POW/MIA's in my reports has been so low is because of the pandemic.

Ron Fitzgarrald
POW/MIA Chairman

VVVC Sept 2020 Membership Report

I am going to update the membership each month (take those that pay off the list) but not drop those still on the list of due till we finally get back to normal meetings.

Annual members	47
Life Members	117
Free members	5
Total members	169

We had one new annual member (renewal from 2009)

Holding onto the following membership renewals / all new membership cards and stickers will be sent after we get back together and they can be signed by our president

Annual membership due now (\$15 to renew) or \$150 Life membership (can be done in three \$50 payments)

1379	Diane Miller
1380	Paul Lamar
1392	John Mills
1468	Debbie Howery
1469	'Bobbi' Vickroy/Mills
1471	Roy Villa
1483	Louis Morris
1488	Bruce Miller
1490	Ron Perkovich
1493	Edwin Luth
1506	John Gonzales
1513	Ken Mayer
1515	Frank Lopez
1522	Jack Pinard

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1523 Donald Hindsman
1524 James Connors
1525 Aurthur Ingram
1526 John Haigh
1527 Richard Weiche
1529 William Bahr
1530 Peter Schultz
1532 Bud Grey
1537 John Hankins
1539 Harold Abernathy

Sec/Membership Chair
Joe Richardson

Sick call...

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

David Wilson
John Smiley
Sharon Cabrera
Joe Morris
James Connors
Doug Temple
Richard Camacho
Charlie Foote

Everyone please stay safe and healthy out there!

VVC secretary Joe Richards

As a returning Vietnam Veteran there were many reasons for NOT seeking help from the VA. Only after many years did I/we finally look for help. The following info was gleaned from the latest Agent Orange Newsletter I receive as a veteran that registered and went through the exam. Much has happened in recent years for us and for the returning soldiers of the middle east to help with our efforts to realize and claim our benefits.

Finally ... the VA was forced to release documentation that would show where and when 'herbicides' like Agent Orange were tested and/or stored ... there is a list of locations outside of Vietnam (16 pages long), showing location and dates in the U.S. and at Johnson Island (atoll).

If you were at any of these locations during the timeframe listed you may now file (if not already rated for exposure) based on these lists.

The list: https://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/agentorange/dod_herbicides_outside_vietnam.pdf

To file a supplemental claim:

Instructions: <https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/supplemental-claim/>

Form: <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-20-0995-ARE.pdf>

Here is the current list of 'Presumptive' conditions that qualify for claims:

AL Amyloidosis	Parkinsons' Disease
Chronic b-cell Leukemias	Peripheral Neuropathy, early-onset
Chloracne	Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
Diabetes Mellitus Type 2	Prostate Cancer
Hodgkin's Disease	Respiratory Cancers
Ischemic Heart Disease	Soft Tissue Sarcomas
Multiple Myeloma	

Many have heard of the 'Agent Orange Historical exam/registry ... all in country veterans should register/and have an exam

Additional registries are also available and should be considered if they apply to your service time

Ionizing Radiation Registry

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/radiation/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

Airborne Hazards and Open Pit Registry

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/bumpits/registry.asp>

Gulf War Registry

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

Depleted Uranium Follow-up Program

https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/depleted_uranium/followup_program.asp

The Toxic Embedded Fragment surveillance center

https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/toxic_fragments/index.asp

Lets all be good stewards to returning Veterans, like us from Vietnam it took forever or we never heard what or how to qualify for our benefits. Share this info to those young soldiers please.

The VA has published the following list of Urgent Care facilities now on contract to provide emergency care for Ventura county Veterans.

Call to confirm services and hours

Ventura Urgent Care Center Medical Group

5725 Ralston St Ste 101
Ventura, CA 93003
Main number: [805-658-2273](tel:805-658-2273)

Solar Urgent Care Inc

2100 Solar Dr Ste 100
Oxnard, CA 93036
Main number: [805-988-9000](tel:805-988-9000)

Concentra Urgent Care

1851 Lombard St Ste 100
Oxnard, CA 93030
Main number: [866-944-6046](tel:866-944-6046)

First Stop Urgent Care and Family Practice

2275 Las Posas Rd
Camarillo, CA 93010
Main number: [805-388-3732](tel:805-388-3732)

Concentra Urgent Care

4934 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012
Main number: [866-944-6046](tel:866-944-6046)

Howell Healthcare Mp

35 W Los Angeles Ave
Moorpark, CA 93021
Main number: [805-529-5370](tel:805-529-5370)

West Oaks Urgent Care

1141 E Thousand Oaks Blvd
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
Main number: [805-496-4200](tel:805-496-4200)

MinuteClinic

2791 Agoura Rd
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361
Main number: [866-389-2727](tel:866-389-2727)

Simi Health Center Urgent Care

1350 E Los Angeles Ave
Simi Valley, CA 93065
Main number: [805-522-3782](tel:805-522-3782)

Quality Urgent Care and Sleep Lab

1950 E Los Angeles Ave
Simi Valley, CA 93065
Main number: [805-306-1440](tel:805-306-1440)

New stuff, sites, uses, and guides

Flu Shots for Veterans

<https://www.va.gov/Communications/flushot.asp>

NEW Travel re-imbursement online claim system BTSSS

Start at <https://access.va.gov/accessva/>

This will get you to a start point. There are many ways to use this benefit and the access provided to get to BTSSS, the point where you will identify the appointment and fill out the claim will depend on your accounts already established with the VA such as HealthEVet, DOT, etc.

(note: you are still allowed to file a claim by using the pdf fill in the blank form)

https://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=3542&postLogin=true

Provided by Mission Fish 'America's Brave and Courageous Ventura Sportfishing'

Join Howard, Joe, and other vets on Nov 11 for a day of fishing the Channel Islands, reserve your spot

<http://www.missionfishusa.org/americas-brave-and-courageous-fishing-trip---new-hustler-3.html>

Temporary disability rating after surgery or cast

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/temporary-increase-after-surgery-or-cast/>

Increasing Disability Rating for Hospitalizations

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/temporary-increase-for-time-in-hospital/>



Many upcoming items and events for our women veterans

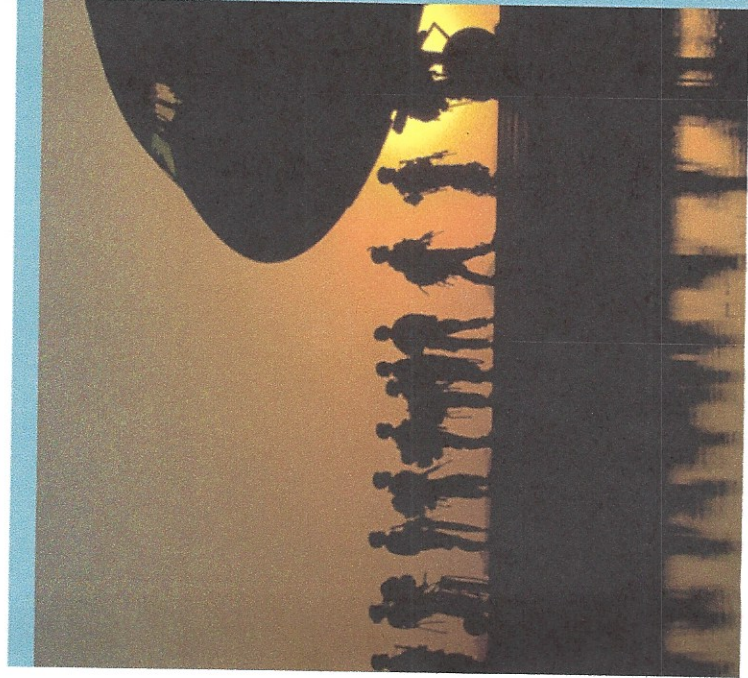
<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/WomenVets/>

When you have an emergency and go or are taken to the Hospital, provide those giving services or call yourself the following numbers to get an authorization code that will allow them to bill the VA through Tri_West

(844)724-7842 or (877)881-7618 (copy or keep these numbers with your VA Medical Card)

Who We Are

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Readjustment counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military. Individual, group, marriage and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma.



Ventura Vet Center

Readjustment Counseling Services

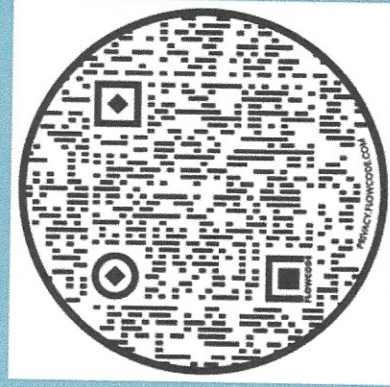


Readjustment counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life.

790 East Santa Clara St. Suite 100
Ventura, CA. 93001
(805) 585-1860

www.vetcenter.va.gov

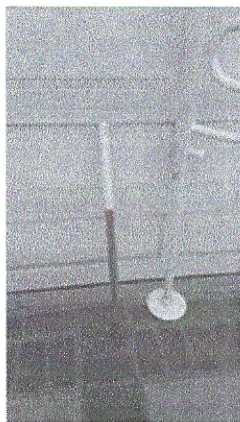
1-877-WAR-VETS



Three ADA approved grab bar systems

Specific info here

<https://stander.com/product/1100-security-pole-curve-grab-bar/>



Free to needy Veteran or family

Contact VVVC staff

<http://vvvc.org>

Three electric wheelchairs

all fully functional

(the one on the right also has
an outdoor canvas redliner
that replaces the seat)





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

This letter is intended to be used to introduce us, the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, and to assist us in our effort to solicit subscription/donations to our organization in the form of advertising in our monthly newsletter.

First the legal issues of proper identification.

- IRS, 501(c)(19) Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County Inc. id#93-0966053

State of California Franchise Tax Board

- 501(c)(19) Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, tax exemption, Revenue and taxation Section 23701f

Our organization represents all veterans (not just Vietnam Veterans) in the 805.

Our organizations primary function is to act as a 'service' group providing all manner of assistance to our veteran population. We are active in the education of our youth in our local schools by speaking at the schools to the students. We support and provide college scholarships every year. We have been the organization responsible for bringing the 'Traveling Wall' Vietnam Memorial to Ventura six times in the last 30 years and are planning on doing so again in 2018. We provide full military honor and color guards in parades and at funerals. We work closely with literally hundreds of other organizations and our elected officials both State and Federal in the county to see veterans' needs are met.

Our group runs around 130 strong, most living in Ventura, but some as far away as Australia and Canada. We are asking for donations to our cause, by selling advertising space in our newsletter.

We plan on starting with a full page with fees broke down in the following manner:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| • Business Card | \$10/mo. | \$100/yr |
| • ¼ page | \$15/mo | \$150/yr |
| • ½ page | \$25/mo | \$200/yr |
| • Full page | \$30 each | |

You consideration of donating to our causes, gaining some advertising in the deal, is fully deductible by virtue of our legally acquired non-profit status as a veterans service organization.

We look forward to establishing a relationship beneficial to us both.

Larry Seguin, fund raising chair

Joe Richardson, secretary - Laurie Richardson VVC Post editor