



Listening Post

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

September, 2011

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Presidents Column:

Greetings all:

It's all most that time of year again; yes, the holidays are fast approaching us once again, and things are starting to come together again for this year that will be ending in approx. (4) months.

I can see schools will be starting here in Ventura County in the next few weeks, and I am sure the schools will be calling again for Veteran's Day speeches; I hope that you will be available if called to speak!

I want to thank all of the members who have continued to support to the VVVC, and welcome aboard lots of new faces, and welcome back past members whom have rejoined!

What is left of 2011 is getting busy again; There will be a 9/11 ceremony to honor those who gave their lives on that dark day, this will be the 10th year anniversary! The ceremony will be held at the Ventura County Government center between the Fire Dept. Memorial and the Veterans Memorial beginning at 11 AM on Sunday, 11 September, 2011. There will be a helicopter, as well as Fire, Police and military personal on hand to Honor all those who perished on that day! I hope that all of you will be there, this is the first such ceremony for Ventura County, and we are deeply honored to be able to pay our respects to all of the fallen. All military personnel are encouraged to wear your colors!

Its official, we will be having our POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the Veterans memorial site located at the Ventura County Government center located at the corner of Telephone Road and Victoria Ave. on 16 September 2011 at dusk (7 PM). This will include a candlelight vigil, and reading of the names of those still missing from California.

I want to thank Ivy Lawn Memorial Park (Terri Taylor-Gonzales) for opening their doors again for the POW/MIA day services in case the new flag pole at the Veterans memorial site was not up as of yet, but I have been informed that it will be up in time for services on 9/11. We hope to see all of you there!

I hope that all of you will keep in mind that for this Christmas, the VVVC would like to give Christmas presents to all of the Veterans, (men and women) at the Veterans Home in Ventura. I have had several folks ask what the VVVC will do this year, and one suggestion was gift baskets (thanks to Jan Camacho), and I think that is a great idea! I will have more info at the next VVVC meetings and in the Listening Post!

I have been in discussion with Brenda Manke and Lynda Griffin at the Veterans Home and even though we are not that far off from Christmas, it's never too late to make preparations.

We have guest speakers lined up for a few of our upcoming meetings, so as we move along, I will give you more information as I get their responses back from them either by email or phone calls.

(cont. pg. 2)

President's Message (cont.)

We are happy to report that the Veterans Service Office here in Ventura County has hired two more CVSO County Veteran Service Officers). We are very happy that Mike McManus and John Jackson have greatly made it more improved and efficient for veterans now more than ever since they both are in the office. I hope that you would give them a call and an Atta Boy and just say hi, and then file a claim, that would make their day!

I better end this now, and find another place in the Listening Post to ramble on, because I have more info. See you all at the meetings, and in public.
Dave Betti

A Note from Breanna:

Dave, when I get a chance I'm going to print this out and frame it, and hang it up in the new home. :) I love you all so much. You have made such a positive impact on David and I. We really could not be going and doing the things we are had you all not been involved. We wish we could take you all with us; you will share the journey in our hearts. Everything I am trying to work for is so that hopefully I can help a lot of vets and their descendants while I am alive on this earth. Just to be able to touch a veteran's life in some way, even if it is small, brings me great joy and warms my heart. I do it to honor my father, and now you guys are my family, so I do it for you too. We will miss you all terribly, and hopefully we will be back to visit as soon as we can. I am going to sure miss those pot lucks! I'm getting hungry just thinking about them. Thank you for letting me be a part of the group and dignifying me with the position of secretary. Everything you all have done for us will not be forgotten, and I treasure the memories. I will continue to spread awareness that we should salute our veterans, honor those who have passed on, be considerate to their families, and compassionately serve them as they face obstacles such as PTSD and conditions related to Agent Orange. It was a wonderful experience and I would do it all again in a heartbeat. I could go on and on, but words truly cannot express how much the VVVC has inspired me for a lifetime. I will keep you all posted through face book and email. If anyone ever wants to talk to us, feel free to call. Please send any children or grandchildren of Vietnam vets my information, if they need to talk or just some support. That goes for all of you as well. I may need to call on you for help with information about military service and what not as I hope to counsel those who have served our country in the future years. :) Remember all the smiles, laughter, and happiness we have shared.
Truly in sincerity,
Breanna

Vice President's Message:

I guess you all have read or heard about the tragic loss on August 7, 2011 when the Taliban shot down a Chinook helicopter carrying 22 Navy Seals, 3 Air Force Air Controllers and a crew of 5 from the Army's 155th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Also on board were 7 Afghan Army personnel, a dog and its handler, plus a civilian interpreter. I listed all of the above for a reason, because all of the news stories only mention the 22 Navy Seals from Team 6.

I don't know if you read or heard about a young Kansas boy by the name of Braydon Nichols, who after watching all of the news reports, wrote a letter to CNN because he could not understand why the Navy SEALs drew so much attention. There were 30 Americans on board that Chinook. Why wasn't anyone mentioning his father, a chief warrant officer with Bravo Company, 7th Battalion, 155th Aviation Regiment?

So he sent in a photograph to CNN's iReport of his dad, Bryan Nichols, sitting with four of his Army buddies in front of a military aircraft.

"My father was one of the 30 US Soldiers killed in Afghanistan yesterday with the Seals rescue mission," he wrote. "My father was the pilot of the Chinook. I have seen other pictures of victims from this deadly mission and wish you would include a picture of my father. He is the farthest to the left."

The above story tore at my heart, here is a 10 year old boy who adored what his father did for our country, and no one was mentioning his father. This is yet another example of what the news media has constantly done, during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Just look back to our time in Vietnam during the 60s, when we were portrayed as walking time bombs, and everyone feared the crazy Vietnam Veteran.

As I mentioned, Braydon's story has captured my heart, how many other children have felt the same way? Sorry, I just had to get this off my chest, thanks for letting me vent.

On Tuesday August 16, Jan and I noticed a bumper sticker on a back window of a vehicle parked outside Star Bucks in the Esplanade, it had a Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with the words "Never again shall one generation of Veterans abandon another generation". That says so much and describes just how I feel about those veterans that went before us and stood by and said nothing while we were treated so badly when we came home. It also explains why the Vietnam Veterans are very supportive of the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. I want to see if we can get bumper stickers made for our membership.

Don't forget the 9/11 ceremony at the Government Center, information will be under "Important Dates".

Until next month,
Semper Fi
Richard Camacho

The following veterans have been identified and their remains have been returned to their respective hometowns unless otherwise noted.

- **Cpl. Robert J. Tucker**, U.S. Army, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was lost on Nov. 26, 1950, near Kujang, North Korea. His remains were identified on June 11, 2010.
- **Maj. Thomas E. Clark**, U.S. Air Force, 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 37th Tactical Fighter Wing, was lost on **Feb. 8, 1969**, when the F-100D aircraft he was aboard was struck by enemy fire and crashed in Savannakhet Province, Laos. His remains were identified on June 3, 2011.
- **Maj. Bruce E. Lawrence**, U.S. Air Force, 557th Tactical Fighter Squadron, was lost on **July 5, 1968**, when the F-4C aircraft he was aboard failed to return from a night armed-reconnaissance of enemy targets in Quang Binh Province, North Vietnam. His remains were identified on May 31, 2011.
- **Cpl. Edward M. Pedregon**, U.S. Army, 31st Regimental Combat Team, was lost on Nov. 30, 1950, during a battle against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. His remains were identified on May 4, 2011.
- **Maj. Thomas E. Reitmann**, U.S. Air Force, 344th Tactical Fighter Squadron, was lost on **Dec. 1, 1965**, when the F-105D Thunderchief he was aboard crashed in Vietnam. His remains were identified on May 2, 2011.
- **Pvt. Herman F. Sturmer, Jr.**, U.S. Marine Corps, 2nd Marine Division, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Battalion, was lost on Nov. 20, 1943, when his unit encountered an enemy attack while landing on Tarawa Island, Republic of Kiribath. His remains were identified on April 8, 2011.
- **Col. Leo S. Boston**, U.S. Air Force, 14th Air Commando Wing, 602nd Fighter Squadron, was lost on **April 29, 1966**, while aboard an A-1E aircraft on a search and rescue mission over North Vietnam. His remains were identified on April 4, 2011.
- **Sp4 Robert B. Bayne**, U.S. Army, B Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, was lost on March 28, 1945, while on a reconnaissance patrol near Schweigenheim, Germany. His remains were identified on March 14, 2011.

A Note from Dave:

My comments and feelings as I reflect what they have meant to me, like all of you!

***Brother HOOPER(June 07, 2006)**

I can still see Hooper sitting at the Vagabond restaurant eating breakfast, and reading the paper. I even ran in to him once leaving the Strawberry festival and he was one his bike, and yells at me, can I get a ride?

We all laughed, yes, he left an impression on me because of his sense of humor, but mostly because of who he was, and stood for.

***Brother Twin Screws(June 18, 2004)**

He would send me emails and ask who this person was, or who was doing what?

He was very sharp on the computer, and I think I picked up a lot from him because I was the nerd puter operator, so he became my instructor, but he always would email me early in the mornings, before I could answer his first email, here came another, what a true gentleman!

***Brother Pharoah(December 13, 2005)**

I remember the first time I spoke at a school with Pharoah, some years ago, he scared the crap out of me, until he spoke, I thought was going to have my first seizure, he made me so relaxed, he even made me sit by him as they had some of us go in to other classes because there were about (6) of us vets there that day, and he picked me, I thought, oh, oh, I won't make it to class, I am done for, but he smoothed me right through the class and just looked at me and smiled, I knew then I was safe as can be!

***Brother Bug(April 10, 2004)**

This is the first veteran in my life who had ever hugged me, and said to me, Welcome Home Brother!

I have never met a man in my life that was so happy in everything he has ever done!

This man has always gone out of his way to always extend his love for all of us, and his family, and he never once, ever asked for anything in return. I had such tremendous respect for him; he always singled me out in a crowd, and made his way over, just to tell me, Welcome Home Brother!

Is it any wonder that all of these great men have left such an impact on all of us?

Is there any reason why God above would not want to have these great men next to him?

* I had to reflect, it seems that things go by so fast, you never know what's going to happen next, would you ever forget them, or any one of our VVVC family and beyond?

Thanks Guys, you haven't been forgotten!

Dave Betti



POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY SERVICE

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 16TH - 7:00 PM
GOVERNMENT CENTER.**

**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AND READING
OF NAMES OF CALIFORNIA'S STILL
MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE
VIETNAM WAR**



**Sunday, Sept. 11th
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Ventura County
Government Center
between the Law
Enforcement,
Firefighters and
Veterans Memorials**

A new Great-Grandpa:

Congratulations to VVVC member Larry Seguin on becoming a Great- Grandpa. Little Cheyenne Madison was born Sunday, August 21st at 1:29 PM. She weighed 7lbs, 5ozs and was 20 inches long. To quote Larry, "Everyone is doing fine. I can't believe I'm going to be sleeping with a Great-Grandmother".

Important Dates:

Monday, Sept. 5th – Labor Day

Sunday, Sept. 11th – September 11th Memorial Ceremony
Ventura County Government Center
between law Enforcement, Fire fighters
and Veterans Memorials.

Friday, Sept. 16th – POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony
7:00 PM
Reading of names of 170 POW/MIA's
still missing from CA and candlelight
vigil.

Saturday, Sept. 16th – VVVC Meetings
10900 Telephone Rd. Ventura, CA
Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM
General Mtg. – 6:00 PM
Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Sept. 29th to Oct. 2nd – Moving Wall, Santa Barbara, CA

Oct. 6th to Oct. 9th – Moving Wall Garden Grove, CA

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



**Happy
Labor
Day!**



Richard Camacho presented Jill Abourisk a Certificate of Appreciation for her efforts to get our Vietnam Program into Thousand Oaks High School and Redwood Middle School. Thank you Jill for all you have done.



Pictured: Tim Tobin, Jill Abourisk, Laura Detweiler, Redwood Middle School and Richard Camacho. Tim presented Richard with a \$200.00 check from Northrop Grumman to the VVVC.

A Note from the Editor:

I always like to include news from our members. If you are celebrating a special occasion, a birthday or anniversary please send me the information and I will include it in the Listening Post.

Jan Camacho
LP Editor
camacho4@roadrunner.com

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: _____

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Ventura, Ca 93006-3218

