



Listening Post

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

September, 2012

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Presidents Column:

Greetings all:

Well, in just a few short months it's going to be that time again, yes, I am talking about CHRISTMAS!

So, this year the VVVC will be celebrating their birthday, since they were founded on 12/07/1985. So, watch the Listening Post for the party info to help celebrate the VVVC's birthday, bring your walker, cane and a (6) pack or an iv, but let's party on the patio this year, it's all about the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc. celebrating their (27) years in existence!

Where has the time gone, and where are we going? I can say that our membership is not lagging, like some other clubs, sure, we lose a few, but we get a lot more in return, and the few we lose we don't like to see them go, but things change, times change, people change and maybe some just want to move on, but all in all, they usually come back to their family!

Thanks to all who continue to support the VVVC, and to all of you who continue to bring in new members, it's like, where do they come from? There are so many Vietnam veterans out there who have come out of the woodworks and joined, no wonder the VVVC is strong, and such a big family!

Okay, now next month, that would be September, the VVVC will once again be sponsoring their POW/MIA Day which will be on 21 Sept. 2012 (it's always the third Friday of the month in Sept.) at dusk, at the Veterans Memorial site located at the Ventura County Government Center. We will be reading the names of those still missing in action from California as well as we will have a few guest speakers this year along with the candlelight vigil and taps.

This month, there will be the American Legion dinner at their post at 6 PM in Oak View, Calif. if you would like to attend, they always have a great meal, and they only ask us to bring a side dish, like eggs, and/or desserts, hahaha. The date is 29 August 2012; it is always the fifth Wednesday of the month.

At the July VVVC meeting, we had a drawing to see who would win the leather vest that was recently donated to the VVVC by Skip Thomas for our 50/50 drawing, and the winner was John Mills! Congratulations John!

In case you haven't noticed there have been a lot of flags at half staff recently, and it's very sad to see this, especially when it hits home so closely, recently a local Ventura County judge had lost his son in combat and again the flags were lowered to half staff all around Ventura County. I hope soon that all of our US troops will be brought back home and that never again will this Country endure what it has had to deal with for so many years. Be safe everyone and congratulations and welcome to our new & renewing members!

See you all at the meetings.
Dave Betti

*PS- I wish to offer our condolences to my brother-in-law Danny Lopez and VVVC member Larry Seguin and their families for the recent loss of their mothers.

Vice President's Message:

I came home from the Nam in April of 1969. I had extended my stay in country by four months in order to get a two month early out of the Army. I missed the action of "Hamburger Hill" by one month; no regrets there, but came home to another type of hostility directed at those of us who honorably served our country and each other. Sound familiar?

Like so many of us returning, in order to escape the accusations of a bunch of screwed up draft dodging drug infested hippies and CBS, I totally denied my involvement in the military and in Vietnam in particular. I just wanted it to be over. I just wanted to get on with my life like it all never happened, but it did.

Whether I liked it or not, acknowledged it or not, my experience over the 16 months I was in country would continue to haunt me.

From April 1969 until July 2010, in spite of the fact that other veterans told me my diabetes, much of my behavior was a result of the Nam, I refused to be, in my own words, "victimized" by the experience and would not admit my struggles to anyone or seek out any help.

I'm not certain why I talked to the rep from the VA at a Seniors Fair that day in July, but now, I am glad I did. I still don't know my % rating with the VA yet, but I feel that there is some progress being made, especially in that though I may still be "weird" I am not crazy.

Also, I went to see the Traveling Wall at Ivy Lawn, something I would not have done earlier and as a result, came in contact with a group of veterans, my brothers and sisters all, at the VVVC.

I feel that I am still in the process of "coming home" and I can only wonder what our brothers and sisters in arms returning from their multiple deployments to the Middle East are going through. In order to recover we cannot isolate or insulate ourselves. It just prolongs the agony. We each need to continue to reach out to each other and to those who are still serving. We have to have each others' backs, no one else will.

Dave Wilson,
VVVC Vice President

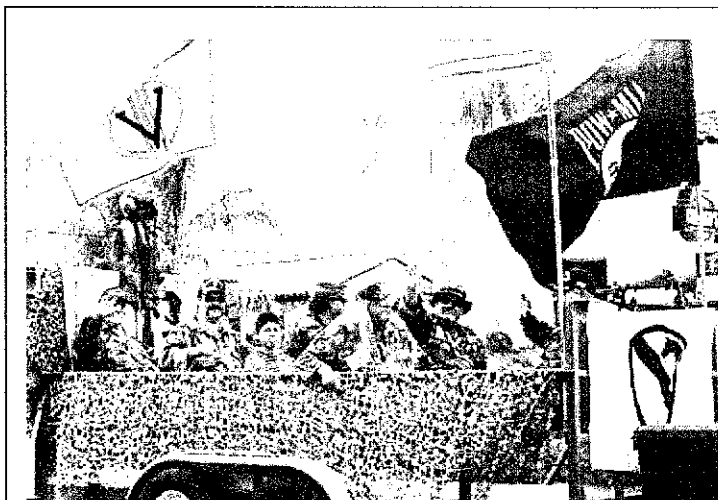
Parade/ Work Part Chair's Message:

We had a nice turnout for the Fair parade. We had a little rain, but all went well. We took 3rd Place in Adult Club category. I'd like to thank everyone for participating. Joe Catraone comes from Simi Valley and is at my house faithfully at 6:00 AM for these kind of events. He helps load the can and trailer. He is a real supporter of the VVVC. In return, he is the keeper if the trophy from the Fair parade. Thank you Joe Catrabone! Thanks to all of you. I couldn't do it without your help.

As for the cemetery, we are looking food, we have finished all the sleeves and started repairing the flag poles. We will stop working for a while, as I will be out of town. We will start up again at the end of September so we can finish the poles.

We have already have 45 flags repaired. I lost two sewing machines.. I have to take them to Art & Jenny's for repair. The constant sewing takes a toll on the machines, so they should be repaired and ready to go when I get back. Art & Jenny's is a small sewing shop who supports the Veterans.

Thank you,
Brother, John C.



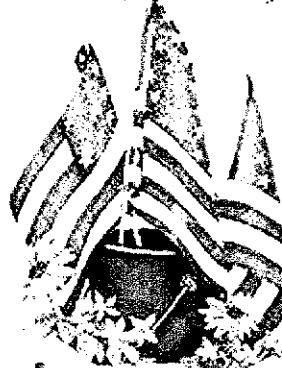
The VVVC was well represented at the Ventura County Fair Parade in downtown Ventura. They took 3rd Place in Adult Club Category. Way to go guys. You looked GREAT!

Treasurer's Message:

This year's Ventura Fair Parade went well as usual, despite some rain during setup. However it was nice and dry by the start of the parade. The reception by the crowd toward us was great and we also left with a good feeling. Thank you to all of those who were there and helped decorate the trailer. It is much appreciated.

Doug Temple, Treasurer VVVC

Have a safe Labor Day



Congratulations:

Congratulations to the following VVVC member, and Marine!
The Voyageurs of California recently held their 92nd Promenade in Sacramento, Calif. in conjunction with the American Legion Department of California.

The facilities at the Red Lion Inn were packed full of members from both clubs.

The Voyageurs' of California had recently elected their leaders for the 2013 year, and one of our own VVVC members, and all around great guy, did I mention a fellow Marine had been elected National Cheminoit!

You all know **Mr. Pete Duncan**, who is also very deeply involved with the American Legion and several other organizations thru-out California.

I wish to extend or heartfelt congratulations to Pete Duncan, and much success.

Great Job Pete!

*Your VVVVC family!!

Expiring Memberships:

The following memberships will expire in September:

Phillip Boehme - September 27, 2012

David Wilson – September 19, 2012

Katie Ogden – September 16, 2012

Linda Roberts – September 16, 2012

Please renew your membership if you want to continue to receive the LP Newsletter

Thank you on behalf of Marie Pounds, Membership Chair

Important Dates:

Monday, Sept. 3rd – Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11th – Patriot Day

Fly your flag proudly.

Saturday, Sept/ 15th – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road, Ventura

Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM

General Mtg. – 6:00 PM

Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Friday, Sept. 21st – POW/MIA Recognition Day at Government Center, 7:30 PM

Reading of names of California's still still missing in action from Vietnam.

Saturday, October 20th – VVVC Meetings

Veterans Home

10900 Telephone Road, Ventura

Board Mtg. – 5:30 PM

General Mtg. – 6:00 PM

Potluck, bring your favorite dish.

Wednesday, October 31st - Halloween



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