



# Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

August 2019

## Officers

Dave Wilson, President  
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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  
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David Ha  
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Joe Reyes  
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## Committees

### Chaplain/Housing Improvements

David Ha  
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### POW/MIA

Ron Fitzgarrald  
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### Listening Post

Laurie Ann Richardson  
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### James Ray Scholarship

Joe Richardson  
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### Membership

Joe Richardson  
(805) 659-2387

### Parades/Work Party

John Cabrera  
(805) 483-5139

### Fundraising

Manny Gonzales  
(805) 988-4462

## President's Message:

### August 2019

There is an adage, "Growing old isn't for wimps". The older I get, the more challenges I encounter with maintaining my health and dealing with the failing health and even the passing of my closest friends and family.

I have been in the full-time ministry since 1977. In the earlier years I performed more weddings than funerals. Now I perform more funerals. Recently I officiated the service for my daughter-in-law's mother and the passing of my friend and fellow member of the VVVC Jim Hensley. On top of this there are members of the VVVC facing battles with Parkinson's and various forms of serious cancers.

All the while we continue with events such as the Stand Down, graduating classes at the Ventura County Seabee base, planning our upcoming Anniversary Celebration as well as the various Honor Guard and Color Guard commitments and participating in the VC Military Collaborative. Despite our challenges we continue to move forward. A family member of mine recently asked how I dealt with these difficulties. My reply was, "At least no one is shooting at me." I constantly remind myself that no matter how difficult life is for me now, it will never again be as bad as my Tour of Duty, December 1967 – April 1969 in Vietnam. Like so many of us who were exposed to Agent Orange and are struggling with health issues, as well as PTSD, we continue to serve, especially each other.

Growing old truly isn't for wimps but it is better than the alternative.

Dave Wilson

Our Toppers Pizza Fundraiser was a success. There were a lot of people at both locations – Oxnard and Simi Valley.

Ron says ‘You can steer a “mule” to a fundraiser, but you can’t make it eat! Thank you Calvin Y. for bringing your “mule” for display at Toppers in Simi Valley.

Thanks to all for participating in our fundraiser!

### VVVC July 2019 Membership Report

Annual members	56
Life members	112
Total members	168

Memberships expiring in July 2019:  
Jeffrey Berry 7/2

Sec/Membership Chair  
Joe Richardson

### Sick call...

It sure seems lately that we’ve all had our share of illnesses, accidents, or just plain breaks – so please continue to think about and/or say a prayer for our members:

**John Smiley who is in a nursing home,  
Dave Wilson has back problems,  
Our Den Mother Jan Camacho is hanging tough,  
Brenda Seguin is waiting for her hip replacement,  
Leonard has back problems,  
and of course your Editor who doesn’t seem to be getting out of her wheelchair anytime soon!**

Come on and try real hard to get well because VVVC is finally going to have their very own Party and we want you all there!

### POW/MIA REPORT July - 2019

**14 brothers-in-arms have been accounted for and/or returned home & 6 remain MIA**

#### World War II: 7

**Army Pvt. Penn Franks, Jr.**, was accounted for on June 24, 2019.

**Army Pvt. Laurel W. Ebert** was accounted for on July 1, 2019.

**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Paul Cybowski** was accounted for on July 8, 2019.

**Army Pvt. James I. Trick** was accounted for on July 8, 2019.

**Army Sgt. Robert W. McCarville** was accounted for on July 10, 2019.

**Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. William E. Rambo** was accounted for on June 24, 2019.

**Army Pvt. Connie Cagle** was accounted for on July 8, 2019.

#### USS Arizona: 1

**Navy Radioman 2nd Class Floyd A. Wells** was accounted for on June 17, 2019.

#### USS Oklahoma: 3

**Navy Radioman 3rd Class Starring B. Winfield** was accounted for on June 24, 2019.

**Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Johnnie C. Laurie** was accounted for on July 2, 2019.

**Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Adolph J. Leach** was accounted for on July 2, 2019.

**Currently there are 72,705 (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II**

#### Korean War: 3

**Army Pfc. David C. Wilkes**, was accounted for on June 24, 2019

**Army Cpl. Donald E. Angle** was accounted for on July 2, 2019.

**Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Grady J. Crawford** was accounted for on May 17, 2019.

**There are 7,636 Americans remaining unaccounted for from the Korean War.**

(Continued on page 3)

**Vietnam: 0**

**There are 1,575 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**



**Scholarships**

The Scholarship winners and their families attended our July meeting where they read their essays and were presented with a certificate of appreciation from VVVC and from Congresswoman Julia Browning along with their checks. The winners were:

Desirae L. Barragan - \$2,000

Leslie Cortes - \$1,500

Nikki Razai - \$1,000



### 35 Years of Service

The VVVC is going to have a 35yr Anniversary Celebration.

The board recently approved and obtained the Piru Petroleum Clubhouse facility for what will be an all-day BBQ and gathering of our members and families. The date has been fixed as Sept 14, 2019 ... all day.

The full schedule of events and details will be made known as soon as arrangements can be made.

The current plan is that each attendee will RSVP with a \$7.50 deposit, which will be returned to them at and on the day of the event.

The facility has and will allow RV's onsite overnight from the day before, small fee involved.

If you have any other suggestions about things you would like to have included in the days celebration please let the board members know so we can surmise and make arrangements. We want this to be a full day of fun, food, and family for all our members.

**We really need a few members to help plan games for the kids and adults, collecting some door prizes for the winners and door prize drawings and checking people in. Please call Ron (805-218-3489) if you can help.**

Ron Fitzgarrald

### VVVC Photographer

Here's Debora Ehrich, our well known in house photographer, on her mission to document the Port Hueneme Naval Command Change Ceremony July 18, 2019. Debora always brings a smile to our faces when she eagerly try's to take that perfect photo. Note the camera. Great job, Debora! US 😊😊😊US



**Happenings** - We have a lot of activities coming up – here is a list of those activities:

**Stand Down – 7/25-28**

**Jennifer's Graduation – 7/30 at 1 pm**

**Camarillo Air Show –August 17 & 18**

**8/20 – Color Guard for funeral**

**Job Fair – 8/24**

**VVVC Anniversary BBQ – 9/14**

**Expo – 10/24**

**Veteran's Parade in Las Vegas – 11/11**

**Operation Snowflake – 12/21**

**Also check the VVVC Events Calendar**

## 2019 Oxnard Beach Re-hab Point Color Guard



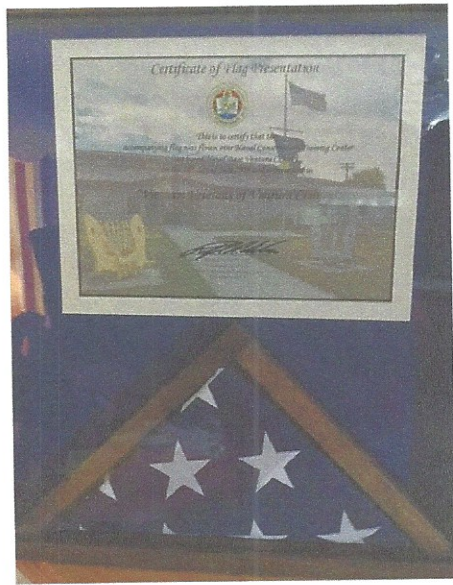
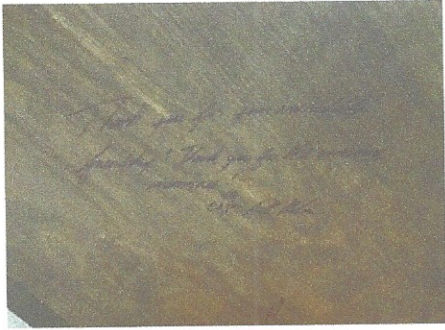
## 2019 James M Ray Scholarship Awardees



## Some views of the Piru Petroleum facility for our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic



## Capt. Miranda Change of Command Port Hueneme Seabee



# VVVC 2019 Event Calendar

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## JULY

- 25-28 Stand Down – Color Guard
- 29 AFTS “TTAC” Graduation
- 30 Jennifer’s Graduation Sea Bee Museum
- 30 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 31 AFTS “TTAA” Graduation

## AUGUST

- 2 VCMC Free Legal Clinic
- 6 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 8 Collaborative Meeting
- 9 NMCB Unit Cookout
- 13 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 17 & 18 Booth at Wings Over Camarillo
- 17 VVVC Meeting
- 20 Color Guard for Neptune ceremony at Ventura Harbor 10 am
- 23 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 24 Job Fair

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 6 VCMC Free Legal Clinic
- 10 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 12 Collaborative Meeting
- 14 VVVC’s Anniversary BBQ at Piru Petroleum Club Facility
- 16 AFTS “TTAC” Graduation
- 17 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 18 AFTS “TTAC” Graduation
- 21 VVVC Meeting

## OCTOBER

- 4 VCMC Free Legal Clinic
- 4 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 8 AFTS “TTAC” Graduation
- 10 AFTS “TTAA” Graduation
- 10 Collaborative Meeting
- 11 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 19 VVVC Meeting
- 21 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 24 Latino Business Expo
- 28 AFTS “TTAC” Graduation
- 28 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 30 AFTS “TTAA” Graduation

## NOVEMBER

- 1 VCMC Free Legal Clinic
- 4 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 11 Color Guard at Oxnard Veteran’s Ceremony
- 11 Las Vegas Veteran’s Parade
- 12 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 12 AFTS “TTAC” Graduation
- 14 Collaborative Meeting
- 16 VVVC Meeting
- 19 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 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
- 19 NCTC “CM” Graduation
- 21 VVVC Meeting
- 21 Snow Flake
- 20 AFTS “TTAA” Graduation
- 23 AFTS “TTAC” Graduation

\*\*\*  
Home Style  
Breakfast &

Lunch  
Mexican Food  
Breakfast  
\*\*\* New \*\*\*  
Burger  
Menu

\*\*\*  
Open  
7 Days  
Mon-Fri  
6am-2pm  
Sat-Sun  
7am-1pm

# Dorothy's Cafe

2344 VENTURA BLVD.  
CAMARILLO, C.A. in Old Town 987-2167

• TRY OUR  
OMELETS!

• HOT  
LUNCH  
SPECIALS

• DAILY  
SPECIALS

• TAKE-  
OUT  
ORDERS!





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