



# Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

January, 2018

## Officers

Dave Wilson, President  
(805) 469-0281

Howard Tench, Vice President  
(805) 312-1977

Joseph Richardson, Secretary  
(805) 659-2387

Richard Camacho, Treasurer  
(805) 384-9138

Ron Fitzgarrald, Public Affairs  
(805) 218-3489

## Board of Directors

Michael Capone  
(916) 747-3534

Ed Evans  
(805) 524-3594

Manny Gonzales  
(805) 988-4462

David Ha  
(805) 482-3772

Hank Howery  
(805) 657-0183

Barry Jenkins  
(805) 415-8060

Diane Miller  
(805) 827-3753

Brenda Seguin  
(805) 642-3594

Larry Seguin  
(805) 642-3594

## Committees

### Chaplain/Housing Improvements

David Ha  
(805) 482-3772

### POW/MIA

Ron Fitzgarrald  
(805) 218-3489

### Listening Post

Laurie Ann Richardson  
(805) 659-2387

### James Ray Scholarship

Joe Richardson  
(805) 659-2387

### Membership

Marie Pounds  
(661) 297-2464

### Parades/Work Party

John Cabrera  
(805) 483-5139

### Fundraising

Larry Sequin  
(805) 320-4116  
Manny Gonzales  
(805) 988-4462

## President's Message:

January 2018

As I sit down to write this month's article, the Thomas fire is only 30% contained. On our way home on December 4<sup>th</sup> to our home in Oak View, we noticed the rising moon was a dark orange in color. We were not yet aware of the fire between Ojai and Santa Paula. Later that evening we saw the news reports about the fire just before we lost power. On Tuesday we could see the fire coming down the hill side east of us. We knew to pack up and get out. I have always kept essential items readily available in case of an earthquake and we try never to have less than a ½ tank of gas in our vehicles so we could drive to safety in case of an emergency. We tried first to get out by going up to the 150 toward Santa Barbara because the 33 toward Ventura was closed because the fire was at Casitas Springs. When we got toward the 150 we could see it was no use. The folks evacuating from upper Ojai had the road jammed. Traffic was beginning to back up on the 33 so we turned around and headed home. We left our packed cars parked in front of our house and walked down to the sheriff's vehicle blocking the 33 by Portal Road. We were hoping for some information about the fire and any evacuation orders. When we arrived, the sheriff on duty got a call that the 33 through Casitas Springs was opened. Sue and I ran back to our cars and drove out. The smoke was a thick as a Fresno Tule fog. I was expecting heavy traffic from those trying to get out on the 150 but they had not yet received word of the road opening. As soon as we got on the freeway part of the 33 after Casitas Springs, the fire came right down to the freeway and under the bridge leading to Foster Park.

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The flames were raging higher than our vehicles. Sue and I just put the “pedal to the metal” and went through. We noticed to our left that the police were stopping the traffic on the North side of the 33 at Canada Larga Road. We made it to the Oxnard Bible Church where Sue, Mimi [our dog] and I spent the night in my office. Wednesday we went back home to see if it was still there. I truly thank Jesus for His protection. The houses in our tract were unaffected by the flames, but the smoke and ash were very thick. We know folks who live in Ventura who lost their homes. I know how very fortunate we are. We kept the vehicles packed all day Wednesday-Friday. I thought to cancel our church’s Karaoke Christmas Dinner, but most of our families live in Oxnard and Port Hueneme and were not affected by the fire so we went ahead with the dinner. We had 42 folks attending with lots of food and fun, especially the Karaoke. People were singing even while we were putting everything away from the dinner. The dinner reminded me of Christmas 1968, when we celebrated Christmas with a party at Camp Eagle. We had collected the ration cards from just about everyone in the Company and the Huey Jockeys would make beer and booze runs to Da Nang. We stocked up and had a party that lasted from Christmas to New Years. The point of this little story, no matter how difficult the situation you may find yourself in, you still can make the best of it if you try. I hope and pray you all had a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Wilson

#### **Membership Chairperson’s Message:**

##### **VVVC December 2017 Membership Report**

Annual members	42
Life members	98
Total members	140

Memberships expiring in January 2018:  
Debbie Howery 1/21/2018

Marie Pounds  
Membershin Chair

#### **POW/MIA REPORT Dec – 2017**

The following 11 brothers-in-arms returned home:

##### **World War II: 7**

**Army Pvt. Shirley E. Bailey**, 19, of Charleston, West Virginia, was buried Dec. 1 in Dunbar, West Virginia.

**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Robert L. Mains**, 27, of Rochester, New York, was buried December 2 in Wading River, New York.

**Marine Corps Pfc. Donald R. Tolson**, 20, of Bakersfield, California, was buried December 2, in Kansas City, Missouri

**Marine Corps Pvt. Archie W. Newell**, 22, of Aberdeen, South Dakota, was buried December 8, in Arlington National Cemetery

**Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Sam J. Kourkos**, 20, of Independence, Kansas, was buried December 9 in his hometown

**Navy Reserve Aviation Radioman 2nd Class Albert P. Rybarczyk**, 21, of St. Joseph, Michigan, was buried December 11 in his hometown

**Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Albert Strange**, 18, of Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, was buried December 13, in Cave City, Kentucky

##### **USS Oklahoma: 3**

**Navy Radioman 3rd Class Howard W. Bean**, 27, of Everett, Massachusetts, was buried December 6 in Arlington National Cemetery

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Samuel W. Crowder**, 35, of Louisville, Kentucky was buried December 9 in his hometown

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class George J. Wilcox, Jr.** 19, of Byram, Mississippi, was buried December 16 in Evansville, Indiana

##### **Korean War: 1**

**Army Sgt. and POW Kermit J. Lejeune**, 23, of Church Point, Louisiana, who died in captivity, was buried December 14 in his hometown

##### **Vietnam:**

**Ron Fitzgarrald**  
**POW/MIA Chairman**

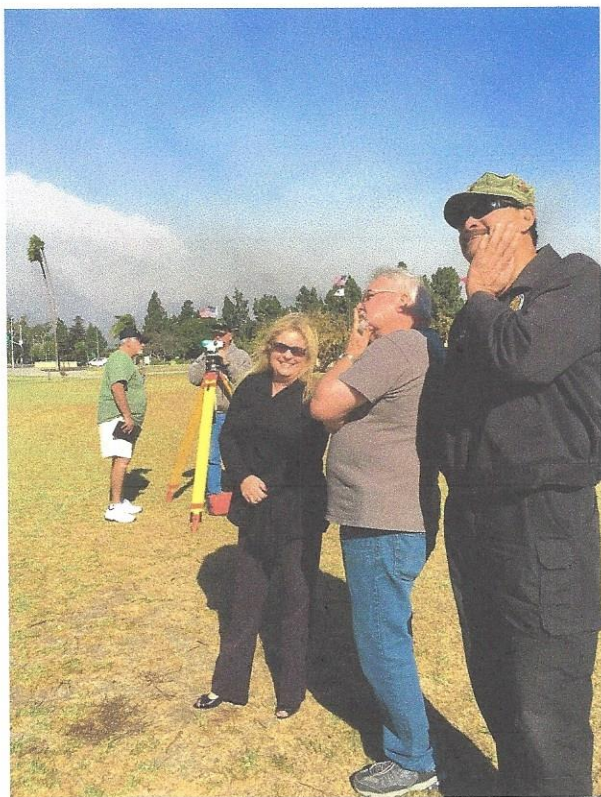


## Moving Wall and Operation Snowflake

Members of the VVVC met with local government officials to survey the Government Center grounds to determine the best location for the planned Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall scheduled for June 21 to the 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We're in need of volunteers for that event. As you can see in the back ground, plumes of black smoke rose from the path of the Thomas Fire in Day 2

The last picture is of those VVVC members that participated in Operation Snowflake. What a great time was had by all. The laughs and giggles of those military children seeing the mountain of toys were indescribable. One child was observed doing the "Lipton ice tea plunge" on top of the mountain of toys. What a sight! It brought us a lot of smiles! Wish you all a Merry Christmas and Peace!

Howard Tench, V.P. VVVC



### \*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS\*\*\*\*\*

Here are the important phone numbers to get info on:

Cong Inquiry (703) 784-9204

Awards Dept. (703) 784-9206

For Marines to get copy of service records:

(703) 784-9206

These are direct phone numbers to the offices to check on inquiry or to see if you have any awards you are missing. Hope this helps you out getting answers on questions you have.

Charlie Foote  
Commander  
DAV # 24

### **Sick call...**

Please keep those good thoughts and prayers going out to our members and their families who are dealing with health issues and concerns:

Charlie Foote  
Charlie's wife  
Michael Ogden  
Simon Camarillo  
John Smiley  
Barry Jenkins  
Daniel Seguin  
Jean Ray  
Wayne Eusanio  
Joe Richardson

We hope you all get better soon.



### **VVVC 2018 ELECTION RESULTS:**

President	David Wilson
Vice-President	Howard Tench
Secretary	Joe Richardson
Treasurer	Richard Camacho
Public Affairs	Ron Fitzgarrald

#### **Board of Directors:**

Michael Capone  
Ed Evans  
Manny Gonzales  
David Ha  
Hank Howery  
Barry Jenkins  
Dianne Miller  
Brenda Seguin  
Larry Seguin

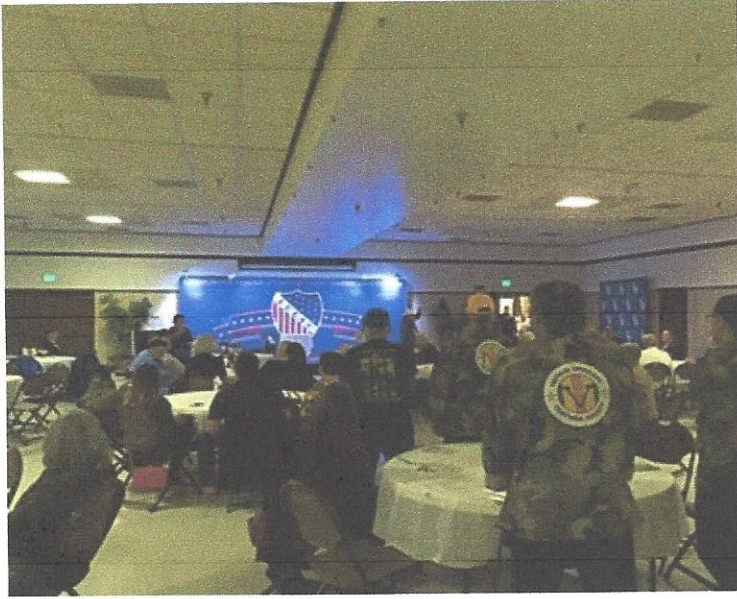
The above nominees were elected and sworn in by Charlie Foote at our December 2017 meeting.

Congratulations to all!





Here's a picture of some of our guys attending the LULAC Veterans Appreciation Dinner. Those that were there are Dickie and Hilda Pena, John Cabrera, Howard Tench, Jess Echavarria, David Ha, Dave Wilson and Ron Fitzgarrald.



And here's a couple of pictures from Operation Snowflake. Wow look at all those toys! I wish I was one of those kids!



# VVVC 2018 Event Calendar

## JANUARY

20 VVVC Meeting  
31 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Dinner at American Legion in Oak View

## FEBRUARY

2 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
8 VCMilC Meeting  
11 Veteran Book Club  
17 VVVC Meeting  
28 VVVC's Toppers Fundraiser

## MARCH

2 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
9 VCMilC Meeting  
9 Veteran Book Club  
17 VVVC Meeting  
? St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ventura

## APRIL

? VVVC California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser  
6 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
12 VCMilC Meeting  
12 Veteran Book Club  
21 VVVC Meeting

## MAY

4 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
10 VCMilC Meeting  
10 Veteran Book Club  
19 VVVC Meeting  
28 Memorial Day  
30 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Dinner at American Legion in Oak View  
? Ivy Lawn Memorial Ceremony  
? Remember Dave Betti

## JUNE

1 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
14 VCMilC Meeting  
14 Veteran Book Club  
16 VVVC Meeting  
20-25 Moving Wall

## JULY

4 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Ojai  
6 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
12 VCMilC Meeting  
12 Veteran Book Club  
21 VVVC Meeting  
? 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Down

## AUGUST

3 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
9 VCMilC Meeting  
9 Veteran Book Club  
18 VVVC Meeting  
29 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Dinner at American Legion in Oak View  
? Ventura County Fair Parade

## SEPTEMBER

13 VCMilC Meeting  
13 Veteran Book Club  
15 VVVC Meeting  
21 POW/MIA Remembrance

## OCTOBER

7 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
11 VCMilC Meeting  
11 Veteran Book Club  
20 VVVC Meeting  
31 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Dinner at American Legion

## NOVEMBER

2 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
8 VCMilC Meeting  
8 Veteran Book Club  
11 Veteran's Day  
17 VVVC Meeting

## DECEMBER

1 VCMilC Free Legal Clinic  
13 VCMilC Meeting  
13 Veteran Book Club  
15 VVVC Meeting  
? Santa Paula Christmas Parade  
? Operation Snowflake



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 VVVC Post editor