

Listening Post

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

July 2019

Officers

Dave Wilson, President (805) 469-0281

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 (805) 775-9987

David Ha (805) 482-3772

Joe Reyes (805) 415-2521

Louis Morris (805) 207-8692

Dale Dean (805) 263-0276

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Chaplain/Housing Improvements

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POW/MIA

Ron Fitzgarrald (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

John Cabrera (805) 483-5139

Fundraising

Manny Gonzales (805) 988-4462

President's Message:

July 2019

As you all may know, the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County is a veteran's service organization. We are always on the look out for opportunities to help our fellow veterans regardless of service. One such an opportunity is coming up on July 26th - 28th at the California Army National Guard Armory in Ventura. It is the 26TH Annual Ventura County Stand Down. Though primarily organized to assist our Homeless Veterans, the Stand Down is for all Veterans of Ventura County. There will be FREE: Superior Court on Friday only; FREE Social Services, Dental Services, Eye Exams and Glasses, VA Benefits, Housing Information, Legal Assistance and Transportation. Also there will be FREE Food, Showers, Clothing, Hair cuts, Comfort Kits, Medical Assistance and Employment Assistance. For additional information call: (805) 987-3118.

Pre-registration is Encouraged but not required. You may download the fliers and registration forms from the Stand Down web site:

venturacountystanddown.org.

If there are any veterans who will need the services of the Superior Court on Friday, pre-registration will be extremely helpful as the on site Court will need the records necessary to clear records. The Public Defender's Office is in charge of case eligibility and adding cases to the Stand Down. Some of the misdemeanor Charges range from public intoxication, unauthorized lodging, drinking in public, various misdemeanor traffic violations, etc.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Volunteers will be needed to help set up the Stand Down on Wednesday and Thursday as well as breaking down on Sunday, One of the best ways we can help is to distribute the fliers and pre-registration forms to as many Ventura County veterans, especially the Homeless as we can. In the past, I have served in the "shoe department".

For further information go to

www.venturacountystanddown.org

Dave Wilson

VVVC June 2019 Membership Report

Annual members

47

Life members

110

Total members

157

Memberships expiring in June 2019:

Robert Calander 6/29

Garry Kraft 6/25

Roy Villa 6/29

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:

Jim Hensley - is not doing too good John Smiley who is in a home Our Den Mother Jan Camacho is hanging tough, 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 June - 2019

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

World War II: 5

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. William J. McGowan, killed during World War II, was accounted for on May 13, 2019.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. John T. Burke, killed during World War II, was accounted for on May 15, 2019.

Army Pfc. Hulett A. Thompson, killed during World War II, was accounted for on May 29, 2019.

Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Charles G. Ruble, killed during World War II, was accounted for on May 31, 2019.

Army Pvt. Ballard McCurley, killed during World War II, was accounted for on June 4, 2019.

USS Oklahoma: 4

Navy Seaman 1st Class Edward Wasielewski, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 15, 2019. Navy Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Leo Blitz, and Navy Fireman 1st Class Rudolph Blitz, twins killed during World War II, were accounted for May 21, 2019.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Ralph H. Keil, killed during World War II, was accounted for Feb. 4, 2019.

Navy Signalman 3rd Class William J. Shanahan, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 31, 2019.

Currently there are 72,716 (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 7

Army Pfc. Roger L. Woods, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on May 21, 2019.

Army Cpl. Billy J. Butler, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for April 29, 2019.

Army Cpl. Earl H. Markle, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for May 17, 2019.

Army Master Sgt. James G. Cates, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on May 31, 2019. Army Cpl. Charles S. Lawler, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on May 13, 2019

(continued on page 3)

POW/MIA Report (Continued from page 2)

There are 7,646 Americans remaining unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Vietnam: 0

There are 1,576 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

NMCB Unit Cookout:

The VVVC has been requested to field a team of approximately 6-7 personnel to cook (hot dogs and hamburgers) for a CB Unit aboard the Hueneme Naval Station.

The date is FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Approximately 4-5 hours time

If you would like to be part of the team contact Joe Reyes (805) 415-2521.

Please let me know as soon as possible.

When you sign up all the 'where to meet, get aboard and security' particulars will be provided.

This will be good visibility for the VVVC organization to work for active duty men and women.

Thank you Joe Reyes

Volunteers to join the Camarillo Wings Assoc.

Frank Lopez is asking for 5 VVVC members who are volunteering at the Wings Over Camarillo in August to please fill out the Wings Over Camarillo Member Application, send him a copy and your shirt size. The Application is included in this LP or you can go to http://wingsovercamarillo.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/CWA-Member-Application-Rev-3.pdf.

Frank Lopez

Stand Down

Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin is asking for donations of sleeping bags for our homeless veterans at Stand Down.

VVVC Fundraisers

At the Yolanda's Fundraiser in April, we were donated \$888.30! Good job everyone!

On Wednesday, July 17, 2019 VVVC's Pizza Night Family Fundraiser will be at Toppers Pizza at either the Oxnard location or the Simi Valley location, from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Toppers Pizza will donate back to VVVC 20% of pre-tax sales generated by our group. Everybody loves pizza, so get out there, take one of our flyers, and stuff yourselves silly! Tell everyone you know!

You'll find the flyer included in this LP.

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 current plan is for the food to be provided by "Hawaii BBQ"

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.

From the desk of Joe Richardson

VVVC Secretary/Membership Chair/Scholarship Chair

This year we contacted 28 schools by way of District heads/principles/vice- principles/ and councilors, with the information and forms for the James M Ray scholarship.

This scholarship is sponsored by VVVC fund raising and with the generous donations from the Oxnard Monday Club.

We judged the essays sent and will be awarding the three scholarships to three locals high school seniors at our July meeting. They will be coming to read their essay and receive their awards.

On another note: It was a little discouraging this month working on the membership list. We had 16 members NOT renew, this was a little balanced by the addition of two new life memberships.

I want to thank all those members that went out to the schools this year. It is a constant wonder the many reactions and results that come from those contacts with our youth.

I would also like to make a personal thank-you to all those that have participated in the Flag and Funeral Honor Guards. It truly shows our colors and motto ... We Will Never Forget

Lastly I want to ask all to assist with and contribute ideas of how to have our group more visible on the base and attempting to contact or interact with these young soldiers.

Donations

The Luna Family has donated the flag table to VVVC.

And thank you to Larry & Brenda Seguin for donating their sound system to VVVC.

VVVC 2019 Event Calendar

JULY		
	4	4th of July Parade in Ojai
	4	AFTS "TTAC" Graduation
	5	VCMC Free Legal Clinic
	7	Color Guard at Oxnard Beach Park
	9	AFTS "TTAA" Graduation
	11	Collaborative Meeting
	14	Color Guard for Rehab Pt Project at Oxnard Beach Park
	16	NCTC "CM" Graduation
	17	Toppers Family Fundraiser in Oxnard or Simi Valley 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm
	18	Change of Command - Capt. Miranda 10 am
	18	NCTC CM "A" School Graduation
	20	VVVC Meeting
	28-29	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
- 18 & 19 Booth at Wings Over Camarillo
- 17 VVVC Meeting
- 20 Color Guard for Neptune ceremony at Ventura Harbor 10 am
- 23 NCTC "CM" Graduation

SEPTEMBER

- NCTC "CM" Graduation 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
- 20 Ventura Harbor
- 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











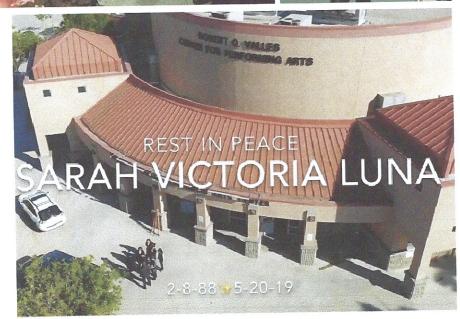














Are you a mom of a service member (active or veteran)? Do you have a child at boot camp? Join our local Blue Star Moms group!

What we do:

- Support each other and our children
- Support those actively serving
- Support our veterans
- Honor fallen heroes and support their families

Meetings:

Regular meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month beginning at 7pm, at the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge (Community Room). 158 N. Conejo School Road. Visit our Facebook page for the most up to date information about events.

Need more information?



Conejo Blue Star Moms



ConejoBlueStarMoms@gmail.com





Donate a Sleeping Bag to our Homeless Veterans

Join Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin in supporting our homeless veterans with a Sleeping Bag Drive for Stand Down. The bags are approximately \$30 on Amazon, most with free shipping. We are looking for 75 bags and you can help by going to: https://amzn.to/2WQnwG3

Please use the Nancy Frawley/Camarillo delivery address that appears on the order as your shipping address. If your bag gets shipped to your home you can bring it to our office at 2301 East Daily Dr., #200, Camarillo. You may also purchase a bag from a local store and drop it off at our Camarillo office.

Stand Down is a two-night, three day event that offers various services to homeless veterans, such as temporary housing, hot meals, clean clothing, medical attention, dental treatment, Vet Court and legal counseling. Our community is working hard on the housing crisis, but Stand Down helps our veterans with their everyday, basic needs today.

Please join us in this drive, purchase a bag, share this flyer with your friends and groups, and share a Facebook post so you can invite others to support this important cause. Stand Down is July 26th so please order your bag today!

Thank you, Team Irwin - 805-482-1904

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless:

- 23% of homeless population are veterans
- 89% received honorable discharge
- 85% completed high school / GED, compared to 56% of non-veterans

For more information about Stand Down and the services it provides for homeless veterans and their families, please visit http://www.venturacountystanddown.org/



Support the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County

Pizza Night

Family Fundraiser Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:30 p.m to 9:00 p.m.

Where:

2701 Peninsula Rd., Oxnard

2408 Erringer Rd., Simi Valley (805)385-4444 or 495-4444



Toppers Pizza will donate back 20% of pre-tax sales generated by our group!

How to Help: Just follow these steps to help raise funds!

- 1) Bring the whole family to Toppers during the above period for a great pizza!
- 3) No coupons or other discounts will be honored 2) Show this flyer to the cashier when you place your order (or tell operator for phone orders)
 - 4) No flyers may be handed out in or around the in conjunction with this fundraiser.
- Online Orders are not included. restaurant during the event.
- 6) Present your mobile screen shot to redeem flyer





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 - 5) Online Orders are not included.
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Proud to be part of the community!



Wings Over Camarillo - Member Application

For as little as a \$25 donation, you will enjoy the following:

- Exclusive Members Only Commemorative Polo Shirt (if paid by May 31)
- Discount on General Admission ticket purchases for family members

In order to be a member of the CWA, you must complete and sign the application below. Email to volunteers@wingsovercamarillo.com or mail to *Camarillo Wings Association, 79 Daily Drive, Ste. 265, Camarillo, CA 93010*. Payment for CWA membership can also be mail or completed online. Since we are a 100% all volunteer organization, we hope you will volunteer or even manage an area of interest:

	Air Show Weekend Area of Interest:						
Personal Information:	☐ Setup/Take Down ☐ Clean Up ☐ Parking						
□ New □ Returning	D Setup/ Take Down D Greating D Hospitality						
Last Name:	☐ Gates ☐ Upgrade Seating ☐ Hospitality						
First Name:	☐ Veterans ☐ Info/Directions						
Phone#:	□ Other						
E-mail:	Air Show Pre-Planning Area of Interest						
Participating	☐ Financial ☐ Marketing ☐ Signage ☐ Ground Ops						
Organization:	☐ Ticketing ☐ Social Media ☐ Hospitality ☐ Gates						
	☐ Vendors ☐ Sponsors ☐ Volunteers ☐ Management						
Employer:	□ Other						
Occupation:	CWA Members Only Polo Shirt:						
Special Skills:	Size - Select One: S S M L DXL D2XL D3XL						
Age (if under 18):							
	Cut - Select One: Woman's Men's						
GENERAL WAIVER							
I will hold harmless, indemnify, and defend Camarillo W	ings Association and its officers, directors, volunteers,						
agents, and employees from and against any loss, damage, liability, claim, cost, and expense, including but not limited to legal fees, which may be incurred by reason of the volunteer's participation in Wings Over Camarillo, unless to legal fees, which may be incurred by reason of the volunteer's participation. I have read							
1 1 C 1: L be inquired by reacon of the VO	hinteer's narricination in wings over camarino, amess						
incurred as a result of gross negligence or willful misconduct on the part of Califar ino Willigs Association. Thave Feder							
and understand the foregoing general waiver and have signed voluntarily.							
Date							
Signature or Parent/Legal Guardian if Minor							
Office Use Only: Date Received:	Date Entered in DB:						
Chairperson Name: Approval: ☐ Yes ☐ No							
Ontain parties.							

AT A GLANCE: AIRBORNE HAZARDS & OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

APRIL 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides detailed reports describing information collected in the **Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.**This fact sheet is part of a series that highlights findings from each report, including who's joined the registry, what we've learned to date, and where to find out more.

This update summarizes the information entered into the registry **from April 25, 2014, to September 30, 2014,** by Veterans and active duty Servicemembers. Here are key findings:

- Participants completed more than 19,000 surveys in the first six months of the registry.
- The average age of registry participants is 39 years.
- Most registry participants said they were near a burn pit at some point while deployed.
- In addition to burn pits, registry participants were exposed to other hazards
 on the job or in the environment, like weapon blasts, pesticides, and dust storms.

You can find the full report at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp.

ABOUT THE REGISTRY

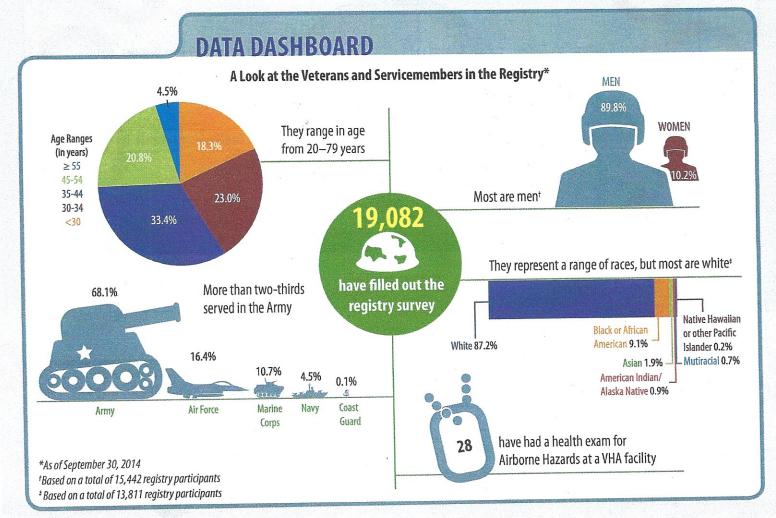


Burn pits were a common way to get rid of waste at military sites outside of the U.S. Types of waste burned included chemicals, paint, medical and human waste, metal or aluminum cans, plastics,

rubber, wood, and food. They also included weapons like ammunition and unexploded bombs, shells, and grenades. Burning waste in open air pits can cause more pollution than controlled burning, such as in an incinerator.

Some Veterans exposed to burn pits while deployed have reported respiratory symptoms and other health concerns. In June 2014, VA launched the **Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry** for those who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations after August 2, 1990, or in Afghanistan or Djibouti, Africa, after September 11, 2001. The registry is a database of health information. Veterans and active duty Servicemembers provide the information voluntarily by filling out a survey online. VA will use it to better understand the long-term health effects of being exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards.

We encourage Veterans and active duty Servicemembers to sign up for the registry at **veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry.**



SPOTLIGHT ON: BURN PITS AND OTHER EXPOSURES

This section looks at what Veterans and Servicemembers report about their exposure to burn pits and other environmental hazards while deployed. So far, studies have not found that working around burn pits leads to long-term health problems. However, there are concerns that Veterans who were closer to burn pit smoke, or around it for longer periods of time, might be at risk for lung and other health problems.

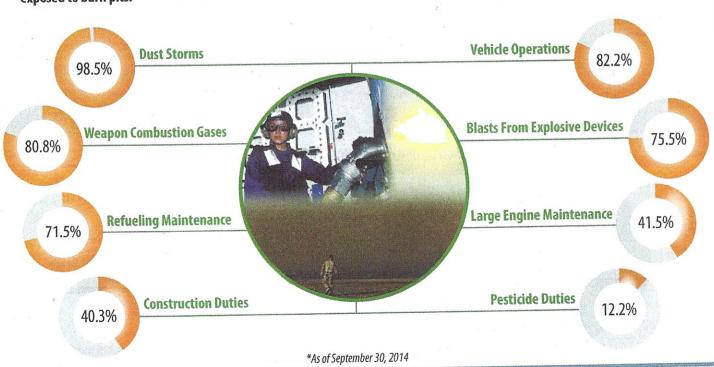
Here's what we've learned from the more than 19,000 Veterans and Servicemembers who joined the registry*:

- * Most (96%) said they were near a burn pit (close enough to see the smoke) at some point while deployed.
- * Sixty-two percent said they worked on a burn pit. Their duties included burning trash, hauling trash to the burn pit, securing the burn pit, and sorting trash at the burn pit.
- * Veterans who worked on burn pits were:
 - Younger

- More likely to be in the Army (73%)
- Deployed more often and for a longer length of time

- Mostly male (almost 92%)
- Mostly enlisted (91%)
- * Veterans who worked on burn pits were more likely to be **exposed to other hazards** during their military duties, or from the environment around them.

Here are other hazards all registry participants report being exposed to during deployment, whether or not they were exposed to burn pits.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Review the full reports from the registry at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp

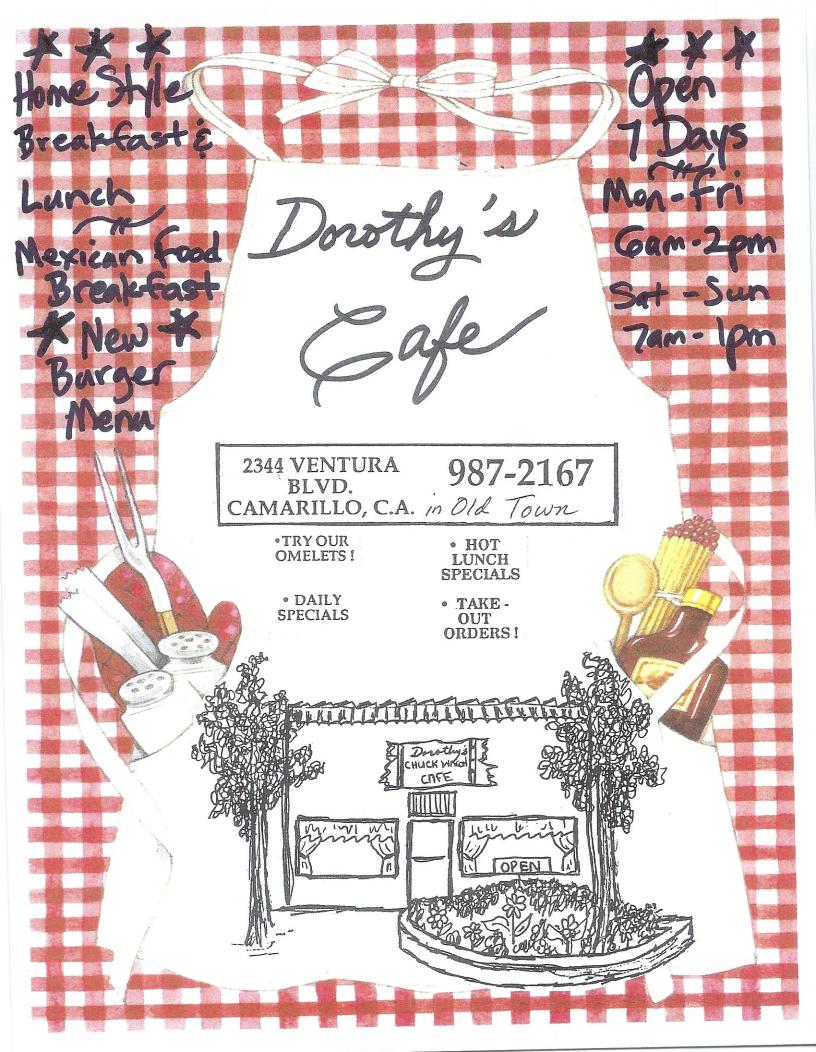
Learn more about burn pits at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits

SIGN UP FOR THE REGISTRY

The more Veterans who join the registry, the more we can learn about the health effects of exposure to burn pits and other airborne hazards.

Sign up and fill out the survey at https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry







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:

0	Business Card	\$10/mo.	\$100/yr
0	¼ page	\$15/mo	\$150/yr
е	½ page	\$25/mo	\$200/yr
٥	Full page	\$30 each	

You consideration of donating to our causes, gaining some advertising in the deal, is fully deductable 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