



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

July, 2020

Officers

Dave Wilson, President
(805) 469-0281

Howard Tench, Vice President
(805) 312-1977

Joe Richardson, Secretary
(805) 659-2387

Toni Morris, Treasurer
tmorriz@verizon.net

Ron Fitzgarrald, Public Affairs
(805) 218-3489

Board of Directors

Debora Ehrich
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Robert Buckley
(805) 988-2980

Joe Reyes
(805) 415-2521

Louis Morris
(805) 207-8692

Jess Echavarria
(805) 984-7476

Committees

Chaplain/Housing Improvements

David Ha
(805) 482-3772

POW/MIA

Ron Fitzgerald
(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

None

Fundraising

Manny Gonzales
(805) 988-4462

President's Message

July 2020

Here we are still in the Covid-19 era with quarantines, restrictive openings and a whole lot of folks losing patience with our new lifestyle changes. I understand wanting to get back to the way things used to be but to be honest, I just don't know if that is going to happen any time soon. Sue and I used to enjoy going out for breakfast or dinner at a sit-down restaurant or taking in a show at the movies in the afternoon, but that is just not happening. To add fuel to the fire is the frustration with all that is going on in our country and the world. We have stopped watching the news [on all networks] because of all the negative reporting. Well enough griping on my part. Looking forward to our own VVVC relaunch, we will just have to remain patient until we can meet again. The Board has put a freeze on all spending until we can meet a set a budget and engage in more fund raising. We also want to use this time to hammer out some necessary revisions to our By-laws and come up with a procedure manual for our operations as an organization. I am optimistic about our future. Things may not return to "business as usual" but that may not be a bad thing. I pray everyone is doing well. I hope to see you all again soon.

David Wilson

POW/MIA REPORT June – 2020

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

European & Pacific Theaters: 4

Marine Corps Pfc. Mervin D. Galland, 24, was accounted for on May 11, 2020.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Charles D. Miller, 19, was accounted for on May 19, 2020.

Army Pfc. John J. Sitarz, 19, was accounted for May 27, 2020.

Marine Corps Pfc. John M. Fahy, 19, was accounted for on June 5, 2020.

USS Oklahoma: 7

Navy Fireman 1st Class Louis J. Tushla, 25, was accounted for on March 27, 2020.

Navy Metalsmith 1st Class Leonard F. Smith, 29, was accounted for on April 16, 2020.

Navy Radioman 3rd Class Thomas E. Griffith, 20, was accounted for on April 21, 2020.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class James M. Flanagan, 22, was accounted for on Nov. 19, 2019.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Wesley E. Graham, 21, was accounted for on June 5, 2020.

Navy Radioman 3rd Class Irvin F. Rice, 22, was accounted for on June 5, 2020.

***Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Robert T. Stout**, 21, was accounted for on June 18, 2020.

Total from World War II: 11

Currently there are 72,551 Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 10

Army Sgt. William E. Cavender, 20, was accounted for May 19, 2020.

Army Cpl. R.B. Cherry, 19, was accounted for May 19, 2020.

Army Sgt. Jesse D. Hill, 20, was accounted for May 19, 2020.

Army 1st Lt. Anthony R. Mazzulla, 26, was accounted for May 28, 2020.

Army Master Sgt. James Hart, Jr., 25, was accounted for May 28, 2020.

Army Sgt. Stanley L. DeWitt, 18, was accounted for June 5, 2020.

Army Cpl. Pete Conley, 19, was accounted for June 5, 2020.

Army Cpl. Billie Joe Hash, 18, of Corbin, Kentucky, was accounted for May 27, 2020.

Army Cpl. Francis J. Rochon, 21, was accounted for June 18, 2020.

Army Master Sgt. James L. Quong, 30, was accounted for June 18, 2020.

Currently there are 7,560 Americans still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Vietnam: 0

Currently there are 1,574 American servicemen and civilians still 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

VVVC July 2020 Membership Report

Annual members	46
Life Members	117
Free members	5
Total members	168

Still holding on the following membership renewals

Annual membership due now (\$15 to renew)

1433	Dale Dean
1465	Dewey Cotton
1483	Louis Morris
1488	Bruce Miller
1490	Ron Perkovich
1493	Edwin Luth
1500	Anthony Vega
1503	Daniel Miller
1506	John Gonzales
1522	Jack Pinard
1523	Donald Hindsman
1524	James Connors
1525	Aurthur Ingram
1526	John Haigh
1527	Richard Weiche
1528	John Leonhard
1529	William Bahr
1530	Peter Schultz

memberships due end of July

1469	'Bobbi' Vickroy/Mills
1532	Bud Grey
1537	John Hankins

Sec/Membership Chair
Joe Richardson

Sick call...

Please continue to think about or say a prayer for our members:

David Wilson
John Smiley
Sharon Cabrera
Joe Morris
James Connors
Douog Temp;e
Richard Comacho
Charlie Foote

Everyone please stay safe and healthy out there!

6/11/20

To all the members on the sick call list –
Greetings to all of you. I have an idea how you feel. I just spent fifteen months in the hospital. Initially I was supposed to get out in February, but the CV and what not put it off until June 1st. Returning home was all it was supposed to be. I'm glad. A happy camper now. Starting in February I started writing that book on my adventures in Vietnam, that book we were all going to write. While I wrote that. I also wrote one on how the experience affected me after I left Southeast Asia. Again no blood and guts, or gore, just interesting (I hope) tales about some of those stupid majors I met. The hospital would not let me do what I wanted when I wanted, and it was very frustrating. I did not understand being awakened to get sleeping pills. I was in for a reaction from Diabetes II, but nothing to do with CV, which I tested out of. I know you know all these frustrations. I did actually die twice, and twice was put on DNR. I outlasted it all. Not as great as getting out of Vietnam but a close second.

They say, this too shall pass, but they say that about kidney stones too. I am so glad I have a large back yard, and can go out there and sun myself. I still cannot walk well, but things are getting better. I got a very expensive hospital bed, but spend most nights on my recliner. I have some zero calorie pops which keep my stomach cool, and a much better variety of food (including Pizza). I have television that works, and gets an occasional sports station, unlike in the hospital.

(continued on page 4)

A quick announcement..

Dorothy's in Camarillo is open for business.

Also the Banana Festival in September 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

(continued from page 3)

So far only a few have visited, but that is all right, it gives me plenty of time to rest. Like most of you, I have finally officially retired, at three-quarters of a century. Now I only need money to do all the things I want to. I copied some women from the swimsuit issue of Sports Illustrated and told my relatives that is what I had to come back to. Life is rough.

Henry Soper, RVN 67-68, Central Highlands (An Khe)

This message was received and posted on our Facebook page but wanted to get it out to all.

In advance of Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day this coming Sunday, I am sending you and the rest of the VVVC family nothing but positive vibes. Know that I am keeping you all in my thoughts and hope that everyone is doing well considering the times we live in now....

Please pass on a hearty HELLO to the rest of the gang!

Take care, stay clean, and stay healthy!

Very respectfully,

Rafi A. Miranda CAPT, CEC, USN

Commander, Navy Installations Command

Real Property Division Director (CNIC N44)

202.433.4504 office

More Information

From the PTSD Research Quarterly

PTSD and Sleep

Good info passed along by Debora

Worth reading the whole document located here for info on sleep disorders as a secondary issue to disability ratings

https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/rq_docs/V27N4.pdf

Donations

We have several items for anyone who needs them:

Plastic Boot Brace

2 toilet seats (for recovering patients of back surgery)

Several knee braces (velcro type)

And Ron Fitzgarrald just put a wheeled walker in storage.

If anyone is in need of the above please contact Ron Fitzgarrald



NEVER FORGET

Simon "Ceemon" Camarillo

1941 - 2020

Simon "Ceemon" Camarillo

Oxnard - Simon "Ceemon" Camarillo, 79 of Oxnard, passed away peacefully at his home with his loving family at his side in the early Sunday evening.

Simon was born on February 27, 1941 at the General Hospital in Ventura and was a lifelong county resident.

Simon served 9 years in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam war. He was awarded the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, The Presidential Unit Citation, The Navy Unit Citation, and 2 Purple Hearts which earning led to him being 100% disabled.

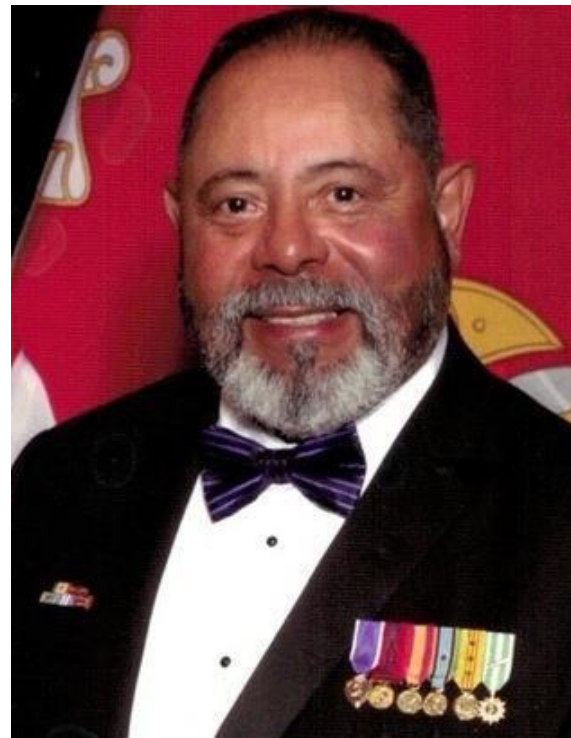
Simon worked as a maintenance lead person for 29 years for the 3M Company in Camarillo.

He coached the PAL Boxing Club in La Colonia and coached Little League. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. He was a member of the Toastmasters Club Veterans of Foreign Wars and helped the Veterans organize parades and could often be seen riding on one of the floats.

Ceemon is survived by his beloved wife, Cecilia Camarillo, together for 34 years; his sons: Simon Camarillo, of Oxnard, Manuel Camarillo and his wife Valerie, of Bakersfield, and Greg Camarillo, of Port Hueneme; his step-sons: Damian Kutbach, of Oregon, Christopher Kutbach, of Arizona, and Dustin Kutbach and his wife Melissa, of Ojai, whom Simon raised since the age of 4 years old; his sister, Lorraine Garcia, of Simi Valley; and his 13 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brothers: Louie Camarillo, Ernie Camarillo, Gene Camarillo, and Pompy Camarillo; and his sisters: Delores Camarillo, Rosemary Camarillo, and Mary Pacheco.

The family would like to thank All in One Hospice and the nurses Erika, Bobby, and Angelita for the love and care that they gave to Ceemon.



**Semper Fi
Brother**

MEMORIES

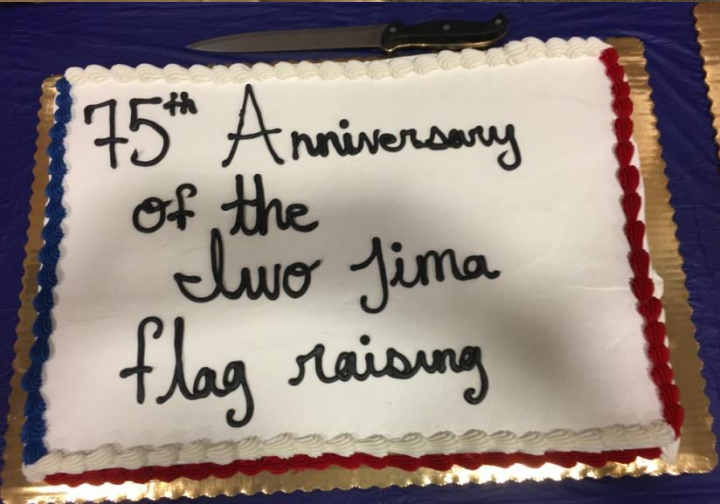
Some memories from
Nov 95 by Rafael Perez

Some pictures from
The past out of the
Memories files



Stay at Home ..Not ..VVVC doing their thing

VVVC Brothers Ira Hayes Parade



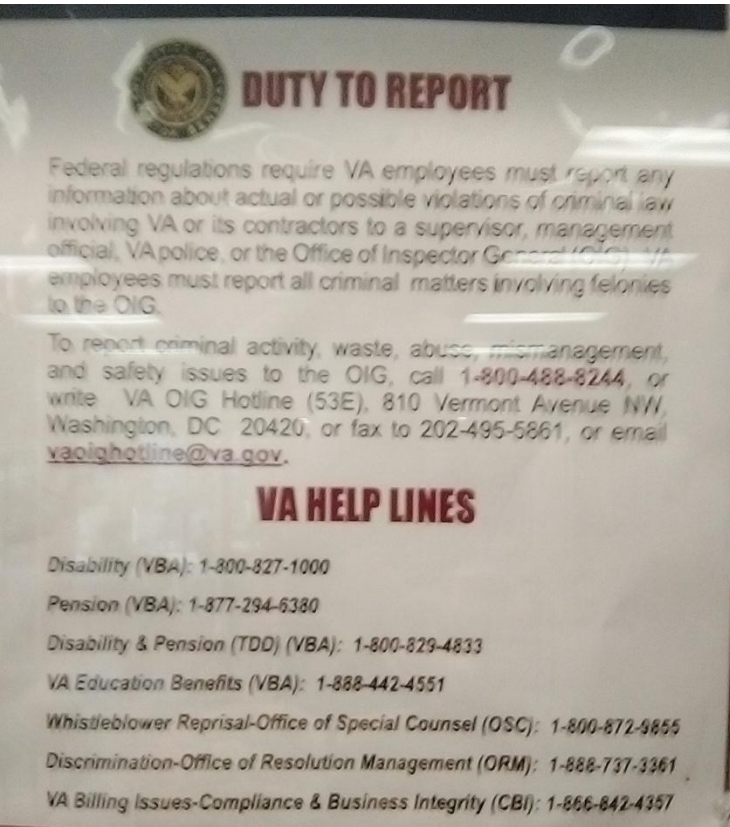
Members of VVVC met with Brandon Roque, field representative for state Assembly member, Tom Lackey's office at a Coffee 4 Vets gathering at Crazy Otto's recently in Valencia. Members presented a challenge coin to Brandon, for his service to all our brothers and sisters.



Manny and Howard donating food to National guard
Guard donating food to Highway Patrol
A great day doing for others in these trying times



Helpful tips from Charlie Foote Our DAV Brother



Camarillo Acorn Scholarships News Article

Vets award scholarships

The Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County visited the homes of three Ventura County high school seniors recently to award scholarships.

The students who received scholarships are:

Huy Nguyen from Adolfo Camarillo High School, attending Cornell University. Nguyen is the son of a Vietnamese refugee.

Tate Moyer from Westlake High School, attending the University of Michigan.

Zakary Logie from Newbury Park High School, attend-

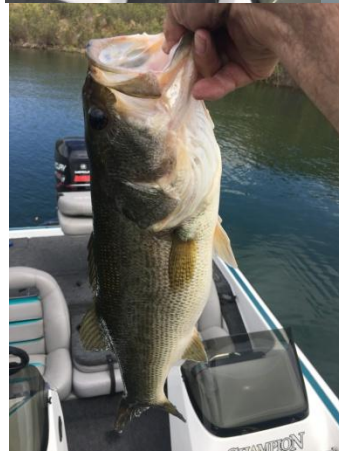
ing UC Davis.

The Staff Sgt. James M. Ray Memorial Scholarship of \$5,000, the Jan Camacho Memorial Scholarship of \$2,500 and the Dave Betti Memorial Scholarship of \$2,500 were given based on essays submitted on subjects related to the Vietnam War veterans and what the Pledge of Allegiance means to the student.

Along with the scholarship, each student received a certificate of achievement from U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley and Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin.



New
Flag
Pole



Bass
At
Casitas



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration

Welcome to the Los Angeles Regional Office

We want the Regional Office to be a pleasant and safe environment for all. If you are experiencing symptoms of a cold, the flu or any disease, consider accessing VA resources from home.

Alternative VA Contact and Information:

Ask any question on-line

<https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/>

(Claim Status, Benefit Verification Letters and more ...)

Phone Numbers

Benefits (National Call Center)	1-800-827-1000	- Claim Status, Benefit Letters etc.
Debt Management Center	1-800-827-0648	- Debt issues, Waivers, Payment Plans
Education (GI Bill, Chapter 35)	1-888-442-4551	- All education issues, GI Bill, Chapter 35
Health Care	1-877-222-8387	- All health Care, hospital issues, records etc.
Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838	- Homeless and Housing Issues and Assistance
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380	- Pension and Survivors Benefits
Veterans Crisis Line	1-800-273-8255	- Immediate Need Issues
Home Loans	1-888-827-3702	- Certificate of Eligibility – Loan Inquiries
Vocational Rehab & Education	1-310-235-7722	- Claim Status and Inquiries
Claims Intake - FAX Number	1-844-531-7818	- Submit a Claim, evidence or Correspondence

Web Sites

VA Home Page	www.va.gov
eBenefits	www.ebenefits.va.gov
My HealtheVet	www.myhealth.va.gov
Home Loan Guaranty	www.homeloans.va.gov
Education Benefits	www.gibill.va.gov
Forms - VA forms	www.va.gov/vaform
Homeless Veterans	www.va.gov/homeless
Records, (military)	www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel
State Departments of Veterans Affairs	www.va.gov/statedva.htm



Rehab Point Project

People with disabilities can, and do make a difference

REHAB POINT PROJECT 28th ANNUAL CELEBRATION GOES VIRTUAL July 12, 2020

To REHAB POINT PROJECT Supporters:

As you know our goal is to provide a day of fun for people with disabilities, Senior Citizens and disabled American Veterans.

The Rehab Point Picnic is an annual celebration which is operated by volunteer organizations with the sole purpose of providing wheelchair access and social opportunities for senior citizens, people with disabilities and disabled American Veterans. The Rehab Point Project Path is constructed of concrete with cement benches and wheelchair friendly tables. The path is wide and curves around the dunes providing both a scenic view and comfortable area located in Oxnard Beach.

This July we celebrate 28 years of the Rehab Point Pathway! However, due to the current pandemic and in an abundance of caution, Rehab Point Project made the decision to turn the 28th Annual Picnic into an All Virtual Event on Sunday, July 12, 2020. Our hope is that all you will join us this July and walk the pathway at your leisure, and honor senior citizens, people with disabilities and disabled American Veterans. Please remember to wear a face mask and follow social distancing guidelines.

We will not have a picnic celebration this year, instead we invite you to take a stroll down the pathway on Sunday July 12, 2020, take pictures or videos and post them on your social media with the **#walkthepath2020** and tag **@rehabpointproject**.

Please consider spreading the word and sharing the attached flyer on your agency's social media!

For any additional information please contact Christine Portillo (805) 890-5152 or Esteban Melchor (805) 417-7294.

Thank you again for your time and support.



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 | |

Your 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