



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

June, 2018

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Listening Post

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President's Message: June 2018

When I first became pastor of the North Fork Assembly of God in North Fork, California, I held an appreciation dinner for my Board Members and all our volunteer Sunday school teachers at the Pines Resort at Bass Lake. We had a tri-tip dinner and I awarded our Sunday school teachers a certificate of appreciation for their faithful service. I always feel that it is important to encourage volunteers by recognizing their devotion and work. Much to my surprise though this dinner had the opposite effect than what I was expecting. Except for the Board Members, *all* the teachers quit. They felt with the dinner that their job was done and now it was for someone else to step up. They believed that the new members of the church should take over. Here were experienced, dedicated people telling me that we should have inexperienced, untried people teaching the most important resource of the future of the church, our children. I could only attribute their desire to quit to burn out. They felt that finally, someone appreciated all their hard work so they would quit while ahead.

I had, and still have, a difficult time with those who volunteer then quit before the task is finished. My personal commitment when I volunteer for anything is based on a few things. The first principle is found in the Bible at James 4:17 which states, "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." The second principle is found in the quote of Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

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The third principle is knowing it is not the person who starts a race that wins, it is the person who finishes, no matter how difficult or how long it takes. I have always desired to finish well.

I sometime go back and remember an oath I took in 1966. You may recognize it yourself. "I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God" 1 I may not have to "obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me," but I will always "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same". One way I dedicate myself to this principle is by working with and for veterans and active service personnel of all the services in whatever capacity I can.

One person cannot do everything. We must all share the burden so that we don't burn out. If there is a hundred pound burden to be carried, ten people carrying ten pounds each or better yet one hundred people carrying one pound each can travel much farther than one person carrying the whole load. If you see a need it just may be you are the one to meet it.

1. Title 10, US Code; Act of 5 May 1960 replacing the wording first adopted in 1789, with amendment effective 5 October 1962.

Dave Wilson

POW/MIA REPORT May – 2018

16 brothers-in-arms have returned home
and 6 remain MIA

World War II: 9

Navy Reserve Lt. William Q. Punnell, 27, of Flandreau, South Dakota, accounted for on June 23, 2017, was buried May 2 in Arlington National Cemetery

Army Pfc. Billy R. Ball, 20, of Matthews, Missouri, accounted for on Aug. 28, 2017, was buried May 4 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Raymond A. Barker, 22, of Evanston, Illinois, accounted for on Sept. 27, 2017, was buried May 5, in Delavan, Wisconsin

Marine Corps Reserve 1st Sgt. David H. Quinn, 24, of Temple, New Hampshire, accounted for on Nov. 7, 2017, was buried May 5 in his hometown.

Marine Corps Pfc. Harold V. Thomas, 21, of Columbus, Ohio, accounted for on Nov. 7, 2017, was buried May 7, in Arlington National Cemetery

Marine Corps Cpl. John V. McNichol, 20, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, accounted for on Sept. 25, 2017, was buried May 14, in Arlington National Cemetery

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Clarence E. Allen, 23, of Venice, California, accounted for on July 26, 2017, will be buried May 23 in Arlington National Cemetery.

Marine Corps Sgt. Elden W. Grimm, 26, of Menasha, Wisconsin, accounted for on Sept. 26, 2017, will be buried May 26 in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Harvel L. Moore, 25, of Chatham, Louisiana, accounted for on February 12, will be buried May 26, in his hometown.

USS Oklahoma: 4

Navy Radioman 2nd Class Quentin J. Gifford, 22, of Mankato, Minnesota, accounted for on July 26, 2017, was buried May 12 at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minnesota.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Clifford G. Goodwin, 24, of Diamond, Missouri, accounted for on Sept. 26, 2017, was buried May 12, in his hometown.

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(Continued from page 2-USS Oklahoma)

Navy Gunner's Mate 2nd Class William F. Hellstern, 20, of Peoria, Illinois, accounted for on February 12, was buried May 18 in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Willard H. Aldridge, 20, of Sitka, Kansas, accounted for on Nov. 15, 2017, will be buried May 26 in Ashland, Kansas.

Currently there are 72,934 (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 2

Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class William G. Payne, 41, of Springfield, Missouri, accounted for on Aug. 9, 2017, was buried May 11 in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu

Army Cpl. Albert E. Quintero, 23, of Los Angeles, accounted for on Aug. 28, 2017, was buried May 14 in Long Beach, California.

There are 7,702 Americans remaining unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Vietnam: 1

Army Maj. Donald G. Carr, 32, of San Antonio, accounted for on Aug. 19, 2015, was buried May 11, at San Antonio National Cemetery.

There are 1,597 American servicemen and civilians remaining unaccounted for from the Vietnam War

Iraq Theater & Other Conflicts:

Operation El Dorado Canyon, 1986 MIA: 1

Capt. Paul F. Lorence, of San Francisco, U.S. Air Force, was lost on April 15, 1986, when his F-111 aircraft went down during a strike 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, when his A-6 aircraft went down in the Persian Gulf.

Lt. Robert J. Dwyer, of Worthington, Ohio, U.S. Navy, was lost on Feb. 5, 1991, when his FA-18 aircraft went down 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

Scam Alert: Top Five Veteran Swindles

Swindlers target vets because they know they are drawing guaranteed benefits. While veteran payments are paid over a lifetime, they often aren't enough to pay all of the bills. Financial predators know this.

According to the [AARP Fraud Watch Network](#), there are a host of scams aimed at vets. Many of these operations masquerade as charities that claim to benefit vets. Here are the major scams:

Bogus sales – "A scammer claiming to be a deploying service member posts a large ticket item on a classified ad website that he needs to sell right away and at a steep discount. The scammer asks for upfront payment with a wire transfer or gift cards.

Real estate rip-off – A scammer posts a fake rental property on a classified ad website offering military discounts. You just need to wire transfer a security deposit to the landlord.

VA phishing – A caller claiming to be from the Department of Veterans Affairs calls to "update" your information.

Fake charities – Fake charities use names that are close to the names of legitimate charities, often referencing Armed Forces, veterans, or military families.

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Benefits "buyout" – Scammers will target veterans in need of money by offering cash in exchange for their future disability or pension payments. These buyouts are typically a fraction of the value of the benefit.

Dubious investment advice – An "adviser" will tell the veteran she is missing out on benefits, and wants to review her investment portfolio. He'll then want to put the veteran's investments in a trust, to appear to have fewer assets and to therefore be eligible for an additional pension."

Note: The "benefits buyout" scam also goes by the name of "pension advances." A company will offer to "buy" monthly pension payments in exchange for a lump-sum payment. It's actually an unregulated, high-interest loan.

Ron Fitzgarrald



This is a picture of the front yard of Larry Seguin's nephew in North Carolina: Master Sergeant Russell Seguin, USMC. For Memorial Day he substitutes the POW flag for the American flag.

VVVC May 2018 Membership Report

Annual members	62
Life members	103
Total members	165

Memberships expiring in June 2018:

Fabio Allodoli June 17, 2018
Jeffrey Berry June 29, 2018
Richard Calander June 29, 2018
Leo Howery June 21, 2018
Roy Villa June 29, 2018

Marie Pounds
Membership Chair

FOR SALE

2 Grave Plots, at Westlake Pierce Bros.
Cemetery's Garden of Valor.
This exclusive veteran area is approximately
20 ft from the 'Eternal Flame.'
Plot #259, C & D (includes Bronze Markers
and 2 vantage Black Vaults.
Please call Nancy (541) 207-8440

Sick Call...

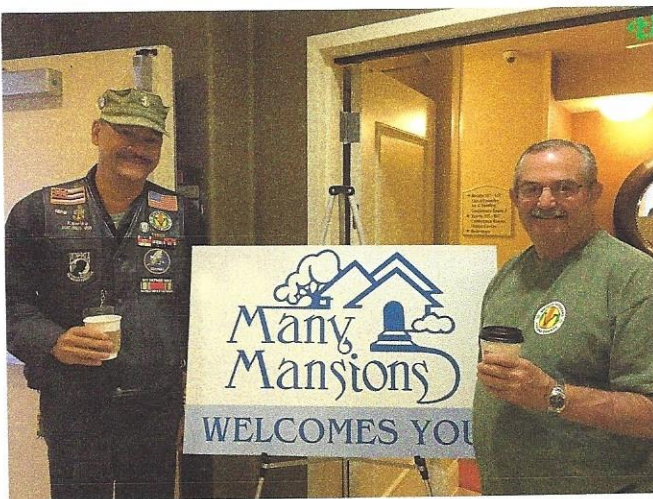
It seems there are more of our members having health issues than there are healthy members – so please keep them in your thoughts and prayers:

Manny Gonzales – needing to watch his heart
Laurie Richardson – Achilles tendon surgery
Barry Jenkins
Charlie Foote
Bobbi Mills
John Smiley
Larry Seguin's son Daniel

May 8, 2018, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors issued 2 Resolutions to recognize two Ventura County citizens, Kim Evans of the VCMiC and Mike McManus of the Veterans Service Office for their outstanding service and dedication to the veterans of Ventura County. Kim Evans is leaving the area and will be sorely missed. The VCMiC activities will be acquired by Mike McManus of the VSO. The Military Collaborative will continue to serve the needs of Veterans. Howard Tench



On the 8th of May, David Ha and myself attended a presentation by Many Mansions. The presentation included the many facets of land development. They talked about the 40 units at Ormond Beach Villas with an estimated completion date of August of 2019. The Walnut project has 24 units in Moorpark, Mountain View with 77 units in Fillmore and an additional 55 units in scattered areas. With homelessness increased of 12.8%, each housing unit counts. Unsheltered persons counts are up 24% in Oxnard primarily. Waiting times for these units are substantial with over 3000 already on the list! Get on the list! Howard Tench



Veterans picnic in the park. California Lutheran Academy, Thousand Oaks



Dave Wilson and Manny Gonzales presenting a certificate of appreciation to the Camarillo Pleasant Valley/Somis Lions Club.





I am extending this invitation to donate your time as a volunteer/docent at the upcoming visit of The Moving Wall

The Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County are proud to be able to host this ½ scale version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall for the seventh time in the last 33 years to Ventura County with this year's display to be at the County Government Center lawn, near Victoria and Telephone.

Everyone that wishes to volunteer to assist those visiting the wall is obligated to attend a training/introduction session. The purpose of the training sessions is to familiarize the volunteers with the specific data and history of the memorial, and the proper and acceptable behavior by all visiting The Wall, and assisting with finding names or helping with rubbings. The work will entail using a computer provided at the site to search for names in the VVMF data base and assisting out at the wall to answer questions and assist the visitors.

The schedule for the training sessions is:

Tues June 5, 2018 @ 1:30p or 3:30p or Saturday June 9, 2018 @ 1:30p

The site for the training is at:

National University Oxnard Campus

1000 Town Center Dr. (tall green building near Oxnard Blvd and the 101 Fry)

5th Floor training room

There will be a sign-up board provided at the training sessions for marking the time/times you are willing to assist. The intent is to fill the hours of 8a – 8p in three hour sessions, starting on June 21st when the wall will be erected, through June 25th when it will be taken down. There will also be open time frames for anyone willing to work during the night hours. Saturday at 11am there will be a formal ceremony at the Military Memorial at the corner of Telephone and Victoria, and it is assumed we will need extra people on that day/afternoon.

Again I would like to thank you in advance for wishing to participate in this event. I would appreciate an RSVP as the room can only holds 80 people.

Joe Richardson, Secretary Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County cpljosephpr@gmail.com

VVVC 2018 Event Calendar

JUNE

5	Docent Training
8	2 nd Friday Free Lunch at Goleta Elk's club – 10:30 am
9	Docent Training
14	Collaborative Meeting
16	VVVC Meeting
20	Set up Wall
20-25	Moving Wall
26	Break Down Wall

JULY

4	4 th of July Parade in Ojai
8	Beach Event
12	Collaborative Meeting
13	2 nd Friday Free Lunch at Goleta Elk's Club – 10:30 am
21	VVVC Meeting

AUGUST

9	Collaborative Meeting
10	2 nd Friday Free Lunch at Goleta Elk's Club – 10:30 am
18	VVVC Meeting
25	Job Fair
29	5 th Wednesday Dinner at American Legion in Oak View
?	Ventura County Fair Parade

SEPTEMBER

13	Collaborative Meeting
14	2 nd Friday Free Lunch at Goleta Elk's Club – 10:30 am
15	VVVC Meeting
21	POW/MIA Remembrance

OCTOBER

11	Collaborative Meeting
12	2 nd Friday Free Lunch at Goleta Elk's Club – 10:30 am
20	VVVC Meeting
31	5 th Wednesday Dinner at American Legion in Oak View

NOVEMBER

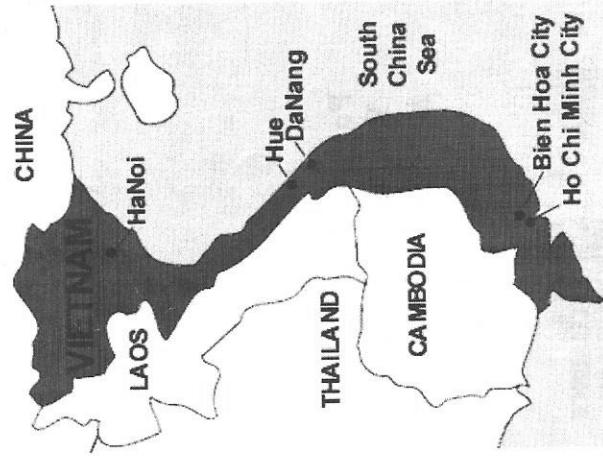
8	Collaborative Meeting
9	2 nd Friday Free Lunch at Goleta Elk's Club – 10:30 am
11	Veteran's Day
17	VVVC Meeting

DECEMBER

13	Collaborative Meeting
14	2 nd Friday Free Lunch at Goleta Elk's Club – 10:30 am
15	VVVC Meeting
?	Santa Paula Christmas Parade

Agent Orange

Agent Orange was used in Vietnam to kill unwanted plants and tree leaves that provided cover for the enemy. One of the chemicals in Agent Orange had traces of dioxin, which may cause cancer and other diseases. The US government is currently researching the health effects of Agent Orange. Vietnam veterans can participate in the Agent Orange registry program, to help monitor their health.



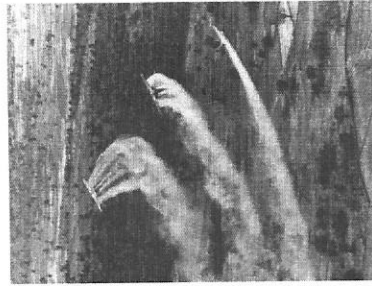
Effects of Agent Orange

Dioxin, one of the components of Agent Orange, has been linked to Hodgkin's disease, prostate cancer, lung cancer, multiple myeloma, chloracne (a skin disorder), neuropathy (a nerve disorder) and type 2 diabetes. Children of female Vietnam veterans may have higher rates of spina bifida, a birth defect.

What Veterans Can Do?

The Agent Orange Registry program was set up in 1978, to monitor the health of Vietnam veterans. Contact the nearest VA to schedule an entry examination. Patients are asked a series of questions about their exposure to herbicides in Vietnam. Doctors will then take a medical history, perform a physical exam, and complete lab tests.

The VA assumes exposure to Agent Orange for Vietnam veterans. The VA will determine eligibility for compensation for health problems that are service-connected.



U.S. planes spray Agent Orange over the Vietnamese countryside in 1966.

The Federal government is currently doing research to learn more about the effects of Agent Orange on health.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I Served in Korea?

Since Agent Orange was also used in Korea in the late 1960's, Korean War veterans can also get Agent Orange exams. Please contact your VA primary care provider.

How Do I Know if I was Exposed?

The VA assumes that most Vietnam veterans were exposed, since Agent Orange was used all over. The Agent Orange exam can help monitor your health so that you can treat and prevent any possible health effects that resulted from your exposure.

Who Do I Contact at the VA?

At each VA there is a "Registry Physician" that provides the Agent Orange Exams. These physicians receive the latest information about Agent Orange and dioxin.

For more information visit

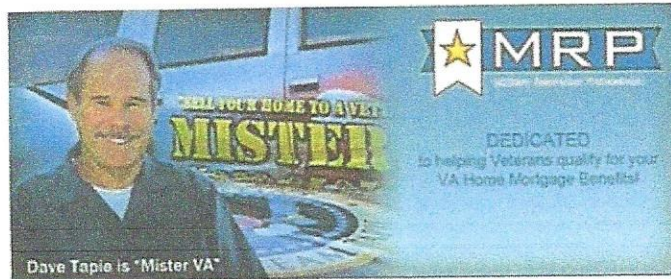
www.va.gov/agentorange or call the Veterans Special Issues Helpline at 1-800-749-8387

Phone Numbers

Bereavement Counseling.....	1-202-461-6530
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA).....	1-800-733-8387
Caregiver Support	1-855-260-3274
Debt Management Center.....	1-800-827-0648
Education.....	1-888-442-4551
Foreign Medical Program.....	1-888-820-1756
Headstones and Markers.....	1-800-697-6947
Health Care.....	1-877-222-8387
Homeless Veterans.....	1-877-424-3838
Home Loans.....	1-888-827-3702
Life Insurance.....	1-800-669-8477
National Cemetery Scheduling Office.....	1-800-535-1117
Pension Management Center.....	1-877-294-6380
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program.....	1-202-565-4964
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD).....	1-800-829-4833
VA Benefits.....	1-800-827-1000
VA Combat Call Center	1-877-927-8387
Veterans Crisis Line.....	1-800-273-8255
Women Veterans.....	1-877-222-8387

Web Sites

Burial and Memorial Benefits	www.cem.va.gov
Caregiver Support	www.caregiver.va.gov
CHAMPVA.....	www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/forbeneficiaries.asp
eBenefits.....	www.ebenefits.va.gov
Education Benefits.....	www.gibill.va.gov
Environmental Exposures.....	www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures
Federal Recovery Coordination Program	www.va.gov/icbc/frcp
Health Care Eligibility.....	www.va.gov/healthbenefits
Homeless Veterans.....	www.va.gov/homeless
Home Loan Guaranty.....	www.homeloans.va.gov
Life Insurance.....	www.insurance.va.gov
Memorial Certificate Program.....	www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp
Mental Health.....	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
My HealtheVet.....	www.myhealth.va.gov
National Resource Directory	www.nrd.gov
Records.....	www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel
Returning Servicemembers.....	www.oefoif.va.gov
State Departments of Veterans Affairs.....	www.va.gov/statedva.htm
Women Veterans.....	www.womenshealth.va.gov
VA Vet Centers.....	www.vetcenter.va.gov
VA Home Page.....	www.va.gov
VA Benefit Payment Rates.....	www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates
VA Forms.....	www.va.gov/vaform
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.....	www.vetsuccess.gov



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The Money Market
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Camarillo, Ca. 93010

Phone: 805-389-0505
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E-mail: mrtaapie@gmail.com
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Dave Tapie Broker Owner MLO
Life member VVVC US Army 66-68

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805-389-0505 office 805-797-8510 Cell



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