



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

June, 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
(805) 775-9987

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 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

None

Fundraising

Manny Gonzales
(805) 988-4462

President's Message: 6/20

I do not know about the rest of you, but I began 2020 with a lot of hope for a better year and optimistic. Enter COVID-19. Talk about "the best laid plans of mice and men". We all had to put on the brakes to a lot of our plans. We had to suspend our monthly meetings, as a pastor I had to suspend our services, we have not been able to go shopping as we were use to, I have not been able to visit folks in the hospital and I have become better friends with Amazon.com. But just as water makes its own way in flowing to the ocean, so we became more creative in "staying on mission", for example our scholarships. Usually the board meets together to read and evaluate the essay entries. Joe Richardson tabulates the results and announces the winners. Something we did different this year, instead of having a first, second and third place winner, we offered \$5,000.00 for the James M. Ray scholarship, \$2,500.00 for the Janice Camacho Memorial scholarship and \$2,500.00 for the Dave Betti Memorial scholarship. Instead of having the winners come and present their essays at one of our general meetings then award them with their cates certifiand checks, Joe came up with the brilliant idea of having us go to the homes of our winners with yard signs, certificates and checks. It was good to get out of the house. If you have seen the pictures of this unique event you will just have to take my word for it—we were smiling. It looks like we may be able to meet in June or the latest July. I miss our coming together. I have my mini hot dogs in the freezer just waiting to be thawed out. Hang in there my brothers and sisters, we will be given the green light soon. Stay safe.

David Wilson

POW/MIA REPORT February – 2020

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

European & Pacific Theaters: 8

Chief Machinist's Mate Lada Smisek, 42, was accounted for Aug. 19, 2019.

Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Oscar E. Koskela, 22, was accounted for June 8, 2017.

Marine Corps Pfc. Royal L. Waltz, 20, was accounted for on May 15, 2019.

Marine Corps Cpl. Thomas H. Cooper, 22, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was accounted for Aug. 9, 2019.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Raymond Warren, 21, of Silverdale, Kansas, was accounted for on June 10, 2019.

Army Pvt. James J. Cansler, 21, was accounted for Jan. 29, 2020.

Army Pfc. & a Merrill's Marauders, James W. White, 21, was accounted for on Jan. 29, 2020.

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Ernest L. Roth, 20, was accounted for on Feb. 4, 2020.

USS West Virginia: 1

Fireman 2nd Class William P. Kubinec, 21, was accounted for on Nov. 5, 2019.

USS Oklahoma: 10

Hospital Apprentice 1st Class John M. Mulick, 21, was accounted for on Nov. 18, 2019.

Seaman 1st Class Joe R. Nightingale, 20, was accounted for Aug. 29, 2019.

Navy Fireman 1st Class Dan E. Reagan, 20, was accounted for Sept. 30, 2019.

Fireman 2nd Class Joseph W. Carroll, 20, was accounted for on Aug. 19, 2019.

Fireman 2nd Class Martin D. Young, 21, of Louisville, Kentucky, was accounted for on Aug. 19, 2019.

Seaman 1st Class Warren C. Gillette, 21, was accounted for on Jan. 17, 2019.

Seaman 2nd Class Cecil H. Thornton, 21, was accounted for April 16, 2019.

Fireman 1st Class Rex E. Wise, 21, of South Haven, Kansas, was accounted for on Oct. 17, 2019.

Chief Fire Controlman Daniel F. Harris, 40, was accounted for on June 24, 2019.

***Steward's Mate 2nd Class Jesus F. Garcia**, 21, was accounted for on Sept. 25, 2018.

Total from World War II: 20

Currently there are 72,592 Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 1

Army Cpl. Arthur C. Ramirez, 19, of Pima, Arizona, was accounted for Sept. 9, 2019.

Currently there are 7,587 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, Jr., 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 Fitzgarrauld, POW/MIA Chairman

POW/MIA REPORT Mar – 2020

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

European & Pacific Theaters: 1

Marine Corps Sgt. Duane O. Cole, 23, of Niles, Michigan, was accounted for on Sept. 3, 2019.

USS Oklahoma: 4

Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Alton W. Whitson, 22, was accounted for Jan. 23, 2020.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Russell C. Roach, 22, was accounted for on Oct. 17, 2019.

Navy Fireman 3rd Class Clarence A. Blaylock, 20, was accounted for on July 29, 2019.

***Navy Shipfitter 3rd Class Patrick L. Chess**, 24, was accounted for Jan. 9, 2020.

Total from World War II:

Currently there are 72,587 Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 1

Army Sgt. Kenneth E. Walker, 19, of Madill, Oklahoma, was accounted for Nov. 12, 2019.

Currently there are 7,586 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 Fitzgarrauld
POW/MIA Chairman

POW/MIA REPORT April – 2020

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

European & Pacific Theaters: 10

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Earl W. Smith, 22, was accounted for March 23, 2020.

Marine Corps Sgt. Donald D. Stoddard, 22, was accounted for on March 16, 2020.

Army Pvt. Wayne M. Evans, captured and died as a POW, was accounted for March 30, 2020

Army Pfc. Anthony F. Mendonca, 28, was accounted for April 9, 2020

Marine Corps Pvt. Jack R. Stambaugh, 20, was accounted for on April 9, 2020.

Marine Corps Pfc. Elden R. Baumbach, 29, was accounted for on Feb. 4, 2020

Marine Corps Sgt. George R. Reeser, 25, was accounted for on March 27, 2020

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. John W. Hoffman, Jr., 21, was accounted for on April 9, 2020.

Marine Corps Sgt. Fred Farris, 19, was accounted for on April 14, 2020.

***Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Jacob Cruz, 18,** killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 14, 2020.

USS Oklahoma: 0

Total from World War II: 10

Currently there are 72,577 Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 5

Army Sgt. Billy V. Rodgers, 19, was accounted for April 9, 2020.

Army Cpl. David B. Milano, 17, was accounted for April 14, 2020.

Army Cpl. Eldert J. Beek, 20, was accounted for April 14, 2020.

Army Cpl. Henry L. Helms, 24, was accounted for April 16, 2020

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Redgate, 24, was accounted for April 16, 2020

Korean War: 5

Army Sgt. Billy V. Rodgers, 19, was accounted for April 9, 2020.

Army Cpl. David B. Milano, 17, was accounted for April 14, 2020.

Army Cpl. Eldert J. Beek, 20, was accounted for April 14, 2020.

Army Cpl. Henry L. Helms, 24, was accounted for April 16, 2020

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Redgate, 24, was accounted for April 16, 2020

Currently there are 7,581 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

POW/MIA REPORT May – 2020

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

European & Pacific Theaters: 11

Army Pfc. Oliver Jeffers, 31, was accounted for April 23, 2020.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. John E. Gillen, 20, was accounted for on April 16, 2020.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Harold W. Hayden, 19, was accounted for on March 30, 2020.

Marine Corps Cpl. Raymond J. Tuhey, 24, was accounted for on April 20, 2020.

Marine Corps Reserve 1st Lt. Hugh D. Fricks, 22, was accounted for on March 16, 2020.

Army Pfc. Clarence W. Brotherton, 20, was accounted for April 23, 2020.

Army Staff Sgt. Raymond C. Blanton, 19, was accounted for April 23, 2020.

Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Howard E. Miller, 22, was accounted for on April 20, 2020.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Robert D. Jenks, 20, was accounted for on Feb. 4, 2020.

Army Pvt. Charles Andrews, 25, was accounted for May 6, 2020.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Thomas F. Johnson, 18, was accounted for on May 6, 2020

USS Oklahoma: 4

Navy Fireman 1st Class Samuel C. Steiner, 20, was accounted for on April 16, 2020.

Navy Seaman 1st Class James C. Williams, 20, was accounted for on March 23, 2020.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Maurice V. Spangler, 20, was accounted for on March 27, 2020.

***Navy Seaman 2nd Class Floyd D. Helton, 18,** was accounted for on April 23, 2020.

Total from World War II: 15

Currently there are 72,562 Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 11

Army Cpl. Benjamin R. Bazzell, 18, was accounted for April 16, 2020.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Frank G. Vejar, 19, was accounted for April 14, 2020.

Army Cpl. Clifford S. Johnson, 20, was accounted for April 16, 2020.

Army Cpl. Ralph S. Boughman, 21, was accounted for April 20, 2020.

Army Pfc. Bill F. Hobbs, 20, was accounted for April 20, 2020.

Army Pfc. Louis N. Crosby, 18, was accounted for April 21, 2020.

Army Cpl. Charles E. Hiltibran, 19, was accounted for April 20, 2020.

Army Sgt. Lloyd A. Alumbaugh, 21, was accounted for April 21, 2020.

Army Cpl. Dale W. Wright, 19, was accounted for April 23, 2020.

Army Cpl. Burl Mullins, 23, was accounted for April 23, 2020.

Army Pfc. Glenn E. Collins, 21, was accounted for April 23, 2020.

Currently there are 7,570 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

(Continued on page 5)

(POW/MIA Report Continued from page 5)

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

Sick Call...

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

David Wilson
John Smiley
Sharon Cabrera
Joe Morris
James Connors
Laurie Richardson
Doug Temple
Richard Camacho

Everyone – please stay safe and healthy out there!

VVVC June 2020 Membership Report

Annual members	49
Life Members	117
Free members	5
Total members	171

Simon Camarillo life member deceased
Dennis Berlin new formal life member, wife Dianna new informal annual member

Annual membership due now (\$15 to renew)

1396	Alan Wyly
1433	Dale Dean
1483	Louis Morris
1488	Bruce Miller
1490	Ron Perkovich
1493	Edwin Luth
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

Three memberships due end of June

1433	Dewey Cotton
1500	Anthony Vega
1503	Daniel Miller

Sec/Membership Chair
Joe Richardson

Memorial Day 2020

County Supervisor Zaragoza
Proclamation Presentation
County Government Center
Military Monument



Memorial Day 2020

Never Forget



Jan Camacho
Our
“Den-mother”

S/Sgt James m Ray
POW/MIA
Vietnam



Dave Betti
with Sarge

2020 Scholarship Awards



S/sgt Jame M Ray

\$5000

Huy Nguyen

Son of a Vietnamese Refugee
Accepted
Cornel University



Jan Comacho

\$2500

Zakary Logie

Son of Kim
"Operation Snowflake"
Accepted to U.C. Davis



Dave Betti

\$2500

Tate Moyer

Going too
Michigan State





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