



Listening Post

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

November & December, 2020

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Listening Post

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James Ray Scholarship

Joe Richardson
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Membership

Joe Richardson
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Parades/Work Party

None

Fundraising

Manny Gonzales
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President's Message November 2020

So far 2020 is a year to forget on the one hand and a year to reevaluate priorities on the other. With Thanksgiving happening this November, I personally have much to be thankful for. I have made it through three surgeries this year, testing negative for the Covid-19 virus each time, my son and granddaughter from New Haven, CT have moved in with my wife and I and through Facebook and emails we are still able to stay in touch with the VVVC. I miss our monthly meetings and we will have to discuss what to do about the election of Board Officers and Directors later. I missed our school presentations, parades and color guards. The good news is that 2021 is just around the corner. I look forward to when we can meet again. I pray you all had a good Thanksgiving and Sue and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Dave Wilson

POW/MIA REPORT Oct – 2020

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

European & Pacific Theaters: 0

USS Oklahoma: 6

Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Alphard S. Owsley, 23, was accounted for on Sept. 14, 2020.

Marine Corps Cpl. Elmer E. Drefahl, 22, was accounted for on Sept. 29, 2020.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Charles A. Jones, 21, was accounted for on Sept. 28, 2020.

Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class George M. Gooch, 22, was accounted for on Sept. 14, 2020.

Navy Fire Controlman 1st Class Bernard R. Wimmer, 28, was accounted for on Sept. 28, 2020.

***Navy Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Shelby Treadway, 25, was accounted for on Sept. 28, 2020.**

Total from World War II:

Currently there are 72,531 Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 4

Army Pfc. Bobbie Ray Daniels, 17, was accounted for Sept. 21, 2020.

Army Pvt. Donald A. Fabrize, 17, was accounted for Sept. 21, 2020.

Army Cpl. Robert C. Agard, Jr., 19, was accounted for Sept. 29, 2020.

Marine Pfc. Henry E. Ellis, 22, was accounted for Sept. 29, 2020.

Currently there are 7,554 Americans still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Vietnam: 1

U.S. Air Force Maj. Paul A. Avolesse, 35, was accounted for Sept. 21, 2020.

Currently there are 1,572 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 Nov – 2020

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

European & Pacific Theaters: 0

USS West Virginia: 2

Navy Fireman 3rd Class William L. Barnett, 21, was accounted for on Sept. 14, 2020.

Navy Fireman 1st Class Howard D. Hodges, 20, was accounted for on Oct. 15, 2020.

USS Oklahoma: 5

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

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Navy Fireman 1st Class Edward D. Johnson, 24, was accounted for on Sept. 29, 2020.

Navy Shipfitter 1st Class Charles F. Perdue, 32, was accounted for on Oct. 14, 2020.

Navy Ship's Cook 1st Class Rodger C. Butts, 47, was accounted for on Sept. 28, 2020.

Navy Coxswain Paul L. Boemer, 21, was accounted for on Sept. 29, 2020.

Total from World War II:

Currently there are 72,524 Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Korean War: 1

***Army Cpl. Paul W. Wilkins**, 19, was accounted for Oct. 30, 2020.

Currently there are 7,553 Americans still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Vietnam: 0

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) received several Vietnam War artifacts from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) at DPAA's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 29 with the intent of ultimately returning them to Vietnam.

These artifacts, including a wallet containing family photos and an ID card, were collected by veterans during the Vietnam War, brought to the U.S. when they returned home after their tour of duty, and were recently given to the VFW's leadership in Washington, D.C., so they could be turned over to DPAA.

Currently there are 1,572 American servicemen and civilians still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War

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Ron Fitzgarrald
POW/MIA Chairman

Sick call...

Please continue to say a prayer for our members:

David Wilson
Sharon Cabrera
Joe Morris
James Connors
Doug Temple
Richard Camacho
Charlie Foote

Everyone please be careful out there! Stay healthy and safe!

Holiday Greetings....

Helen and Manuel Wish our Brother and Sister Veterans including all of the wonderful Wives a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. It has been a rocky year, We look for better days ahead in the New Year. For Veterans Day a small Ceremony was held at Oxnard Plaza Park Veterans Memorial. Please acknowledge the VVVC Color Guard Lou Morris, Ron Buckley, Leonard Urquidez, Bugler John Cabrera, Photographer Debora Ehrich, Wreaths Ed Evans, Ron Fitzgarrald, MC Joe Reyes and Guest Speaker Dave Wilson. Hope to see you all soon so I can be a pain in the See no evilJoy
Manuel Gonzales

From Ron & Pat Fitzgerald –

To all of our members and their spouses Pat and I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Stay safe and above all stay healthy.

The Morris family would like to wish all my brothers and sisters in VVVC A wonderful Thanksgiving day. November Thanksgiving 1970 was my first day in the field with the 101st airborne so that day is very special the importance of that day with my family now and not being 10,000+ miles away is precious.
Sincerely
Lou Morris&Family

Wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County Members
Debora Ehrich
Good morning, VVVC Board, & VVVC Members!

During this tumultuous period due to COVID-19 Pandemic, economic decline, & general election, I would like to encourage everyone to take the time to be thankful for their blessings.

May my Brothers & Sisters and their Spouses & Families have a Blessed Thanksgiving Day!

My best regards,

DEBORA L. EHRICH
Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County Life
Member and Board of Directors Member

Joe Catrambone called to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. He misses seeing everyone at our meetings.

Howard Tench

It goes without saying that this has been a challenging year. Putting meetings and other Veterans activities on hold has been difficult. There has been a few bright spots. A few of us were able to take advantage of MissionfishUSA offer to go fishing off the Channel Islands on Veterans Day. They were able to pull off the event with reduced loads, social distancing and facial masks. It was good to get together with fellow veterans helping each other and , of course, catch a few fish. If you get a chance to donate to this worthy cause, please do. One more thing, call someone! Let them know that we're still thinking of them during these difficult times.

Thanksgiving! I, for one, am thankful for this group of Veterans. I'm thankful for those who's dedication to issues facing Veterans, has made my retirement years much easier and fulfilling. Thank you for your friendship and caring. Be SAFE,



(Greetings continued)

Joe Reyes – I have a memory of something that happened to me many years ago, which I still think about when the subject of fish is talked about. I have enclosed it and hope it's worthy of being printed.

A Fish Story – November 25, 2020

Back in 1990 I lived in El Rio in a two bedroom house that was small, but comfortable. The kitchen had a door to the back yard where I had a makeshift grill where I would usually BBQ or cook fish so I wouldn't smell up the house.

In El Rio there are lots of neighborhood cats that would roam through the back yards looking for handouts, which I often provided something being I like cats.

One weekend my brother-in-law brought me a nice sized trout for me to cook for lunch. I was so excited about the fish that I made a fresh green salad, cooked some white rice and chilled a bottle of white wine to compliment the entre. It was a nice sunny day, so I planned to eat 'al fresco' and I set up a TV tray table in the back yard by the grill and put the salad and wine on it.

I prepared the trout with slices of lemon, parsley and a bit of salt and pepper and of course sipped on a glass of wine while doing this in anticipation of eating, all the while checking the grill to make sure the fire was just right. The delicious looking and mouth watering trout was placed in a new aluminum tray and was carefully set over the grill. OK, I thought, ten minutes tops and I'll be enjoying a fresh fish for lunch.

The phone rings - I had been expecting an important phone call, so I run into the den to answer the call. **WRONG NUMBER!** Only a couple of minutes passed so I casually return to see how my fish is coming along. I'll be damned! About a dozen neighborhood cats had turned my trout into a buffet. The aluminum tray had been dragged off the grill, which was only about a foot off the ground and my trout or the carcass lay on the grass with chunks bitten off. In my rage to chase the cats away I threw a broom at them. Of course I missed the cats, but I was able to hit the TV tray that held my salad and bottle of wine, they tumbled onto the grass. I yelled and cussed loud enough that I got the attention of my neighbors.

It took a couple of minutes to cool down and breathe a little easier, but when I did I caught a whiff of something in the air. I rushed to the kitchen and found that my white rice cooking was now the color of mud.

Disheartened, I grudgingly went to plan B for lunch. As I sat on the steps of the back porch and surveyed the remnants of the trout lunch, I felt heartburn coming on as I drank a cold beer and ate an equally cold Spam sandwich.



VVVC November 2020 Membership Report

I am going to update the membership each month (take those that pay off the list) but not drop those still on the list of due till we finally get back to normal meetings.

Annual members	44
Life Members	116
Free members	5
Total members	165

We had three members pass recently ... Henry Soper, John Smiley, Harold Shapiro

Holding onto the following membership renewals / all new membership cards and stickers will be sent after we get back together and they can be signed by our president

Annual membership due now (\$15 to renew) or \$150 Life membership (can be done in three \$50 payments)

1384	Joe Catrambone
1392	John Mills
1468	Debbie Howery
1469	'Bobbi' Vickroy/Mills
1471	Roy Villa
1472	Richard Cabrera
1482	Kenneth Rice
1483	Louis Morris
1488	Bruce Miller
1490	Ron Perkovich
1493	Edwin Luth
1506	John Gonzales
1511	Frank Lopez
1513	Ken Mayer
1515	Frank Lopez
1523	Donald Hindsman
1524	James Connors
1525	Aurthur Ingram
1526	John Haigh
1527	Richard Weiche
1529	William Bahr
1530	Peter Schultz
1532	Bud Grey
1537	John Hankins
1539	Harold Abernathy
1543	Frank McCarthy
1544	Charles Killingsworth

Sec/Membership Chair
Joe Richardson

Condolences

Re: Henry Soper

Hi, this is Tom Soper, Henry Soper's brother. I have some sad news. Henry passed away on Thursday 11/5 after a long illness. We all miss him tremendously. There was a memorial service for him on Sunday 11/22 at 1:00 in Westlake Village, CA. Details follow:

I firmed up most of the arrangements for Henry's memorial service. It was on Sunday 11/22 at 1:00 PM on the Pierce Brothers Mortuary grounds at 5600 Lindero Canyon Road in Westlake Village.

Green and white flowers will be there; those are the colors of the canoes he used to paddle in Quebec, along with an urn with Henry's ashes.

I hope many will speak about Henry. He was an amazing brother to me, and an amazing friend, teacher, mentor, doctor and teammate to countless people. And just a really nice guy.

Ten people have confirmed they won't be attending due to COVID concerns, and if you cannot attend that's ok. I understand. But let's really celebrate the amazing life of Henry Soper. Thank you.

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John Smiley passed away on November 20, 2020
For further information contact Jane Smiley.

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Harold Shapiro passed away on November 16, 2020.
For further information contact Sandy Shapiro.

Rest in Peace Veterans.



Latest links to sites with information for Veterans

Link to publication <https://health.mil/>

A research program we ALL should take part in, the Million Man study

<https://www.research.va.gov/mvp/>

For blue water Navy veterans much has changed <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/79052/vas-collaboration-nara-digitizes-vietnam-era-deck-logs/>

For info on VA dental care <https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care/>

For veterans and family needing dental insurance <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip/>

List of upcoming changes to Social Security <https://www.fool.com/retirement/2020/10/18/7-changes-to-social-security-in-2021/>

List and info of benefits when awarded 100% service connected disability

<https://www.nashville.gov/Portals/0/SiteContent/HumanResources/Veterans%20Services/ADDITIONAL%20BENEFITS%20WHEN%20RATED%20100.pdf>

The Los Angeles County Bar Assoc. provides services to veterans with upcoming events to handle traffic, debt, record clearing and other legal needs <https://www.lacba.org/give-back/veterans-legal-services-project/information-and-help-for-veterans>

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation is helping care giving families with grants

<https://hiddenheroes.org/hope-for-holidays-giveaway/>

A list of items with sites and contact info for use after death of a family member

<https://www.oprm.va.gov/docs/DeathNotificationChecklist.pdf>



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