



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

March, 2025

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Listening Post

Joe Richardson

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James Ray Scholarship

Joe Richardson

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Membership

Joe Richardson

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President's Message:

Note from LP Editor

As a cost saver and enhancement
for those getting the LP by USPS,
think about switching to email
PLEASE

VVVC – March 2025 **Membership Report**

Annual Members: 24 (good standing)
Life Members: 111
Total Members: 135

VP/Membership Chair **Joe Richardson**

I have or will contact the 9 annual members in arrears with their dues.

Sick Call...

Please continue to think about and say a prayer for our brothers and sisters:

Laurie Richardson, doing better
Barry Jenkins (myeloma)
Howard Tench thyroid issues
Ron Fitzgarrald knee replacement
Tommy Moore, says survived chemo



If you know of anyone we should be aware of
please let me know
Joe

POW/MIA REPORT Jan '25 – Feb '25



Currently there are **71,961** Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Currently there are **7,446** Americans still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Currently there are **1,575** American servicemen and civilians still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War

And still **6** American servicemen in the Iraq Theater & Other Conflicts

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

European & Pacific Theaters: 19 (9 were POW'S)

* U.S. Army Pvt. **Erwin H. Schopp**, 30, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for Jan. 24, 2025. According to prison camp and other historical records, Schopp died on Jan. 1, 1943, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 822. The complete accounting of Schopp's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

* U.S. Navy Aviation Chief Metalsmith **John W. Reimer**, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for Jan. 27, 2025. According to prison camp and other historical records, Reimer died on Oct. 24, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 710. The complete accounting of Reimer's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

* U.S. Army Air Force Tech5 **William E. Eby**, 19, of Portland, Oregon, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for August 7, 2024. Eby died June 28, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 407. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, on a date yet to be determined.

U.S. Army Pvt. **James C. Loyd**, 19, of Brilliant, Alabama, missing in action during World War II, was accounted for March 14, 2024. He will be buried in Elwood, Illinois, in May 2025.

U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. **Herbert G. Tennyson**, 24, of Wichita, Kansas, was accounted for on Sept. 25, 2024. He will be buried in Wichita, Kansas, on a date yet to be determined.

U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. **Frank A. Johnstone**, was accounted for Feb. 6, 2025. The complete accounting of Johnstone's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

* U.S. Army Pvt. **Ben F. Leslie**, 31, was accounted for Feb. 14, 2025. He was held as a **POW** by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines from 1942 to 1944 when the Japanese military moved POWs to Manila for transport to Japan aboard the transport ship *Oryoku Maru*. Unaware the allied POWs were on board, a U.S. carrier-borne aircraft attacked the *Oryoku Maru*, which eventually sank in Subic Bay. The Japanese government reported that Leslie died aboard the *Enoura Maru* on January 9, 1945.

* U.S. Army Cpl. **Floyd A. Dunning**, 32, was accounted for Feb. 18, 2025. He was held as a **POW** by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines from 1942 to 1944 when the Japanese military moved POWs to Manila for transport to Japan aboard the transport ship *Oryoku Maru*. During the transport, Japanese authorities reported that Dunning died of "wounds received in action" on Jan. 15, 1945.

U.S. Army Pvt. **Mack Kidd**, 20, was accounted for Feb. 14, 2025. He was reported to have been killed during the battle and was declared non-recoverable in August 1950. The complete accounting of Kidd's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Pfc. **Kenneth D. Burgess**, 29, of Central City, Kentucky, missing in action during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 13, 2024. In September 1943, Burgess was assigned to Company B, 4th Ranger Battalion, "Darby's Rangers," in the Mediterranean Theater of World War II. On Sept. 25, Burgess was missing in action following a patrol toward the village of Sala, Italy. His body was not recovered, and German forces never reported him a prisoner of war.

He will be buried in Central City, Kentucky in May 2025.

* U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. **James H. Murray**, 25, of Hollywood, California, who was captured and died as a **POW**, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2024. According to prison camp and other historical records, he died Nov. 22, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 816. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, on a date yet to be determined.

U.S. Army Pvt. **James G. Loterbaugh**, 35, of Roseville, Ohio, was accounted for Sept. 20, 2024.

He will be buried in Dayton, Ohio on a date yet to be determined.

U.S. Army Pvt. **James L. Harrington**, 21, of Cincinnati, Iowa, was accounted for Aug. 21, 2023.

On June 6, 1944 Harrington was aboard Landing Craft Infantry (Large) 92, along with roughly 200 other servicemembers, enroute to land on Omaha Beach, in Normandy, France. It struck an underwater mine which caused the craft to burst into flames. The craft was also hit by enemy artillery fire, causing an explosion that ignited the ships fuel stores and instantly killed everyone in the troop compartment. Harrington will be buried in Cincinnati, Iowa on a date yet to be determined.

* U.S. Army Maj. **James J. O'Donovan**, 34, who was captured and died as a **POW**. O'Donovan was accounted for Feb. 4, 2024. According to prison camp and other historical records, he died on Oct. 18, 1942, and was buried in the local

Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Grave 649. This is an initial release. The complete accounting of O'Donovan's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

* U.S. Army CWO **Charles G. Benthien**, 46, was accounted for Feb. 25, 2025. He was held as a **POW** by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines until 1944 when the Japanese military moved POWs to Manila for transport to Japan aboard the transport ship *Oryoku Maru*. Unaware the allied POWs were on board, a U.S. carrier-borne aircraft attacked the *Oryoku Maru*, which eventually sank in Subic Bay. Benthien was then transported to Takao, Formosa, known today as Taiwan, aboard the *Enoura Maru*. On Jan. 9, 1945, the Japanese reported that Benthien was killed when U.S. forces attacked and sank the *Enoura Maru*.

* U.S. Army 2nd Lt. **William B. Bucey**, 29, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for March 3, 2025. Bucey died Oct. 31, 1944 and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 836. The complete accounting of Bucey's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Sgt. **Ivor D. Thornton**, 34, was accounted for March 10, 2025. He was reportedly killed during the invasion of Omaha Beach. His remains were not accounted for following the war.

The complete accounting of Thornton's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

** U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. **Russell O. Chitwood**, 27, was accounted for March 4, 2025. The complete accounting of Chitwood's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

USS West Virginia: 1

U.S. Navy Gunner's Mate 3rd Class **Arnold E. Lyon**, 22, was accounted for on July 21, 2023.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 106 crewmen, including Lyon.

The complete accounting of Lyon's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

Korean War: 6

* U.S. Army Pfc. **Willard H. Edwards**, 39 of Wise, Virginia, was accounted for Sept. 26, 2023. He was reported killed in action on Dec. 2 after his unit was attacked by enemy forces as they attempted to withdraw near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He will be buried in Mims, Florida, on a date yet to be determined.

* U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class **Walter Archie Ross Jr.**, 29, of St. Louis, Missouri, who died as a **POW** during the Korean War, was accounted for June 7, 2024. He was captured by the CCF, and while in captivity died from dysentery in April 1951 at the Suan POW Camp Complex in North Korea. He will be buried in Missouri, on a date yet to be determined.

U.S. Army Sgt. **George M. Barbieri**, 23, was accounted for Feb. 26, 2025. He was reported missing in action Dec. 2, 1950, in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, after the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. The complete accounting of Barbieri's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Sgt. **Rosslyn E. Gresens**, 22, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Feb. 28, 2025. This is an initial release. The complete accounting of Gresens's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Cpl. Lester **William Bauer**, 20, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for March 4, 2025. This is an initial release. The complete accounting of Bauer's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

* U.S. Army Pfc. **George A. Curley Jr.**, 18, was accounted for March 3, 2025. Based on information from returning POWs, it was determined that Curley died as a **POW** at Camp 5 near Pyoktong, DPRK in March 1951. The complete accounting of Curley's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

Vietnam: 0

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

****To respect the next-of-kin, individuals are only displayed as "Accounted For" in the grids and case profiles when (1) DPAA has made the identification, and (2) the next-of-kin has been notified.****

General & Board Meetings overview (lots of events coming up)

Old Business

- Joe, scholarship chair, getting lots of phone calls, But Agoura High not in Ventura County
- Joe, Board took action to form a committee of 3-5 + Pres. And VP to work on updating the bylaws

New Business

- Jess asked if there was any contact or efforts to follow up on Richard Picos' school donation project for E.O. Green school (if any member knows the current situation please contact me)
- Fred, shared he and Walt had spoken with Jim Britton, past President VVVC now in Bakersfield
- **John, announced that our 40th reunion celebration would be held May 24th at the Pena residence, most of the needs have been donated, open to get more donations and to check with Hilda what you can bring. Event to start at noon.**
- Richard, reminded everyone about the opening ceremonies at CSCI for George Sandivals' 'We Remember', color guard to assemble by 1p (call Joe) event @ 2p
- Richard, there is an invitation to 'Reins of Hope' 11250 Topa Vista Rd. Santa Paula on April 6th
- Mixer May 25, for Expo scheduled April 3, He and Debora have free tickets
- VVVC will provide color guard for Ojai July 3rd concert Libby Park 6P interested call Ron or Joe
- VVVC will be leadoff color guard for Ojai July 4th Parade, John onsite 7a, walkers call Ron
- Richard, shared. If you are working on a Wall event remember to NOT use/mention suicides, use KIA
- Richard, thanked all for the attendance and recognitions at the BOS meeting
- John, shared an emotional thank-you to those that attended Richard Cabrera's funeral service and he made a donation to the VVVC
- Richard, shared that Tommy Moore, VVVC life member in Australia, has successfully completed his chemo therapy
- Bob Citron, shared he has found his new home in Roseburg Oregon and will be permanently moving as soon as his home sale here is completed
- Ron, reminded all about the event at Royal High School for First Responders and Veterans. May 17th.
- Ron, also reminded all about the color guard at CSCI Mar. 29 (call him or Joe)

VVVC was again honored to be asked to sit with Congresswoman Julia Brownley to discuss Veterans

<https://juliabrownley.house.gov/brownley-hosts-roundtable-with-veterans-to-discuss-impact-of-vacuts/>



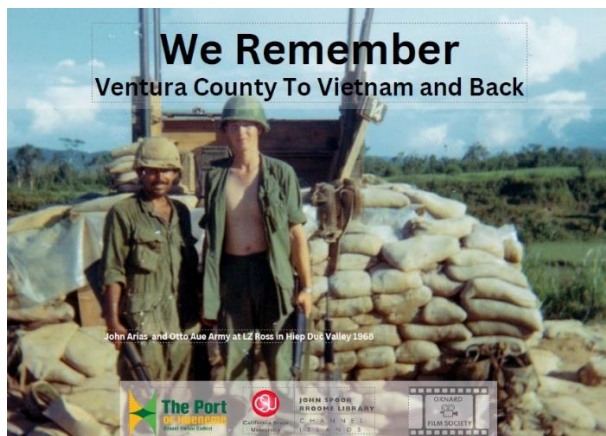
Big doings at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting with Richard Camacho being honored for his 40 years in service to our Veterans in Ventura County. For those that were not able to attend here is a link to a tape of the 16 minutes for Richard and below a picture. (copy and past the link in your browser) Proclamations home on the wall

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19F4skyiiir6-N5DVC987YZUBvodWGxIZ/view>



George Sandivals' "We Remember" at CSCI

VVVC will provide color guards at opening ceremony





We Remember
Ventura County to Vietnam and Back
Produced by George J. Sandoval and Oxnard Film Society
Saturday, March 29, 2025 to Friday, May 30
at the John Spoor Broome Library at CSU Channel Islands. Event Admission is Free.

An Exhibition on the Vietnam War featuring Ventura County Veteran Interviews, Films, Music, and Readings on the Vietnam Experience

Exhibit opening: Saturday, March 29, program begins at 2pm

Please refer to the exhibition website for ongoing programming, parking permit info, and to RSVP:
<https://libguides.csuci.edu/events/we-remember>



Ventura County half-scale wall plans before and on Memorial Day

The City of Oxnard is planning on having THE WALL at Plaza Park the week before Memorial Day

The City of Simi Valley is having the Antelope Valley Wall on Memorial Weekend (see posters below)

Calling For Volunteers

To Help With Community Project

Over Memorial weekend, 2025, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will host the AV Wall. The AV Wall is a half-scale size tribute monument of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C.

First: To enhance the display, we would like to create a ribbon of crocheted poppies surrounding the exhibit. To do this, we will need around 5,000 individual crocheted poppies. (Between 3-5 inches in diameter)

We are reaching out to members of our community and surrounding communities, service groups, and anyone who might like to help us with this massive project.

To learn more please go to: www.RSRPD.org or email: Jeannie@rsrpd.us

To learn how to crochet a poppy via YouTube, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSR5GV4IE0>

Second: We also need volunteer assistance throughout the four-day event, beginning on Friday, May 23rd through Tuesday, May 27th. Volunteers are needed around the clock, starting Friday, and going through Tuesday morning, approximately 300 volunteers.

Volunteer positions include:

- Setting Up
- Wall Walkers
- Night Owl Attendant
- Greeters
- Computer Assistance
- Tear-down





****VOLUNTEERS MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER AND ATTEND A TRAINING CLASS PRIOR TO VOLUNTEERING**

To register, we are using **Signup.com**. Please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Use these links to go to our invitation page on **SignUp**:
<https://signup.com/go/PKZJLCK> (for Volunteer training)
OR
<https://signup.com/go/oizDvniA> (to volunteer for the event)
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on **SignUp**)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots – **SignUp** will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: **SignUp** does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please Jeannie@rsrpd.us and she will sign you up manually.

For questions, please email: Jeannie@rsrpd.us



Remember

Most walls keep people out. This wall brings people together.

The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall is a half-scale mobile replica of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

When:
Friday, May 23rd at 3 pm through Tuesday, May 27th at 8 am

Where:
Rancho Tapo Community Park and Veterans Plaza, 3700 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063

Opening Ceremony:
Friday, May 23rd at 5:30 pm

Closing Ceremony:
Monday, May 26th at 11 am

Taps Nightly at 10 pm

Information:
www.RSRPD.org and www.AVWall.org
For more information, please email Jeannie@rsrpd.us or call 805-526-6453

