



Listening Post

September, 2025

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

Executive Officers

President, Fred Hoff
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V.P., Donald 'Skip' Thomas

Secretary, Joe Richardson
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Treasurer, Kay Gray
(805) 890-7645
POA., Richard Camacho
(805) 384-9138

Board of Directors

Wally Terry
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Irene Hoff
(805) 794-6243
Howard Tench
(805) 312-1977
Bud Gray
(805) 890-7645
Chris Sopko
(805) 907-8368

VVVC- Aug 2025

Membership Report

Annual members 22
Life members 114
Total members 136

Committees

Chaplain

Jesse Echevarria

Merchandise

Howard Tench

Parades/Events

vacant

Fund-raising

Irene Hoff

POW/MIA

Richard Camacho

LP Editor

Joe Richardson

James Ray Scholarship

Joe Richardson

Membership

Joe Richardson

President's Message:

Fred slowly recovering from shoulder replacement surgery, attempts to get him a disability rating still not going well
jr

LP Editor

note to those receiving the LP by mail instead of email, please consider switching you will get it sooner, with color, and save VVVC roughly \$5 each/mo.

Sick Call

Barry Jenkins
Richard 'Dickie' Pena
Walter 'Wally' Terry
Laurie and Joe Richardson
Fred Hoff
John Cabrera

News from August Executive and General sessions:

A number of important issues were addressed and resolved. We have a new VP. Skip Thomas, Wally Terry who resigned from the VP spot will remain as a board member, Richard Camacho is taking over the vacant spot at POA with the passing of Ron, along with continuing the POW/MIA monthly reports Howard reported the first day of the Air show was Very profitable.



POW/MIA REPORT

Master Sgt. JAMES HENRY CALFEE

- Unit DET 1 1043 RAD EVAL SQ BOLLING
- Historical Country of Loss Laos
- Current Country of Loss LAOS
- Home of Record* TX

Cpl. MARVIN SILVESTER PATTON

- Unit B Company 1st Battalion 21st Infantry Regiment 24th Infantry Division
- Historical Country of Loss Osan, South Korea
- Current Country of Loss KOREA, SOUTH
- Home of Record* VA

Cpl. GEORGE THOMAS HILL

- Unit B Company, 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division
- Historical Country of Loss South Korea
- Current Country of Loss KOREA, SOUTH
- Home of Record* CA

Cpl. LONNIE FIELDS

- Unit I Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division
- Historical Country of Loss Yong-San, South Korea
- Current Country of Loss KOREA, SOUTH
- Home of Record* TX

Sgt. RAY JOHNSON

- Unit C Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division
- Historical Country of Loss South Korea
- Current Country of Loss KOREA, NORTH
- Home of Record* OK

Staff Sgt. ROBERT A KEUCHEL

- Unit 429 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON 2 BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)
- Historical Country of Loss Poland
- Current Country of Loss POLAND
- Home of Record* NE

Cpl. DONALD J BURMINGHAM

- Unit F CO 2/5 REGT 1CAV
- Historical Country of Loss South Korea
- Current Country of Loss KOREA, SOUTH
- Home of Record* NY

EDWIN E ROSS

- Unit 17 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON 27 BOMBARDMENT GROUP (LIGHT)
- Historical Country of Loss Philippine Islands
- Current Country of Loss PHILIPPINES
- Home of Record* MS

Cpl. WILLIAM H DIEKMANN

- Unit HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON 24 PURSUIT GROUP
- Historical Country of Loss Philippine Islands
- Current Country of Loss PHILIPPINES
- Home of Record* CA

Sgt. 1st Class JACK BENTON BAKER

- Unit E Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division
- Historical Country of Loss South Korea
- Current Country of Loss KOREA, SOUTH
- Home of Record* IL

Pfc. WALTER PAUL PYTAK

- Unit C Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division
- Historical Country of Loss North Korea
- Current Country of Loss KOREA, NORTH
- Home of Record* NY

Staff Sgt. GUSTAVE SECUNDA

- Unit 710 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON 447 BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)
- Country of Loss North Sea or Tyrrhenian Sea
- Body of Water NORTH SEA (I)
- Home of Record* MA

Pvt. ALFRED T LANGEVIN

- Unit 109 INFANTRY 28 DIVISION
- Historical Country of Loss Germany
- Current Country of Loss GERMANY
- Home of Record* MA

WW II 71,882

Korea 7,401

VN 1,566

CW 126

Gulf 7

In Memoriam



Ron Fitzgarrald

POA POW/MIA

Color Guard at
Manny Mansion
Flag retirement ceremony

Tim Tobin

Decades long
Vietnam Experience
Talker at H.S.
(in chair) this year
At Moorpark



Honoring Tim Tobin, Army, and Vietnam Veteran

First, I would like to thank VVVC members Joe Richardson, Debora Ehrich, Bud, and Kay Gray, for attending Tim Tobin's memorial service on August 23 rd .

I first met Tim between 1998 and 2000, my agency assigned me to Litton Agoura, CA as a Contract Specialist, for Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). Tim was the government liaison for Litton. We often negotiated contract terms and prices for DoD contracts.

After I had learned that Tim was a Vietnam Veteran, I invited him to present his Vietnam experiences at Moorpark High School.

Besides Moorpark, Tim and I presented our experiences at Thousand Oaks high, Camarillo High, Chaminade High, Sacred Heart High, Newbury Park High, Newbury Park Academy, Redwood Middle School, and Anacapa Middle School.

Even though Tim never joined the VVVC, Tim presented with me for over twenty-five plus years.

In 2003 when I was raising funds for Ventura County Veteran Memorial Highway Signs, Tim was successful in obtaining a \$5,000 donation from Litton Woodland Hills.

Rest in peace Tim.

Richard Camacho

Upcoming Events

Sept 27 Port Hueneme Banana Festival (booth needs manning, contact Howard Tench)

Oct 25 Reins of Hope (need color guard, volunteers contact Joe Richardson)

REINS OF H.O.P.E.



Supporting Veterans,
Active Military
and Under-served Youth

Fall Fundraiser



Saturday, October 25th, 2025
3pm to 8pm @OjaiSageRanch

11250 Topa Vista, Santa Paula, CA. 93060
Tickets are \$75.00 for an all inclusive BBQ, Open Bar, Silent Auction,
Raffle, and Poop Bingo. Live music by Restless Diesel Band

Some of this months events



**Howard
&
104 yr old
WWII vet**



Wings Over Camarillo Air Show



**Howard and Richard
Manning the store**



**One more from Ojai
4th July Parade
Suzy Cadham**