



The California Zephyr

Official Publication of the VVA California State Council
An Organization Chartered By The U.S. Congress



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18-3

SUMMER 2016

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well the 2016 State Convention is history. We had a great turnout, the largest that I can remember. Business was taken care of in a timely, courteous and professional manner. I want to thank all the delegates who attended the convention, without you we would not have a CSC Convention. Thank You.

I do believe everyone had a good time.

We had great entertainment on Thursday evening with "The Band" entertaining us at the convention get together. They again entertained us at the reception on Saturday night prior to the banquet. Thank You "The Band."

Then at the banquet we had a group of young kids called "Desiah" sing for us. They had everyone in attendance involved with their songs. People were on their feet for some of the music. Thank You "Desiah."

One of the co-founders of "Desiah," John Lewis, is a Vietnam Veteran Marine and now a Life Member of VVA.

I want to thank all those involved with making the convention go off without any problems, you know who you are, Thank You.

Be sure to check out the pictures here in the Zephyr.

A few months ago the CSC Treasurer, Barry Schloffel, came to me with an idea to have a CSC Board of Directors get away right after the elections. Now this is not a vacation to the beach or the mountains. It is for the entire board to get together, away from the regular CSC meetings so that we can sit down and discuss the future plans for the CSC. I brought the idea to the CSC BOD and all agreed it was a great idea. So over the weekend of August 13-14th the CSC BOD will be meeting in Visalia to discuss our plans and ideas for the CSC over the next two years. We have a full agenda to go through. We should have a full report at the August CSC meeting in Fresno.

Speaking of the CSC quarterly meetings in Fresno. We always have a great turnout for our meetings, but I would like to see more individuals attend. If your chapter can afford to send someone besides your delegate then send them. We would love to have them attend. If you have extra chapter members at the meeting then your chapter can cover more than one tier at a time. I am trying to get other members from Chapter 47 besides our delegate and chapter member John Weaver to attend. I think they attendees will see just how busy we are at our meetings and they just might learn how we operate. Just a thought.

Finally I want to thank all the VVA members for being members. Without you we are nothing.

God Bless the USA

Steve Mackey

CHAPTER NOTES



VVA Chapter 53's newly reformed color guard at the Green Hills ceremony. front row from left to right: Ed Sakihama (rifle), John Warhank, Richard Carlos, Bob Chiota, Kirk Gillett (rifle). second row between the flag bearers from the left in black berets are Steve Crecy and Ray Frew.

VVA Chapter 982 attended our annual Elks Parade in Santa Maria in June. Also in June our Chapter visited Lompoc prison at an open house event. We met with some incarcerated Veterans and talked directly with the warden setting up a meeting in the next few months to meet with incarcerated Vietnam Veterans at the prison.

We were also represented at the State Convention, thank you all who were able to attend from our chapter. Chapter 982 started our new project of bringing young folks who

just going into the service. We reported on that in an earlier issue and it has become a reality. The two young men are our newest AVVA members and are going into the Marines in August. Richard Segovia and Penny Chamousis attended the Leadership Conference in Phoenix. Thank you guys. A busy summer for most folks, short report and no pictures this time and I'm on the road doing this report so probably forgot something. Will do better next issue. Take care all.

Jerry Kaufman, President



VVA Chapter 47 participated in the Ontario, CA 4th of July Parade. Mike Kennedy's truck (above) led the way and also transported some members in the back. The spectators greeted them all with cheers.

VVA Chapter 201 Provides Vietnamese Scholarships

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201 is providing scholarships for four Vietnamese children under The "Dragoon Scholarship Fund" in conjunction with the Children of Vietnam NGO, headquartered in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Richard Brummett, a member of VVA Chapter 165 in Bellingham, Washington, served in the Army's 1st Armored Cavalry in Vietnam between 1967 and 1968. He returned to Vietnam in the summer of 1970 as a freelance photographer. In 2011 Richard came up with the idea, in partnership with the NGO, the Children of Vietnam, to make small scholarships (\$130) available for the children of the village of An Son, a few miles west of where Richard served on Hawk Hill (Hill 29) in the former Quang Tin Province. An Son is a poor area and most of the villagers earn their difficult livelihood as farmers. The annual scholarship money goes to poor families that cannot afford school supplies or need tutoring for their sons or daughters, or a bicycle for them to ride the several miles to the nearest schools.



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The California
Zephyr
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Published Quarterly to all members of California VVA and AVVA as part of their membership.

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of VVA, the State Council or its members.

Who Are The Vietnam Veterans Of America?
Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE
"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another."

PURPOSE
The purpose of Vietnam Veterans of America's national organization, the state councils, and chapters is:

To help foster, encourage, and promote the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam veteran.

To promote physical and cultural improvement, growth and development, self-respect, self-confidence, and usefulness of Vietnam-era veterans and others.

To eliminate discrimination suffered by Vietnam veterans and to develop channels of communications which will assist Vietnam veterans to maximize self-realization and enrichment of their lives and enhance life-fulfillment.

To study, on a non-partisan basis, proposed legislation, rules, or regulations introduced in any federal, state, or local legislative or administrative body which may affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others; and to develop public-policy proposals designed to improve the quality of life of the Vietnam-era veteran and others especially in the areas of employment, education, training, and health.

To conduct and publish research, on a non-partisan basis, pertaining to the relationship between Vietnam-era veterans and the American society, the Vietnam War experience, the role of the United States in securing peaceful co-existence for the world community, and other matters which affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others.

To assist disabled and needy war veterans including, but not limited to, Vietnam veterans and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.

FUNDING
Vietnam Veterans of America relies totally on private contributions for its revenue. VVA does not receive any funding from federal, state, or local governments.



The Dragoon Scholarship Fund is a unique program where the names of individual students are provided to donors that have supported them. San Jose's VVA Chapter 201 Member Jack Wells, working with Richard Brummett, was instrumental in coordinating scholarships from the Chapter to the Dragoon Scholarships Fund. Jack Wells served in Vietnam as a forward observer with the 7th Marines. He published his book "Class of 67" in 2010 as a memorial to his 44 classmates who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country during the War in Vietnam. Jack has returned on occasion to Vietnam and has met some of the Chapter 201 scholarship recipients. Richard returns to An Son village annually and takes photos of the students.

Richard took the photo of two of the four children that San



Jose's VVA Chapter 201 is sponsoring this year.

VVA Chapter 355, 'The Lost Patrol,' Santa Clarita, CA is sad to announce the passing of our brother and recently joined life member, Agustin Garibay. Our condolences and support go out to his wife Esperanza and his entire family. Nick Callas here, President of our GREAT

Happiness and Humor Making a Better You



SAVE THE DATE
FREE! ANNUAL WOMEN VETERANS
RESOURCE FAIR and LUNCHEON

OCTOBER 29, 2016

10:30am-2:30pm

University of Redlands

Orton Center

Keynote: Dr. Lamees Khorshid, Health Psychologist

VA Greater Los Angeles

Receive Women Veteran Commemorative Coin

CalVet Women Veterans Affairs

VA Benefits Resources

Entertainment by Mel Austin, Squeaky Clean Comedy

(Registration information coming soon)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Chapter 355, Vietnam Veterans of America. On the "tragic" loss of our Brother, Friend, and PROUD U.S. Veteran, Agustin "Augie" Garibay. The accident occurred on July 11, 2016 in Mexico. Augie's wife Esperanza, his son Adrian, and Augie's niece, along with Augie's remains were "finally" able to return to the U.S. this week.

VVA Chapter 702 founder Ross Hall - Sadly, Ross passed away recently. He had been ill for several years and these past months for him was a challenge.



wife Christine. Ross received military honors.

Peace,
Almon, President

[Editor's Note: I think I first met Ross in 1992, or right around there, in Fresno at a council meeting. He was a regular at the CSC Meetings and I forged a good friendship with him. We spent many hours at the meetings and tiers discussing VVA business. And also, fortunately, many hours socially discussing everything from grapes to traffic. I will truly miss Ross and his wealth of knowledge. RIP - see you on the other side.]



The California AVVA election were held on 4-29-16 and here is the new board. From left to right, Elayne Mackey, Penny Chamois, Carol Southern and Nina Schoffel. Congratulations to all!

WOMEN VETERANS

Kate O'Hare-Palmer, Women Veterans Chair

Greetings at the close of the Tucson Leadership Conference: VVA 2016. This is only the second leadership conference that I have attended, but this was the best! The Women Veteran Committee put on the Seminar on National Cemetery Administration: Veterans and Survivors Benefits. Anita Hanson, Deputy Un-



Kate and friend Patti Ehline...they worked together in Chu Lai...she is on Colorado state council now.

derSecretary for Management for the VA and Jerry Rainey, Director, Phoenix National Cemetery, NCA, and Fr. Phil Salois, VVA National Chaplain helped me with this presentation. There is a Power Point from our seminar and it is available if you let me know. I will send it out to the State Council Presidents so that they can send it on. There were handouts taken from the National Cemetery Website that you can download for the nuts and bolts of 'how to' for information on how to get started. Please go there and check it out. The criteria for you and your spouse ability to be buried together are of importance. Also, there is a new program coming up in September that will allow folks to "preschedule" a national cemetery area. Ms. Hanson also described the differences between Arlington Cemetery(still maintained by the Army) and VA National cemeteries.

There were too many seminars to go over here, and hopefully, your representatives will be giving reports at each chapter level from the information that they are bringing back. We should be exceptionally proud the seminar on Recognizing and Living with Secondary PTSD. Elayne Mackey and Nina Schloffel, Program Co-Chair & Facilitator, along with

Drs. Tom Berger and Tom Hall presented the first ever information to the National Level of VVA. We have been



Tucson Leadership Conference laying of wreath for POW/MIA. (l to r) VVA President John Rowan and AVVA President Sharon Hobbs

spoiled to have this at CSC level for a few years now... but the secret is out! Hopefully, other state councils will be starting their programs.

The new VVA.org: Harnessing the capabilities of the Internet: Jeff Greulich, Webmaster. This was a walk.. step by step through our new website. Key button: Resource Button...located on lower edge of the bottom of the page. This is where members can get all the forms that they need and it also has our national resolutions and information that you need. The new webpage is directed to non- veterans.. those that are interested learning about

CSC Members Honored

9th Annual California State Assembly Veterans of the Year Luncheon

The 9th annual Veterans of the Year Luncheon was held at the Sacramento Convention Center on June 29, 2016. Each Assemblymember is given the opportunity to choose a veteran from their district to be honored for their military and community service.

This event was well attended with 66 Assemblymembers participating and 69 veterans honored. This year, almost 400 people attended this event. The Speaker of the California State Assembly, Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) was the keynote speaker. The Veterans Recognition Luncheon is considered the premier Capitol veterans event.

The Vietnam Veterans of America-California State Council is a longstanding major sponsor of this event. Council 1st Vice President Dean Gotham represented the VVA at the head table. 2nd Vice President Dick Southern, Central Coast Director Richard Segovia, and Chapter 500 President Marty Snezek attended and were seated at the VVA's reserved table. VVA-CSC Legislative Chair Ken Holybee was also at the head table as the President of the California State Commanders Veterans Council.

This year, three VVA-CSC members were honored by their local Assemblymember:

- Robert Hatch by Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian (R-San Luis Obispo)
- Eugene Cota by Assemblywoman Catherine Baker (R-Dublin)
- Dennis Wild by Assemblywoman Autumn Burke (D-Inglewood)



Figure 1: Head table L to R: Dean Gotham (VVA-CSC), ASM Rocky Chavez, Brigadier General Laura Yeager (CANG), Ken Holybee (VVA-CSC & CSA)



Figure 2: L to R: VVA member Dennis Wild, ASM Catherine Baker.



Figure 3: VVA-CSC table, L to R: Carol Southern, Dick Southern, Richard Segovia.

us...and hopefully donate to help our programs. We all need to spend time to navigate through it. Jeff got many suggestions for us...especially about membership...and the chapter information page so that those vets looking for a chapter in their area will be able to find it quickly from the map that is up...but also more about what each chapter is about with just a few clicks.

Finally, the virtues of Veterans Treatment Court seminar. The former warden at Rikers Prison in Florida and the Veteran Mentors: Tony Galleo and Gary Neuman and Dominick Yezzo, our VVA comm. Chairman (Judge, Vet Treatment Courts, NY) presented the most amazing seminar. They described the relationship of PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injuries and its influence on behavior of veterans that precedes some of their subsequent prison sentences. Keeping Veterans out of prison with diversion programs and a whole court "team" of understanding providers is key. Those veterans in prison in parts of Florida have been fortunate enough to be in a program of veterans living in dorms and treated like soldiers. They get their squad mentality back...standing side by side with mentors. This is key. They also have developed the "Scared Straight" program and the "Dog Companion" program. A very successful program and this seminar advocated for a similar program to be started all across the United States. As Dominic said, "Power is defined as an ability to act." We can do it.

Until next time.....

WOMEN RECALL TIME SERVED IN VIETNAM

By Carol Graham

They existed in a sort of time-warp, these smart, gutsy young women - the unheralded members of an unpopular war.

They boarded airplanes in California wearing pencil skirts, high heels and white gloves - and disembarked 18 hours later nearly 8,000 miles away in a jungle with air as heavy as a wet towel.

It was the late '60s when the four women set out, separately, to serve in Vietnam. They would return to a different world - indeed, as different people.

On May 21, Pleasanton's Museum on Main hosted "Women in War: Work in a Man's World," a free program during which the veterans spoke of their experiences in the Vietnam War.

"The GIs called Vietnam the World of Hurt, and after a while we began to hurt with them," said Cathleen Cordova, then an Army Service Club director. "Like sponges, we soaked up all their stories, their hurt, their pain, their fears and their anger. Many times the soldiers were brought directly out of the field and literally dropped at our Service Club doorstep. They would be tired, dirty, smelly, and armed to the teeth. Some were still shaking from adrenaline, unable to hold the cups of Kool-Aid or coffee we offered them. Others were in shock and wanted to be left alone."

Vietnam's Service Clubs were recreation centers that offered safe, homey places for soldiers to relax, read, listen to music, play games or write letters.

"Our job as caregivers was to be positive, cheerful, supportive at all times, and to smile and provide diversion from the death and destruction that were part of the soldiers' daily existence. It was a tall order for any 20-year-old with little life experience," said Cordova. "One young soldier I tried to console glared at me and said, 'What do you know about anything? You're just a war cheerleader.' I was stung and hurt, but I learned that sometimes there are no words to console, that it's best to just be quiet and empathize."

Cordova, a Pleasanton resident, is the Past National President of the Women's Overseas Service League (WOSL).

"Most people are unaware that there were American women in Vietnam during the war," said Cordova. "They were there with organizations such as the Army Special Services, Red Cross, United Services Organization (USO), Catholic Relief, and Operation Baby Lift, to name a few."

As the four women spoke it became clear that, despite common themes, their experiences were unique.

For Bobbie Davis of Sunnyvale, memories of the war are largely positive and involve forming lifelong friendships, including Cordova. They had been the only two women on the airplane leaving Travis Air Force Base for Vietnam in 1968. They quickly bonded over their outdated uniforms, and have remained friends since.

"I also have a vivid memory of learning about the moon landing from the Stars and Stripes' front-page picture of a full moon, then trying to explain to my sweet hooch (house) maid what it was all about when I had no

CHAPTER 582 VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA & THE BAMBI INN



5th ANNUAL
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\$10 AGES 6-10
FREE AGES 5-0**



**Dynamite Awards, Drawings
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www.vva582.org or

Facebook: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 582 Butte County

LIVE MUSIC BY THE ALTERNATORS

Vietnamese and she had very limited English," Davis said. "I suspect she still thinks I was totally dinky dau (crazy).

"We all live isolated lives. No matter how much media coverage is given to distant events - whether in a town down the road or a country overseas - we need to work hard to understand what people are experiencing," Davis added. "Once we gain a semblance of understanding, we can start developing more empathy and tolerance. Maybe then we can start working toward real peace - internally as well as externally."

Women in War was presented in honor of Armed Forces Day, May 21, and Memorial Day, May 30.

"Each speaker was so insightful, and had a story or anecdote that resonated with me," said Museum on Main's Director of Education, Sarah Schaefer. "They reflected on the hell of being in a war zone, but also shared stories

about having fun, laughing and making lifelong friends. Each woman, in her own way, emphasized that both during and after war there can be good."

Barbara Hamilton was a Berkeley resident in 1967 when she applied to go to Vietnam as a secretary for the United States Agency for International Development.

"I went at the height of the war, arriving in Saigon seven weeks before the Tet Offensive. I also worked as a volunteer at the An Lac Orphanage on the weekends," said Hamilton, of Concord. "It was a life-changing experience that gave me respect for other people, and increased my desire to keep learning about cultures around the world, knowing that all people really want in life is to live in peace."

Livermore's Sally Trautwein, then a social worker for the U.S. Army 3rd Field Hospital, shared a harrowing ac-

count of evading a kidnapping attempt, along with a comical story about a monkey she inherited from a transferring serviceman.

"The monkey was an alcoholic," she said. "You had to watch your drinks because he'd steal them and get drunk, which didn't take much because he was a spider monkey. He'd start screeching, then pass out."

"The war was good and bad," she added. "I came back no longer fearing anything. It made me dangerous. It made me value life. It made me less trustful. It made me forever connected to our military. It made me dislike loud noises and war movies. It gave me PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder)."

Returning to the U.S. - a world of mini-skirts, long hair and violent peace rallies - each of the women faced a new struggle.

15th Biennial California State Council Convention





ties.

The number of Veterans with PTSD varies by service era:

- Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF): About 11-20 out of every 100 Veterans (or between 11-20%) who served in OIF or OEF have PTSD in a given year.

- Gulf War (Desert Storm): About 12 out of every 100 Gulf War Veterans (or 12%) have PTSD in a given year.

- Vietnam War: About 15 out of every 100 Vietnam Veterans (or 15%) were currently diagnosed with PTSD at the time of the most recent study in the late 1980s, the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (NVVRS). It is estimated that about 30 out of every 100 (or 30%) of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime.

We moved from the East Coast to San Francisco six years ago. Here, I encouraged Anthony to start seeking help and realize that a lot of the struggles he faced were due to his service years in Vietnam. He connected to the local VA Medical Center and started meeting with doctors and counselors. More and more, he started to see that he needed to start treating his PTSD, which would help him to overcome other issues in his life. His first step was to enter into a transitional treatment program called The Hearn House in Santa Rosa. Upon graduation, he moved to the program's next phase at the Rocca House in Rohnert Park. During the time he went through these programs, he started talking with other veterans that were facing similar situations. He learned to start opening up and talk about what was wrong. More importantly, he began to realize that PTSD caused him to lose a lot in life – housing, jobs, family, relationships, friends, and respect for self. He had preferred the street over relationships with people that cared for him. By working on self, Anthony was able to qualify for the HUD Vash Program, where he continued to receive the support he needed to become a fully functional member of the community. After 1 year, he returned his voucher so that another veteran could have the same opportunity that he received from the program. Anthony went from homeless to homeowner within 3 years of being in Santa Rosa.

After several years of treatment, he started becoming proud of his Veteran status rather than ashamed. He joined the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #223 in Santa Rosa and became actively involved in the Chapter. He started speaking in the high schools as to his time in Vietnam. He became part of the Ducky Brigade, a fundraising program aimed at supporting Veteran's needs in the community. They accept donations for veteran's pins, hats, T-shirts, decorated rubber ducks, etc. at local Markets, Air Shows, and the local VA Medical Center to name a few.

He served as a Donation Coordinator with the Furniture Program at the Vet Connect in Santa Rosa. This is where he came across Max, his service dog. Max became his friend and took care of him, being with him at all times. Even at times when he didn't want anyone around, Max was always there. Knowing Anthony and seeing how Max helped to heal and bring out feelings he never expressed, I realized, then, that losing Max would have devastated him and sent him back into the world he was so desperately trying to leave.

Anthony chose to travel back home to reconnect with his family recently. Because he didn't want to leave Max and Lady (his other service dog) at home, he decided it would be best to take both dogs with him. This was a big challenge

CHAPTER 464 Redwood City

In the past 4 1/2 months, Chapter 464

- Held the 3rd Annual "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" Car Show, BBQ & Program; AVVA 201 did the Color Guard Honors and a Best in Show plaque was given out. (Photos #1,2,3)
- Attended the All Veterans Day at the Sacramento State Capitol and Welcome Home Program at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Attended San Jose Chapter 201 AVVA's 9th Anniversary Celebration (#4) 464 President Gary Higgins, (#5) 201 President Dave Sanders addressing the largest AVVA Chapter in the country
- Participated in Good Turn Day (#6) and the Memorial Day Program at Golden Gate Cemetery in San Bruno
- Participated in the Sonoma Raceway's Military Job Fair
- Marched in the Redwood City 4th of July Parade and won 1st place for Senior Color Guard (#7 & 8)
- Sponsored and grilled a BBQ lunch for the Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans at the VA Outpatient Clinic in San Bruno
- Participated in burial honors at Presidio of San Francisco by sending a firing detail.



#1-3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8

"You could clear a room just by saying you had been in Vietnam," said Cordova. "No one wanted to talk to you or hear what you had to say, unless of course they wanted to argue or call you names."

"Coming home, I felt alone and ostracized," said Hamilton. "None of the people I'd left three years before wanted to hear about Vietnam."

"I didn't tell people, but the ones who knew thought I was crazy," said Trautwein, adding, "It is OK to be against the war, but don't be against the warrior."

Then, nearly five decades after their service, the women received a long-overdue message from a male veteran in the audience. "On behalf of 2.5 million Vietnam vets, I want to thank you for serving," he said. "Thank you very much."

"It was a very touching moment," said Schaefer. "I hope attendees broadened their understanding of the Vietnam War, and the long tradition of civilian women supporting troops in war, specifically those in Vietnam. These women's stories deserve to be heard."

To learn more, visit www.museumonmain.org, or email Cathleen Cordova at ccordova090@hotmail.com.

A VET, HIS DOG – AND PTSD

Written by Mary Rivers and Anthony Tate

Anthony has asked me to write this story because he trusted me to be able to express exactly how he feels as I know his inner person – his thoughts and lack of trust towards others. Trust is a trait not shared among the veteran population, especially for those suffering with PTSD and other visible and invisible disabilities. Veterans are promised assistance that never materializes. Trying to get in to see doctors is not quick enough. Promises are made but never kept.

Anthony, an African American, denied his veteran status for years because of the stigma that was attached to Vietnam Veterans. He disconnected from his family – his sister, brothers, and children. He became callous to life and proceeded in a downward spiral because he, unknowingly, suffered from PTSD.

According to the National Center for PTSD, about 7 or 8 out of every 100 people (or 7-8% of the population) will have PTSD at some point in their lives. About 8 million adults have PTSD during a given year. This is only a small portion of those who have gone through a trauma. Some groups of people, including African-Americans and Hispanics, may be more likely than whites to develop PTSD. This may be because these groups are more likely to go through a trauma. For example, in Veterans who survived Vietnam, a larger percent of African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans were in combat than whites. War takes a physical and emotional toll on Service members, families, and their communi-

NO/Prop61

Deceptive  Proposition

WE OPPOSE PROP 61:

THE DECEPTIVE RX PROPOSITION

LEARN MORE: NoProp61.com

Defeating Proposition 61 on California's November ballot is a huge priority for our organization. That's because Prop 61 would take away a special benefit provided to those who have served our country and the measure could increase prescription drug costs for veterans. We hope you will join us in the fight to protect veterans by joining the official campaign opposed to Prop 61.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receives special discounts on prescription drugs for veterans in honor of their service to our country. This helps keep medicines affordable to the 75% of veterans who currently pay low out-of-pocket co-pays for prescriptions, and the 25% of vets who pay no prescription co-pays. Prop 61 attempts to extend these special discounts to some state programs. History has shown that when these special discounts are provided to other sizable populations, VA costs goes up.

If Prop 61 passes and VA prescription costs go up, there would be added pressure to increase prescription drug co-pays for veterans and to limit the availability of certain drugs.

Join the campaign opposed to Prop 61 and help protect veterans.

California Veterans Organizations Strongly Oppose Prop 61:

- Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California
- Military Officers Association of America, California Council of Chapters
- American GI Forum of California
- AMVETS, Department of California
- Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of California
- Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council
- American Legion, Department of California
- California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO)
- Disabled Veterans Business Alliance
- Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter
- Association of the United States Army, Northern California
- Reserve Officers Association, Department of the Golden West
- Fleet Reserve Association, West Coast Region
- Minority Veterans Coalition of California
- Jewish War Veterans of America, Department of California
- Scottish American Military Society
- California Veterans Benefit Fund (CAVBF)
- Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of California
- Veterans Affiliated Council of Sacramento County
- San Diego Military Advisory Council

Veterans sacrifice for our country and deserve all the special benefits afforded to them. Help protect veterans on November 8 and vote No on Prop 61!

California State Council VVA member of the Year - Mario Salas Chapter 391 Sonora

Mario Salas has been an active member of Chapter 391 over 28 years. He has been a part of the Chapter color guard, participating in many local events and parades. A long time motorcycle rider, Mario helped start the chapter motorcycle group. This group has been active in many areas including fun runs, and scholarship runs. He has also been involved with the group in bringing home a fallen warrior in funeral processions. He currently serves at Sergeant at Arms at chapter meetings.

Mario is a consistent volunteer for Chapter activities. He has helped with the Chapter golf tournament for many years. He is out at Holiday time as a Bell Ringer for the Salvation Army. He also helps deliver presents to needy families in the area.

Mario is also active in other local Veterans organizations. He has volunteered with the American Legion and also VFW.

Mario is pictured below (red shirt) with his chapter brothers when they presented him the California VVA member of the year at his home.



for Anthony, as he was leaving his comfort zone, his support system, his friends, to travel to see family members, unaware of how they would welcome him after all of these years. The feeling of not being accepted could have sent him back into his depression, seeking the streets to comfort him as it did so many times before.

He initially chose to just go to North Carolina but ended up stopping in Birmingham to visit with one of his brothers. This is where he received a call from 2 of his daughters in Texas, informing him that his sister in Atlanta was undergoing treatment for cancer for the 3rd time. Anthony figured that since he was close to Atlanta, he would stop and see his sister, nieces, and nephews. After visiting with his brother, he left for Atlanta to see his family.

After spending time with family in Atlanta, he traveled to North Carolina to help his youngest daughter rehab her new home. Here, he was able to meet one of his youngest grandchildren for the first time. This daughter's older son, whom Anthony has met, is also a veteran and is in the Army, currently deployed overseas. From there, he traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan to visit with 2 of his other daughters and their husbands, along with several more of his grandchildren.

After having traveled around to visit with family members, mending fences left unbroken for quite some time, he began his trip back home to California. This is where he would suffer a great loss! Did he move forward or go back to the streets that had always given him so much comfort?

Stay tuned for Part 2

LEGISLATION JULY 2016

Current Status Of California Legislation Supported By The VVA CSC

The State Legislature is on Summer Recess from July 1 to July 31. July 1 was also the last day for bills to be heard in the second house policy committees. When the Legislature reconvenes on August 1, the bills that are still alive will begin to be heard in the Appropriations com-

mittees. August 12 is the last day for a bill to make it past the Appropriations committees. From August 15 until August 31 the bills that survived the fiscal committees will be heard on the floors of their respective houses.

This 30-day period of time gets very hectic because all surviving legislation is funneling through a few locations at once. Legislation can also be amended on the floor, special hearings can be heard off the floor with a moment's notice, and bills can be gutted and amended to some entirely new subject. All of these proceedings must be carefully monitored.

Bills that pass through this process by August 31 will proceed to the Governor for his approval or veto. The Governor has until September 30 to complete this process. This period of time is also when lobbyists actively lobby and educate the Governor's staff on the merits or negative aspects of the legislation on his desk.

To access all California legislation from 1999 to present; bill text, amendments, votes, analyses, and status; go to: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/the_state_legislature/bill_information/bill_information.html

If you have any suggestions for new legislation for the 2017-18 legislative session, please contact Ken Holybee.

For more information on VVA-CSC's legislative advocacy, contact:

Ken Holybee Chair, VVA-CSC Legislative Committee (707) 887-8891 holybee@comcast.net

CURRENTLY ACTIVE LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE STATE COUNCIL CA AB 930 AUTHOR: Irwin [D] TITLE: Work for Warriors Program LOCATION: Senate Inactive File SUMMARY: Authorizes the State Military Department to establish a Work for Warriors program, to provide direct placement job services to service members, veterans, and military families, and other related populations. Authorizes the Department to accept federal funding to supplement the program, and to adopt regulations, rules, and guidelines as are necessary to implement the program. Position: Support

CA AB 1029 AUTHOR: Frazier [D] TITLE: Veterans: Service Providers COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am SUMMARY: Allows entities meeting specified requirements to apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs to become

certified veterans service providers. Requires the Department to maintain a list of such providers on its Internet Web site, including the type of supportive services provided. Provides a validity time period for certification. Requires the Department to adopt rules, procedures, and regulations as necessary to decertify an entity that no longer meets certification requirements. Requires a related fee. Position: Support

CA AB 1278 AUTHOR: Gray [D] TITLE: Cigarettes and Tobacco Products: Identification LOCATION: Senate Inactive File SUMMARY: Provides that, for the purposes of buying tobacco products requirements, if a customer or recipient provides an identification card issued by the United States Armed Forces as proof of age and the identification card lacks a physical description, but includes date of birth and a photo, further proof of age is not required. Position: Support

CA AB 1672 AUTHOR: Mathis [R] TITLE: Veterans Treatment Courts: Judicial Council Survey COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am SUMMARY: Requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature on a study of veterans and veterans treatment courts that includes a statewide assessment of such courts currently in operation and a survey of courts that do not operate such courts that identifies barriers to program implementation and assesses the need for such courts' establishment in those counties. Creates a related fund to fund the survey and its related report. Makes an appropriation therefor. Position: Support

CA AB 1706 AUTHOR: Chavez [R] TITLE: Military Fraud LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires

specified elected officers to forfeit office upon the conviction of a crime pursuant to the federal Stolen Valor Act of 2013 or the Stolen Valor Act that involves a fraudulent claim, made with the intent to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit that the person is a veteran or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, as prescribed in those acts. Imposes a misdemeanor for such actions only if accomplished for stated beneficial purposes, or false documents for a stated benefit. Position: Sponsor

CA AB 1844 AUTHOR: Gallagher [R] TITLE: Hunting and Fishing Licenses: Reduced Fees: Veterans COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am SUMMARY: Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to reduce the fee required to obtain lifetime hunting and sport fishing licenses by a specified percentage for a person who is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, was honorably discharged, and is a resident of the State. Position: Support

CA AB 1936 AUTHOR: Chavez [R] TITLE: Public Postsecondary Education LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Extends the resident classification for designated dependents of transferred and retired members of the Armed Forces of the United States to those dependents who have been admitted to a public postsecondary institution before the transfer or retirement. Requests the Regents of the University of California to establish the same residency benefits as those established by this bill for students enrolled at the University of California. Position: Support

CA AB 1972 AUTHOR: Chau [D] TITLE: Veterans: State Park Passes COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am SUMMARY: Requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue a park pass for free use of all park facilities in the state park system to any veteran who meets specified criteria. Requires the Department to report in its proposed budget on revenue losses with regard to the issuance of free veterans passes under these provisions. Position: Support

CA AB 2128 AUTHOR: Achadjian [R] TITLE: Marriage LOCATION: Assembly Unfinished Business Concurrence in Senate Amendments SUMMARY: Amends existing law that allows a member of the Armed Force of



Faces of AGENT ORANGE



The Southern District
of the California State Council
Presents an

Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting

August 25, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM

**American Gold Star Manor
3021 N Gold Star Drive
Long Beach, CA 90810**

Contact:

**Max Stewart - VVA Chapter 756
aircop72@gmail.com**

or

**Mike Kennedy - CSC Southern District
mike3sps@verizon.net
909-563-0107**



Co-Sponsors:

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 756
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 446
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 47
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 53
California State Council Southern District**



The Southern District of VVA California State Council along with several local VVA chapters is hosting a Faces of Agent Orange Town Hall meeting.

Thursday, August 25, 2016

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Gold Star Manor

3021 N. Gold Star Dr

Long Beach, CA 90810

This outreach program provides information about Agent Orange and dioxin and actively pursues the recognition of presumptive disabilities from exposure. Additional priorities are to foster sponsorship of legislation to help the victims of Agent Orange and Dioxin and encourage scientific and medical research in the field of dioxin-related ailments. The program is important for all veterans who served in Vietnam and for their families as they deal with unexplained ailments that are being affecting the children, grandchildren and further generations.

the United States who is stationed overseas and serving in a conflict or a war and is unable to appear for the license and solemnization of the marriage to enter into that marriage by the appearance of an attorney in fact. Provides that the completion of the power of attorney is the sole determinant as to whether the county clerk's office or State Registrar will accept the power of attorney. Position: Support

CA AB 2254 AUTHOR: Achadjian [R] TITLE: Armories: Homeless Shelter COMMITTEE: Senate Ap-

ropriations Committee HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am SUMMARY: Revises the list of armories to be made available for providing temporary shelter for homeless persons to include the Atascadero armory in San Luis Obispo County. Position: Support

CA AB 2273 AUTHOR: Irwin [D] TITLE: Military Law: Suicide COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am SUMMARY: Prohibits a member of the active militia, including the National Guard, from being prosecuted for a military

crime based on an attempt to kill himself or herself. Requires the Adjutant General to ensure that any member of the active militia that attempts to kill himself or herself is referred to the Behavioral Health Liaison Program to receive assistance, counseling, or referral to other appropriate available services. Position: Support

CA AB 2494 AUTHOR: Hernandez R [D] TITLE: Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am SUMMARY: Establishes the Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program, which would authorize the governing board of a community college district and a community college campus to apply for a grant for purposes of providing resources to veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces enrolled at the campus. Establishes a related fund to be disbursed for the administration of the program and awards to community college districts and campuses. Position: Support

CA AB 2563 AUTHOR: Veterans Affairs Cmt TITLE: Veterans: Service Advocate: Correctional Facility COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee HEARING: 08/01/2016 10:00 am SUMMARY: Relates to veterans, service advocates and correctional facilities. Revises the definition of a veteran by deleting the reference to the American Red Cross and including a person who has been discharged from the National Guard of any state. Position: Support

CA AB 2574 AUTHOR: Chavez [R] TITLE: Veteran Farmers and Ranchers LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires specified State departments to develop a New Veterans Farmer and Rancher Outreach and Assistance Plan to disseminate information to veterans in the State agricultural education, training, and other related assistance programs. Authorizes other public and private sector resources to be included in that dissemination. Position: Support

CA AJR 33 AUTHOR: Bonilla [D] TITLE: Port Chicago Disaster: Sailors of the U. S. Navy LOCATION: To enrollment SUMMARY: Urges the recognition that the trial and conviction of African American sailors of the U. S. Navy for mutiny in connection with their service at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord, California, during World War II were wrongfully pursued because of racial prejudice. Urges the Congress to publicly exonerate those African American sailors in order to further aid in healing the racial divide that continues to exist in the United States. Position: Support

CA SB 15 AUTHOR: Block [D] TITLE: Postsecondary Education: Aid: Incentive Grants LOCATION: Assembly Higher Education Committee SUMMARY: Increases the total number of

Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards granted annually and increases the maximum tuition award amount for Cal Grant A and B for students at private nonprofit postsecondary institutions for the 2015 16 award year and each award year thereafter. Establishes the Graduation Incentive Grant Award. Provides matriculating undergraduate students at the California State University with a specified maximum number of college years of aid. Requires an annual report on the program. Position: Support

CA SB 384 AUTHOR: Leyva [D] TITLE: Veterans Housing: Multifamily: Underserved Veterans LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires, for all multifamily housing units acquired, constructed, rehabilitated or preserved under the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act for the purpose of housing veterans, that a percentage of the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014 bond funds be used for purposes of the Act be reserved for housing for underserved veterans; requires the percentage of the bond act funds to be determined by specified State agencies. Position: Support

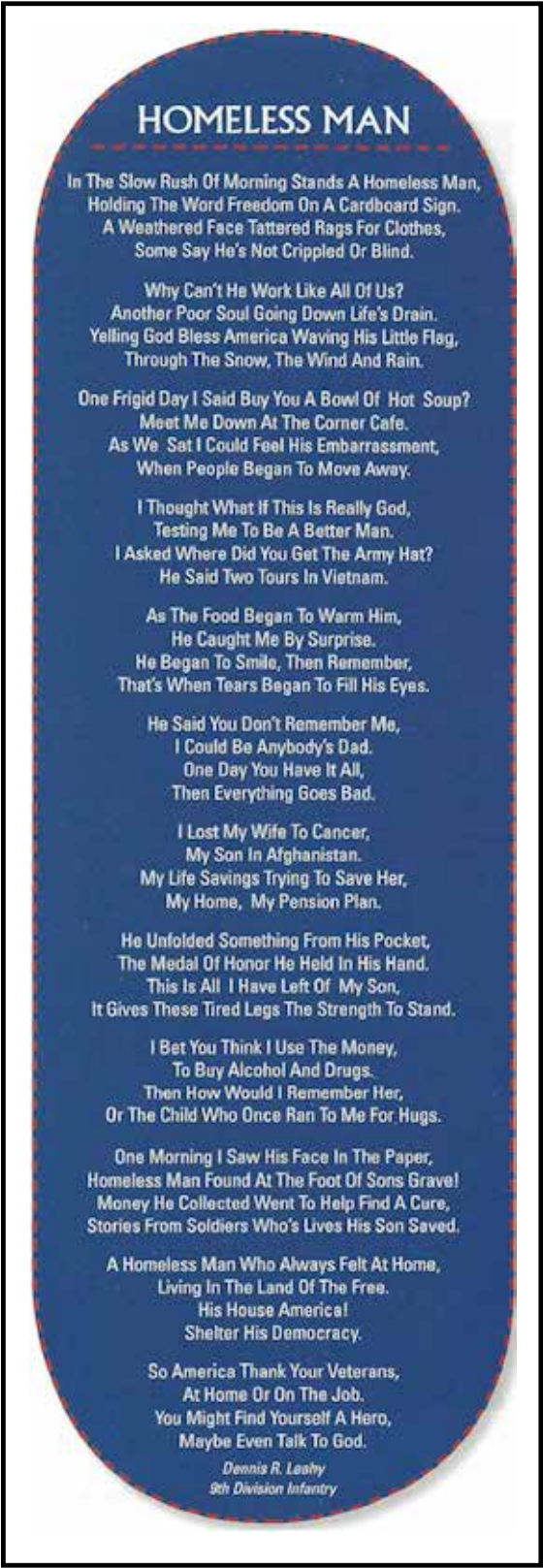
CA SB 866 AUTHOR: Roth [D] TITLE: Veterans Housing LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Authorizes a housing developer or service provider that provides housing or services pursuant to the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014, to provide housing or services to veterans and their children in women only facilities in limited instances. Position: Support

CA SB 905 AUTHOR: Bates [R] TITLE: Alcoholic Beverage Control: Club Licenses LOCATION: Assembly Consent Calendar SUMMARY: Defines a club for purposes of the qualification for a on premises liquor license for members of a club and their guests. Includes a non-profit umbrella organization established to provide a central meeting location, and services for veterans, including those on active duty, and that owns or leases, operates, and maintains a facility for these purposes. Requires the organization to serve a minimum number of veteran organizations. Position: Support

CA SB 980 AUTHOR: Nielsen [R] TITLE: Veterans' Homes LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Provides that the administrator is the senior executive appointed to oversee the operations of a veterans' home. Specifies which veterans homes are administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt uniform state-wide policies and procedures, for the operations of those veterans homes. Updates admission criteria. Requires an electronic medical records system for such homes. Relates to the setting of related fees. Position: Support

CA SB 1012 AUTHOR: Nguyen [R] TITLE: Flags: Purchase LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires any Flag of the United State or the Flag of the State purchased by the State or any local government agency be made in the United States. Position: Sponsor

CA SB 1180 AUTHOR: Jackson [D] TITLE: Public School Employees: Military Veterans LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires



that a certificated or classified employee who is a military veteran with a specified military service connected disability rating be entitled to a specified number of days leave of absence with pay for the purpose of undergoing disability related medical treatment. Position: Support

CA SB 1227 AUTHOR: Lara [D] TITLE: California Conservation Corps LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires the California Conservation Corps to collaborate with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Employment Development Department to assist any corps member who is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, in obtaining employment after participating in the corps program. Provides that such collaboration efforts shall include, but not limited to, veterans supportive services and workforce services, respectively. Position: Support

CA SB 1314 AUTHOR: Block [D] TITLE: Cal Grant Program: Scholarship: Community College LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Provides that community college students participating in specified baccalaureate degree programs who also satisfy specified eligibility requirements shall receive awards for upper division coursework fee. Extends awards under the Middle Class Scholarship Program to community college students enrolled in upper division coursework of a baccalaureate degree program. Requires the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to provide any financial data necessary for award determination. Position: Support

CA SB 1455 AUTHOR: Block [D] TITLE: Pupil Enrollment: Military Dependents LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Provides that a pupil complies with a school district's residency requirements for school attendance in a school district if he or she is a pupil whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within the boundaries of the district while on active military duty pursuant to an official documentation. Requires a school district to accept applications by electronic means for enrollment and course registration for those pupils. Position: Support

CA SB 1458 AUTHOR: Bates [R] TITLE: Property Taxation: Exemptions: Disabled Veterans LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Amends an existing property tax law which provides a disabled veteran's property tax exemption for the principal place of residence of a veteran or a veteran's spouse. Expands that definition of veteran to include a person who has been discharged in other than dishonorable conditions from service under certain conditions and who has been determined to be eligible for federal veterans' health and medical benefits. Provides time periods regarding the disabled veterans' exemption. Position: Support



VVA CA State Council (contact info inside - page 2)

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To:

In this issue:

- Activities-Events/Photos
- Legislative News
- 2016 State Convention Photos
- Committee Info

And more...



VVA & CSC Meeting Dates & Events
August 26-28, 2016, Fresno, CA
October 14-16, 2016, Fresno, CA
January 27-29, 2017, Fresno, CA
April 21-23, 2017, Fresno, CA
Zephyr deadlines 5 weeks prior to each CSC meeting