



# The California Zephyr

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First and foremost, I want thank everyone for your prayers and condolences for my wife Elyane. For those who haven't heard, Elayne passed away on April 10, 2019. We thought she had the cancer beat, but it came back with a vengeance. We had a beautiful memorial service for her and she is now resting in peace at Riverside National Cemetery.

The 2019 National Convention is fast approaching. July will be here before we know it. The National Constitution Committee has sent out their Preliminary Report for amendments to the National constitution. There are some very important amendments that we will be voting on at this convention. A number of these amendments deal with the future of VVA. So please send all your delegates. If you don't send your delegates to the convention, then you have no right to complain about the outcome. So PLEASE send all your delegates. We will need them there.

Steve

## LA MEMORIAL COLISEUM RENAMING

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission  
500 W Temple Street, Room 383  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Hahn:

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) California State Council supports your opposition to renaming the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Recently while speaking at a Veteran oriented event you made the statement "The Coliseum is hallowed ground. It should not be a marquee for sale." We believe changing the name of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to United Airlines Memorial Coliseum would be desecrating that hallowed ground. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another." To sit idly by while such a name change takes place would be abandoning that generation of Veterans who served in World War I and are memorialized by this National and State Historic Landmark.

We believe the compromise you suggested to a naming combination of "United Airlines Field at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum" would be a fair and equitable solution.

Further, we ask you to support giving Veterans a more formal role, by way of their Veterans Service Organizations, in the resolution of this issue. We believe Veterans should be given a greater chance to be involved in the decision-making process rather than being relegated to being impotent observers only providing input after-the-fact. Such participation would help to ensure that all parties – including and especially those who have served our country – be part of a solution that Veterans everywhere can endorse.

We thank you for all that you have done and are continuing to do in defending the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum from being renamed for United Airlines.

Sincerely,

Vietnam Veterans of America  
California State Council

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE'S REPORT

By Seth Reeb, Legislative Advocate

We are here at the midway point of the first year of a two-year legislative cycle. May 17th is the deadline for Assembly or Senate bills to be passed out of the fiscal policy committee in its house of origin to the floor for a vote by the full Assembly or Senate. For example, when a bill is introduced in the Assembly it is required to go through the policy committees. When there is a cost associated with the bill it goes to the appropriations committee in the Assembly before it can go to the Assembly floor for a vote to be moved to the Senate. After a bill makes it to the Senate it goes through the same process before going to the governor to be signed into law.

AB 581 Levine: Sentencing members of military

AB 581 is sponsored by the Council. It will allow a veteran to petition the court if Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other service-induced mental health problems were not diagnosed or evident at the time of sentencing.

The trauma that some veterans endured during service has led to increase rates of suicide, PTSD, depression, anxiety, adjustment disorder, alcohol use disorder, and substance use disorder. Of the 20 million veterans in the United States, as many as 20% suffer from PTSD. They too often end up in our prisons where their condition worsens. AB 581 will ensure those incarcerated Veterans in our prisons now receive that opportunity and sentenced in the future continue to receive.

Many Veterans are sentenced with PTSD and related mental health problems for far too long. These conditions are often undiagnosed or not identified at time of sentence, not presented to the court at time of sentence, or for some reason not verified. Regardless the reasons, these Veterans do not receive the benefit of current law, and they have no remedy to that oversight once sentenced.

Legislative Calendar

May 17 Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house.

June 15 the budget becomes law as soon as it is signed by the Governor.

June 15 —Budget Bill must be passed by midnight

July 12 —Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills. Summer Recess begins upon adjournment.

Aug. 12 —Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess (J. R. 51(a)(3)).

Sep. 13 —Last day for any bill to be passed

Oct. 13 —Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 13.

SUPPORTED LEGISLATION AS OF MAY 13, 2019

AB 21

(Obernolte R) Driver's licenses: veteran designation.

Summary: Removes \$5 fee for the VETERAN designation on the driver's license.

Position: Support

AB 55

(Garcia, Eduardo D) Department of Veterans Affairs: veterans' services.

Summary: Raises state funding to County Veterans Service Officers from \$5.6 million to \$11 million.

AB 160

(Voepel R) Employment policy: voluntary veterans' preference.

Summary: Enacts the Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act to authorize a private employer to establish and maintain a written veterans' preference employment policy.,

AB 240

(Irwin D) Veterans' homes: lease of property.

Summary: Would address the concerns of the State Auditor regarding leases of state property at the California Veterans Homes, especially Yountville.

AB 408

(Frazier D) Vehicles: disabled veterans.

Summary: Would streamline the process to receive a disabled veteran license plate by allowing for County Veteran Service Offices or the California Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to the US Department of Veterans Affairs, to verify an individual's disabled veteran status.

AB 427

(Brough R) Personal income taxes: exclusion: uniformed services: retirement pay.

Summary: Would exempt military retirement pay from state income tax for veterans who are residents in California.

AB 498

(Weber D) Business licensing: fees: exemptions: veterans.

Summary: Would update and expand the veteran business license fee waiver to include veterans who provide services such as landscaping, website design, or musical entertainment.

AB 581

(Levine D) Sentencing: members of military: trauma.

Summary: Allows a veteran to petition the court if Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other service-induced mental health problems were not diagnosed or evident at the time of sentencing.

Position: Sponsored

AB 1257

(Salas D) Sales and use taxes: exemption: adaptive automotive equipment: disabled veteran or member of the Armed Forces.

Summary: Would exempt add-on automotive adaptive equipment from sales tax when sold to any disabled veteran or active duty service member in the state of California.

AB 1258

(Salas D) Personal income taxes: exclusion: servicemembers.

Summary: Would exempt all income tax received by active duty servicemembers while on active duty in the state and all income for their cumulative time of active duty after being honorably discharged.

Position: Support

AB 1365

(Committee on Veterans Affairs) Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program.

Summary: Requires a state department to directly inform a DVBE of its inclusion in an awarded contract when the DVBE has been identified as a subcontractor within the awarded contract, and requires the awarding department to retain the records for a minimum of 6 years after collection.

AB 1588

(Gloria D, Gray D) Drinking water and wastewater operator certification programs for veterans.

Summary: Ensure military veterans transitioning into civilian water and wastewater operator occupations receive appropriate crediting for experience and education gained during military service.

SB 222

(Hill D) Discrimination: veteran or military status.

Summary: Summary: Would state findings and declarations of the Legislature regarding the importance of housing for veterans and its priority and declare that housing discrimination on the basis of veteran or military status is against public policy.

SB 245

(Chang R) Public animal shelters: adoption fees: veterans.

Summary: Would prohibit a public animal shelter from charging an adoption fee for a dog, cat, or other animal if the person adopting the animal presents a Veterans designation driver's license.

SB 289

(Archuleta D) Medi-Cal Waiting List Placement for Service Members.

Summary: Would allow active duty service members to maintain their place on the Medi-Cal 1915 (c) waiver program (for special needs family members) waiting list if



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they maintain residency in California.

SB 364  
(Stone R) Property taxation: senior and disabled veterans.

Summary: This bill, for any assessment year commencing on or after January 1, 2020, would provide that the inflation factor shall not apply to the principal place of residence, including a manufactured home, of a qualified veteran, as defined, who is 65 years of age or older on the lien date, was honorably discharged from military service, and meets specified requirements.

SB 500  
(Morrell R) Veterans: education.

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish an education assistance program to provide housing and tuition assistance to disabled veterans attending graduate school in California

if their eligibility for federal education assistance has expired.

SB 562  
(Morrell R) Property taxation: exemption: principal residence: veterans and their unmarried surviving spouses.

Summary: Would increase property tax exemptions for disabled veterans, in order to keep up with the rising cost of housing in California.

SB 663  
(Jones R) Property taxation: exemptions: veterans' organizations.

Summary: Extends the welfare exemption to property owned by veteran organizations to all parts of their property, except any area that is used as a bar.

Sb 644 (Glazer D) Tenancy: security deposit: active military personnel.

Summary: Would prohibit landlords from charging

active duty service members more than one month's rent for security deposit in an unfurnished apartment, more than two month's rent for security deposit in a furnished apartment and discriminating against active duty service members on the basis of the above provisions.

SB 725 (Rubio D) Veterans rental housing.

Summary: This bill would require the

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

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.





department to establish a rental housing assistance program to provide financial assistance to veterans seeking rental housing, based on the needs of the veterans.

To access the Legislature’s website which has the language, status, votes, and analyses of all legislation from 1999 to the present, go to: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

If you have any questions, please contact:

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## VETERANS INCARCERATED ART

The Veterans Support Group (VSG) at Valley State Prison in Chowchilla, meets weekly to serve incarcerated veterans by providing fellowship, information on veteran issues, guidance and contacts for assistance obtaining VA benefits, and workshops on several veteran specific issues such as PTSD. Our veterans service range from Vietna m to recent active duty.

Over 100 of the 300+ veterans at Valley State Prison are housed in the same building. Valley State Prison has taken the unique step of designating Building D1 as Veteran Housing. Any veteran who has shown that he can follow the rules, can request to be placed in Veteran Housing. The Veteran Housing unit is similar to an Honor Building; far less trouble, larger televisions in the Dayroom (common area), large painted military branch emblems over the door inside the building, military murals on the walls of the dayroom, and miltary branch flags and the POW flag on top the building (currently awaiting replacemen t). We are fortunate to have some staff who work the building who are also veterans.

In December all who wished to attend an evening gathering in the dayroom were invited to have a few moments of fellowship and to think of our families. When our faithful veteran Ron Shaffer succumbed to cancer, we were invited to the dayroom for a few moments of remembrance and a moment of silence. It was moving. In 18 years I have not been housed in a building where veterans were treated with this level of respect.

The VSG puts a great deal of effort into writing the VA and veteran organ iza tions requesting information and assistance. Most of our letters to veterans organizations go urranswerEd; a f ew responses state there is no one in the chapter willing to assist us , and some chapters even refuse us membership. Standing out from that backdrop of dispair, one VVA chapter has long held up a beacon of hope for incarcerated veterans. VVA Chapter 223 for years had been the one place that would respond to our request for assistance, going the extra mile to help us. I recently joined the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA Chapter 223 was the chapter that would accept me as a member. VVA Chapter 223 ensures that we know, as veterans we have value and they live the motto 'leave no man behind'. Very recently we have made promising contacts with VVA President Mackey, 1ne American Legion, and Diasabled American Veterans.

The VSG continues to look for ways to assist incarcerated veterans and our fellow veterans in society. We hope this prison will again allow charitable fundraising so that we may again assist veteran orgainzations.

We would be grateful to have any veteran information sent to us, information on pro bona attornies who handle veteran issues, contacts in veteran organizations, and persons who can obtain clearance to come speak to our group or conduct workshops on veteran issues.

'thank you for your service to the country and your continuing service to veterans.

James Dailey T-32925 VSP D1-23-3L  
P.O. Box 92 Chowchilla, CA 93610

## AGENT ORANGE REPORT

Ken Holybee, Chair

It has been at least six months since I held a committee meeting at the CSC. We had 17 members attend the meeting. I was trying to focus on laws and legislation regarding children and the presumptives of birth defects and illnesses. Looking at he National Birth Defects Registry report on the illnesses of our children, we are seeing the same early childhood issues with the children of the current veterans that have been exposed to burn pits, chemicals and whatever they were given by our

government.

We also spoke about putting on town hall meetings. We have been waiting for over a year for the VA to act on the Birth Defects law that they are supposed to form a panel and investigate the health issues of veteran children. We must once again put more information out thru town hall meetings. We need to not just talk about agent orange and the health issues for our exposures but dive into the health issues of our children and the children of all veterans. Who can best explain what we have seen and dealt with raising our children or worse, losing a child? If we allow the issue to go away who will take care of our children? I spoke at the meeting about funding assistance being available thru the California Veterans Benefit Fund (CAVBF.org). we must all be involved in the future of the children of all veterans.

## TREASURERS’ REPORT

The Treasurers’ many responsibilities include preparation of the CSC Budget. In concert with the Finance Committee, we developed the FY 2019 CSC budget. CSC Household Goods distribution was down about 27% this year. To create a balanced budget it was necessary to move funds from our reserves. Such enabled the approval of all requested committee and board expenses. Additionally, we were able to maintain the current reimbursement amounts for chapters attending the quarterly CSC meetings.

My activities included:

- Completed HGDP worksheet to determine monthly chapters and distribution
- Drafted CSC Budget for Finance Committee
- Budget Approved Quarterly chapter will continue to receive \$300 per CSC based on attendance
- Provided information to satisfy a State Fund Insurance Company audit
- Gathered information and prepared annual HGDP expenditure report and forwarded to National and Board
- Payroll submitted to payroll company every two weeks

- Processed over 75 transactions (compared to over 100 last quarter) since last CSC. This included various deposits, board reimbursements as well as monthly and quarterly HGDP payments

- The contract with Atria Senior Living has been signed but there are still a few details to be worked out. Details to follow as we receive more information

Don’t forget to prepare your chapter Annual Financial Report and submit a copy to National along with a copy of your IRS form 990 or 990N confirmation. Remember, a copy must be sent to the CSC Treasurer. Submissions may be made via email, fax or snail mail.

## POW/MIA REPORT

Bob Chaney, Chair

Update on MIA recoveries and STATISTICAL REPORT, the Laying to Rest of my shipmate Raul A. Guerra. Wall of Faces Project, and ordering POW/MIA Posters for the POW/MIA Day September 20, 2019.

## THE LONG ROAD HOME

On this and every Memorial Day, it brings back sad memories of my mission to Gia Lam AB Hanoi, North Vietnam, on the 12th & 13th of March 1974, over a year before the end of the war, and a year after “OPERATION HOMECOMING”, The release of the living POW’S.

On 10 March 1974, two C-130 aircrews of five men on two C-130’s, were tasked to fly from U-Tapao RTAB, to Gia Lam

Hanoi, to repatriate the first eleven remains of the twenty three POW’s who perished in The Hanoi Hilton. I was the flight engineer on the lead C-130, with the Commander of the 374th TAW WING, COL. Baginsky as the Aircraft Commander.

We departed Tan Son Knut AB, South Vietnam very early the morning of 12 March 1974, with one Viet Cong General, two North Vietnam Generals, and an interptor. The second C-130 carried grave registration teams, and State Department Officials. North Vietnam directed that we Americans would not have any press or cameras with us. After crossing the DMZ just above Quang Tri, we were joined up with two Mig-21’s fully armed, with one on each wing tip. We were ordered to fly at 500 feet AGL up the Red River to Hanoi, to prevent us seeing their Military Installations enroute.

We flew as slow as we could, giving the Mig’s flts. They had to fly with gear down, flaps down, and had to

break-off many times to keep from stalling!

After landing at Gia Lam, we were parked way out in the back, and isolated with armed North Vietnam soldiers guarding us, ringing both aircraft. They then came onboard and searched us and our bags for cameras. We were in Blue Dress Uniforms with no rank, or name tags. After they let us deplane, we were driven to a Bunker area where the remains were in red wooden boxes 3 ft. long by 2 ft. wide with the name of the deceased on the side.

We decided to do 2 man Honor Guard at the open front of the bunker, in 2 hour shifts until the Release Ceremony the next day.

The remaining crews were confined to the aircraft. I drew the second shift of duty, and noticed the box in the front row held the remains of USAF Capt. Lance Sijan. Two years later while flying C-141’s out of TravisAFB, I was on a mission with an ex- POW Aircraft Commander, who happened to have been Lance Sijan’s cellmate. He told me that Lance had tried to escape many times, even though badly injured during ejection, from his F105 over Laos. With brutal treatment and lack of care, he died, on 1/22/1968.

The next morning, as we were being taken to the Release Ceremony, we noticed that every Communist Satellite Country was present with press and movie cameras. We were briefed that after the ceremony, a stake bed truck would be available for us to place the remains boxes on, and that it would drive slowly so we could march along both sides to our aircraft.

At noon, the disgraceful “Show” began. Two men in white Hazmat suits, with spray rigs on their backs, slid the lids off the boxes, and one would pickup the clear plastic bag with the bones and effects inside, while the other one sprayed a yellow smelly fluid on them, and then returned them to the box. After this was done to all eleven boxes, the Ceremony was ended.

They then turned the remains over to us, to be respectfully placed on the truck. The smelly slippery fluid burned our hands. After loading the boxes, we formed up on each side, and suddenly the driver took off at a high rate of speed, leaving us standing there. We formed up and marched to our aircraft, where we transferred the boxes to military transfer caskets and with due ceremony draped the American flag on each.

We departed after the caskets were on board, and again the two Mig-21’s escorted us to the DMZ. We proceed to U-Tapao AB, where a proper ceremony was held. Later our fallen Heroes would be flown to Hickam AFB for forensic Identification, and then to the USA. “THE LONG ROAD HOME”.

On March 4, 1976, Capt. Lance Sijan was posthumously awarded THE MEDAL OF HONOR, by President Gerald Ford at the White House.

SMS Dale E. Epps USAF Ret.  
VVA Chapter 535  
Grass Valley, Ca. 95949

## THANK YOU...

I just wanted to say “Thank You!” – I am a child of the Vietnam War

My name is Larry McGhee. My father served in the Vietnam war where he met my mother, a native Southern Vietnamese woman. I am a product of the Vietnam war, a war child. My father was a Colonel in the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam. My mother was one of seventeen children born to her parents. She was the only one to make it out of Vietnam in March 1973 through the efforts of my father and others stateside. I was born two months later in May. My mother was very anxious to get out knowing what would befall her if I was born in Vietnam and if the South fell to the North.

When Vietnam fell, my grandfather buried his uniform and ran from his home town of Cantho with his whole family and attempted to pass off as a civilian. They were never able to escape Vietnam. Three years later he was arrested by a local communist official/former Vietcong in the district they lived in. The official wanted to kill my grandfather and/or put him in hard labor prison camp with the family. But my mother had an attractive younger sister that caught the eye of this official. He offered to send my grandfather up north in a reeducation camp and better living conditions compared to other former South Vietnamese Army members if he gave his daughter to him in marriage. So my grandfather said, “Marry the guy.” And she did.

My mother didn’t get ahold of any family members until around eight years later. For eight years she had no idea if her family was dead or alive. Any children in our family or born after the fall of the south were denied education and lived in abstract poverty. After



reestablishing contact with her family, my father began to send money back to my mother’s family including my Vietcong uncle. At the age of 18, in the summer of 1991, I went to Vietnam for the first time with my mother and it was a reality check. You see, my parents were very upset with me that I made some very poor and unsavory choices and friends during my teen years. I was a street thug/gang member. My parents always spoke about the freedoms I have, benefits of being a US citizen, like free education, free speech and rights to vote. I took all that for granted until that trip. My mom’s side of the family was dirt poor. I had toddler cousins running around naked. Their toys were shoes. The electricity was on six hours a day. I was in a third world country that was much worse than what the media showed. This could be my reality. Unfortunately, it was for my mother’s whole family.

I grew up watching Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, and Chuck Norris movies. I fantasized about being in the army and saving my mother’s family. My father said it wasn’t that easy. While in Vietnam in the summer trip of 1991, I had an uncle who was very gracious and caring for us. He made us food, took us out and was very humble to us. When I found out that he was the Vietnam uncle I was extremely upset. I told my mother that piece of garbage is the reason some mother, father, sister or child is in grief. I hated him. But my mother took me to the side and explained something to me. She said he fought for the Communists and gave his best years to them. Then they took everything from him. Your father, a man he never met, for the last eight years has been sending him money to support his family. Because of your father he was able to send your cousins to school and many other blessings for starters. He thought, here is an American, my brother in law I never met, supporting me. My former opponent, my enemy. He is loving on me. My country, my Communist comrades have done nothing for me. It was a revelation to him. He ended up renouncing his Communist allegiance and dropped out of the party. He couldn’t believe this was what Americans were really like. But it was true. My mother still goes to Vietnam every two years. Why do I write this to you? Well, it’s easier to write rather than say it over and over. But I said all that to say this. Life is filled with “ifs.” What if my mother didn’t make it out? I could have been one of the 40,000 kids fathered from American GIs living as second class citizens in Vietnam today. My life would not be what it is today. Also, I just wanted to thank you for your sacrifice and service. Because of you and many like you, I am here today. A recipient of your sacrifice. Thank you for fighting for my freedom my mother, sister and I enjoy. An eternal thank you. I pray for you and thank God for you. I have no idea if anyone of Vietnamese decent has ever thanked you. But from the deepest parts of my heart... THANK YOU!

Larry A. McGhee  
707-761-3309

## COAST HIGHWAY BECOMING ROAD TO RECOGNITION FOR VETERANS

Margaret Talev

VIETNAM'S HIGHWAY 1 RUNS THE LENGTH OF THE COUNTRY, FROM HANOI TO HO CHI MINH CITY.

California's Highway 1 runs nearly the length of the state, connecting many of the military bases where soldiers trained in the 1960s and 1970s before heading off to fight in Southeast Asia.

The two roads are thousands of miles apart but for some Vietnam veterans are forever linked.

"We flew over it; we bombed it," Oxnard resident Dennis Hartman, 55, said of Vietnam's Highway 1. "But when I was in the country, and when I thought of Highway 1, I thought of the Pacific Coast Highway. Then I'd think, 'What am I doing here? What are we doing here?'"

Now, county by county, activists are moving to designate California 1 as a memorial to the 350,000 Californians who served in the Vietnam War.

State lawmakers later this spring will consider designating the Ventura County portion of PCH, from the county line west of Malibu through Oxnard, as Ventura County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. The route passes Naval Base Ventura County and Coast Guard and Air National Guard stations.

Assemblyman Tony Strickland (R-Moorpark), who was born at the former Ft. Ord Army base in Monterey, drafted the resolution at the request of Rich Camacho, president of Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County.

"It's just a way of telling the vets in Ventura County, 'Thank you. We may not have a big memorial for you, but

at least we have a highway for you,'" Camacho said. "For other Vietnam veterans who are traveling, it makes them feel welcome here."

Last year, Assemblyman George Nakano (D-Torrance) carried similar legislation at the request of the Redondo Beach chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Several signposts mark the Los Angeles County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway from Long Beach to Malibu.

If the Ventura County effort succeeds, as is expected, the campaign would continue to other coastal counties, said Hartman, president of the Santa Barbara chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Assemblyman Tom Harman (R-Huntington Beach), who served two years in the Army in the 1960s, said he would support such an effort in Orange County.

"In every county you go to, you'll find Vietnam veterans who would be delighted to see these signs erected," Nakano said. "It's a way of saying, 'Thank you for serving our country.'"

Despite the hostile homecoming many Vietnam veterans received three decades ago, more than 1,000 memorials to that war have sprung up, said Marc Leepson, who runs the memorial clearinghouse for the Vietnam Veterans of America.

A few cities honored soldiers with memorial plaques during the war, but most government-sanctioned projects followed the 1982 dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. California may have had one of the earliest bridge dedications. State transportation officials said a bridge along Interstate 5 near Sacramento was dedicated to service members in 1969.

It isn't clear how many hundreds of miles of memorial highways cut across the United States or how many states have memorial bridges. Neither Leepson nor transportation officials could provide an official count.

But the list of states adopting Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway designations has grown steadily over the last 20 years.

In 1982, Vermont dedicated a 138-mile strip of Interstate 89, which passes by a memorial rest stop in the town of Sharon. The highway was traveled by draft resisters on their way to Canada.

In Pennsylvania, a stretch of Interstate 95 around Philadelphia carries the designation. Legislatures in Delaware, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Texas also have adopted designations in recent years.

Road designations have advantages over monuments. They're cheaper and quicker to install and probably seen by more people. In California, veterans signposts will be funded by private donations.

"Because we're such a mobile state, maybe this is the best way to remind people of the sacrifices that these then-young men made," said Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), a co-sponsor of the Ventura County legislation.

Oxnard resident Hartman, who served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971 as a rescue and recovery crew chief for the Air Force, said memorial roads take on a special meaning in California: "Driving a car, here in this state, symbolizes freedom."

## THE BATTLES OF FIREBASE SIX-SHOOTER

Enemy commandos attack a Marine Outpost, are pushed back and attack again

By Jack Wells

VVA Chapter 201

Fear struck the heart of Marine 1st Lt. Paul Buceti of H Battery when he saw a hand reach in from the darkness, pull back the canvas cover and toss a huge stick grenade with a sputtering fuse through the entrance of the small sandbag-walled, metal-roofed bunker where artillery calculations



Howitzer at Firebase Six-Shooter was one of the targets of the enemy "sapper"

were made at Fire Support Base Six-Shooter. "I thought it was over," Buceti remembered. The lieutenant, shirtless and barefoot, wearing just his shorts, rushed for the exit, as did the two other Marines in the bunker.

Lance Cpls. Fred Roach Jr. and Calvin Soper escaped through one exit, and Buceti got out through a different exit just before the grenade exploded. When the Marines left the bunker, they were met by AK-47 assault rifle fire from North Vietnamese Army "sappers," technically combat engineers but functioning as highly trained commando units. Roach and Soper dashed to the communications tent to alert the Marines there. Buceti managed to reach the relative safety of a bunker used for H Battery's executive officer, or XO. That bunker was the control center for the six howitzers that gave the firebase its name, borrowed from America's Wild West.



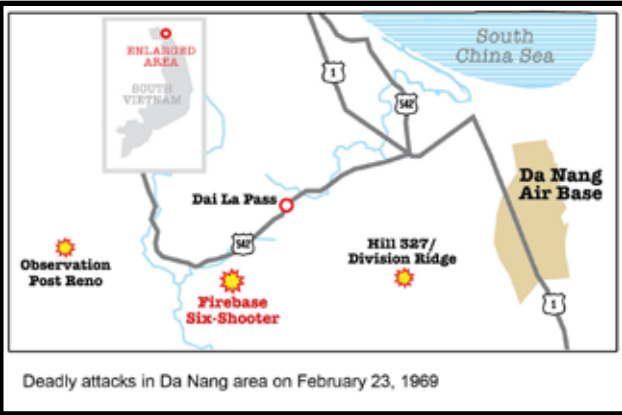
Sometime before 2 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, 1969, more than two dozen sappers penetrated, undetected, the defensive wire around firebase Six-Shooter, about 5 miles west of the city of Da Nang. H Battery, 3rd battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, had moved into the firebase about seven weeks earlier. The Marines had not yet completed their work clearing brush around the base to take away the cover for enemy infiltrators. Nor had they put in place the needed additional bands of concertina wire—barbed wire coiled and used as a barrier around the perimeter of a base.

Once inside the base, the sappers — from a platoon of the 25th Sapper Company, part of the 31st NVA Regiment that operated west of Da Nang — hid under trucks in the motor pool behind the howitzer line, waiting for the start of coordinated hit-and-run attacks planned for U.S. facilities in the Da Nang area one week after the 24-hour Tet Lunar New Year truce that had started on Feb. 16. The attacks were concentrated against Marine installations around Da Nang, Vietnam's second largest city, but also hit other regions of the country.

Firebase Six-Shooter was a tempting target for the North Vietnamese because of its closeness to NVA base camps and staging areas farther west in Happy Valley and to the north in Elephant Valley, both accessed from the Ho Chi Minh Trail in nearby Laos.

Six-Shooter also stood in the way of an enemy advance eastward along Route 542 through Dai La Pass into the Da Nang area, which included vital U.S. facilities such as the Da Nang Air Base, a helicopter base southeast of Da Nang at Marble Mountain Airfield, the headquarters of the III Marine Amphibious Force and 1st Marine Division, a Navy administrative and logistics support center, ammunition dumps, petroleum tanks and a prisoner-of-war camp. The firebase was about 3 miles due west of the 1st Marine Division command post on the eastern slope of Hill 327 on Division Ridge and about a mile west of the command post for the division's 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, near Dai La Pass.

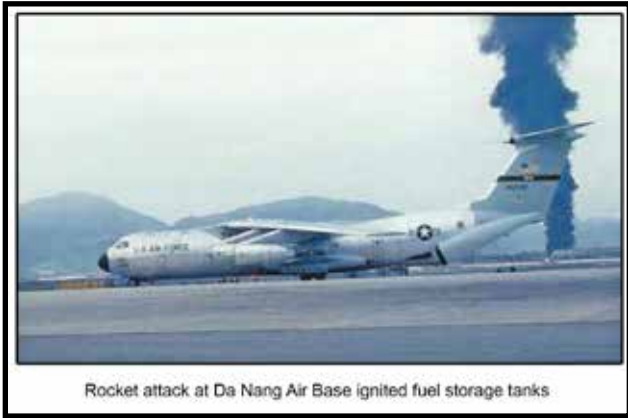
Observation Post Reno, on a mountaintop less than 3 miles west of Six-Shooter, was attacked at 2:20 a.m., on Feb. 23. Attacks on H Battery at Six-Shooter, the 1st Division command post on Hill 327, the 2nd Battalion post and other sites started about the same time.



In those early-morning hours, NVA forces also fired more than 50 of their 122 mm rockets at the Naval Support Activity command's deep-water pier in Da Nang and the Marines' Force Logistic Command installations. Eighteen 82 mm mortar rounds landed at Marine Aircraft



Group 16 and the U.S. Army's 212th Combat Support Aviation Battalion at Marble Mountain Airfield. Rockets and mortars hit the Da Nang Air Base, igniting four 10,000-gallon tanks of JP-4 jet fuel with a direct hit on a hangar for Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 242. Also struck was a South Vietnamese ammo dump near the III Marine Amphibious Force headquarters, causing out-of-control fires and secondary explosions.



Rocket attack at Da Nang Air Base ignited fuel storage tanks

During the attacks, a team of sappers overran the Marine Air Control Group 18 aviation radar site on Hill 347, overlooking the 1st Marine Division command post on Hill 327. Ten Marines from Headquarters Company, 1st Marine Division, died during attempts to retake the radar site before they succeeded on the third try.

Sappers also got inside the wire at Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marine Regiment, at the Northern Artillery Cantonment just a few miles north of Da Nang, and at Headquarters Company, 26th Marine Regiment, on the northern slope of Hill 327.

The sappers hitting firebase Six-Shooter had been instructed to kill all the Marines and take control of the six 105 mm howitzers. Information gained later from a captured sapper revealed that 40 to 50 Communist soldiers, trained in the operation of 105 mm howitzers, were waiting in a nearby tree line for a successful attack. They would then move into the base, turn the guns around and use the battery's own ammunition to fire on key U.S. installations in Da Nang. (During an Aug. 14, 1966, mission by 2nd Platoon, C Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, into the "Charlie Ridge" mountains west of Da Nang, the recon team had found, concealed in a jungle training camp for the VC, a full-size mock-up of a 105 mm howitzer constructed out of bamboo but containing rubber tires. The elevation gears on the mock-up were made of metal and could function. The recon team also found a 24-inch-long, 6-inch-diameter wooden replica of a 105 mm shell.)

Lt. Buceti had been awakened around 1 a.m. by one of the Marines in the Fire Direction Center bunker that provided H Battery's howitzer crews with gun settings for accurate delivery of artillery fire in support of U.S. troops or against enemy targets. The Marine asked Buceti to help him calculate firing data that the FDC bunker would send to the XO's bunker, which then would relay the settings to the howitzers assigned to fire at sites where enemy rockets had been launched around 12:30 a.m., before the main sapper assaults started.

Buceti recalls that dogs kept as mascots at the battery had been barking incessantly since late that night. Several times he went outside the FDC bunker and peered into the darkness trying to determine what they were barking about. On his last attempt, Buceti lay on the ground to get a look from that perspective, but he didn't see anything then. Later, back in the rear of the FDC bunker, he saw the sapper who opened the cover and flung in a grenade, a jungle-made version of a wooden-handled grenade called a "Chicom," short for Chinese Communists, the source for many of them. Buceti said the version of the Chicom thrown into the bunker was made from a large No. 10 fruit cocktail can (4 or 5 inches in diameter and about 8 inches long) commonly used in Marine mess halls during the war. Most Chicom-style sapper grenades were crafted from small U.S.-made condensed-milk cans.

Buceti speculated that the olive complexion of his Italian decent and his run across the base in shorts with no shirt may have led the similarly attired sappers to think he was one of their own, which enabled the lieutenant to make it to the XO bunker. When Buceti arrived, the battery executive officer, 1st Lt. Bill Sheahan, and the battery commander, Capt. Jim James, were already inside, along with 2nd Lt. Marvin Runyon III, commander of 3rd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, which provided security for the battery.

Runyon and his radio operator had been in a tent that served as the security platoon's command post when AK-47 fire suddenly hit the sides of the tent. Runyon quickly ran toward the gunfire at the XO bunker, near the center of the gun line, and reached the bunker the same time another

Marine did.

Before they could go inside, a large Chicom grenade exploded next to them, wounding Runyon and the other Marine. Runyon helped the more seriously wounded Marine get into the bunker and then went outside and shot the sapper who was trying to throw grenades into the XO bunker. Runyon would receive a Silver Star for his heroic actions that morning.

Pfc. Marcel Ronquille, a cannoneer on Gun 1, asked his gun section chief Cpl. Barry Floyd for permission to go to the Gun 4 area, where his friend Lance Cpl. Larry Poet was assigned. Poet was part of the battery's reaction force, a team created weeks earlier to respond immediately to any threat and go wherever needed in the battery. If an attack occurred, the reaction force was to assemble at Gun 4.

Before Ronquille arrived, Poet, Cpl. Daniel Bignell and others in the reaction force had already rushed to the gunfire and explosions at the FDC and the communications motor pool area. Ronquille later learned that Poet, Lance Cpl. Charles Craig Jr., Lance Cpl. Leroy Roach Jr. and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gregory Koupe, a hospital corpsman, had been killed by sappers at the back and south side of the firebase.

When the gun battle at Six-Shooter ended, the Marines of H Battery and Runyon's 3rd Platoon, E Company, had routed the invading sappers. First light showed 22 dead sappers scattered throughout the base. One sapper had been taken prisoner. A map found on a dead body showed locations of H Battery's main operation bunkers, as well as the FDC, XO and defensive bunkers. It was learned later that the husband of a Vietnamese barber who worked at the battery was one of the sappers killed in the attack. The American casualties were three Marines and one Navy corpsman killed and 15 wounded.

Two days later, on Feb. 25, sappers got past the defensive wire at firebases Russell and Neville in Quang Tri province, a few miles south of the Demilitarized Zone that divided North and South Vietnam. More than 149 Marines or corpsmen were killed or wounded in the attacks. On March 19, sappers equipped with flamethrowers and explosives-filled satchels breached the protective wire of D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, adjacent to Liberty Bridge, about 15 miles south of Da Nang. That time, 44 Marines or Navy corpsmen were killed or wounded.

Six-Shooter's defensive perimeter was greatly improved after the Feb. 23 attack. With the enhancements, three rows of razor wire (concertina wire with sharp blades rather than barbs) extended about 55 yards from the gun line. Wooden ammunition boxes, filled with unused powder-bag increments from previously fired 105 mm ammo, were placed throughout the defensive wire. When a tracer round from an M16 rifle was fired into the box, igniting the powder, those boxes would burst into a small inferno that lit up the surrounding area. Trip flares also were sprinkled through the wire. Tied to the wire were empty C-ration cans with pebbles inside that would alert the Marines to any movement within the wire.

Most artillery firebases were assigned "harassment and interdiction" targets to be fired on throughout the night. These targets were trail junctions and likely avenues of approach for NVA soldiers moving toward Da Nang. They were shelled randomly to disrupt enemy movements. When all six howitzers fired, the concussion from the detonation of the 35-pound projectile's propellant charge was like a small earthquake and the noise was deafening. However, the howitzer noise also drowned out sounds that invaders made while cutting through the firebase's concertina wire or rattling the pebbles in trip-wire cans—making din-filled artillery bases particularly attractive targets for sappers trying to break in undetected.



11th Marine Regiment Howitzer near Da Nang

A few months after the Feb. 23 attacks, the Communist command decided that another attempt would be made against H Battery at firebase Six-Shooter on May 19, Ho Chi Minh's birthday. A successful attack would be an 80th birthday present for Uncle Ho.

Late in the night on May 18, the NVA sappers

gathered in a tree line in front of Six-Shooter. Local Viet Cong helped them evade the patrols and random listening posts manned by a base security platoon from H Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. The sappers studied their map of Six-Shooter one last time, blackened their bodies with charcoal and discarded their clothing, except for a simple loincloth, to get through the razor-edge concertina wire easier. The sapper arsenal included B40 rockets and launchers, AK-47 rifles, an assortment of locally made Chicom-style grenades, and satchel and funnel-shaped explosives to blow up the guns.

The sappers split into small groups and stealthily moved toward Six-Shooter, making bigger advances whenever the howitzers fired on distant targets or conducted other shelling missions whose loud blasts overpowered the noise of the infiltrators' movements. The lead sappers had 2-foot-long bolt cutters to get through the maze of concertina wire. They would tie back the cut ends with cords they carried by mouth, creating a tunnel through the wire for the others to follow.

After several hours, the sappers had cut the wire at two locations and crawled through two of the three wire rows. They were within grenade range of the gun line and could see the outline of the sandbagged XO bunker controlling the howitzers' fire. The sappers had to destroy that bunker to ensure the attack's success. More NVA soldiers were nearby in the tree line, waiting for their comrades to get inside the position before joining the assault.

Luck blessed the men of H Battery. Around 2 a.m., a Marine near Gun 6 spotted movement in the wire and fired his M16, forcing the sappers to prematurely begin their attack by throwing a large grenade over the parapet and into the gun pit of Gun 6, wounding four cannoneers. Marines along the gun line started firing into the darkness and at the ammo boxes in the defensive wire, igniting the powder that helped illuminate the wire. Several sappers who had been hiding behind the ammo boxes were forced to move. M16 rifle fire from the cannoneers cut them down.

Right flank guns 1 and 2 fired illumination rounds that further lit up the defensive wire. At first light, 2nd Lt. Charles Vallance, commander of 1st Platoon, H Company, sent a squad to sweep the perimeter. The surviving sappers were trapped between the outer two rows of concertina wire and the final row in front of the guns. Five sappers were captured. One of them was their leader. Eighteen sappers lay dead in the wire, including those armed with B40 launchers who were killed before they could fire a rocket at the XO bunker. The total cost to the Marines was five wounded—and the wounds were minor.

The next day, the commanding general of III Marine Amphibious Force, Lt. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr., sent a message to units in the 1st Marine Division, praising the men at Six-Shooter for the "highly effective and aggressive defense" of H Battery's artillery position. The battle action, Nickerson added, "stands out as an example of how to deal with sappers and reflects great credit on the individual Marines involved."



Lt. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr. (middle) visited Six-Shooter after the May 19 attack

Jack Wells served in Vietnam during 1968-69 as a forward artillery observer with Alpha and Bravo companies, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and later as executive officer of H Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

## CHAPTER NOTES

### Chapter 223

We are still running our very successful coffee



program at the Santa Rosa clinic. Along with the coffee we have donuts and other snacks. The Santa Rosa clinic is the bus transfer point for the busses coming from Eureka, Ft Bragg and Lake County. Coffee and donuts also go good after a fasting blood draw. Our volunteers at the coffee counter are also good listeners and can assist veterans getting into and out of the clinic.

May 21st will be our 4th annual town hall meeting with the VA leadership. We have them come to the Santa Rosa Veterans building and discuss issues of importance to us. We invite all veterans and families to come and ask question. This year we are focusing on the new Mission Act, Champ VA and how it is used by families and envirmetal medicine. We also have the heads of many departments on hand to answer questions that may arise.

We held our annual BBQ on March 30th and served about 200 veterans and family members. It was our warmest day of the year and everyone had a great time. The VFW hosted the traveling "Wall" in Windsor and our members assisted with volunteers. It rained three of the days it was here so to have the sun come out and be warm was a blessing.

Our members have been keeping up their assistance with the Butte County assistance with needed items and moral support. We have held our elections for the five directors on the board and we welcome one new member to the board. Next years we elect the officers. We are planning our trip to Spokane for the national convention. Chapter president Ken Holybee was selected as Veteran of the Year for Sonoma County 2019. He was at the CSC meeting in Fresno and was not able to represent himself in the Petaluma parade.

## Chapter 201

### Vietnam Philanthropy

During the January 2019 Chapter meeting it was disclosed that the Dragoon Scholarship program to fund Vietnamese students is rampant with corruption and the Chapter decided to discontinue all support. However, the Chapter agreed that an effort should be made to continue support to children of Vietnam. Jack Wells and John Macias were going to Vietnam in March to see if they can deliver money directly to the children and not use an intermediary. Therefore, the Chapter approved a Motion to provide \$500 to Jack Wells to take with him to Vietnam and review different organizations that the Chapter has supported in the past to determine the allocation of the Chapter's donation.

During the April 2019 Chapter meeting, Jack Wells updated the membership on the distribution of monies provided by the Chapter for worthwhile causes in Vietnam during his visit to Vietnam in March. Funds were distributed to the 5th House Orphanage, the Sacred Heart Cathedral Day Care Center and the Village of Hope Orphanage.



Jack Wells With Day Care Center Children

The first donation went to Le Thuy at the 5th House Orphanage in Da Nang, to help purchase a new computer for use by the 23 boys and girls who live at the orphanage. The old computer was slow and failing. The computer



John Macias And Jack Wells Fund Computer For Orphanage

will be put in the library room for children who want to use it.

Sister Catherine at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Day Care Center received a donation for the children from "broken homes." Sister Catherine also teaches them basic English. She is 70 years old and was in Da Nang during the war years. At times a squad of Marines guarded the Sacred Heart Cathedral from VC attackers during Christmas and Easter and other Church holidays. Sacred Heart Cathedral was built by the French, when Da Nang was called Tourane. During the visit with Sister Catherine, she asked John Macias' girlfriend Joni if she would do the "first reading" at the Catholic Mass at the Cathedral which was filled with worshippers for the English Mass.



Jack Wells Presents Donation To Sister Catherine

A third donation was used to buy a "soup cooker" for use for the boys and girls at the Village of Hope Orphanage, also in Da Nang. Hang, who goes by the nickname "Sunshine" went with Jack to an appliance store to pick out the suitable appliance manufactured by Toshiba. It will be used when boys and girls are sick and need soup to be reheated. Sunshine was sent to the Village of Hope after her mother died when Sunshine was 7 years old. After the Village of Hope, Sunshine went on to get a university degree in Da Nang and has a responsible job as a scheduler for a pest control company that works with the major hotels in Da Nang.



Village Of Hope Soup Cooker Donation

The final donation was used to buy the first ever pair of



Tieng Tries On His New Running Shoes

running shoes for a 17-year-old boy, Tieng, who lives at the 5th House. Two years Jack paid the entry fee for Tieng to enter a 5k charity run in Da Nang. He enjoyed the 5k run so much that in 2018 he did the 10k, which Jack also paid his entry. This August Tieng will do the 1/2 Marathon, which Jack has also paid his entry fee. The remaining \$25 was used to buy Tieng a pair of running shoes to assist him in his running program. Jack Wells added \$40 of his own money to complete the purchase.

Chapter members Jack Wells and John Macias served together with the Marines at a 105mm Howitzer battery for 3 months in 1969. Lan, a friend who works for the 5 star Grand Mercure Hotel in Da Nang helped many times with communication on trips to the Vietnam countryside. Lan arranged for a car and driver for the trip to the former Marine Firebase Six Shooter. During the March 2019 visit to their former Marine firebase, they met a 90-year-old woman who lived in a small nearby village and gave her a small donation.



Jack Wells And John Macias Meet With Villager

While visiting the location of the former Marine base in Da Nang, at what was known as "Monkey Mountain," their Vietnamese guide took them to the beautiful Lady Buddha statue at the base of the mountain. On the top of the mountain, during the war years, there was a Nike Hawk air defense missile battery, in the event that Soviet MiG fighter aircraft might try to attack the Da Nang Airbase.



Lady Buddha At Monkey Mountain

While Jack, John and Joni were in Da Nang, they were asked if they would like to meet with a group of Amerasians. The interaction with this group was only possible in that their guide, Lan was with Jack, John and Joni to interpret and communicate. When they arrived at the coffee shop, there were 16 Amerasians. Children born



Meeting With Amerasians



of American fathers during the war years were greatly discriminated against after the takeover of the South by the communists. If they can prove that their father was an American soldier, sailor, Marine, or Seabee, they are allowed to immigrate to the U.S.

### Chapter 933

#### First Quarter Report

We are continuing our Fundraising efforts by working with the Fresno VFW with the Wreaths Across America Program at the Memorial Garden Cemetery.

Our Chapter's major objectives for 2019 is to increase our membership. With the help of Jerry Orlemann, we were able to get one At Large member to transfer to our



Chapter 933 President George Grimsley receiving from California Congressman Jim Costa (16th District) a Proclamation honoring area Vietnam Veterans. The ceremony took place on National Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, at the Fresno VA Health Center.



WWII veteran Vernon Schmidt (right), who attended in order to pay respects to his Vietnam Veteran friends, which includes Chapter 933 member Jim Anderson.



Chapter President George Grimsley (r) and member Charles Berberian at the Fresno VA Health Center on National Vietnam Veteran Day ceremonies in Fresno.



(l to r) Chapter 933 President George Grimsley joins members Olin Gray and Stan Shorey at the annual information and recruiting booth at the Clovis Big Hats Day event, April 6th. Several members have been recruited through this contact with the public. Donations are also received here for the annual veterans scholarship awarded at Fresno City College. Big Hats Day precedes the PRCA Clovis Rodeo where members help out at the Children's Rodeo sponsored by Break the Barriers and the Heart of the Horse Therapy Ranch,

Chapter. Through March 31, 2019, we have added 7 new members, an increase of 9% year to date.

We participated in the Vietnam War Era Veterans Day ceremonies on March 29 at the Fresno VA Hospital. Congressman Jim Costa award our Chapter with a Certificate of Appreciation. On March 30, we attended the Western Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Ceremony in Dinuba.

We submitted the names of the two JROTC Cadets for the JROTC Medal and Ribbon Program to the CSC for their consideration.

Cadet Marissa Medina from Fresno High School and Cadet Alawna Pha from Duncan Polytechnical High School will be receiving the Medal and Ribbon and \$250.00 Scholarship from our Chapter.

We supported the Heart of the Horse Therapy Ranch's annual Cowboy Concert Fundraising Program.

Second Annual, "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" will be held on May 11, 2019, at Chukchansi Park.

### Chapter 702

Our chapter voted unanimously to name our chapter the Ross Hall Chapter. Ross was a founding member of the chapter and contributed greatly to the chapter until his passing in 2016. He was the chapter delegate to the California State Council meetings many years.

Our chapter is in the fifth year of supporting the monthly Napa County VET-CONNECT which we help found. To date we have helped over two hundred different veterans connect to VA benefits and other resources in the area. We also provide coffee, doughnuts and a warm welcome to the veterans who attend.

We still operate a small veteran's emergency fund and help veterans in need of quick, small dollar help such as a week's groceries, a small car repair, help with a rent payment etc. We work with Napa County and other area non-profits organization to offer larger and longer term help.

We are a small, stable (for now) VVA Chapter that proudly represents the VVA in Napa County, CA

Contact: Almon Bundy, President

Cell-707-637-6141

### Chapter 500

Our chapter continues to provide service to Veterans in the Sacramento area.

On March 29 our chapter hosted the Welcome Home Ceremony Service at the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sacramento California. Eighty people were in attendance, both veterans and their families.

On April 24, 2019, Chapter 500 had seven members attend the California State Commanders Veterans Council's All Veterans Day at the State Capitol. Many other Northern, Central, and Southern District veterans were in attendance. The California State Council was represented by a excellent turn out by officers of the CSC. Veterans of all branches of the DOD were also in attendance. Packets prepared by our Legislative Advocate's office were distributed to the elected representatives during the afternoon.

The dates for the Sacramento Stand Down have been announced. August 9th and 10th, 2019. It will be held at 5411 Luce Ave. McClellan Park, CA 95652. Chapter 500 will be providing volunteers in support of this event. This will be a two-day event without a sleep-over. Admission to the event will be at 9 a.m. each day. For more information contact 1-916-389-8917.

On Sunday, May 26, 2019, beginning at 7 am Chapter 500 will be conducting the 20th annual Reading of the Names Ceremony. Copies of the announcement have been delivered to the delegates and officers of the CSC at this meeting. Electrical Copies are available by contacting me at mittendouglas@yahoo.com

### Chapter 357

We would like to thank the California Veterans Benefit fund for the donation to assist Veterans who were victim of the Redding Carr fire.

Activities:

Wed. Feb. 14 Remember Everyone Deployed sponsored the Chapter 357 participated in a Veterans Appreciation program

Feb. and Early March Chapter 357 was involved in planning for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on Sat. March 30, 2019

Sat. March 30, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

April 2019 – Planning for the Hidden Heroes upcoming



The students in Red shirts are Mistletoe School Dynamic Choir who have participated in our Welcome Home event the past 3 years to sing and serve our guest lunch.



Members of the Sons of Italy chapter in Redding, which contained many Vietnam Veterans, they were been preparing and serving lunch for 10 years.



Karrie Walter, Associate Liaison



Associate Member Debbie Sprague, author of a book called Stranger In My Bed, she also spoke at our National Convention on Veteran Caregivers.



Northern California Cemetery in Igo California, where Missing in America Project gives unclaimed urns of veterans a military burial and we honor the 36 Vietnam Veterans that were killed in action in our Shasta County.

program

Sat. April 20, 2019 – Partnered with the Shasta County Beloved Community to promote The Juneteenth, Civil and Voting Right Celebration event and Shasta Remember Everyone Deployed shipping care boxes to Men and Women Deployed.

Promoting RED – Remember Everyone Deployed Every Friday is Red Shirt Friday program Shirt Friday



**FATHERS DAY**  
WINGS AND WHEELS

THE 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY FLY-IN  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 15-16 | 2019  
WWW.FATHERSDAYFLYIN.ORG

BIKE & CAR SHOW ALL MAKES, MODELS, AND YEARS WELCOME  
WWW.VIETNAMVETERANS391.ORG | 209-740-5304 OR 209-480-8423



program

Sat. May 11 – Presenting Color at the Annual Sikh Indian Viashiki Celebration in Anderson Cal.

Sat. May 18 – Participating in the Redding Rodeo Parade, Promoting Shasta Remember Everyone Deployed Care box program

Thurs. May 30 – Shasta County Memorial Day program

Organizing for the Senator Elizabeth Doyle Foundation Hidden Heroes program

### Chapter 391

We announce our partnership with the Columbia Airport Father's Day Fly-in for our 2019 event. Wings & Wheels will be an exciting two-day event June 15&16. All makes, models and years are welcome for the bike and car show both days. Registration includes admission to the air show. There will be food, music, drawings, RV parking, Saturday night dance and lots more both days. For more information and registration forms go to [www.vietnamveterans391.org](http://www.vietnamveterans391.org) (see page 9 also)

### Chapter 756

Purchasing 20 movie tickets for Long Beach VA Hospital so Veterans who are there can be treated to night out at the movies. About five to seven veterans go and with their escorts also includes popcorn, candy and soda pop. Have been doing for over 14 years.

In working stages with the Westminster School District "Price of Freedom Art Contest" which students are working on with Frances Nguyen who is on School Board who on School Board, and the Patriotic Art Contest in Woodbridge High School in Irvine both in May.

Took part in a burial service for a MIA Petty Officer 3rd Class Raul Guerra (Aircraft lost in 1967) and burial at Rose Hills in Whitter.

Presented wreath at the Fall of Saigon Ceremony on April 28th, 2019 in Westminster



## Wings & Wheels Bike and Car Show



Columbia Airport June 15-16th, 2019

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Club—Riders Group \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Bike ( ) Car ( ) Truck ( ) other \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: \$30 June 15 ( ) \$30 June 16 ( ) Both days \$35 ( )

For more information contact:

Patrick 209-740-5304 Roger 209-480-8423

Mail payment to:

Vietnam Veterans of America,

Chapter 391

Attn: Show

P.O. Box 5391 Sonora, CA 95370

10AM—4 PM

Gate opens at 8 AM

Entry to Air Show Included

Show pin (first 300)

**This is a Rain or Shine Event!**

**New**

Saturday Night

Dance with **The Burn**

**Permit Band**

**New...** RV Parking is available

Friday June 14 & 15 \$30 per day

Pre-Reg required Dry Camp Only

[www.vietnamveterans391.org](http://www.vietnamveterans391.org)

LIABILITY: In consideration of the acceptance of the right to participate: entrants, participants and spectators: by execution of this form release and discharge Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 391 Sonora and any show sponsor or affiliate and of and from any and all know or unknown damages, injuries, judgements, and/or claims from any cause whatsoever that may be suffered by any entrant to his or her property.

Signature of Entrant \_\_\_\_\_

(and Guardian if under 18)

Guardian Signature Required \_\_\_\_\_







Left to right - Member Product Sales - Sheila Chovan,  
Vice President - Alice R. Gomez; President - Nina Schloffel; Secretary -  
Kathy Reddick; Financial - Deborah Franklin

Donations to help Patriots and Paws (supports Veterans with furniture and house hold goods), Air Force Sergeant Assoc.

Support Veterans Service Officers at Long Beach VA. Thank you Karen and Arron.

Vets to Vets a PTSD group at the Long Beach VA. 13th MEU with Diapers and Wipes program.

A Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans picnic in the City of Orange at Hart Park on March 30th, 2019 with Chapter 1024.

Provided Color Guard at Gold Star Manor at Ribbon Cutting in March.

Members involved with the "Moving Wall" in the City of Bellflower in March.

Members involved in the Tet parade in Westminster in February.

Events on Memorial weekend at Gold Star Manor in Long Beach members in Color Guard and Del Ville Park in Lakewood

Two Art Contest Woodbridge High School "Patriot Art Contest" and Westminster High School "Price of Freedom"

## THE LONG ROAD HOME

On this and every Memorial Day, it brings back sad memories of my mission to Gia Lam AB Hanoi, North Vietnam, on the 12th & 13th of March 1974, over a year before the end of the war, and a year after "OPERATION HOMECOMING", The release of the living POW'S.

On 10 March 1974, two C-130 aircrews of five men on two C-130's, were tasked to fly from U-Tapao RTAB, to Gia Lam

Hanoi, to repatriate the first eleven remains of the twenty three POW's who perished in The Hanoi Hilton. I was the flight engineer on the lead C-130, with the Commander of the 374th TAW WING, COL. Baginsky as the Aircraft Commander.

We departed Tan Son Knut AB, South Vietnam very early the morning of 12 March 1974, with one Viet Cong General, two North Vietnam Generals, and an interpreter. The second C-130 carried grave registration teams, and State Department Officials. North Vietnam directed that we Americans would not have any press or cameras with us. After crossing the DMZ just above Quang Tri, we were joined up with two Mig-21's fully armed, with one on each wing tip. We were ordered to fly at 500 feet AGL up the Red River to Hanoi, to prevent us seeing their Military Installations enroute.

We flew as slow as we could, giving the Mig's flits. They had to fly with gear down, flaps down, and had to break-off many times to keep from stalling!

After landing at Gia Lam, we were parked way out in the back, and isolated with armed North Vietnam soldiers guarding us, ringing both aircraft. They then came onboard and searched us and our bags for cameras. We were in Blue Dress Uniforms with no rank, or name tags. After they let us deplane, we were driven to a Bunker area where the remains were in red wooden boxes 3 ft. long by 2 ft. wide with the name of the deceased on the side.

We decided to do 2 man Honor Guard at the open front of the bunker, in 2 hour shifts until the Release Ceremony the next day.

The remaining crews were confined to the aircraft. I drew the second shift of duty, and noticed the box in the front row held the remains of USAF Capt. Lance Sijan. Two years later while flying C-141's out of Travis AFB, I was on a mission with an ex- POW Aircraft Commander, who happened to have been Lance Sijan's cellmate. He told me that Lance had tried to escape many times, even though badly injured during ejection, from his F105 over Laos. With brutal treatment and lack of care, he died, on 1/22/1968.

The next morning, as we were being taken to the Release Ceremony, we noticed that every Communist Satellite Country was present with press and movie cameras. We were briefed that after the ceremony, a stake bed truck would be available for us to place the remains boxes on, and that it would drive slowly so we could march along both sides to our aircraft.

At noon, the disgraceful "Show" began. Two men in white Hazmat suits, with spray rigs on their backs, slid the lids off the boxes, and one would pickup the clear plastic bag with the bones and effects inside, while the other one sprayed a yellow smelly fluid on them, and then returned them to the box. After this was done to all eleven boxes, the Ceremony was ended.

They then turned the remains over to us, to be respectfully placed on the truck. The smelly slippery fluid burned our hands. After loading the boxes, we formed up on each side, and suddenly the driver took off at a high rate of speed, leaving us standing there. We formed up and marched to our aircraft, where we transferred the boxes to military transfer caskets and with due ceremony draped the American flag on each.

We departed after the caskets were on board, and again the two Mig-21's escorted us to the DMZ. We proceed to U-Tapao AB, where a proper ceremony was held. Later our fallen Heroes would be flown to Hickam AFB for forensic Identification, and then to the USA.

"THE LONG ROAD HOME".

On March 4, 1976, Capt. Lance Sijan was posthumously awarded THE MEDAL OF HONOR, by President Gerald Ford at the White House.

SMS Dale E. Epps USAF Ret.

VVA Chapter 535

Grass Valley, Ca. 95949

## FRIENDS,

It has been a while since we came back. If we actually did return...

So much has happened and changed. Many opportunities have passed us by whereby we could assist another. Happily, many of those opportunities were taken.

I would propose that with what time we have remaining, that we declare a full moratorium on negativity towards each other. Yes, we lack cohesion in our opinions at times, but the need for conflict between us is over. Argument is the thorn that negates a reasonable existence. It is outdated, unfashionable, unwelcome and

counterproductive.

Those Viet Nam Veterans that I have met and interfaced with these last few decades have changed my life. They have helped bail me out when I could not see that happening to me in this society. We have our own society, and it buoys us up. With each other we feel safe, as our unspoken code of conduct assures that we just flat don't hurt each other. We're safe with each other. Unwritten rule.

And why not? Are we not an extended family? Closer than birth blood. Shared blood.

You didn't need to get whacked to have shared. We all offered it. Freely offered.

Because, silently, we cared for each other. Still do.

All people define themselves. Their caring actions define them quite clearly. As a healthy tree always gives forth splendid fruit, the friendship that you offer the next guy is your gift. Your caring and your actions. It comes from inside you. It IS you.

I celebrate you today. The fact is, YOU STOOD UP fifty some years ago. When our whole world ran away, you ran toward. We are all familiar with how the 99% see us. They just don't matter. I only care how I look to you. YOU MATTER.

Today is the day we look at each other and seriously wish to see the glint of a homecoming in the eyes of our friends. A glint of recognition of place and a glint of acceptance. Whether the world around us bids us enter their warm and happy fold doesn't matter to us. We put stock in the invitation in the eyes of our Brothers. There is wealth in the comradeship of each other and you are the wealth of America.

I celebrate you today because of who you are, but also of what you dynamically do. You are the one who shows caring. You are the one who embodies caring. Nothing sentimental about it, your caring for me has painted a picture of you in my mind. And I am humble.

Hap

## THANK YOU...

I just wanted to say "Thank You!" – I am a child of the Vietnam War

My name is Larry McGhee. My father served in the Vietnam war where he met my mother, a native Southern Vietnamese woman. I am a product of the Vietnam war, a war child. My father was a Colonel in the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam. My mother was one of seventeen children born to her parents. She was the only one to make it out of Vietnam in March 1973 through the efforts of my father and others stateside. I was born two months later in May. My mother was very anxious to get out knowing what would befall her if I was born in Vietnam and if the South fell to the North.

When Vietnam fell, my grandfather buried his uniform and ran from his home town of Cantho with his whole family and attempted to pass off as a civilian. They were never able to escape Vietnam. Three years later he was arrested by a local communist official/former Vietcong in the district they lived in. The official wanted to kill my grandfather and/or put him in hard labor prison camp with the family. But my mother had an attractive younger sister that caught the eye of this official. He offered to send my grandfather up north in a reeducation camp and better living conditions compared to other former South Vietnamese Army members if he gave his daughter to him in marriage. So my grandfather said, "Marry the guy." And she did.

My mother didn't get ahold of any family members until around eight years later. For eight years she had no idea if her family was dead or alive. Any children in our family or born after the fall of the south were denied education and lived in abstract poverty. After reestablishing contact with her family, my father began to send money back to my mother's family including my Vietcong uncle. At the age of 18, in the summer of 1991, I went to Vietnam for the first time with my mother and it was a reality check. You see, my parents were very upset with me that I made some very poor and unsavory choices and friends during my teen years. I was a street thug/gang member. My parents always spoke about the freedoms I have, benefits of being a US citizen, like free education, free speech and rights to vote. I took all that for granted until that trip. My mom's side of the family was dirt poor. I had toddler cousins running around naked. Their toys were shoes. The electricity was on six hours a day. I was in a third world country that was much worse than what the media showed. This could be my reality. Unfortunately, it was for my mother's whole family.

I grew up watching Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, and Chuck Norris movies. I fantasized about



being in the army and saving my mother’s family. My father said it wasn’t that easy. While in Vietnam in the summer trip of 1991, I had an uncle who was very gracious and caring for us. He made us food, took us out and was very humble to us. When I found out that he was the Vietnam uncle I was extremely upset. I told my mother that piece of garbage is the reason some mother, father, sister or child is in grief. I hated him. But my mother took me to the side and explained something to me. She said he fought for the Communists and gave his best years to them. Then they took everything from him. Your father, a man he never met, for the last eight years has been sending him money to support his family. Because of your father he was able to send your cousins to school and many other blessings for starters. He thought, here is an American, my brother in law I never met, supporting me. My former opponent, my enemy. He is loving on me. My country, my Communist comrades have done nothing for me. It was a revelation to him. He ended up renouncing his Communist allegiance and dropped out of the party. He couldn’t believe this was what Americans were really like. But it was true. My mother still goes to Vietnam every two years. Why do I write this to you? Well, it’s easier to write rather than say it over and over. But I said all that to say this. Life is filled with “ifs.” What if my mother didn’t make it out? I could have been one of the 40,000 kids fathered from American GIs living as second class citizens in Vietnam today. My life would not be what it is today. Also, I just wanted to thank you for your sacrifice and service. Because of you and many like you, I am here today. A recipient of your sacrifice. Thank you for fighting for my freedom my mother, sister and I enjoy. An eternal thank you. I pray for you and thank God for you. I have no idea if anyone of Vietnamese descent has ever thanked you. But from the deepest parts of my heart... THANK YOU!

Larry A. McGhee, 707-761-3309



**To file a claim for the child of a veteran, you will need the following:**

1. The father's and/or mother's DD214
2. The marriage certificate of the child's biological parents
3. The child's birth certificate (the child must have been born after parent's tour in-country)
4. The child's medical records (from birth to current diagnosis)
5. A completed VA Form 21-0304, "Benefits for Certain Children with Disabilities born of Vietnam and Korea Veterans."
6. A completed VA Form 21-22, "Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative." This form ensures that you have POA for the parent as well as the child. If the child is over 18 years of age and is competent, the child would file and sign the forms.

Copy the above documents with the VA date stamp. Scan and enter them into VetPro. Keep a copy of the documents in a secure location.

- Send the completed children's claims to the Denver VA Regional Office/Children of Vietnam Veterans Claims
- Send a copy of the claim to us at National Vietnam Veterans of America | Attn: Ch. 18 Claim | 8719 Coleville Road | Suite 300 | Silver Spring, MD 20910

It is recommended that a claim for helpless child is also submitted. Using the above logic, file a VA Form 21-526a for a helpless child with the regional VSA office of jurisdiction. For the Helpless Child claim, include as additional evidence the social security record showing that the individual was totally disabled prior to 18 years of age.

**To file a claim for the grandchild of a veteran, you will need the following:**

1. Follow Steps 1-3 for the CHILD'S CLAIM (Above)
2. The marriage certificate of the child born to veteran with Boots on the Ground
3. The birth certificate of the grandchild of the biological grandfather/grandmother
4. The child's medical records (from birth to current diagnosis)
5. A completed VA Form 21-0304, "Benefits for Certain Children with Disabilities born of Vietnam and Korea Veterans."
6. A completed VA Form 21-22, "Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative." This form ensures that you have POA for the parent as well as the child. If the child is over 18 years of age and is competent, the child would file and sign the forms.

Copy the above documents with the VA date stamp. Scan and enter them into VetPro. Keep a copy of the documents in a secure location.

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- Send a copy of the claim to us at National Vietnam Veterans of America | Attn: Ch. 18 Claim | 8719 Coleville Road | Suite 300 | Silver Spring, MD 20910

It should be noted that for both the child and the grandchild claims, there is a 90+ percent chance that you will get an administrative denial based on the fact the "mother" did not serve in Vietnam. Follow up with a reconsideration and include medical evidence and a supporting medical opinion that links the birth defects with exposure. We know the grandchild's claims will be denied, however we are intent on ensuring the grandchild's claim (record) is either made in a separate VBMS folder or is in the folder with the biological grandparent's C-File. This logic must also be followed with the children's claims.

Sergeant Ft — Mac McCabe  
8719 Coleville Road, Suite 300 | Silver Spring, MD, 20910  
(301) 545-4000 | vva.org  
"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund - Wall of Faces  
California Missing Photos – May 27, 2019 – TOTALS

MEMORIAL DAY

California Service Members listed on Vietnam Memorial	5575	
California Service Members listed with photos	5471	
California Service Members listed without photos	104	- 9
<b>Note:</b> California Service Members listed as MIA	162	
All Service Members listed as MIA	1571	
California Service Members – Home of Record	46 Cities or Communities	- 1
Alameda County	6 - Missing Photos	
Contra Costa County	1 - Missing Photos	
Los Angeles County	78 - Missing Photos	- 9 69 Los Angeles City - 4
Orange County	9 - Missing Photos	
San Diego County	1 - Missing Photos	
San Francisco County	5 - Missing Photos	
San Joaquin County	1 - Missing Photos	
Santa Clara County	3 - Missing Photos	
<b>Total</b>	104 - Missing Photos	- 9

Total Missing Photos Nationwide – 976 - 42

California Missing Photos – Comparison to other States/Territories

Location	Missing Photos	Change	Total Casualties	Percent Missing
Alabama	10	- 1	1210	.8
California	104	- 9	5575	1.9
Georgia	82	- 3	1585	5.2
Guam	2	0	68	2.9
Illinois	15	- 4	2938	.5
International	5	0	122	4.1
Massachusetts	12	- 1	1336	.9
Michigan	38	- 2	2666	1.4
New York	460	- 21	4126	11.1
Pennsylvania	6	- 1	3150	.2
Puerto Rico	170	- 2	347	49.0
South Carolina	4	- 2	895	.4
Virginia	68	- 3	1306	5.2

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdate None on this date  
Casualty Date None on this date

Wall of Faces Internet Resources:

Wall of Faces Website – <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>  
Wall of Faces Website Search – <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/search/results>  
Wall of Faces Website Submit Photo – <http://www.vvmf.org/how-to-submit>

June is PTSD Awareness Month



Among OEF/OIF Veterans who use VA care, 1 in 4 men and 1 in 5 women have PTSD



1 IN 4 MEN



1 IN 5 WOMEN

There are currently about 8 million people in the United States with PTSD, so you probably know someone who is experiencing symptoms. You can impact their lives by letting them know that there are effective treatments available. Join us this PTSD Awareness Month by taking our pledge and spreading the word that PTSD treatment works.

TAKE THE PLEDGE

[https://www.ptsd.va.gov/understand/awareness/docs/PTSDAware\\_Pledge.pdf?utm\\_campaign=ptsdm2019&utm\\_content=pledge2&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/understand/awareness/docs/PTSDAware_Pledge.pdf?utm_campaign=ptsdm2019&utm_content=pledge2&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)





### DR. ED RYAN - FINAL RESTING PLACE

*On March 11 Dr. Ed Ryan was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Services were overseen by VVA National Chaplain Fr. Philip Solis (left center). Charlotte Ryan (left above) was escorted into the chapel, followed by an honor detail (right above). Graveside services followed (below and bottom right).*





You can't sue Uncle Sam. . . yet

By Eileen C. Moore

On July 28, 1945, a military plane flying through fog in Manhattan on its way to Newark crashed into the Empire State Building. Despite the loss of lives and property, the government was immune from suit because for its first 150 years, our nation operated under the doctrine of sovereign immunity--you can't sue the king. The crash prompted Congress to pass the Federal Tort Claims Act in 1946. Thereafter, the United States government could be sued.

In 1950, however, those circumstances changed for military personnel when the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Feres v. United States*. In that case, the high court carved out an exception in the Federal Tort Claims Act, holding that when active duty members of the armed forces are injured by the negligence of others in the armed forces, they would not be able to sue the government.

Over the decades since 1950, that holding has become known as the *Feres* doctrine. Time after time, lower courts have lamented the injustice wreaked by the *Feres* doctrine. Now, something is in the wind. Two things actually.

First, in May 2018, the widower of an active duty service woman, who died following childbirth at United States Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Washington, sued the government for medical malpractice. A federal trial court dismissed the case, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal, noting, "If ever there was a case to carve out an exception to the *Feres* doctrine, this is it. But only the Supreme Court has the tools to do so."

The widower, Mr. Daniel, asked the U. S. Supreme Court to hear his case, a process called a petition for writ of certiorari or "cert." When it was filed, the government's lawyer, the Solicitor General, filed no opposition, presumably confident that almost seven decades of precedent was enough to indicate the outcome of Mr. Daniel's request for cert. But the Supreme Court ordered the Solicitor General to file a response. After several requests for more time, the response was filed. Now, week after week, during which cert after cert in most other petitions have been denied, the court has still not ruled on Mr. Daniel's request.

The second thing that happened was a Congressional hearing in the House Armed Services subcommittee on the *Feres* doctrine in late April. The subcommittee heard directly from victims of military medical malpractice who are barred from suing the government. Congresswoman Jackie Speier stated: "It is disrespectful and shameful that for 69 years Congress has refused to give them the same rights as everyone else."

The *Feres* doctrine has the attention of both the Supreme Court and Congress. Let's see what happens!



In a former life, Appellate Justice Eileen C. Moore served as a combat nurse in the Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam, and is a lifetime member of VVA. Since 2008, she has chaired the Judicial Council's [the governing body for all California courts] Veterans and Military Families subcommittee. For nine years, she served as a mentor in a Veterans Treatment Court, primarily mentoring women veterans. She is the author of two award-winning books, *Race Results* and *Gender Results*.



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

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To:

In this issue:

- Chapter/Council Activities-Events/Photos
- Legislative News
- Veteran Info

And more...

CSC Meeting Dates & Events

National Convention - July 16-20, 2019 - Spokane, Washington

August 23-25, 2019, Fresno, CA

October 25-27, 2019, Fresno, CA

**Zephyr deadlines 2 weeks AFTER to each CSC meeting**