



# The California Zephyr

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year is almost over. For those of you that have not heard VVA California State Council will no longer be meeting in Fresno, CA for our quarterly meetings. Our contract was up with the Radisson Hotel and the CSC board decided we needed a change. So starting next year, Feb. 28, 2020 to March 1, 2020 to be exact, is the first meeting of the year, we will be meeting in Visalia, CA at the Wyndham Hotel. It is right off the freeway as you drive towards Visalia.

I know its 30 miles or so further for those of you coming down from the north, and there is no close train service but this was really the best deal out there. We will also hold next year's CSC convention at the Wyndham.

We are looking forward to the new location and think it will work out just fine. The meeting planner will be getting the information on reservations and directions out to everyone shortly.

On another note, it is happening again. Someone has gotten of our email addresses from CSC web site or the Zephyr and they are sending out emails to different members asking for you to send me gift cards, then they sign my name to the email. Only problem is I am not sending the emails. If you look at the sender's email address you will see it is not from me. If it is not from my email address, then I am not sending it out. Plus, I will never send out an email asking you to send gift cards to anyone or any group. I will never ask you to send me or anyone else money.

So if you get one of these emails asking for gift cards it is a scam. Do not respond to them and do not send them anything. Delete the email.

The below paragraph is one of the emails they have sent out to our members. I think it might be time we look at removing all of our email addresses from the web page, the Zephyr and anywhere else we have it. We will be discussing this at the next CSC BOD meeting in February 2020.

*"I need your assistance, are you available? I'm out of town, I need you to handle this for VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA. We need some gift cards for donation to Veterans at Hospice Care and welfare with patients and units.*

*Steve Mackey*

*President*

*VVA"*

So if you receive an email similar to the one above delete it.

Steve

Go Army, Beat Navy!

## VETERANS WHO WERE CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES

Whatever it takes

By Eileen C. Moore

*In a former life, Justice Moore served as a combat nurse in Vietnam in the Army Nurse Corps. She was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Cross of Gallantry with Palm. She is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Since 2008, she has chaired the Judicial Council's Veterans and Military Families Subcommittee. For nine years, she served as a mentor in a Veterans Treatment Court, primarily to women veterans. In 2015, her book "Gender Results" received a Benjamin Franklin award.*



Most who have served in the armed forces have at least one common conviction: They love the United States of America. They take the words in our founding documents very seriously, and truly believe ours is the land of the free and the home of the brave. Thus it is not surprising that so many veterans were involved in securing civil rights for all Americans. This is a discussion of but a few of those veterans.

Blacks must have learned a huge lesson after returning from serving during World War I.

W.E.B. du Bois, sociologist, teacher and activist of the early 20th century, was a leader in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, when it was founded in 1910. He viewed World War I as an opportunity for black Americans to demonstrate their loyalty to their country and urged them to close ranks with white America. Some 380,000 African-Americans served in that war. But after the war, blacks faced increased racial violence rather than the gratitude they expected.

Almost 1,000,000 blacks served during World War II. While defeating Nazi persecution in the war, they realized the hypocrisy of segregation in the U.S. One small incident during the war was telling. A group of black soldiers were required to eat their meal out of the back window of a train. Through the window, they observed Italian prisoners of war sitting inside, chatting with the staff while enjoying their lunch. African-American servicemen gained awareness that their lives at home could be much improved.



*Before he broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, Lieutenant Jackie Robinson refused to move to the back of the bus in Colleen, Texas. He faced a courts martial and was found not guilty. (New York Times News Service)*

They decided to defeat tyranny at home as well as in other countries.

Blacks flexed their collective muscles and got the attention of government officials who joined in the quest for civil rights. Executive orders, judicial decisions and legislative acts by other veterans facilitated enormous change.

Blacks who served fought for their rights at home

Sometimes small individual acts of defiance by veterans added up against Jim Crow in a big way.

Before he broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, Lieutenant Jackie Robinson refused to move to the back of the bus in Colleen, Texas. He faced a courts martial and was found not guilty.

Corporal Marguerite Nicholson was dragged off a railroad coach and arrested in Hamlet, North Carolina after she refused to move to a segregated section when the train crossed into the South. The Hamlet chief of police beat the 120-pound woman and charged her with violating a local ordinance. She spent two days in jail and was required to pay a fine and court

costs.

Wilson Head, a World War II veteran, undertook his own personal freedom ride from Atlanta to Washington in 1946 on a Greyhound bus. He insisted on sitting in the front of the bus, braving angry drivers and enraged passengers. He somehow made it to his destination without being arrested or injured.

Some soldiers fared much worse when they challenged Jim Crow while traveling by bus, even when the challenge was slight. Sergeant Isaac Woodard returned to the U.S.



*Sergeant Isaac Woodard returned to the U.S. in early 1946 after surviving 15 months in the Pacific theater. He was discharged in Georgia, and was still in his Army uniform traveling home to South Carolina on a Greyhound bus. He had the audacity to ask to be treated like a man. He asked a bus driver if there would be enough time to relieve himself during a stop. The bus driver replied, "Boy, go on back and sit down and keep quiet." Woodard replied, "God damn it, talk to me like I'm talking to you. I'm a man just like you." In response, the bus driver summoned police. The police chief of Batesburg, South Carolina*

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In February 1946, war veteran James Stevenson and his mother did something black patrons in the past would not have dared to do. They complained to a store clerk about inadequate service in Columbia, Tennessee. The clerk assaulted Stevenson's mother and Stevenson pushed the clerk through a storefront window. Crowds of black and whites gathered, and two black men were shot and killed.

Ralph Abernathy enlisted in the Army during World War II. He rose to the rank of platoon sergeant. He later collaborated with Martin Luther King, Jr. to form the Montgomery Improvement Association. That was the group that organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott after Rosa Parks



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was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus.

Robert Franklin Williams was a Marine who came home convinced that blacks could achieve racial equality. When another black veteran named Bennie Montgomery, also home from the war and working as a sharecropper in 1946, defended himself after a white landowner kicked and slapped him, the white man died. Montgomery was executed by the state of North Carolina. The Ku Klux Klan had wanted to lynch Montgomery, and feeling robbed of the opportunity, stormed the funeral home to claim Montgomery's body. The Klan was met by 40 black veterans with guns. Using his military prowess, Williams and the others defended their fellow veteran's body. Not a shot was fired, and the Klansmen drove away. When the Klan tried to burn down the home of another black man trying to integrate the county swimming pool, Williams

and other veterans again rebuffed the KKK.

International notoriety of Williams was achieved when he raised protests over the arrest of two little black boys, one aged 7 and the other 9, after they kissed a little white girl who was either 7 or 8. An appointee of the governor prosecuted the boys. The boys were sent to a state reformatory in 1958. Williams' NAACP chapter hired an experienced appellate lawyer from New York. A London newspaper reported on the incident throughout Europe and Asia, and Eleanor Roosevelt tried to intervene.

Demonstrations against the United States over the case were held in Paris, Rome, Vienna and Rotterdam. In 1959, the governor of North Carolina pardoned and released the boys.

Medgar Evers served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1945, reaching the rank of sergeant. He fought in the Battle of Normandy in June 1944. In 1946, Evers

gathered a group of young black men and headed for the courthouse intending to vote in the Democratic Party primary. They were prevented from voting by 20 armed white men. Evers spent the rest of his life fighting for civil rights until he was assassinated . He and his brother spearheaded boycotts against gas stations that refused to let blacks use their rest rooms. In 1963, he was shot in the back by a member of the White

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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.





Citizens'

Council in Jackson, Mississippi.

Clyde Kennard was an American Korean War veteran and civil rights pioneer from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He tried to desegregate higher education in Mississippi. Kennard served in the United States Army in Germany and Korea for seven years. After he was honorably discharged , he studied at the University of Chicago for three years.

But when his father died, he went back to Mississippi to help his mother run the family farm, intending to finish his studies at the University of Southern Mississippi. Local whites pulled all sorts of stunts to prevent Kennard's attending the university, including trumping up criminal charges. The last time he was arrested, it was for burglary, a felony. An all-white jury took just 10 minutes to convict him. The appellate opinion about his case can be found at 242 Miss. 691. Kennard was sent to the penitentiary where he had to work long days on the prison's cotton plantation, and died a few years later. Two years after his death, the first black students were admitted to the University of Southern Mississippi. In 1991, the Clarion-Ledger published documents showing that Kennard had been framed. The Mississippi Senate unanimously passed a resolution honoring Kennard as the "forgotten civil rights pioneer," and a circuit judge declared him innocent of the "bogus charges" in 2006.

The Presidents

Harry S. Truman served in the Missouri National Guard. During World War I, he was deployed to France. After the war, he achieved the rank of colonel in the Army Reserves.

Truman was inaugurated president when Franklin D. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. A few months later, he appointed Frederick Vinson as chief justice and Harold Burton as an associate justice to the United States Supreme Court. Vinson, a veteran, would later author the opinion voiding court enforcement of restrictive covenants, *Shelley v. Kraemer*. Burton , also a veteran who served in World War I, was an active member of the NAACP and was one of the justices who ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Truman was very troubled over the treatment of returning African-American service members, and often spoke about Isaac Woodard's blinding. In 1946, he issued Executive Order 9808, establishing his President's Committee on Civil Rights, a committee charged with examining the condition of civil rights in the U.S. Truman was the first president to address the NAACP in 1947, when he pledged his support for upholding the civil rights of all Americans .

In 1948, Truman issued Executive Orders 9980 and 9981. E.O. 9980 ordered the desegregation of the federal work force and E.O. 9981 abolished racial discrimination in the United States Armed Forces.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Western Europe during World War II. He led a massive invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe that began on D-Day, June 6, 1944. In 1952, he was elected president.

In 1957, Eisenhower ordered federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas in response to violent public hostility when black children tried to integrate a high school. The governor of Arkansas closed Little Rock high schools throughout the 1958-1959 school year.

Also in 1957, Eisenhower signed into law the first civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1875. It was Eisenhower who proposed a civil rights bill to provide federal protection for the voting rights of African-Americans. The bill created a national Civil Rights Commission, elevated the Civil Rights section into a full-blown division of the Justice Department and authorized the attorney general to seek injunctions in voting rights cases. The act also clearly states it is unlawful for a private individual as well as someone acting under color of law to interfere or attempt to interfere with the right to vote at any general, special or primary election concerning federal offices. Then, in 1960, Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act of 1960, explicitly permitting the federal government to bring voting suits against the states.

In September 1953, Chief Justice Frederick Vinson died. Eisenhower nominated the former governor of California, Earl Warren, as the new Chief. Warren was confirmed by the Senate in March 1954. On May 17, 1954, he issued a unanimous opinion he authored, *Brown v. Board of Education*.

John F. Kennedy served in the Navy in World War II. He received two medals for heroism and the Purple Heart. He succeeded Eisenhower as president. In 1963, Kennedy proposed legislation that would become law after he was assassinated. In 1962, he signed Executive Order 11063, banning segregation in federally funded housing. In 1963, he delivered a speech calling for Americans to recognize civil rights as a moral cause. Kennedy's various proposals

culminated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

During World War II, Lyndon B. Johnson was appointed a lieutenant commander in the United States Naval Reserve. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his bravery. He became president on November 22, 1963, following the assassination of President Kennedy.

Johnson was able to bring home the civil rights bill that Kennedy hoped to pass. His significant legislative experience allowed him to maneuver through the intricacies of Congress in a way few could have done. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed by Johnson on July 2, 1964. He later signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Supreme Court

The opinion in *Morgan v. Com. of Virginia* was issued in 1946, and likely helped give those returning service members some encouragement to speak up about their own civil rights. In fact, there was a 1947 ditty that went:

You don't have to ride Jim crow; You don't have to ride Jim crow; Get on the bus, set any place, 'Cause Irene Morgan won her case, You don't have to ride Jim crow.

The Morgan case concerned a Virginia statute that required a woman on a bus in Virginia on her way to Maryland to move to the back of the bus while in Virginia. Morgan was represented by Thurgood Marshall, who was later appointed the first black justice of the nation's highest court. In Morgan, the Supreme Court held Virginia's statute interfered with interstate commerce and was invalid. Of the seven justices in the majority, five definitely served in the military, and one might have served. Justices Stanley Reed, Frederick Vinson, Frank Murphy, Felix Frankfurter and Hugo Black served in the U.S. Army during World War I. Justice William O. Douglas claimed he had been an Army private, but some historians say this claim is false.

In 1948, the Supreme Court issued *Shelley v. Kraemer*, holding that courts would no longer enforce restrictive covenants which have the purpose of the exclusion of persons of designated race from ownership or occupancy of real property. The plaintiffs were represented by Thurgood Marshall and Loren Miller. Miller was later appointed to the California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles. Of the six justices who took part in the consideration of the *Shelley v. Kraemer* opinion, Frederick Vinson, Hugo Black, Felix Frankfurter, Frank Murphy, Harold Burton and William O.

Douglas, five were definitely veterans and Douglas was possibly a veteran.

On the famous opinion ordering desegregation of America's public schools, *Brown v. Board of Education*, sat World War I veterans Hugo Black, Felix Frankfurter, Stanley Reed, Sherman Minton, Tom Clark and Harold Burton. Thus, six of the nine justices who issued *Brown* were definitely veterans. Douglas, the possible veteran, was on the case as well. Besides Chief Justice Earl Warren, Robert Jackson was also on the court. He served as chief U.S. prosecutor at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.

The Legislators

Notable among the many legislators who fought to attain passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act was Republican Congressman William Moore McCulloch. McCulloch served in the Army during World War II. In Congress, he represented a rural conservative district in Ohio. A 2014 New York Times article, written 50 years after the act was passed, says there is "a good case to be made that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 would not have become law without him." His district was only 2.7% black, but he descended from abolitionists and was said to be appalled by Jim Crow. In 1964, McCulloch was the senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee. The Times article says he agreed to active collaboration with the Democratic White House to get the Civil Rights Act passed. Among the documents found in McCulloch's papers was a handwritten note from Jacqueline Kennedy: "Your integrity under such pressures is what makes our political system worth fighting and dying for."

Another Republican, Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois was also instrumental in the passage of the act. Dirksen dropped out of college to enlist in the Army, serving as an artillery officer during World War I. He was Senate Minority Leader in 1964, and developed a working relationship with the Democratic Majority Leader. When the original civil rights bill was held up in a filibuster for 54 days, Dirksen helped break the Southern filibuster and was one of the authors of the substitute bill that finally went through.

Democrat Mike Mansfield was the Senate Majority Leader from 1961 until 1977. He served in the United States Navy during World War I. He is credited with following a procedure that permitted the Civil Rights Act to be openly discussed in the Senate, keeping it from dying in the Judiciary Committee.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, Democratic Majority whip, tried to join the military three times. When the Navy would not commission him as an officer, he tried to join as an enlisted man. He was rejected both times because he was color blind. He also tried to enlist in the Army but couldn't pass the physical there either. He was the lead author of the 1964 Civil Rights Act .

Conclusion

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces helped in securing civil rights for all Americans. They believed in our country, knowing what it was capable of achieving. All of us should realize that if something important needs to be done, we probably can't go wrong if we ask a veteran to do it. Veterans deserve our tribute.

## To Kill A Man: A Short Story

by James H. Webb, Jr.

POLITICO: Long before James Webb became secretary of the Navy or a U.S. senator—or even potentially a 2016 Democratic presidential candidate—he was a 23-year-old Marine fighting in Vietnam’s An Hoa basin, west of the city of Da Nang, as part of the Fifth Marine Regiment. During his tour as a rifle platoon and company commander, Webb was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, two Bronze Star Medals and two Purple Hearts for his actions in combat. An enemy grenade left him with shrapnel lodged in his head, arm, leg and back. Recounting his gritty combat tour during some of the war’s darkest days—in one eight-week period, his rifle platoon suffered 51 Purple Hearts among those killed or wounded—he told an interviewer in 1988, “My greatest feeling in Vietnam was that I was a pawn.”

Webb’s time at the war helped to inspire his career as a writer; his 1978 debut novel, *Fields of Fire*, is considered one of the best books ever written about the Vietnam War, and his writing ever since has often focused on combat. It’s an experience, Webb says, that the average civilian can never understand. As he wrote in his 2014 memoir, “I and my fellow combat veterans stand on one side of a great impassable divide, with the rest of the world on the other.”

This is Webb’s first piece of fiction published since September 2001.

“Did you ever kill anybody, Grandpa?”

“Yes, I did.”

“Do you feel bad about it?”

“We can talk about that later.”

His grandson looked skeptically at him as they walked, surprised and unconvinced. He did not usually deal in avoidance, but killing someone was not a subject to be discussed during a short walk in a parking lot as they headed toward the front doors of the Stuart First Baptist Church.

“I guess it must have been a hard thing to do. But I didn’t ask if it was right or wrong.”

“Well, it wasn’t really right or wrong.”

“Do you feel bad? That’s all I asked.”

It was an otherwise glorious morning. The sun hovered above them in a brilliant cloudless sky. They walked together, just the two of them, waving to fellow parishioners dressed in their Sunday best. It was their special weekend, the first Sunday after school closed for the summer, and young Abner always spent it with him. Later, they would go fishing. There was no better place to pass on family traditions than in a jon boat on the quiet of a lake, teaching a boy how to hold a spinning rod, and how to cast along the reed beds, and how to catch a bass. So just before church was an awkward time for his grandson to be asking such a question.

“We’ll talk about it on the lake.” He attempted a joke.

“I grew up with Ernest Hemingway. And Hemingway said you aren’t supposed to feel bad about it.”

“Who is Ernest Hemingway?”

“Some writer who never killed anybody. Except himself.”

He had killed people, not from the cockpit of an airplane with a bomb dropped by wagging a control stick, or from a shell fired out of an artillery piece behind the barbed wire of a remote combat base, but by pointing a weapon and pulling a trigger. Killing in the infantry was different. It was not always up close and personal, but when it became personal it was also messy.

Which was why he didn’t really think about it that much all these years later. There was no denying that killing people had made him permanently different, not better or worse, just different, from the person he had been before he left and from the people he returned to when he came back home. The reality of it made the breast-beating, theoretical quandaries that dominated classroom discussions back home seem naive and child-like, imbued



with the moral certainty that so often attends practical ignorance.

If you take a human life, when you die, will God punish you? Or does He give soldiers a Military Exclusion Clause? Or is there even such a thing as God?

And in any event, who are we to ratify such conduct?

His answer had always been simple. Well, you either died or they did.

His postwar life would see its share of accomplishments coupled with all the inevitable frustrations, failures and disappointments of adulthood—but for him, the greatest moral mysteries had been resolved at the age of 23. It was indeed Hemingway who had written that no man truly respected another unless he felt deep inside that if it came to it, the other man would kill him. He knew the answer. He never discussed it with anyone else and he rarely thought much about it. But in knowing the answer, he also knew himself.

So when it came to war, he usually spent his time remembering the more mundane realities. The aches and pains of life in what the Marines called the Bush were with him every day, constant reminders of the war. Those, and lately the ever-too-frequent funerals of good men he had come to know as brothers—the tough, tattooed teenyboppers who had endured it all only to return to hard lives at home and then aged too quickly and who now were frequently dying before they had a chance to gracefully grow old. Many of them had simply burned out early, their lives sapped up not so much by shrapnel and gunshot wounds, although most of them had been wounded at one point or another, but by the long-term wages of bad water, festering infections, ringworm and hookworm, trench foot and jungle sores, shrimp fever and malaria, the kinds of maladies that were so common you never complained about them to each other and yet so esoteric that they were impossible to describe to anyone who had not been there with you.

And when he thought of the other things, he could never forget those who had died and those who had suffered more than he had. These were the true moral paragons, whether or not they ever considered it or knew it. Some had taken blasts of shrapnel. Some had been ripped by gut shots from enemy rifles and machine guns. Some had lost limbs. Some had returned with minds pushed so far over the edge by it all that they could not fully come back, even when they were home, and never would. All these years later, he still regarded them as his people, his friends, indeed his lifelong comrades, but it had not really started out that way. The bonds that brought them together and kept them close were powerful and permanent and overwhelming, but they were consequential, not intentional.

He and the others had been thrown together by randomness and fate. They had not chosen the war in which they would fight, or the unit in which they would serve, or the loyalties that would impel their conduct for the remaining decades of their lives. It was not as though they were a band of saints motivated for such sacrifice by a higher calling, or evil warmongers who took delight in battle, but rather that they had been forced to undergo a common travail that caused them to be viewed from the outside in a way that few of them had ever dreamed. They had taken risks that others in their age group had only perceived intellectually, and then had been held up before the country as stark evidence that fighting wars brought moral consequences which only they could bear. Those others who had escaped the risks could secretly be grateful that it was he and his friends who had to live in the world that those consequences had brought upon them. The truth was that they had been forced to trust each other with a completeness that, in many cases, grew into a love as close as family. Life after the war did not diminish that trust.

Like everything else, combat had its upsides and downsides. It was just that the downsides were so low that on any day, they could be fatal, while the upsides—knowing one's self, and an unbreakable camaraderie—were higher and lasted longer. It had taken a while after the war to understand that no one ever really left the Bush, even if they survived it, that neither the terrors nor the intense bonds would ever disappear, and that all of it would always burn inside him as if it were still the first day or the worst day. So there was no logic in trying to forget it or even to block it out. Every single day and sometimes several times a day, he would think of the vastness of the rice paddies and the sharp, jungle-covered ridgelines and the sounds of artillery crunching into the earth and of sudden rifle fire engulfing him like a horrible loud speaker that had short-circuited and gone out of control and of distant helicopter blades beating into the sky, and he would remember what it was like to smell manioc and rotting thatch and bilious waterbull dung in the sultry evening air as his Marines slipped into the fighting holes they had dug at the edge of this latest village and waited to

see if the enemy would come.

And every now and then, he even thought about the killing.

His regiment had become known for moving at night and attacking enemy positions just before dawn. North Vietnamese Army regulars and Main Force Viet Cong soldiers lived in base camps under the jungle canopy in the nearby mountains, just off the Ho Chi Minh Trail where it left the Laotian border. As dusk fell, they would often send patrols down from the mountains, sometimes to attack but also to harass, ambush and interdict the Marines who controlled the valleys. Just before first light they would leave their night positions and move quickly up the wide, mud-packed Speed Trails that lined the valley floor, back into their base camps.

Like yin and yang, the enemy had built their pattern on the way the Marines camped and patrolled, and over time, the better Marine units built new patterns to match the enemy's.

Walking under the cover of darkness, the Marines would converge on a village or a key hill or a trail intersection that might hold an enemy position. Nearing it, they would silently split in two. Half of the Marines would form a blocking position in the direction the enemy was most likely to retreat if attacked. The other half would form a wide assault line, and just as the sky began to gray, they would rise from behind the paddy dikes and ditches and assault. Thus trapped, the enemy most often would break contact. Knowing they were at a disadvantage if forced to fight in open terrain during daylight, they would flee toward the mountains, which caused them to run directly into the blocking force. Sometimes the target was empty, and the Marines would simply link up and continue their patrol. Sometimes the enemy was prepared, using well-directed fire and contrived terrain features to channel the Marines into close-in ambushes or cleverly concealed booby traps. And sometimes—the best times—the Marines surprised the enemy, cutting their soldiers down like little metal figures in the shooting booths of a small town's penny arcade when they tried to retreat.

The commanding generals and colonels called this tactic Sweep and Block. The grunts who did the killing called it Flushing the Rabbits. The sweep and block was the most effective tactical maneuver in the open rice paddies and string-like ridgelines of western Quang Nam Province. A rifle platoon of 40 Marines could pull off a sweep and block. So could a rifle company three times that size, or a battalion of four rifle companies, or in some cases, multiple battalions. During one recent sweep and block, three battalions of Marines had trapped a North Vietnamese Army force several times their size, like the proverbial dog that caught the fire truck. Instead of taking up a morning, the two sides had chased and ambushed each other through the villages and ridges, fighting for eight days.

Now they were on the move again. The moon shone above them in the wide and empty sky, reflecting mirror-like in the rain-drenched paddies. They had broken their perimeter at the edge of a village called Phu Phong (4) in the middle of the night, taking down the tent-like poncho hootches, packing up loose tins of C-ration meals and pulling in the trip flares and claymore mines they had placed in front of their fighting holes, counting the grenades and popups that had lain in the parapets, all of this to make sure nothing was left behind for the enemy. Now, hours later, they glided single-file, Indian style, along a packed, mud-slick paddy dike, 10 meters between each man even in the darkness, the column of a hundred heavily laden Marines stretching back for a mile inside the tree line from whence they had just emerged.

They crossed a wide rice paddy, as empty and silent as the moon itself. If this were a movie, they would have filled the screen with an unspoken majesty, their silhouettes cast against the faintly glowing sky. But on the paddy dike, they struggled and cursed and moaned, anonymous and forgotten, fighting a nervous exhaustion. Close-up they seemed more camel-like than kingly. Each Marine's frame was shrouded in a 12-pound flak jacket and hump-backed from a much heavier pack. Each head was similarly rounded by a steel helmet. Their boots squished in the mud. Sawgrass scratched their legs. Shoulder-fired rockets, claymore mines and bandoliers of ammunition clonked against them, matching the loose rhythm of their footsteps. They carried their M-16 rifles with a familiar ease. Their cartridge belts and flak jacket pockets were heavy with canteens of water, pop-up flares and hand grenades.

They were heading east, toward the coming dawn. Soon they would be flushing rabbits from the village of Phu Binh (3).

The rice paddy ended at the outer edge of the village. A raised dirt trail made a perimeter around the hamlet. Just

inside the trail, moat-like, was a deep ditch that channeled a murky stream. An old concrete well built by the French many years before marked the intersection with another trail. They turned onto the other trail, crossing a footbridge over the ditch, and then stepped just inside the village.

At the edge of the village the rice fields smelled of ash from a charred streak left by a recent napalm strike. New odors surrounded them as they entered Phu Binh (3). Following the village's outer rim they were embraced by a fetid musk wafting up from a nearby pond, and then the perfume of a hundred lotus blossoms. The musk and flowers gave way to wet ash from doused cook fires, powdery manioc fields, and the stench of waterbull pens. A rooster crowed. Dogs yapped at them from nearby thatch porches. A waterbull strained against its nose-hooked leash inside its pen, having been trained by the Viet Cong from birth to shriek and stir at the odor of the gun oil used on American rifles.

Leaves hung heavy on the trails, lightly touching their necks and faces. Off to their right the village was pitch-black, its inhabitants huddled inside the earthen family bunkers where they spent each night in order to avoid the war. During daylight patrols frail women who had grown old too early would squat on the mud porches, staring quietly as they passed, their faces frozen and unmoving but their eyes electric, missing nothing. They would roll red crumbles of betel nut inside their mouths like a cow's cud, squirting the juice in front of them, their teeth permanently stained by it and their minds numbed from it, blocking out the daily crisis of a war that was being fought on top of them. Little kids would hold onto the squatting women's shoulders and necks as if they were lamp posts, their heads shaved except for small tufts in the very front, many of them naked from the waist down, the Bush equivalent of diaper training. The young men were gone, either dead or hiding or camped with the enemy in the mountains.

And in the darkness there was nothing except the roosters crowing and the dogs yapping and the waterbulls, shrieking and stirring.

It happened quickly. The lead platoon silently broke away from their column and set up behind a rise in the earth on the eastern side of the village. The other two platoons crossed a small stream and moved into place behind a high paddy dike on the village's western edge. Just before dawn, a firefight erupted a thousand meters to their north. They immediately knew that a sister rifle company had trapped an enemy unit in the hamlet of Phu Binh (1). Their faces grew taut. They checked and rechecked their weapons. They crouched behind the high paddy dike as the firefight to their north ebbed and flowed. Rifle and machine-gun fire snapped and crackled through the quiet air, red and green tracers careening and intersecting above them in the bluing sky.

Dawn was breaking. Inside Phu Binh (3) more dogs barked and the roosters crowed. The surprised enemy soldiers began to crawl from the bunkers and move toward the speed trails. In moments they poured out of the village in groups of four and five, dozens of them running westward, heading for the mountains but instead moving directly toward the blocking force. On the right flank at the southern edge of the blocking formation, the Marine machine guns opened up, their tracers forming red curtains of steel in front of the fleeing soldiers. The assault force rose from behind the distant knoll, firing their M-16 rifles from the hip and steadily moving toward them.

The fleeing enemy soldiers were trapped. Some took cover in the mud behind low paddy dikes, setting up a base of fire to protect their comrades. Small groups were shifting directions, probing the blocking position, trying to find an escape route as the gunfire from the Marines grew more intense and ever closer.

The Marines in the blocking positions knelt behind the high paddy dike, looking for shadowed targets in the pre-dawn air. To their north, the battle at Phu Binh (1) became more intense, a spillover of heavy rifle and machine gun fire sweeping their left flank. To the east, their front, the firing from the assault force grew heavier, many of the rounds impacting near the blocking force. Theirs had become an instant world of heavy rifle and machine gun fire now coming in from three different sides, mixed with the random impact of rocket-propelled grenades.

They crouched behind the paddy dike to avoid a swelling, heavy burst of fire. Kneeling again and looking over the top of the dike, he caught a dark swirl of motion off to his left, away from the center of the firefight. Three enemy soldiers were jogging just in front of the blocking force, heading south, having escaped the killing zone of the battle at Phu Binh (1). Bent over as they ran, holding their AK-47 rifles low to the ground, they were running perhaps 50 meters in front of the blocking position, well away from the center of the firefight.

The three enemy soldiers did not see the Marines in the



blocking force, most of whom were still huddled behind the high dike to avoid the assault force's gunfire. They began running right toward him, thinking to disappear behind the high paddy dike and reach the speed trail that would take them to the mountains. They would be on top of him within seconds. He had to move quickly, and he knew that this would have to be a careful shot so that he would not hit any of the assaulting Marines on the other side. He grabbed an M-79 grenade launcher from another Marine and stood, exposed to the gunfire of the assault force and also to the advancing enemy soldiers.

The soldier in the middle saw him. They were 30 meters apart, the distance from home plate to first base in a baseball game. The soldier slowed his jog, raising an AK-47 rifle and pointing it at him. But he had already aimed his M-79. He plunked out the 40 millimeter round. The small grenade exploded in the soldier's chest. The soldier staggered backward and sideways in a quick death dance, like a chicken whose neck had just been wrung and whose head had popped off, but whose muscular system had not yet picked up the brain's signal that it was dead. The soldier finally fell, face down into the rice. In the darkness and the confusion, the other two enemy soldiers raced along the edge of the paddy dike, almost near enough for the Marines to reach out and touch them. In the chaos, they disappeared.

Somewhere across the vast Pacific, back in what they all liked to call The World, people his age were protesting the war in which he had been sent to fight. Some of them were conjuring up complicated moral visions of what he and the others were doing or maybe should have done instead of fighting. Some hated him, simply for having done it. Some were empathizing, with pity but rarely with respect. Whatever they felt, precious few were capable of understanding what it meant or what it took to have to pull the trigger, of how empty of intellectual thought that moment could be, and how devoid of larger meaning it actually was. Deep inside, he knew that almost every person who was making these larger judgments would have done the same thing, or at least tried to, and if they had not been capable of doing the same thing, or if their moral compulsions were so strong that they could not bring themselves to do it, then they would have lost. And despite all their high-blown moral pronouncements, they would be dead.

The firefight dwindled and then ended. The assault force met the blocking force. The morning sun cooked up the water from the paddies and the ponds. The roosters crowed and the small dogs yapped. The villagers crawled out of their family bunkers. Odors from the cook fires of the villages wafted over them. Despite the vicious killing, all was oddly calm and even normal in this next new day. They checked dead bodies, collected enemy weapons, and called in the medevac helicopters for a handful of Marines who had been wounded. In the odd and haunting normalcy of killing mixed in with the numbing routine of survival, they ate a quick C-ration breakfast. Then laden with gear, underneath a baking sun, they decamped and moved on to the next stop on their patrol route and to the next village or ridgeline where they would set up a new evening perimeter.

He had searched the body of the man he killed. The dead soldier was carrying a tubular cloth strapped diagonally across his chest, like an old Civil War bedroll. The cloth cylinder was filled with dry rice and cracked corn. Inside the soldier's pack was a red tin of sardines and a mess kit loaded up with cooked rice. NVA packs were prized among Bush Marines for their lightness and for the simplicity of their tie-down pockets. One of his Marines had quickly claimed the soldier's pack, tossing his own in with the enemy weapons and gear that would be loaded onto the medevac helicopter.

He had eaten the dead soldier's ration of rice and cracked corn for several days, boiling portions in his canteen cup, mixing in jalapeño peppers and odd spices they would find as they patrolled through the villes, pouring C-ration tins of spiced beef or boned chicken into the canteen cup to make a special feast. There were only 12 meal options in a case of C-rations. From the beginning, several of the meals were unpalatable. Boredom and repetition quickly made about half of them inedible. When it was 95 degrees and one could not escape the boiling sun, there was little appetite for a tin of greasy spaghetti and meatballs or a heavy combination of beef and potatoes. In his first three months in the Bush, he had lost 20 pounds. Now, after seven months he had become sunbaked and spindly, and when he ate, it came down to spiced beef, Spam-like slices of processed ham, or boned chicken.

The dead soldier's rice was, if not a blessing, certainly an epicurean diversion. And there was more to it. Killing the soldier had been personal. Eating his food became a form of Communion.

Take. Eat. This would have entered my body...

He had also stripped out the dead soldier's wallet. There were some pictures, including a family photo taken underneath a tall palm tree, everyone smiling and dressed in their best clothes, and a wad of North Vietnamese money, which was useless and whose value he did not understand. In the randomness of combat and the unpredictability of his own survival, he thought that someday he might find the dead NVA soldier's family. This was not an obsession or even a clear intention. More than anything, it was part of a superstition, a reluctance to destroy the photos and the wallet that had been in the soldier's pack when he had killed him. So he carried the dead soldier's wallet and pictures and money in his own pack until he himself was wounded. Then in the confusion of his medevac and the transfer of his gear out of the Bush, everything inside his pack was either lost or stolen. The tangible remains were lost, just as certainly as the soldier's life itself.

But he was not lying to his grandson, or attempting to soften the young boy's perceptions, or trying to protect him from some brutal reality that, in their family's long military tradition, he knew his grandson himself might someday live. The truth was, he rarely did think about killing, at least in a way that haunted his moral underpinnings. Fair was fair. Or, depending on how things went, maybe unfair was unfair. One of them had to lose and one of them had to win, and it had nothing to do with God or law.

There were other times when he had come face to face with this reality, including a final moment when the odds had turned against him and it had all caught up with him, as he had always secretly known it would. In a heavy bamboo thicket at the edge of a musky finger of water he had pointed a pistol into the face of an enemy soldier who had just thrown a grenade at him from a hidden door on top of a concealed, reinforced bunker. He had killed the man, just as he had killed another soldier in a bunker before this one and then another soldier standing in the bunker behind the man he had just shot. Two seconds later, the grenade erupted and blew him off the side of a hill and into the sewer-like, murky stream.

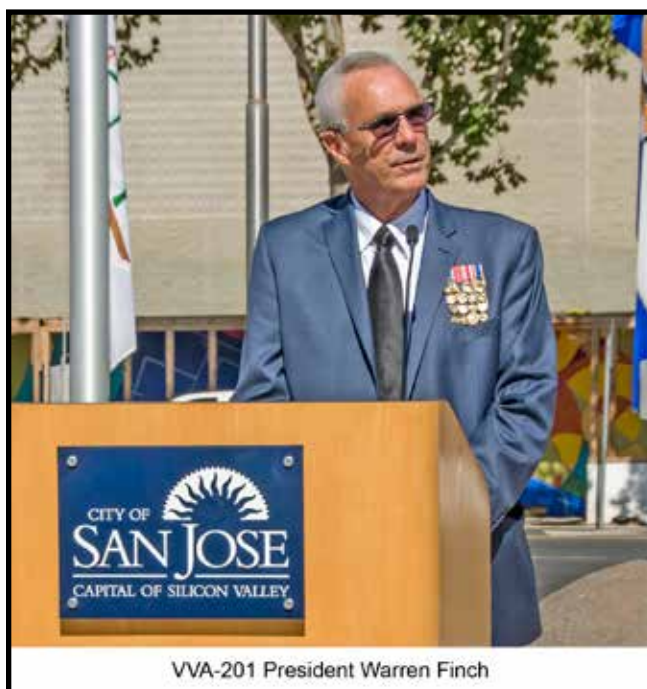
Fair was fair.

The enemy soldier had been smiling. He did not know why. He was not happy about shooting the man but never in all his later years could he conjure up an apology or a regret, other than for the fact that they both had been forced into a violent, inescapable standoff. Of all the long combat he had faced, he remembered this man more than any other, because every morning for the rest of his life as he climbed out of bed he could feel the leavings of that grenade's explosion and remember the hospitalizations and the surgeries that continued off and on throughout the decades. As those days slipped past him toward the long night that he knew awaited him, he also remembered the things that the explosion had taken away from him, despite his relief over the things that it had not disturbed and the sometimes funny, sometimes irritating things it left behind, like the ringing of the metal detectors when he went through airport security because there was still shrapnel in his body.

And every time he did stop to think about those few seconds that had forever changed his life, he could still see the soldier smiling from inside the trap door of the bunker as the soldier threw the grenade and he shot him in the face. And he wondered why the soldier had seemed to be so happy.

## CHAPTER NOTES

### Chapter 201



### POW/MIA Remembrance Day

Chapter 201 VVA and AVVA members participated in the annual POW/MIA Remembrance Day ceremony, with members of American Legion District 13, at the San Jose City Hall on September 20, 2019. VVA Chapter 201 President Warren Finch led the ceremony while American Legion District 13 provided an Honor Guard.

AVVA Chapter 201 President, and former POW, Cang Kim Dong and Chapter 201 AVVA members provided the Color Guard.



At the end of the Vietnam War, there reportedly were 2,583 unaccounted for American prisoners, missing or killed in action/body not recovered. As of July 29, 2019, the Department of Defense lists 1,587 Americans as missing and unaccounted for, 90% of them in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos where Vietnamese operated during the war.

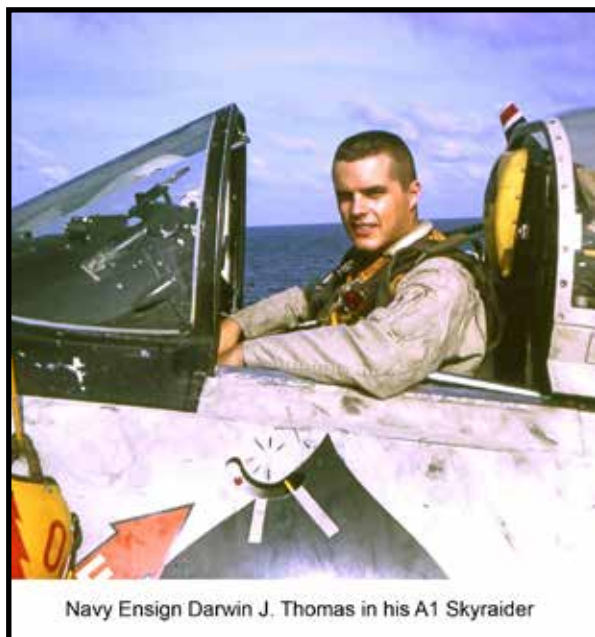
The gathering was welcomed by the City of San Jose's key POW/MIA recognition advocate, Councilman Johnny Khamis representing San Jose's District 10 who presented a proclamation to the VVA and AVVA in recognition of their support and commitment. Chapter 201 member, and UVC Local Government Liaison, Rose Herrera conducted the Missing Man Table Honors Ceremony.



Chapter 201 Namesake, Darwin J. Thomas, is listed as Missing in Action following the crash of his Navy A1 Skyraider over North Vietnam in 1966. In 2019 Darwin's



crash site was located, however, his body is yet to be recovered.



Navy Ensign Darwin J. Thomas in his A1 Skyraider

#### Chapter 201 Conducts Fundraiser

The VVA Chapter 201 holds periodic fundraisers at the former Naval Base at Moffett Field to support Chapter events and activities. Chapter 201 held a fundraising event during Fleet Week on October 12th and 13th at the Moffett Field Commissary in Mountain View, California. In addition to collecting contributions, the Chapter handed out Agent Orange poppies and provided information on Agent Orange and the San Francisco FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association program to combat opioid addiction. Director Dennis Foggie (Director), Gene Fanucchi (Vice President), Stephen Thompson (Secretary/Treasurer), Jack Wells, Christine and William McCorquada and Dan Heckerman solicited donations during the VVA-201 Moffett Field Fund Raiser in Mountain View, California on October 12, 2019.



Chapter 201 Moffett Field Fund Raiser

#### VVA Chapter 201 and Associates Conduct Flag Lowering

The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) conducts a ceremonial Flag Lowering on the last Sunday in every other month to honor those deceased Veterans who are recognized on a Flag Plaque at the entrance to Oak Hill Memorial Park during the previous months. A deceased Veteran does not have to be interred at Oak Hill to have his or her name on the honor plaque. Many Veterans are buried overseas or in the National Cemeteries throughout the country. The names of Veterans to be honored are provided by the families and



Chapter 201 Flag Lowering Team

Oak Hill places the name on the Honor Plaque daily. After a Veteran is honored, the name is recorded in the "Book Everlasting" which is located in the lobby of the Administration Building.

Seven VVA Chapter 201 and over 20 Chapter 201 Associates performed the Flag Lowering ceremony for the UVC on October 27, 2019 at the Veterans Section of Oak Hill Memorial Park. Chapter 201 Associates provided the Honor Guard and posted the colors for the opening. Singer Angela Tirado performed the National Anthem for the ceremony conducted by Chapter 201 Team members Walter Carroll, Dennis Foggie (Director) Warren Finch (President), Dennis Whittaker (Director), Randy Richmond (Chaplain), Rev. Earl Frazier and Gene Fanucchi (Vice President).

Chapter 201 Directors Dennis Whittaker and Dennis Foggie lowered the Veteran's Flag the in honor of deceased Veterans recognized during the October Flag Lowering ceremony.



Chapter 201 Lowers The Veteran's Flag

Chapter 201 President Warren Finch observed the folding of the Veteran's Flag by Dennis Foggie (Director), Dennis Whittaker (Director), Walter Carroll and Rev. Earl Frazier.



Chapter 201 Members Fold the Veteran's Flag

Chapter 201-member Rev. Ear Frazier presented the folded flag to Chapter 201 President Warren Finch.



Chapter 201 President Receives the Veteran's Flag

#### Chapter 982

Members of Chapter 582 in Chico are helping the Veteran fire victims in Santa Rosa after the huge fire there last month. The food was obtained from an organization found by Chapter 582's AVVA Member and DAV Officer Michael Zylstra. The organization is in Tennessee and is



called 4PATRIOTS.

Butch Fredrickson, Ron Mathrs, Dean Tieble, members Of 582 And Trina Tieble, the leader of 582's AVVA delivered the MREs that Michael got from 4Patriots This is the same company that donated 29,000 meals to us when we were helping the Veteran victims of the Camp Fire !!

The members of Central Coast Chapter 982 have been quite busy with a new project, we have taken on Wreaths Across America to honor our local interned Veterans. Our first annual event placed Wreaths at the Arroyo Grande Cemetery and at the Halcyon Cemetery which will total approximately 2000 grave sites.

We have participated in the parade for the Elk's rodeo



and the Harvest Day Parade in Arroyo Grande Celebration and Los Alamos Days parade. Our chapter took first place as a Veteran entry at the Los Alamos Parade. The

below pictures are of the Harvest Day Parade.

#### Chapter 933

Chapter participated in the Central Valley's Veterans Day Parade. This will be the 100th Anniversary. Also, the Central Valley's Veterans Day Parade is the largest Veteran's Day parade in the United States.

With the help of the Community Media Access Center, our Chapter put together a one minute Public Service Announcement about our Chapter and encouraged Vietnam Veterans to join VVA.

Alex Fabros, a member of Chapter 933, designed a very informative and educational information about the Vietnam War. This moving museum was introduced at the two day Clovis Fest event. This event attracted several thousand people. The display received many favorable comments from the public.

Chapter 933 will be partnering with VFW 5057 here in Fresno with the Wreaths Across America. We will be working with the Memorial Garden Cemetery where over 5,000 Veterans are buried.

#### Chapter 500

##### Remembering California's Heroes

In a solemn ceremony on October 20, 2019, the names of 20 deceased veterans were added to the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial. One of the names added was Adrienne Schamp, USA, SP5, the first woman whose name has been engraved on the panels. Marty Snezek, the Chapter 500 Secretary/Treasurer and Member of the California Veterans Memorial Honor Committee, was Master of Ceremonies. The speakers were CalVet Secretary Vito Imbasciani, MD, and Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost.

VVA Chapter 500 members Patrick Graham, Chapter President, and Greg McNeil performed the POW/MIA ceremony. After the 20 new names were unveiled, Master of Ceremonies Marty Snezek shared a personal story about each veteran and the family and friends of each veteran were invited to stand to be recognized. The Scottish-American Military Society, who served as the Honor





Guard, lowered the flags as each veteran's name was read.

Because there is no room left on the Memorial's panels for additional names, a memorial plaque has been added to the Memorial with the words, "In memory of those Californians who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service, we honor and remember your sacrifice." Secretary Imbasciani said that the death toll of the Vietnam War continues to rise even after the war ended and the new plaque will honor those veterans. Supervisor Frost recognized, "the heroes among us who are still fighting that war."

In addition to the Chapter 500 members who welcomed the families of the service members whose names were added to the Memorial panels and provided the chairs and shade canopies for the families and the dignitaries who helped dedicate the new plaque, members of other VVA chapters attended the event. Among those VVA members attending were Ken Holybee and Lou Nunez, who are both members of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honor Committee, and National VVA Women Veteran Committee Chair, Kate Palmer.

In the photograph below CalVet Secretary Vito Imbasciani, MD, delivers his speech after being introduced by Master of Ceremonies Marty Snezek.



#### Chapter 472

Annual Picnic on Sept. 14th. Chapter donated \$300.00 to the Veterans Home in Chula Vista in support of their Annual 4K Run/Walk for funding of their Resident Xmas Party.

Chapter 472 has started the process to place a Vietnam Memorial Stone at Miramar national cemetery. Hope to have memorial in place for Memorial Day.

Chapter will be participating in City of Fallbrook Veterans Day Parade.

#### Chapter 464

Foster City Stand Down, October 3-5, 2019, Boothbay Park, Foster City, chapter members both volunteered and coordinated donations.

PTSD Visit, Sunday, October 6, 2019 at Menlo Park VA Bldg. 352, 3-5PM (No September visit due to Labor Day holiday)

Ponce Gonzalez and Mike Cooney attended the adding of names to the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Sunday Oct. 20, 2019, 12-2PM, Capitol Park, 15th St. & Capitol Ave, Sacramento

Star & Stripes Car & Bikes BBQ, Sunday November 3, 2019, Menlo Park VA Hospital.

Veteran of the Year Luncheon Honoring Leo McArdle, Thursday, November 7, 2019, SF Airport Marriott Waterfront, 1800 Old Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame.

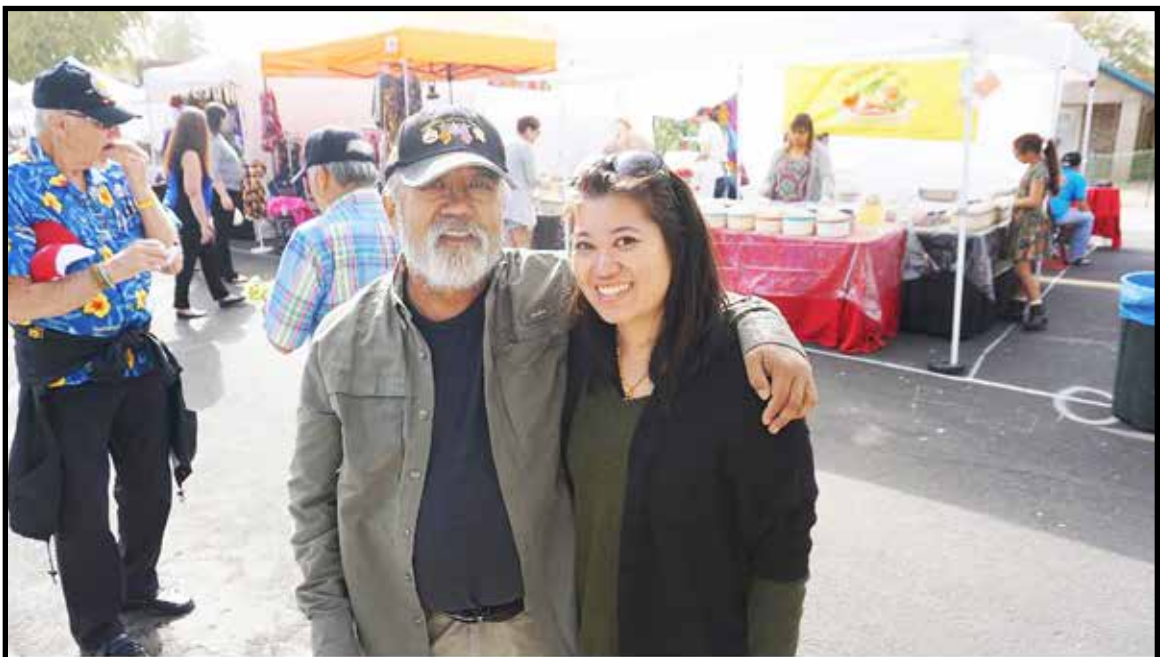
Unsung Hero of the year award luncheon honoring Ponce Gonzalez, Saturday November 9, 2019, Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City, CA.

Past Activities:

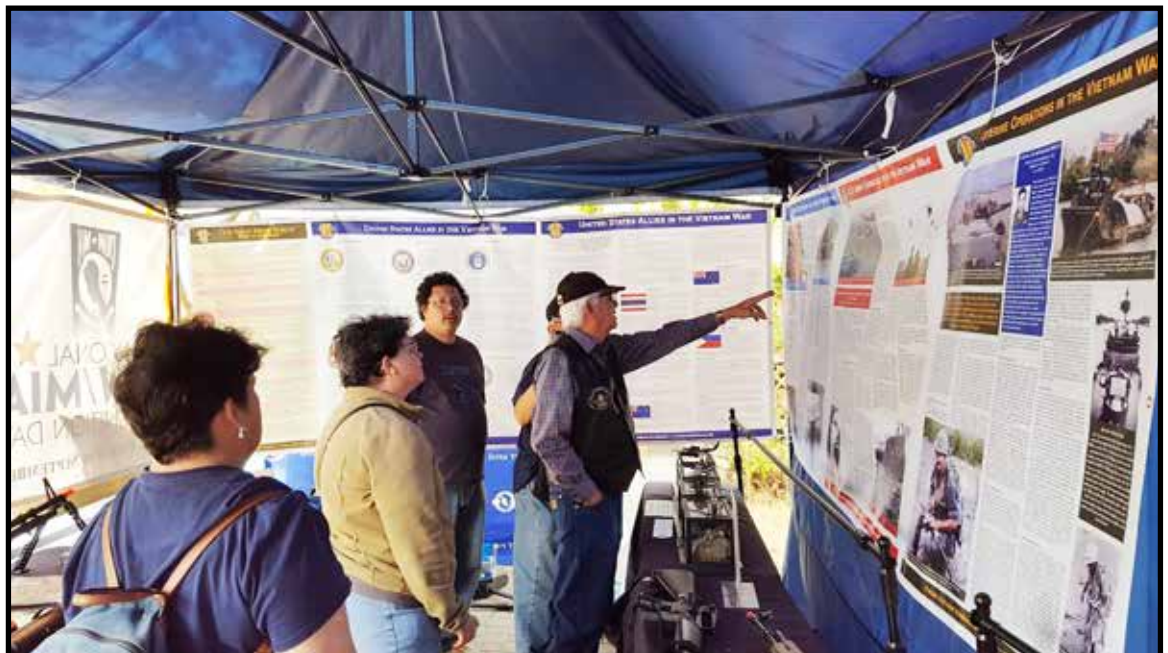
Speaker Vietnam Veteran, Lou Pepi, author of "My Brothers Have My Back", Thursday, September 12, 2019 at Veterans Memorial Building, Gold Star Room, luncheon.

For Good of the Order:

BBQ at San Bruno VA Clinic every 2nd Tuesday of



Creator of the Display, Chapter 933 member Alex Farbos is shown here with his daughter, Professor Michelle Fabros, at the Clovis annual event preceding Veterans Day.



Chapter 933 member Paul Kaser guides visitors through the Chapter's new Vietnam War Display now being shown to the public at various venues. The "traveling museum," developed by Alex Fabros, was inaugurated at this year's Clovisfest and offers expanded information on many historic aspects of the war, including the role of women military nurses, operations of the "Brown Water" Navy, Air Base Defense, and Medical Advances.



L to R Stan Shorey and Steve Hayhurst were among Chapter 933 members attending the Fresno City College Veteran's Day Annual Memorial Service honoring past and present veterans associated with the college. They are seen here flanking the memorial stone erected on campus to honor William G. Camp for whom the Chapter is named. A former FCC student and track star, Marine Cpl. Camp was KIA in Vietnam. The Chapter established an annual scholarship in his name. (photo by Alex Fabros)

the month; at 11:30AM

Fleet Week, SF. Legion Cathay Post 384 hosting lunch for 125 Sailors & Marines, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1524 Powell St., SF

Italian Heritage Day Parade, Sunday, October 13, North Beach, SF

Lions Veterans Charities USO Night, Saturday, October 19, 2019, Foster City Rec Center, 6:30PM  
VFW Daly City & San Francisco's Annual Halloween Picnic, October 27, 2019, Gellert Park, 50 Wembley Dr., Daly City, 10AM-6PM.  
Veterans Day Ceremony, Monday, November 11,





Just prior to getting underway for the annual Veterans Day Cruise, Domini Schmid, Executive Director/CEO of the Potomac Association, accepts a new POW/MIA Flag from VVA Chapter 400 President Bill Hodges

2019, Golden Gate National Cemetery at 11AM

American Legion Posts 82 & 105 Centennial Celebration, Monday, November 11, 2019, Redwood City  
Convoy of Hope Event, KnowAVet's Veterans Service Tent, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019 10AM-2PM, San Jose Giants Excite Ballpark; free table for service providers  
All Veterans Groups Luncheon, Harry's Hofbrau, Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019; 11:30AM

### Chapter 446

House passes H.R. 3144 designate post office in honor of Jose Ramos, member of VVA Chapter 446

Washington, DC -- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation introduced by Rep. Linda Sanchez (CA-38) to rename a post office in Whittier, California after Vietnam Veteran Jose Ramos. Before he passed away, Rep. Sanchez worked with Mr. Ramos as they advocated for a national 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.' Her remarks before the House are below.

"Mister Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3144, a bill to designate the United States Postal Service Facility located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California as the "Jose Ramos Post Office Building."

"Jose Guadalupe Ramos was born on September 17, 1948, in East Los Angeles. He enlisted in the Army in 1965, while a sophomore at Garfield High School.

"Mr. Ramos served this country in Vietnam as an Army Combat Medic, often risking his own life caring for others. Mr. Ramos was wounded in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart.

"Upon returning home, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder yet his passion and commitment to our country and his fellow service members did not end.

"Many of our veterans at the time found themselves caught in and confused by the crossfire of the public debate over the war in Vietnam. At times, some faced sharp criticism and isolation. Mr. Ramos saw this and decided to do something about it.

"He dedicated his time delivering a message of his

experience and those of his fellow veterans to those that would listen at universities, schools, and prisons. He undertook a grueling cross-country bicycle trek to draw attention to and advocate for the long-overdue welcome home that Vietnam War veterans never received.

"I was honored to work with Mr. Ramos and the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans organization he helped found. At his urging, I used the resources of my office to advocate for a national Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. In our years of working together in this cause, I had a true friend and partner in this effort.

"His passion inspired so many.

"The memories of what he endured in service to our country remained with him throughout his life. At times they presented obstacles. However, he cherished time spent with grandchildren, participation in religious pilgrimages, and enjoying life's simple pleasures like the sunrise and sunset of each passing day.

"We lost Jose Ramos in 2017 to pancreatic cancer. A loss not only for his wife Sylvia, his children, and grandchildren, but his loss also left a hole in our community in Whittier.

"Renaming the Whittier post office in his honor is a fitting tribute to Jose Ramos, a small token of gratitude from a grateful nation for his service.

"I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

"I thank the Speaker and I yield back the balance of my time."

Source: <https://lindasanchez.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/house-passes-rep-s-nchez-s-bill-name-post-office-honor-vietnam-veteran>

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Ponce Gonzalez, Chair

Committee reviewed current status of the Vietnam Veterans project attendees discussed personal stories and added to the knowledge base for chapter implementation. Attendees agreed to begin working within their chapters using the guidelines distributed earlier via min-disks. Examples will be reviewed by the committee to improve

the process and shared with the general body. The committee will award a 250 GB external HD to the best video voted by the attending body for archiving the history.

## CALIFORNIA AVVA

Closing Out 2019, Welcoming In 2020

2019 was a notable year for all of AVVA and for California AVVA in particular. It was a year of many accomplishments. AVVA introduced, or expanded, a number of programs aimed at helping veterans and their families. These include the Spousal and Survivor Benefits Program and Secondary PTSD. California introduced the Spousal and Survivor Benefits Program in January and we actively support the Secondary PTSD Program with our quarterly PTSD2 seminars.

However, 2019 was not without its share of heartbreak. In April of 2019, California Associates lost our dear friend and president, Elayne Mackey. As California AVVA's founding Vice President, Elayne was here from the very beginning. Elayne was the face and heart of California AVVA. Elayne was also the AVVA National Vice President and the force behind AVVA's Secondary PTSD Program. Elayne is greatly missed at every level of AVVA. We can never replace Elayne. We can only honor her memory by continuing her good works in, and for, AVVA.

During 2019, California Associates honored our commitment to veterans and their families with donations to local charities and by helping our members in need. In July, we donated \$500 to AVVA National's Project Friendship. 2019's Project Friendship was Volunteers of America. The organization provides transitional and permanent supportive housing to veterans and their families throughout eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

At the August State Council Meeting, California Associates celebrated AVVA's 20th Anniversary. The evening reception was well attended, and everyone had fun. Thanks to California VVA and the Radisson Hotel for helping us with refreshments.

Lastly, Elayne would be thrilled to learn that California AVVA is rounding out 2019 with 785 members. That puts California in the number one slot for AVVA membership. Great way to end the year!

As we usher in 2020, remember that, as with every new year, the future is filled with the promise of change. This is especially true of 2020. In addition to the California State Council's move to a new location, both the AVVA and VVA will be electing a new slate of officers to serve for the next two years. No doubt a number of these will be incumbents. However, both organizations are always looking for new ideas and new approaches to leadership. It might be time for one of you to consider stepping into a leadership role for the California Association. The AVVA state election will be held on Saturday, April 25th. If you're interested, we'll be discussing state and chapter election processes at our February 29th meeting.

Throughout 2020 California AVVA meetings will focus on encouraging chapter incorporations, promoting the Spousal and Survivor Benefits Program, supporting the Secondary PTSD Program and finding new ways to attract new AVVA members. In order to realize these goals, we need your input and your participation.

We also have fun offerings at every CSC. There is a fundraiser where one AVVA chapter puts together and donates a themed basket for an opportunity drawing. Donations have been on a rotating, voluntary basis. The baskets have been very original and generate a lot of interest. So far, chapter participation in the basket drawing has been good, but if we hope to continue, we will need more chapters to participate. If you or your chapter would like more information on the basket project, contact Sheila Chovan at [smchovan@yahoo.com](mailto:smchovan@yahoo.com).

If you enjoy shopping, our new location, the Wyndham Hotel, is close to prime retail locations. The AVVA also has a product sales table set up at each CSC. In addition to AVVA and VVA collectibles, we offer other patriotic items that you can pick up as accessories for yourself or give as gifts. If your chapter participates in public events, or recognizes individual contributions, consider giving AVVA or VVA collectibles. Visit our sales table, the AVVA Product Sales team can help with quantity pricing on select items.

June 11th – 13th the CSC is hosting CalCon 17. The event is the CA VVA's 17th state convention. During CalCon, our veterans discuss amendments to their constitution, consider key resolutions and elect their Board of Directors for the 2020 –2022 term. Although attending to VVA business will be the foremost task at



hand, the convention committee has a number of great activities planned. While registration for the convention is mandatory for VVA delegates, AVVA members and guests are not required to do so. Remember, all are invited, and encouraged, to participate in these extra-curricular activities.

The convention begins the morning of Friday, June 12th. Since most attendees will be arriving the night before, convention activities begin at 4 PM on Thursday, June 11th. Pizza will be served, there will be opportunities to win some prizes (cornhole, anyone?), and we'll have quality time to unwind with folks we haven't seen for a while.

On Friday, around noon, the convention will break for the AVVA luncheon. Tickets for the luncheon are \$30.00 each and must be purchased in advance of the convention. I've seen the menu for the luncheon. Yummy! The meal options are varied and include a vegetarian entrée. As always, the AVVA luncheon will be an event to remember. Please join us.

The convention ends on Saturday, June 13th. The premier event of the convention is the VVA Awards Dinner on Saturday night. Tickets for the dinner are \$45.00 and should be purchased in advance. In addition to an awesome meal, you'll be there as individual veterans and VVA chapters are recognized for their good works.

Ideally, our quarterly AVVA meetings would include representatives from each chapter. If you haven't attended our meetings before, or have not attended in a while, please give us a try. The Visalia Wyndham has amenities not previously available at the old location. In addition to being nicely appointed, each room has a refrigerator and a microwave. The pool is inviting and there is even an onsite café that is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. A CSC weekend at the Wyndham makes for a nice getaway. Plus, we're a very friendly and like-minded group. We'd love to have you and your chapter members join us. Family members and guests, even if not AVVA members, are always welcome. Hope to see you soon.

For Veterans and Their Families,  
Nina Schloffel  
President, CA AVVA

UNKNOWN ARVNs

81 UNKNOWN AIRMEN FROM SOUTH VIETNAM ARE FINALLY LAID TO REST WESTMINSTER  
By Susan Christian Goulding

Sam Nguyen spent his 85th birthday honoring fallen comrades who, after 54 years of languishing in anonymity, finally were laid to rest.

"It is a very important day for Vietnamese people," said Nguyen, who served on the ground alongside American soldiers in the Vietnam War. "These men fought for our freedom. They must not be forgotten."

That is why, the Minnesota resident said, he traveled so far to witness the interment of 81 members of the Vietnamese Airborne Division. Along with four Americans, the men were shot down in 1965 over contested territory. On Saturday, the soldiers' remains were buried together in a single casket at Westminster Memorial Park.

Services began with speeches at Westminster's Freedom Park, where about 2,000 gathered to pay tribute. Many wore fatigues and red berets, the uniform of the Vietnamese Rangers, who fought on the ground.

American veterans of the Vietnam War showed up in force as well.

"I came to recognize these heroes who could not be buried in their own country," said El Monte resident Donald Hewko, 73.

Speakers included U.S. Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer, FedEx CEO and Vietnam veteran Fred Smith and former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va.

Also a Vietnam veteran, Webb made it his mission to give the "forgotten soldiers" a proper burial when he learned about them two years ago.

Eighty-five soldiers died when their transport aircraft Vietnam, led by a government the soldiers had fought against, twice declined to accept their remains for burial. They became "men without a country," Webb said.

Draped in a yellow-andred South Vietnamese flag, the men's casket arrived at the cemetery in a procession of cars down Beach Boulevard. After a threevolley salute by U.S. Marines and the traditional playing of taps, the casket was lowered into the ground.

At long last, the airmen had found a home away from home in the city boasting the biggest Vietnamese American community in the United States.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you, America, for giving Vietnamese refugees a place to feel safe," said Lam Quang Trung, 76, a war veteran there to acknowledge the

momentous occasion.

Quy Le, 75, was a commander on the ground when the United States withdrew from Vietnam in 1973.

"I have two impressions," he said. "First, I felt abandoned by the U.S. We had to surrender, and I served five years in a prison.

"But then there is my other impression," Le added. "The United States is a beautiful country. It has been good to so many of us."

crashed inside an inaccessible area. Recovered in 1974, their remains were shipped to Bangkok, Thailand, and then, a decade later, to a lab in Hawaii for identification.

DNA testing of bone fragments eventually named the U.S. members. But South Vietnam did not have a record of its soldiers on the plane, so their remains were never identified.



PHOTOS BY ANA P. GARCIA  
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CALIFORNIA STATE  
COMMANDERS COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2020  
\*\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\*\*

Current Legislative Priorities

Support legislation that would focus on getting homeless veterans off the street and into housing including transitional and permanent supportive housing.

Support legislation that would reform the current system of property tax relief for disabled veterans by raising the current state dollar limitation on property tax relief for disabled veterans.

Support legislation that would support the awarding of state grants through CalVet to veterans service organizations and veterans service agencies that provide claims assistance and outreach to California veterans.

Support legislation that would exempt state income tax on military retirement pay for military retirees.

Support legislation that would reduce property tax assessment on veterans service organizations' posts and chapters.

Support legislation that would raise the state's Local Assistance to counties for CVSO offices from the current \$5.6 million funding level to \$11 million. This brings the state in line with paying half of the funding needed to operate CVSOs throughout the state as per SB 419 of 2009.

Support legislation that would continue to support expansion of veterans treatment courts to more counties

by providing state funding of veterans' treatment courts in California.

Support legislation that would restore the veterans-only specialized license plate, so that there would be two plates available for sale — "Veteran" and "Honoring Veterans."

Support legislation that would expand laws to prevent dishonest vendors and businesses that prey on or scam veterans and active duty military personnel by criminalizing their activities.

Support legislation that would require an individual, who is assisting a veteran with filing a claim for benefits, to notify that veteran if they are not a VA-accredited representative and make it a criminal offense to intentionally misdirect or mislead a veteran, or anyone acting on a

veteran's behalf, concerning benefits or entitlements for their own monetary gain.

Support legislation that would require that California Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBES) hire more disabled and non-disabled veterans. Currently, there is no requirement for DVBES to hire veterans.

Support legislation that would create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) between CalVet Veterans Homes and Veterans Service Organization (VSOs) to provide volunteers to the state veterans homes similar to the federal Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) program.

Support legislation that would grant the license plate fee waiver to all veterans rated at 100% either scheduler or through Individual Unemployability and separate the disabled placard and make it an option for veterans with mobility impairment.

Support legislation that would create a Governor's Memorial Certificate similar to the Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC). Include information directing survivors to the CVSOs. (PMC is a signed certificate by the President to the family of deceased veterans)

Support the legislative priorities of the state veterans service organizations that are in-line with our own legislative priorities.

Members of the California State Commanders Veterans Council:

- American G.I. Forum of California
- American Legion-Department of California
- AMVETS-Department of California
- Association of the U.S. Army, Northern and Southern California
- California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
- Elite Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Network
- Fleet Reserve Association, California
- Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America-Department of California
- Marine Corps League-Department of California
- Marine Corps Veterans Association
- Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of California
- Military Officers Association of America- California Council of Chapters
- National Guard Association of California
- National Veterans Foundation
- Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, California
- Reserve Officers Association of The United States-Department of The Golden West
- Scottish American Military Society
- United States Submarine Veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars-Department of California
- Vietnam Veterans of America-California State Council
- Women Veterans Alliance

VA DISABILITY INCREASE

Disabled veterans will also get a bump. The average VA disability check will go up about \$2 per month for those with a 10 percent rating, and \$49 for those rated at 100 percent.

How the COLA Is Determined

The Department of Labor determines the annual COLA by measuring the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a measurement of a broad sampling of the cost of consumer goods and expenses. The CPI is compared to the previous year, if there is an increase there is a COLA. If there is no increase, there is no COLA.

The COLA affects about one in every five Americans, including Social Security recipients, disabled veterans, federal retirees, and retired military members.

Last year, the COLA increase was 2.8%; in 2018,



retirees saw a 2.0% increase.

SOCIAL SECURITY ANNOUNCES 1.6 PERCENT BENEFIT INCREASE FOR 2020

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 69 million Americans will increase 1.6 percent in 2020, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 1.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 63 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2020. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2019. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$137,700 from \$132,900.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their my Social Security account. People may create or access their my Social Security account online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Information about Medicare changes for 2020, when announced, will be available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2020 are announced. Final 2020 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security’s Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola).

VA DEDICATES NEW COLUMBARIUM AT LOS ANGELES NATIONAL CEMETERY

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dedicated a new columbarium Oct. 5 that will double the capacity of Los Angeles National Cemetery in California.

The cremains-only annex will be able to accommodate more than 90,000 Veterans and eligible family members, joining the 90,000 already interred.

“This columbarium will allow a new generation of service members to take their place among our heroes from the past,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “It will allow this historic landmark to tell new stories about how American men and women stood up, answered the call and defended this nation.”

Wilkie provided the keynote address and was joined by Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves, Congressman Ted Lieu, actor Gary Sinise and cemetery director Tom Ruck as the dedication plaque was unveiled. In keeping with the cemetery’s proximity to Hollywood, guests entered the columbarium grounds on a red carpet over which a huge American flag was suspended.

The new columbarium will cover 13 acres of ground on the west side of I-405 directly across from the existing cemetery, which occupies 114 acres on the east side of I-405 in West Los Angeles. It is the first of those to be completed as part of the VA’s Urban Initiative program, which will bring increased burial options to Veterans and their families living in major cities. Urban Initiative columbaria are also planned or under construction in New York, Chicago, Indianapolis and the San Francisco Bay area.

“Veterans who live in this area now have a choice they didn’t have before – a choice to be interred close to home, alongside their fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, in a place that will be cared for by a grateful nation in perpetuity,” added Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves.

Construction on the first phase of the columbarium, covering 4.4 acres of ground, began in September 2017 totaling \$17.38M. The first phase, now completed, provides more than 10,000 columbarium niches for inurnments. Subsequent phases will be completed in coming decades as these spaces fill up, until the final planned capacity of 90,854 niches is reached.

Some of the Freedoms Preserved by the Military and Veterans

FREEDOM OF SPEECH ★ RIGHT TO VOTE ★ FREEDOM OF RELIGION ★ FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

The Inland Empire Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 47 & Allied Veteran Groups

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Motorcycle Ride & Patriotic Ceremony at Riverside National Cemetery

— ALL VETERANS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND PUBLIC INVITED —

Saturday March 28

As We Observe Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, We Honor All Veterans and Active Military

Motorcycle Ride Begins at: American Legion Post 79 at Fairmount Park (951) 788-8635 2979 Dexter Ave. Riverside, CA 92501

Registration: 7:30-9 am Depart/En route to RNC: 9 am

Patriotic Ceremony (a CA State Holiday) Amphitheater Riverside National Cemetery 22495 Van Buren Blvd. Riverside, CA 92518 10-11 am

FREE ADMISSION

— AFTER THIS CEREMONY —

Vietnam Veterans and families and all other era Veterans and families are invited to March Field Air Museum for refreshments. Afterwards, everyone is invited to American Legion Post 79 at Fairmont Park.

7 Californians listed on the VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL do not have photos attached to their Wall of Faces record JANUARY 13, 2020 Please help honor them by finding their photo

NAME	RANK	BRANCH	CASUALTY	HOME OF RECORD
CLAUDE L. CRAWFORD	PVT	USA	11/20/67	Los Angeles, CA
UNIT - HHC, 2nd Bn, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Abn Bde, USARV				
CARLOS M. GONZALES	CPL	USA	06/15/69	El Monte, CA
UNIT - E Co, 1st Bn, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Bde, Americal Div, USARV				
TOMMY R. HENDERSON	SP4	USA	03/03/71	Los Angeles, CA
UNIT - A Co, 2nd Bn, 506th Infantry, 101st Abn Div, USARV				
JOHN E. MAGEE	PFC	USA	05/12/68	Los Angeles, CA
UNIT - C Co, 4th Bn, 47th Infantry, 9th Inf Div, USARV				
DERRYL L. MOORE	SP4	USA	08/15/68	Los Angeles, CA
UNIT - 174th Ord Det, 59th Ord Co, 191st Ord Bn, 54th GS Group, Army Spt Cmd Cam Ranh Bay, 1st Log Cmd, USARV				
WILLIAM RUIZ JR	PFC	USMC	01/19/71	Buena Park, CA
UNIT - F Co, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines, 1st Mar Div, III MAF				
VERNON P. SMITH	SN	USN	02/05/68	Los Angeles, CA
UNIT - NAVSUPACT Da Nang, YFU-67, USNAVFORV				





## ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The Draft Master Plan creates a 21st century campus that revitalizes the area to its intended purpose as a home; a vibrant community supporting Veteran well-being.

# RESTORING THE CAMPUS AS A HOME FOR VETERANS

[WWW.WESTLADRAFTMASTERPLAN.ORG](http://WWW.WESTLADRAFTMASTERPLAN.ORG)



## DRAFT MASTER PLAN ON THE HORIZON

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System



### INITIAL VETERAN HOUSING

- Completed: 54 units in Building 209
- Coming Soon: Buildings 205, 207, & 208 will provide approximately 180+ more units of permanent supportive housing for homeless Veterans in 2021

### MACARTHUR FIELD

- VA selected Core Affordable Housing & Walsh Construction Company as the developer team for the new construction of approximately 150 units of permanent Veteran supportive housing

### LA NATIONAL CEMETERY COLUMBARIUM

- Site is divided into 9 phases
- Phase 1, anticipated completion in the 2nd quarter of 2019, includes construction of more than 10,000 niches, memorial walls, a new committal service shelter, & restrooms
- On-street parking will be permitted on the outside of the road

### CITY OF LA INTERIM BRIDGE HOUSING

- VA is partnering with the City of LA & LA County to provide a safe facility for homeless Veterans to temporarily reside on the campus
- Will be furnished with onsite security, wellness resources, and mental health & employment services

### LA METRO PURPLE LINE STATION

- VA is partnering with LA Metro to expand Veteran & staff access to/from the campus
- The proposed footprint of the station is in the process of being finalized to minimize construction impacts, and to ensure the project principally benefits Veterans
- Construction activity anticipated to begin in early 2020

### NEW KITCHEN

- New kitchen lot will include: a service yard with a loading area, two driveways, staff patio, & pedestrian walkways
- Kitchen operations will be removed from Building 300 once the new kitchen is operational

### SAFE PARKING LA

- In collaboration with Safe Parking LA, VA has designated safe space on the campus for Veterans living in their cars to sleep in their vehicles overnight
- Onsite security, access to sanitation stations, & supportive services



Together Always

**AVVA Product Sales**

DON'T MISS our Spectacular PRE-HOLIDAY SALE & PROMOTION at October's CSC — A Perfect Time to Buy Gifts for your Chapter, Family, Friends & Yourself!  
IN ADDITION to an Array of MILITARY & PATRIOTIC Items for Sale, we also have:  
\* EMBROIDERED POLO SHIRTS — with Your Choice of Color, a VVA or AVVA Logo + your Chapter # or 'California' (available by Pre-Order/Pre-Pay)!  
\* A 'Spooktacular' OPPORTUNITY DRAWING! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019 — Approximate Hours: 8 AM - 1 PM  
SEE YOU THERE! Cash and Checks accepted. Donations accepted.  
Sheila Chovan  
AVVA CA - Product Sales Director



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

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To:

In this issue:

- Chapter/Council Activities-Events/Photos
- Council Officer/Committee Reports
- Legislative News
- Veteran Info

And more...

CSC Meeting Dates & Events

February 28-March 1, 2020, Location TBA

April 24-26, 2020, Location TBA

State Convention June 12-13, 2020, Location TBA

July 31-August 2, 2020, Location TBA

October 23-25, 2020, Location TBA

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