



NEWS AND VIEWS

VVA Chapter # 223 Redwood Empire Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 5

May 2010



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VVA Chapter #223, Fall-in: Rose Parade - May 15th

Fall-in and form-up for the Luther Burbank Rose Parade. This is a wonderful civic event, and we're all going to be in it! Color guard and all...

The board of directors and president John Crooker have reserved "Rosie the Trolley" for all of us to participate in this year's Luther Burbank Rose Parade. We'll show the colors and ourselves with pride and honor.

Walk or ride, it'll be fun for all of us.

Rosie the Trolley will pick us up at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building at 8:30am where everyone can park without going downtown. Rosie the Trolley will leave promptly at 9am.

Expecting more than 3,500 participants in the parade this year, over 20,000 spectators, more than 200 volunteers, nearly 100 cash contributions, over 100 sponsors, among the 125 units in the parade are 10 bands, 7 equestrian units, 18 floats, 40 novelty units, and a large veterans section in honor of Armed Forces Day.

Staging will occur on Sonoma Avenue east and west of E Street and on E Street south of Sonoma Avenue. If for any reason you miss the Trolley, you can meet up with us on Sonoma Avenue up to 10am.



Colonel Pete Peterka awards Forest N. Kendall the Bronze Star with "V" device at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building, Saturday, March 13th. Neil Kendall of Forestville was awarded both the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with "V" device 43 years after his cited action in Vietnam.

FORESTVILLE VIETNAM VET AWARDED PURPLE HEART and BRONZE STAR AFTER 43 YEARS

"By direction of the President of the United States of America, The Bronze Star with "V" device is presented to PFC Forest N. Kendall, United States Army, for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: PFC Kendall distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions 3 March 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam.

"On this date PFC Kendall was the radio man of a six man Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, which was on a mission deep within enemy infested territory with the mission of capturing a prisoner of war. The patrol had set up an ambush along an enemy trail in order to take a prisoner. Two Viet Cong walked into the trap and were killed.

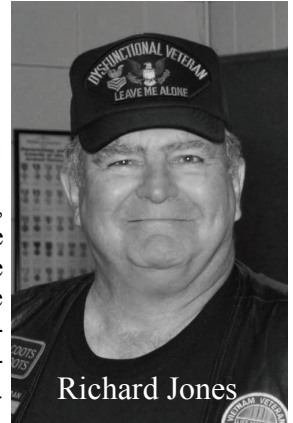
"Unknown to the patrol at that time, the two Viet Cong were the point element of a Viet Cong





In Service to America®

Letter from the President VVA Chapter # 223



Richard Jones

Now that the chapter elections are over, and we have new leadership, it's time to continue moving ahead as a chapter, we need to become politically active on Veterans issues at the State and National level. This issue is not about candidates or political parties; it is solely about Legislation that directly affects all Veteran's issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to directly thank and praise our past president **John Crooker** for his leadership and his involvement with the County Board of Supervisors. John's ability in dealing with Sonoma County Veterans has been nothing but outstanding. I am pleased to announce that he has agreed to continue on in that capacity. As a Chapter we are lucky to have him as our advocate with the Board of Supervisors. John, we as a Board and as a Chapter thank you for your service to VVA, Chapter #223.

Chapter #223 Officers and Board of Directors

President:	Richard Jones
Vice President:	Jerry Shimmel
Secretary:	Kate O'Hare-Palmer
Treasurer:	Pat Christen

Ken Holybee	James Cutri
John McGivney	Jim Wheeler
Brooke McKusick	

Chaplin	Bob Cheadle
Bugler	James Cutri

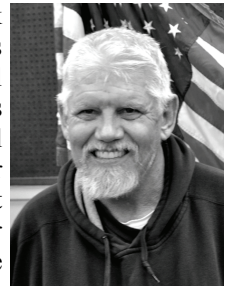
Committees

Color Guard:	Ray Reece
Community Service:	Richard Jones
Education:	John McGivney
Finance:	Jerry Shimmel
Homeless:	Richard Jones & Pat Jones
Legislation:	Ken Holybee
Newsletter:	Brooke McKusick
Photo and PR	Brooke McKusick
Product Sales:	Bruce Thomson
Scholarship:	Jerry Shimmel
Website:	John Crooker
Vet Connect:	John McGivney
Veterans Benefits:	Dudley



Continuing with praise of the board members, I take this opportunity to thank and salute **Dave Philips** for his excellent job as Chapter Secretary. Dave has always kept excellent records of all Chapter events. He kept the records, in chronological order, filed in his secretary binder; this binder came in handy at times when the board needed to refresh their memory on issues of previous votes. Dave, I commend you for diligently carrying out the duties of office of Secretary of VVA, Chapter #223. Dave it has been an honor to serve with you on the board of directors.

Also, I would now like to personally thank **Ronnie Sidbeck** for his support and the efforts he has shown while serving on the board of directors for all these years. He not only served on the board, but as chapter representative on the United Veterans Council of Sonoma County. He served as the membership chair of Chapter #223. Ronnie served in so many different ways, if there was an event that involved the Chapter you could count on Ronnie to be there first, at the monthly food give away, assisting with the homeless committee, and the list goes on and on... He always had the coffee brewing. I salute you Ronnie Sidbeck, may you always have calm seas and following winds.



Last but not least, I would like to thank one of VVA, Chapter #223's longest serving board members, **Dudley**. She has always been one of our greatest assets, keeping us on an even keel. Her sound reasoning at times was cause for discontent among some board members, but she was always a straight shooter. She has helped more Veterans receive their benefits than, I believe, anyone else in Sonoma County. It's been my pleasure to work with her all these years. Dudley, I salute you and appreciate all you have contributed to Chapter #223 and to all of the Veterans of Sonoma County.

In Service, Richard Jones, President, VVA Chapter #223

CORRECTION: Kate O'Hare-Palmer is not on the VVA, Chapter #223 Scholarship Committee, and has not been for many years...

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter # 223
P.O. Box 1583
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1583

Individual membership is open to Veterans who served on active in the U.S. Military (for other than training Purposes) between February 28th, 1961 and May 7th, 1975 or between August 5th, 1964 and May 7th, 1975 for Vietnam-Era Veterans.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual member or Associate member Dues: \$20 Annual ___ \$20 Renewal ___ \$50 Three Year ___

Life Membership: \$250 ___ (age 49 and under) \$225 ___ (50-55) \$200 ___ (56-60) \$175 ___ (61-65) \$150 ___ (66+)
Installment plan for life membership: \$50 deposit plus \$25 per month until paid.

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) is an adjunct organization with VVA.
Both Veterans and Veterans families and friends or any interested individual may join.
If joining AVVA, are you eligible to be a member of VVA? Yes No (circle one)

SONOMA COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
3725 Westwind Blvd
Suite 101
Santa Rosa CA 95403

P.O. Box 4059, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

(707) 565 5960 FAX (707) 565 5980

We are located near the Main Terminal

at Charles M. Schulz Airport (Sonoma County)

From Highway 101: Exit Airport Boulevard left on Westwind Blvd.

Check Sonoma County Transit Airport route 62 & 64 for bus schedule.



Sonoma County Transit 62

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter # 223, PO Box 1583 Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1583

Phone: (707) 526-4218, Fax: (707) 526-4218, Website: vva223.org



Government Affairs Report

by
Ken Holybee



On March 24, 2010 we held our first CSC legislative, lobby day in Sacramento. This was an all day event that included breakfast and lunch for all attendees; as this was a first experience for most of the attendees I hope they took a lot home from it. Since this was the first year of our successful work in getting the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, (WHVVD), legislation passed we incorporated this event into our program.

After breakfast, with everyone getting to know each other a little, and a welcome from our Lobbyist, Pete Conaty, we went to the hall of the State Assembly. Proclamations for WHVVD were presented to Jose Ramos and members of the California VVA.

Then after a short break back in the cafeteria we proceeded to the State Senate for the same type of presentation. Since the Senate was still in session we had some delays while watching them in action before their presentation of their proclamations. On the floor, of both houses, for the presentation of the proclamations for CSC was, Robert Johnston Sr, Ken Holybee, Dick Southern and Jerry Yamamoto.

At 11 o'clock we assembled at the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial where we were greeted by Governor Schwarzenegger; he congratulated us on holding our first lobby day and encouraging us to walk the halls and be heard by our legislators. Governor Schwarzenegger presented Jose Ramos with the proclamation, proclaiming March 30th as WHVVD. In attendance and also speaking were Secretary Roger Brautigan, Assemblyman Paul Cook and John Voight. We had a decent turnout for this part and there was a group of children that were present for the Governor's presentation of the proclamation.

It is always a pleasure to watch the Governor as he stands on a stage and acknowledges the children in the audience, with subtle smiles and waves, and without interfering with the speakers. Sometimes the little things that go unnoticed by most are important to the ones who do notice.

After the presentation at the Memorial, we returned to the cafeteria for lunch and the presentation of our legislator of the year awards. We presented Assemblyman Paul Cook with our legislator of the year. He worked and fought to get our WHVVD legislation passed. As a Vietnam Veteran he is an advocate for veteran issues and speaks as one of us and sees the issues as we do. He spoke about legislators that do not understand veteran issues and asked that we become more vocal, and

attend hearings to explain our issues as well as put faces on the issues.

Assemblyman Cook has just been appointed as chair of the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee, a position that had been held by Assemblywomen Mary Salas, who has moved to Vice Chair of the committee. Assembly members Cook and Salas have worked closely with us in authoring bills for us and supporting our agenda.

The other Legislator of the year award we presented went to Senator Darrell Steinberg. Senator Steinberg worked magic in the Senate to make sure the WHVVD bill AB 717 was able to go thru the Senate and back to the Assembly to get it on the Governor's desk for him to sign on the last day of the legislative calendar year.

Speakers, for the awards ceremony, included Secretary Roger Brautigan, Under Secretary for Veteran Services Ted Puntillo, Speaker of the Assembly John A. Perez and Assemblyman Paul Cook. Assemblyman Chuck Devore stopped in as well as other members and their aids. I know I am missing some of the names and I will pay dearly for the omissions but hopefully someone will have all of the correct names.

In the last year and a half we have made great gains in learning how to maneuver around the state legislature. This is something we could not have accomplished without the assistance and mentoring of Pete Conaty & Associates (PCA), Secretary Roger Brautigan and past Secretary Tom Johnson.

PCA put together packets for our attendees that include a list of Bills that deal with Veteran issues, talking points on four bills to use when speaking to your legislators, a list of assembly members and senators with their room number so you could find them as well as books on the Legislative process, and the Roster with all updated positions. Some of the work, a big part, was done by Dana Nichol from Pete's office. We must never forget him and the other staff in the office. Dana is the one that sends out a lot of the reports and works with me on projects for the CSC.

This was a wonderful event, and I was happy and proud to be a part of it, but it could not have come together without the work of a great many people. I would like to thank all attendees for making this a historic event in the history of California VVA, and once again thank Pete, Dana and Mary from PCA and Paul Cook and his staff for all of their assistance in making a memorable day.



Kate O'H-P



Kate O'H-P

Governor Schwarzenegger Declares “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day!”

Top: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger presents a copy of the “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” proclamation to Jose Ramos. Jose Ramos, a Vietnam Veteran, is the driving force behind this legislation.

Middle: Jose Ramos, with actor Jon Voight, speak to AVVA women and Vietnam Women Veterans, including our own Kate O’Hare-Palmer.

Bottom: California Assemblyman Paul Cook, Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee speaks at the ceremonies as Gov. Schwarzenegger and Jon Voight look on.

FORESTVILLE VIETNAM VET

company. Immediately the patrol was taken under fire by elements of the enemy company, attacking from three sides.

“Under the fire of three .30 caliber machine guns and light automatic weapons, the patrol began to withdraw to a landing zone about a hundred meters to their rear. “PFC Kendall, although under a heavy volume of fire, calmly called for helicopter extraction and armed helicopter support. Even though weighed down by his radio, PFC Kendall moved to the front delivering fire, and fighting his way to the LZ. He constantly exposed himself to in order to deliver more accurate fire and to hurl hand grenades, clearing a path for the patrol.

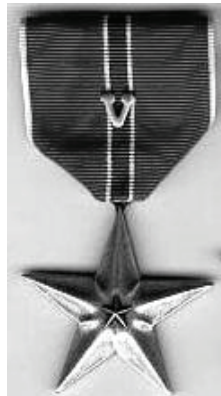


Forest N. Kendall & John Logan

“Proof of his courage and effectiveness was observed as the team stumbled over dead Viet Cong who had attempted to put off the withdrawal of the patrol. Many times PFC Kendall completely disregarded his own safety as the onslaught of bullets was most intense, to communicate on the radio and call in close suppressive passes from supporting helicopters. PFC Kendall constantly remained on his radio, directing fire support and the actual extraction of the patrol.

“PFC Kendall’s outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.”

Also see photo on back page...



Luther Burbank

ROSE PARADE & Festival



Though the famed horticulturist Luther Burbank took part in the event as early as 1914, the annual tradition began in 1894 with the first Rose Carnival. It continued until 1926 when it was canceled due to Burbank's death, shortly before the festival. A longer hiatus was observed during the World Wars.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce 'Jaycees' revived the event in 1950, renaming it in honor of Burbank. It has been held every year since and always with a parade. Many elements have changed over the years. The original affairs offered the grandeur of coronation balls and the pageantry of royal courts; later versions offered regattas, bicycle and running races, fireworks and tennis. The parade, though, has always been the central activity.

Since its rebirth in 1950 the parade has become an annual event on the third Saturday in May, drawing a strong showing of local school marching bands, floats built by community and service organizations, equestrian teams, and units honoring local veterans.

Festival activities, particularly fun and games for children, became a larger part of the day with the 100th anniversary event in 1994.

The Luther Burbank Rose Parade & Festival became a formal tax-exempt corporation in 1994 after the last of its parent organizations disbanded. Community members, determined to keep the annual tradition alive, formed a 12-member board of directors. The group works year-round to produce the event, which meets an annual budget of \$100,000 through sponsorships, grants, and parade and vendor fees.

★ *AVENUE of the FLAGS MEMORIAL SERVICE* ★
★ An Avenue of the Flags work detail will be ★
★ needed on May 26th, 27th, and 28th to help uncovering ★
★ flag pole holes. On Monday the 30th, we will meet at ★
★ 0600 to help unload the lower flag locker, unload the ★
★ upper locker and commence raising the flags. We should ★
★ be done by 0830 or before . At 1000 there will be cere- ★
★ mony at the center flag pole. VVA will march the flag in ★
★ to the podium area. This will take about three or more ★
★ members if we have them as they hand the flag off to the ★
★ two other members of our color guard, who will raise the ★
★ flag briskly all the way to the very top and then slowly ★
★ lower it to half staff . One member will have to watch the ★
★ flag, so as not to screw up... ★
★*****

Fifth-grader to Lead Luther Burbank Rose Parade By Chris Smith Press Democrat

“Verily, just as the tides still ebb and flow at Bodega Bay and the vines cling yet to hillsides from Carneros to Annapolis and winter rains once again send the Russian rushin', the Rose Parade will return to the heart of Santa Rosa in May.”

The honor of Grand Marshal goes to fifth-grader **Zoe Valrey** because she made lemonade of last year's bitter news that declining sponsorships jeopardize Santa Rosa's 115-year-old Luther Burbank Rose Parade.

“I've always loved the parade,” said Zoe, who's lived all her life on the parade route. “I really didn't want it to end.”

So on the day of the '09 parade she set up a lemonade stand in front of her house. She donated the profits — \$10 — to the organizers who for a while last year couldn't say for sure if there'd be a parade this year.

“We think Zoe embodies the spirit of the community,” said longtime parade manager Judy Walker. Zoe wasn't the only one to help keep the parade alive. The largest donors were community benefactor Henry Trione and Jim Ratto of the refuse firm, North Bay Corp.

Though gifts big and small assured that the parade will return this year, everyone who values it needs to get involved to make certain it will remain vital into the future.

ZOE VALREY Grand Marshal

See www.roseparadefestival.com for ways to help.

This is a big year for the Rose Parade, and not just because Zoe is Grand Marshal. It happens on Saturday, May 15, two days before the first springtime Amgen bicycle race streams into town.

The parade will celebrate the race and Santa Rosa's emergence as a cycling hub. Have you heard this year's theme? **Rose Pedals Get it !!!**

Organizers want to see more of the rose petals that adorned past parades, lots of bikes, more volunteers, more floats and more participation from schools, groups, businesses and folks from across the county. No one hopes more that it'll be one of the town's greatest Rose Parades ever than a certain 10-year-old girl.



DD FORM 214 SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT

Please share
this with anyone who
has had active duty
service between
January 1957 to De-
cember 31, 2001 and
planning for retire-
ment.



In a nutshell, it boils down to this:
You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002).

Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement.

You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of VVA, Inc., National, State, Chapter 223, or the newsletter staff, but of the corresponding party. All articles by the Chapter have permission for reprint in all Vietnam Veterans of America newsletters. Anything else must come from the original source.

Sonoma County Vet Connect

Veterans Drop In Center for Resources & Services

Every Tuesday

9am to Noon

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa
(Across from the Fair Grounds)

Information, Assistance and Referrals

VA Health Care, Veterans Benefits
Counseling for Veterans
and their Families, Housing
And Employment Counseling

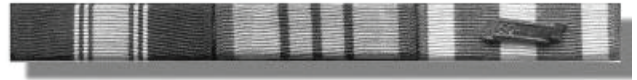
These services are, also, available at the Veterans Memorial Buildings in **Guerneville** on the 2nd Thursday, **Sonoma** on the 3rd Thursday, and **Petaluma** on the 4th Thursday of every month. Please note the time schedule for these resource and service meetings is:

Noon to 3 PM



Sonoma County Human Resources offers a wide range of employment opportunities and is continually seeking enthusiastic and qualified candidates to fill several job positions.

Attached is our weekly listing for your staff or for public posting. Please direct any applicants or job seekers to: www.yourpath2sonomacounty.org to obtain additional information or to apply on line. We appreciate your assistance and cooperation.



Women Veterans of the Vietnam War Era center of VA Research

On November 18, 2009, the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Eric Shinseki announced that The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching a comprehensive study of women Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War to explore the effects of their military service upon their mental and physical health.

VA realizes that women Veterans require specialized programs, and this study will help the VA provide high-quality care for women Veterans of the Vietnam era. The study, which begins later this year (2010) and lasts more than four years, will contact approximately 10,000 women in a mailed survey, telephone interview and a review of their medical records.

As women Vietnam Veterans approach their mid-sixties, it is important to understand the impact of wartime deployment on health and mental outcomes nearly 40 years later. The study will assess the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental and physical health conditions for women Vietnam Veterans, and explore the relationship between PTSD and other conditions.

The VA will study women Vietnam Veterans who may have had direct exposure to traumatic events, and for the first time, study those who served in facilities near Vietnam and in the United States. These women may have had similar, but less direct exposures. Both women Veterans who receive their health care from VA and those who receive health care from other providers will be contacted to determine the prevalence of a variety of health conditions.

About 250,000 women Veterans served in the military during the Vietnam War and about 7,000 were in or near Vietnam. Those who were in Vietnam, those who served elsewhere in Southeast Asia and those who served in the United States are potential study participants.

The study represents to date the most comprehensive examination of women Veterans, and will be used to shape future research on women Veterans in future wars. Such an understanding will lay the groundwork for planning and providing appropriate services for today's younger women Veterans, as well as for the aging Veteran.

For more information on the study you may go to the following website:

<https://www.csp.research.va.gov/csp579.cfm>

For information on how to participate in the study please call: 1-888-831-3325

MAY 1, 2010 (SATURDAY)

SIGN IN: 5:00 PM TO 5:45 PM

TABLE ASSIGNMENT: 5:45 PM TO 6:00 PM

START TIME: 6:00 PM SHARP

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building across from the Fair Grounds.

DINING ROOM

\$60.00 BUY IN gets you \$20,000 in chips. \$20.00 goes to Chapter 223 fundraiser. \$40.00 per person goes into winner's pot.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS DETERMINES THE PAYOUT, 1ST 2ND 3RD 4TH & 5TH

PAY BY: APRIL 30, 2010 AND YOU RECEIVE \$5,000.00 IN EXTRA CHIPS!

CALL JERRY SHIMMEL AT 707-528-3474 OR

E-MAIL: jerryshimmel@yahoo.com

I DO NOT OPEN E-MAIL WITH AN ADDRESS I DO NOT KNOW, SO BE SURE TO

ADD "TEXAS HOLD'EM - VVA" TO THE SUBJECT LINE.

ALSO, ADD YOUR COMPLETE NAME AND PHONE NUMBER.

PAYMENT - MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: "VVA CHAPTER 223"

ALSO ADD YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

MAIL TO: JERRY SHIMMEL

2140 EAST FOOTHILL DRIVE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404

TEXAS HOLD'EM



Top five in the April tournament formed-up to celebrate their rewards. (L-R) Ray Gloor, Jerry Shimmel, John Downey, Mike O'Toole, and Norman Main. Mike O'Toole won the tournament. Forty-eight players filled out the tables the night before Easter to create a very nice payout for the top five.

**BY INVITATION ONLY
NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Hosted by:

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #223
Santa Rosa, California**







**You will find more information on our
Web Site:**

WWW.VVA223.ORG

Proceeds go to:

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #223's
Scholarship Fund, Vets Connect Program, Homeless
Out-Reach program and other community projects.

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1 6pm POKER Texas Hold'em Tournament	Redwood Gospel Mission 101 6 th Street Santa Rosa	Vet Connect is located at the SR Veterans Building				
2	3 5:30pm Homeless Outreach Redwood Gospel Mission	4 9am - Noon SANTA ROSA Vet Connect	5	6	7 7am – 10am Food Giveaway	8
9	10 5:30pm Homeless Outreach Redwood Gospel Mission	11 9am - Noon SANTA ROSA Vet Connect 6pm Board Meeting	12	13 Vet Connect GUERNEVILLE Veterans Memorial Hall Noon - 3pm	14	15 8:30am Form-up for the ROSE PARADE @Vets Building See details, page 1 Armed Forces Day
16	17 5:30pm Homeless Outreach Redwood Gospel Mission	18 9am – Noon SANTA ROSA Vet Connect 7pm General Meeting	19	20 Vet Connect SONOMA Veterans Memorial Hall Noon - 3pm	21	22
23	24 5:30pm Homeless Outreach Redwood Gospel Mission	25 9am - Noon SANTA ROSA Vet Connect	26 5pm Newsletter Folding & BS	27 Vet Connect PETALUMA Veterans Memorial Hall Noon - 3pm	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day Avenue of the Flags Memorial Cemetery See details, page six		 			CHAPTER # 223



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If you would like to place an ad in our newsletter and/or on our website please contact **John Crooker at (707) 838-1427 or Jerry Shimmel at (707) 528-3474**

Business card size ad in our Newsletter is \$80.00 for full year. Business card size ad on our Website (vva223.org) \$80.00 for full year...

But wait! There's more!

If you advertise on both the price would be \$125.00
Half and full page ads available upon request.

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PO Box 1583, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
Volume 12 Issue 5 MAY 2010

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Forest N. Kendall is surrounded, this time, by family, friends, and a cadre of fellow Veterans to celebrate his incredible service to our country!

Front row, L to R, Jordan Hartman, Patti Jensen, Tony Hartman, Patricia Hartman, and of course the man of the hour, Forest Neil Kendall, Col. Pete Peterka (MOAA), William Fulwider (WW II MOPH), Bob Evans (MOPH) and Steve Bossard. Back row, L to R, Monte and Marilyn Madarus, Lt. Col. Chris Bingham (SVO), John Logan (MOPH), Larry Williams (MOPH).