

**VIET NAM
VETERANS
OF
DIABLO VALLEY**



**OFFICERS
&
BOARD
MEMBERS**

President -

Jerry Yahiro

Vice President -

Mike Slattengren

Treasurer -

Gary Estrella

Secretary -

Cliff De Cuir

Membership -

Bill Chew

Public Relations -

John Reese

Events -

Ray La Rochelle

Information -

Wes Tang

Speakers -

Bill Green

Director-at-Large -

Dennis Giacovelli

Procurement -

Gene Ghio

PAST PRESIDENTS

John Estes

Del Loewe

Tim Hart

Mike Weber

Mike McDaniel

Rich Lambert

Ron Azarcon

Bill Picton

Norm Mahalich



INCOMING NEWS

VNVDV VETERAN NEWS

AUGUST 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2010

The East Bay Stand Down (EBS D), August 5th through the 8th is in the final stages of preparation. The encampment setup, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, will start Monday, August 2. Approximately 450 homeless, needy and displaced veterans are expected to attend this year's event. Volunteers are still needed, especially in the set up and take down phase of the encampment (Sunday, August 8 to completion). If you are available and don't mind a bit of physical work, come on out and give us a hand. To volunteer, go to the EBS D's web site, www.eastbaystanddown.org, click on "How You Can Help", then click on "Volunteer Now" and fill in the requested information, and under "Volunteer In" category, check Encampment. Also Joe Callaway, co-coordinator for Safety needs some VNVDV members to help him with daytime safety and security.

After EBS D, the VNVDV's activities will be interesting and varied. Our October's guest speaker for October will be Tuskegee Airman, Alex Jefferson. Alex will be the second Tuskegee Airman to honor us, by being our guest speaker. Woody Spears, now deceased, gave us a presentation, several years ago. The Tuskegee Airmen's saga is truly a testament of dedication, sacrifice and overcoming prejudice. At a time in our country's history, when minorities were deemed as unsuitable for certain military duties, the Tuskegee Airmen and other minority groups proved that being an American was not solely based on the color of their skin. They and the other minority groups distinguished themselves by their service in World War II, paving the way for better racial understanding.

In November two events will highlight the VNVDV's calendar. Veterans Day Observance and the Walk of Honor will be taking place during the month. Planning for both events has commenced and information on both will be future editions of INCOMING.

Very preliminary discussions on a VNVDV's return trip to Vietnam, possibly in 2011 or 2012 have begun. There will be lots to do, before anything is solidified. Membership will be informed as soon as possible. However, now is the time to plan and save for our return trip.

Because of my involvement with the EBS D, Vice-President Mike Slattengren will host our next meeting, Thursday, August 5, at the Crow Canyon Country Club. Although this will be an abbreviated meeting, dinner will be served. An open mike session will be held. Anyone wishing to tell his/her own story, is invited to participate.

Thank you,



EBSD

East Bay Stand Down



August 5 - 8, 2010
Alameda County Fairgrounds
Pleasanton, CA



The EBSD is a 4-day event for homeless, needy and displaced US Military Veterans, who have served our Country honorably.

To break the vicious cycle of homelessness and despair that affects many of our Veterans, the EBSD provides a safe encampment, for 450 Veterans. Here Vets will have access to a host of medical, dental, legal, community and other services, and can apply for various benefits they have earned.

EBSD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
especially on
THURSDAY - AUGUST 5 & FRIDAY - AUGUST 6

Volunteer & Donate On-line
www.EastBayStandDown.org

EAST BAY STAND DOWN - Community Volunteers Encouraged to Register Now

Volunteers - veterans - community leaders - friends & supporters -
 We strongly encourage you to Personally Register first and then FORWARD this REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION for the East Bay Stand Down 2010 – a four-day - 24 hour program for homeless veterans on to ALL FRIENDS & others on your personal and organizational distribution lists. It is critical everyone "register individually" on the EBSD

Website at: EASTBAYSTANDDOWN.ORG - *It only takes a minute* - saving time at the event. Even if you are not sure of the day - dates or time you will be available to volunteer for EBSD... ***You should still register NOW!*** Provide us with all the basic information we need for registration.

Your registration allows us to provide names / contact information to cover the hundreds of volunteers at this outstanding community service event for homeless - needy and displaced veterans with the insurance policy required by the federal government. Remember community volunteers will be working *side-by-side* with *other volunteers* - members of the Department of Veteran Affairs - Branches of the Military Reserves, conducting operational training during the EBSD program - and many other County - State and Federal Agencies... "REGISTRATION IS CRITICAL" ***in advance!***

To "***MAKE A DIFFERENCE***" - YOU can do the following -

- 1) Register **Yourself** at - EastBayStandDown.org - *it is easy... you do it "on-line"*
- 2) Forward this e-mail with the "attachment" on to all your local contacts on your distribution e-mail list
- 3) Print copies of the "attached" **EBSD Volunteer Registration Request** and POST at work & other locations
- 4) Personally "**DONATE**" *on-line* at - EastBayStandDown.org to aid in support of this community program
- 5) Encourage your friends - clubs - organizations & businesses to also make an "**EBSD DONATION**"
- 6) Visit the **EAST BAY STAND DOWN Website** for additional information. EBSD is also on "*Facebook*" too!

REMEMBER... **This is an all-volunteer** - community-driven event to assist with local homelessness. **There are no Paid positions for the EBSD.** Donations are **tax-deductible** - to the extent allowable by law. Please "Register" TODAY - and give you time and money to this very worthy event.

East Bay Stand Down is AUGUST 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at major community support event...to help Bay Area Homeless Veterans

4

Pleasanton – Organizers of the *East Bay Stand Down* are in the final stages of planning a major community initiative to help homeless and displaced veterans and their families, and are looking to recruit over a thousand volunteers to help. This large-scale support program will take place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton from August 5-8. Concerned citizens, community organizations, clubs, non-profit groups and business organizations are needed to volunteer & support the operation of a “tent city” at the fairgrounds.

Volunteers are needed in all areas. Jobs include preparing and serving meals, escorting veterans to appointments, setting up and breaking down camp, and many other support functions throughout the four-day event. In addition to volunteers, *East Bay Stand Down* is also looking for additional financial support, loan of equipment and services, including *temporary construction fencing* for placement around the site, and donations of items such as new male and female underwear, socks, recent paperbacks, and games.

“Stand Down” is a term used during war to describe the practice of removing combat troops from the field and taking care of their basic needs in a safe area. This same concept has been successfully used at EBSD to provide assistance to veterans who are on the streets or close to losing jobs, family connections, and housing.

The East Bay Stand Down (EBSD) is one of the largest events of its kind in the nation, serving up to 500 men and women veterans and their families. Advance screening ensures eligibility and verifies need, participants are bussed-in from various points throughout the Bay Area and transported to the event site. Once checked-in, the participating Veterans will receive food, clothing, shelter, showers, haircuts and other basic necessities. VA and Military Health Care providers will be available to assist with physical, dental, and mental health needs - and counselors are present to address substance abuse issues, housing and employment options, veteran’s benefits and spiritual concerns.

Since the first EBSD in 1999, these all volunteer events have continued on a bi-annual basis, and have proven to be uniquely effective in helping to break the cycle of homelessness among some Veterans. The objective of the EBSD this year is to place 20% of the eligible participants directly into follow-on programs. Opportunities that can lead to direct employment are provided. Participants connect directly with community agencies during the event - helping with stabilization of the participants’ lives, helping these Veterans to come-in off the street and become productive citizens.

According to Jerry Yahiro, Director of the *East Bay Stand Down*, volunteers are the lifeblood of this program and extend the ability of the program to work with the maximum number of veterans on a limited budget. “Many of our volunteers come back year after year” - he said, “there is a great sense of accomplishment, camaraderie, and team spirit among those who volunteer to work the event.” For those who would like to know more about the August EBSD event and meet the organizers before volunteering - there will be a public meeting on Tuesday July 13th at 6:30 PM at the Palm Pavilion, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION:

Volunteers are encouraged to register in-advance of the event. Sign-up as volunteers or donate to EBSD on-line. Additional information and to view a list of event needs at website - <http://www.eastbaystanddown.org>

Check contributions may be sent to: Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation (DVVF/EBSD), P.O. Box .2196 - Danville CA 94526. DVVF is a non-profit 501(c)3 Foundation directly supporting *East Bay Stand Down*

Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune, NC

If you stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC between 1957 and 1987 you and members of your family were potentially exposed to water that was contaminated with chemicals. The Department of the Navy has determined that two water systems that served base housing areas in Hadnot Point and Tarawa Terrace were contaminated with two unregulated solvents, PCE and TCE.

The Navy has also initiated a mail campaign in 2008 to notify persons stationed at Camp Lejeune of the presence of chemicals in the drinking water between 1957 and 1987. The letter invites service members stationed there during this time and their family members to participate in a notification and health registry. You can register at www.marines.mil/clsurvey or by calling (877) 261-9782.

The Department of the Navy has also funded two independent research initiatives. The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is conducting a health study to see if there is an association between exposure to the water and certain adverse health effects. The National Academy of Science is conducting a comprehensive review of scientific literature and potential health risks related to exposures at Camp Lejeune.

If you were stationed at Camp Lejeune during the above dates and have disabilities you believe could be related to the contaminated drinking water it is recommended you contact the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Officer at (925) 313-1481 for information about the procedures and requirements for filing a disability compensation claim with the VA.

Veterans News

Contact: JP Tremblay
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
July 9, 2010

CalVet Requests Nominations for Women Veterans of the Year California Department of Veterans Affairs 2010

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) invites the public to nominate local women veterans who have compiled a record of exemplary service as military service members, as veterans, and as outstanding members of the community for recognition as one of two 2010 CalVet Women Veterans of the Year. Two women veterans will be selected, one for Northern and one for Southern California. The CalVet Women Veterans of the Year will be officially recognized during the CalVet Women Veterans Conference taking place October 7th and 8th this year in Clovis, CA.

These awards are part of CalVet's ongoing effort and commitment to respond to women veterans' issues where women veterans live, work, and enjoy the freedoms of our great country, and to encourage greater participation in the annual women veterans' conferences.

Nominations will be accepted from any California resident. CalVet especially encourages submissions from veterans, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), County Veterans Service Officers (CSV's), and other veterans groups. **Completed nomination forms must be received by September 10, 2010.**

The forms must be submitted in writing and the narrative explaining why the veteran is being nominated for the award may not exceed 500 words in length. Nominations that are not selected may be retained for future award consideration at the discretion of the committee.

Nomination forms (attached to this news release) are also available online at <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/WVConference2010.aspx> or by calling (916) 653-2551 to request the forms be emailed, faxed, or mailed to you. Forms can be requested by mail at:

Women and Minority Veterans Affairs
California Department of Veterans Affairs
1227 O Street, Room 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

PTSD_Reg_Simplify.doc>> VA Simplifies Access to Health Care and Benefits for Veterans with PTSD

WASHINGTON (July 12, 2010) - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced a critical step forward in providing an easier process for Veterans seeking health care and disability compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), with the publication of a final regulation in the *Federal Register*.

"This nation has a solemn obligation to the men and women who have honorably served this country and suffer from the often devastating emotional wounds of war," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This final regulation goes a long way to ensure that Veterans receive the benefits and services they need."

By publishing a final regulation in the *Federal Register* to simplify the process for a Veteran to claim service connection for PTSD, VA reduces the evidence needed if the trauma claimed by a Veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the Veteran's service.

This science-based regulation relies on evidence that concluded that a Veteran's deployment to a war zone is linked to an increased risk of PTSD.

Under the new rule, VA would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA doctor confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a Veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the Veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor.

Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat Veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. This final rule simplifies the development that is required for these cases.

VA expects this rulemaking to decrease the time it takes VA to decide access to care and claims falling under the revised criteria. More than 400,000 Veterans currently receiving compensation benefits are service connected for PTSD. Combined with VA's shorter claims form, VA's new streamlined, science-based regulation allows for faster and more accurate decisions that also expedite access to medical care and other benefits for Veterans.

PTSD is a medically recognized anxiety disorder that can develop from seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helplessness or horror, and is not uncommon among war Veterans.

Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a Veteran for disabilities that are a result of -- or made worse by -- injuries or diseases associated with active service.

For additional information, go to www.va.gov

**The VNVDV "Thanks" our Newsletter ADVERTISERS -
Your Support is appreciated by our Members & Readers!**




VENTURE RESEARCH
*Commercial Real Estate
Appraisers & Consultants*

PH: 925 / 935 - 4294
E: HReese@sbcglobal.net

*"Experience the Quality Difference... over 25 years
serving California and beyond with Excellence"*

**ADVERTISING IN THE "INCOMING"
BUS. CARD = \$50 MBR/SUPPORTER
\$100 NON-MEMBERS - We Support
our Incoming Advertisers! Contact
Treasurer Gary Estrella for ADS!**



It is TAX Time Again....CONTACT

Martin M. De Venuta
Income Tax Preparation & Consulting

PH: 925 / 229 - 4730
E: MDeVenuta@yahoo.com
3010 Pacheco Blvd.
Martinez, CA 94553

RITCHIE Commercial
RESPONSIBLE REAL ESTATE

RICHARD W. LAMBERT
Managing Director

1940 WEBSTER STREET
SUITE 100
OAKLAND, CA 94612

(510) 834-6464
FAX (510) 834-6590
rlambert@ritchiecommercial.com

CORE
San Francisco - Oakland - San Jose
Walnut Creek - Burlingame



THE LOAN DIVISION
(THE HAGAR GROUP)
AMANDA HAGAR
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL LOAN CONSULTANT



DIRECT 949 770 2272
FAX 949 770 2275
CELL 323 422 7750
E-FAX 949 266 5807




E-MAIL: AHAGAR@THELOANDIVISION.COM

Amanda will shop your financial loan package for the "best rates" possible call her for info!

GNLD INTERNATIONAL

R. Nathan Greene
Independent Distributor

21001 San Ramon Valley Blvd. A-4 #194
San Ramon, CA 94583
Phone 925-875-1747
Fax 925-875-1747
rgreene747@comcast.net
CA Sale Permit CH 100-314584


Refinancing Your House or Buying? Call AMANDA HAGAR



Danville Self Storage

BOB BURKE
Manager / Storage Consultant

3550 Camino Tassajara
Danville, CA 94506
925-736-1001
Fax 925-736-0872
danvillestorage@sbcglobal.net
www.danvilleselfstorage.com



INTEGRITY
MOVING SOLUTIONS, INC.

Bill LaVigne
President & CEO

Cell: (510) 368-4441
Toll Free: (866) 369-4446
Office: (877) 668-3677
(877) MOVE-677
Fax: (707) 644-2294
movinginc@sbcglobal.net

55 Springstowne Ctr. #301 - Vallejo, CA 94591

Sponsor of our VNVDV Storage Locker

**MOVING?
Call Wild Bill!**

**Please Support our Advertisers - Sponsors & Event Donors
they enable the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley to Serve Again!**



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Post Office Box 2079
Danville, CA 94526 - 2079
PH: 925 / 355 - 8051
E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com
Web: www.VNVDV.com

10

Electronic Edition

To:

VNVDV Members & VIPs

VNVDV "INCOMING" EDITOR & PUBLISHER

WES TANG

Phone: 925 / 820-5152

E-Mail: wtvnvdv@gmail.com

VIET NAM VETERANS - SERVED WITH PRIDE...
and VNVDV IS STILL SERVING WITH HONOR

WE ARE ON
THE WEB



www.VNVDV.com

FACEBOOK TOO!

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley was established in 1991 as a non-profit Veterans organization to promote and enhance the image of the VietNam Veteran through Community Service and Support of fellow Veterans.

We meet each month on the **1st Thursday** every month in the Diablo Valley @ Crow Canyon Country Club. Our Board of Directors Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. To see some of our programs we support... visit our website. *All veterans are welcome to attend our membership meetings.* We are a "fun" social group - always looking for new members who enjoy friendship & the special bond as military veterans. *We are Proud of our Military Service... and of our continued contributions to veterans and our community.*

OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!



VIET NAM VETERANS
of
Diablo Valley



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER & OPEN SOCIAL MEETING

Thursday, Aug 5. (NO GUEST SPEAKER THIS MONTH)

at *THE CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB* in Danville

Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815

Featuring "Chef's Special Buffet Dinner"

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
"INCOMING" Newsletter