

# INCOMING



**DEC 2010  
Edition**

**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley**

## **Holiday Appreciation Dinner – Dec 2** **Last Chance to Make Your Reservations**

For President Jerry to put on a famed “Rocky & Bullwinkle” cap - just for this edition... you know this year’s **OPERATION SANTA “Toy Drive”** is extremely important! So... Do not forget your *unwrapped* toys at our Dec dinner. You will brighten the holiday for many deserving local children.

“It’s Official” - Election Results are in... 2011 Officers & Directors have been selected by the VNVDV membership. Results will be announced at December Holiday Meeting.

### **President’s December Message**



**Yes, it’s the sometimes hard to recognize - “Holiday Version” of VNVDV President Jerry Yahiro**

2010 is almost over and the New Year is about to begin. The year has gone by quickly and as usual - kept us busy with our many activities.

Some of the highlights were the Crab Feed, Memorial Day, Fourth of July Parade, *East Bay Stand Down* and the Veteran’s Day Observance.

**Thanks to all of you who supported these activities. Once again, without you, the membership, stepping up and getting things done... none of these events would have been successful.**

I especially want to thank the Board of Directors for helping make the VNVDV the premier veterans’ organization it is.

Our annual **Crab Feed** fundraising event will take place on **Sunday, February 6, 2011**. This year, due to the re-building of the San Ramon Valley Veterans Memorial Building, the Crab Feed will be held at the **Danville Community Center - 420 Front Street, Danville, CA**.

Once again, plan on a day filled with fun, camaraderie, really “good eats” for all - (Dungeness crab and fixin’s), our outstanding silent auction, raffle prizes and lots more. *\*(Bring cash, check books or credit cards and spend some money! It all goes to a good cause.)* Tickets are **\$40** per person. Get your tickets early, **only 150** will be sold and they will go quickly. Advance Sale Only.

This year’s Crab Feed is especially important as it will be our *first fund raiser* for **2011**. Since the 2010 **Walk of Honor - for our Veterans**, had to be postponed, until **May 21, 2011** (mark your calendars), our Treasury is being depleted. The Treasury is not broke;

however, we do need to be more cautious on how we allocate our remaining funds.

To raise funds to support our activities, we need you, the membership, to donate and/or get items for our silent auction and raffle/door prizes. This year the VNVDV could really use some *high-end* auction items. Condo vacation units, Airline mileage, SF Giants tickets and anything else that could bring a chunk of money would greatly help the cause.

**Anything you can contribute - will enable us to continue to help those in need and support veteran related events.**

If you have something to donate to our silent auction or other, call **Skip George**, at **925 / 837-6537**.

Information on our other upcoming events will be posted in future editions of the *INCOMING*. Stay tuned for another exciting year!

I want to wish everyone a *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*.



*Jerry Yahiro*



# VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

## "Holiday Appreciation Dinner"

*It is a "special" time of the year... we respectfully request our members, friends, supporters, sponsors and guests to once again **join us** and attend our festive annual **Holiday Appreciation Dinner**. Due to the number of guests we respectfully request you contact our Vice President **Mike Slattengren** at: the phone number below.- making your holiday dinner **Reservations**. Our dinner will be held on the 1st Thursday of the month - **Thursday - December 2nd** - at the beautiful *Crow Canyon Country Club* in San Ramon. For many of you who joined us last year, you may recall - we had over 125 members - guests and supporters join us. This is the time of year to celebrate and give thanks - as our organization "*Continues to Serve*" our fellow veterans in needs, our community and those proudly serving in uniform today. We had over 60 confirmed last week!*

President Jerry Yahiro expects just as many this year attending our dinner. Our membership has continued to increase as VietNam veterans and others discover our activity in the community - and all of our dinners are just great evenings out with friends!

Members present may recall during the first quarter of this year, after the Treasurer's report on our *Holiday Dinner* expenses continuing to be higher than expected. The general membership a dinner last year felt the appreciation dinner should be adjusted upward somewhat closer to the actual cost. The cost for this special holiday meal is: **\$40**. At our 2011 January dinner meeting our "*standard dinner rate*" for members and guests of **\$25**. on the 1st Thursday of month will return.

**RESERVATIONS** with "**your dinner choice**" is "**Respectfully Requested**" (RSVP) for this one dinner - We would appreciate no exceptions please. Your meal choice is "**beef**" or **chicken**" and should be selected for "**all guests**" you plan to bring. Since the Country Club's Chef special orders the main dish - our organization needs to provide an "advance head count" with the meal choice for each reservation made. Reservations must be made NOW. The dinner is this week. **Please CALL "Slatts" TODAY...** we need to get the count in. *I am late with the final reminder - not Slatts*. The VNVDV is responsible for the guaranteed number with "CCCC" on meals ordered. This includes - if you do not show up or cancel. *Please remember to bring an unwrapped holiday toy for a child.*

**Social hour** is from **5:00 - 6:30 p.m.** with the usual **No-Host "Cash Bar"** for beverages.

**Registration & Check-in** – starts @ **5:00 - 6:45 p.m. (1700 to 1845)**

**Dinner:** **\$40**. p/p cash – checks – credit cards please have "**names of guests**" prepared

ALL Reservations & Dinner Choices we request be submitted **TODAY** please to:  
**Mike Slattengren** at **925 / 901-8085** or **925 / 837 - 6238** **today**.

*Holiday Music* from the *San Ramon Valley High School Chorus Group* - Special Recognition & More  
*Don't Miss our Year - End Holiday Appreciation Dinner - Guests area always Welcome! Join us.*

**Dinner Reservations are Due Today!**  
**Contact Mike Slattengren - 925 / 901 - 8085**  
**or e-mail at: [MJSlatt@yahoo.com](mailto:MJSlatt@yahoo.com)**



Annual VNVDV TOY Drive  
 Collection for "Operation Santa"  
 at our Holiday December 2nd Dinner.  
 Bring Your Unwrapped Toys!  
 Change the Holiday for a Child!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- DEC 2 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon.... Annual *Holiday Appreciation Dinner* @ Crow Canyon - [Bring a New Toy](#) - RSVP REQ
- DEC 4 - Saturday @ 1000 in Walnut Creek... **Blue Star Moms** "Holiday Hugs" Pack-Out" for mailing 2000 boxes to overseas troops
- DEC 4 - Saturday @ 1400 in Pleasanton... [Pleasanton Military Families](#) "Pack-Out" for shipping boxes to the troops - see info in news
- DEC 5 - Sunday @ 1400 in San Ramon... [191st Army Band](#) - the *Band of the Wild West* **FREE** Holiday Concert at DVHS - order tickets
- DEC 5 - Sunday @ 1900 in Oakland... the **Blackhawk Chorus** - at Temple Hill - a **FREE** Holiday Concert - order Free tickets on-line
- DEC 6 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Board of Directors Meeting - Swan House - Hap Magee Ranch Park
- DEC 7 - Tuesday @ 1600 on Mt. Diablo ... Annual Lighting of the Beacon on top of Mt. Diablo by the Pearl Harbor Survivors
- DEC 8 - Wednesday @ 1800 in Lafayette... **Remembering Pearl Harbor** - Dinner by the Contra Costa Council Navy League - In Honor
- DEC 16 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- DEC 18 - Sunday @ 1600 in San Ramon... the **Blackhawk Chorus** - at DVHS Performing Arts Center - Holiday Concert - tickets \$20
- DEC - TBA @ 1000 & 1400 in Diablo Valley... *"Operation Santa"* presented by Tereso for our Active Duty families with Blue Star Mom
- DEC 27 - Sunday @ TBA in Dublin... Holiday **"Welcome Home"** for [Active Duty Military](#) in Tri-Valley home on leave or duty in late Dec.
- DEC 31 - Friday @ 12:00 Midnight in the Diablo Valley.... Rings in the **New Year**. Be Safe - Have Fun - Don't Drink & Drive - **HAPPY 2011**
- JAN 6 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon.... First Meeting of 2011 - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- JAN 20 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- FEB 3 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon.... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Open to all - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- FEB 6 - Sunday @ 1300 in Danville...** Annual Charity Crab Feed Fundraiser - [Community Center](#) - Front Street - Next to Library
- FEB 17 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAR 3 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon.... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAR 17 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- APR 2, 2011 Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV **"20th ANNIVERSARY" DINNER MEETING** @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAY 21 2011 - Saturday @ 0900 in Crockett... Annual **"WALK OF HONOR"** presented by [ConocoPhillips](#) in Rodeo - be a Sponsor
- MAY 30 2011 - Monday @ 1000 in Diablo Valley... Memorial Day - Oakhill Park - Danville... *the annual remembrance for the east bay*

***Our Calendar is not a complete listing of all our friends and supporting organizations. Please check their websites also to see postings of their latest calendar events. Thanks.***

# East Bay Blue Star Moms

## "HOLIDAY HUGS" TROOP PACK-OUT

**Saturday - December 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM**

Event: East Bay BLUE STAR MOMS - "Holiday Hugs" Troop Pack-Out

Info Contact: **Becky Hultgren** - 925/518-6255 or email: [rbhultgren@rocketmail.com](mailto:rbhultgren@rocketmail.com)

Location/Details: Location for 2010 BSM's "Holiday Hugs" Troop Pack-Out is at the [Walnut Creek Elk's Lodge](#) - 1475 Creekside Drive (**just off So. Main**) in Walnut Creek. We start at 10:00 AM and go *until we are done*. [Get there early](#) as we get things *done quick!*

### "BLUE STAR MOMS" - "Holiday Hugs" CARE PACKAGES

Since our inception and following in the footsteps of our grandmothers and mothers, we have mailed "a little bit of home" to our sons and daughters serving around the world. Often commanding officers in the field will contact us and let us know that they have a young man or woman who is not receiving any boxes or letters from home. These kids quickly come into our hearts and soon receive a care package with a big blue star on the box, letting them know that good people from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties in California think about and support them. Our boxes have come to have meaning to the troops overseas. We know this from the letters we get receive (letters from the troops coming soon).

We depend on your generous donations and volunteer help to continue sending these care packages and notes from home. All donations are fully tax deductible under our 501(c)3 IRS status. Kindly note your donation is intended for care package supplies/postage on the memo line. **Tax ID # 84-1622728.**

Attention Troops: It is essential that you put your ending deployment date in your email request if you want a care package. To request a care package if you are a deployed service person, email us at - [requestacarepkg@bluestarmoms.org](mailto:requestacarepkg@bluestarmoms.org). Please forward this newsletter to those serving overseas currently.

Attention Volunteers: If you would like to help with any of our drop zones or packing please email us at - [beavolunteer@bluestarmoms.org](mailto:beavolunteer@bluestarmoms.org)

For Donations: If you have items to donate for our "Holiday Hugs" care packages - *or future* "Care Packages" - please email us at - [carepkgdonations@bluestarmoms.org](mailto:carepkgdonations@bluestarmoms.org)

### WHAT TO DONATE for our BSM CARE PACKAGES: *Suggested Donations for our "Holiday Hugs" Care Packages:*

**Note:** We cannot ship glass containers, so plastic or metal only please!

#### Just Add Water-Individual Serving Sizes

- Hot drinks-hot chocolate, spiced cider, tea bags, instant coffee
- Powdered drink mixes-Propel, Crystal Light, Kool-Aid
- Protein powdered drinks--Muscle Milk
- Hot cereals-Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Instant soup mixes

#### Proteins-Individual Serving Sizes

- Tuna or chicken-lunch kits or foil pouches
- Beef jerky or Slim Jims
- Nuts-all kinds including flavored Corn Nuts
- Protein bars-Power Bars
- Peanut butter-small containers only (no glass please)

#### Snacks-Individually Wrapped Packages

- Crackers, Mints, Gum, Candy, Trail mix
- Sunflower seeds, Microwave popcorn
- Chocolate, Cookies, Granola bars
- Fruit snacks - Fruit rollups, Gushers, Dried fruit

#### Clothing

- Black or white COTTON athletic socks
- Dark colored knit hats, Men's flip flops (L, XL)
- White COTTON crew neck T-shirts (M or L)

#### Personal Items-Travel Size

- Powder-Gold Bond, foot and baby powder
- Disposable Hand & foot warmers, Baby wipes, lip balm with SPF
- Waterless hand sanitizer, Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Batteries (preferably AA)

#### Stocking Stuffers and Entertainment

- Silly putty, Nerf or Tennis balls, Yo-yos, Rubik's Cube
- CD's, DVD's, Paperback books
- Hacky-Sacks, Crossword puzzle, Word search and Soduko books

#### Specialty Items

- Ground Coffee (Peets and Starbucks are popular)
- Christmas Stockings (any size)

***Special Note:*** We cannot send religious material, perishable foods or pork, fireworks, firearms, aerosol cans or pornographic material.

Your "donations" of these items are greatly appreciated by the sons and daughters who are currently serving, in addition to the many others serving along side of these brave warriors. Holidays are always tough... many thanks to all. - who care enough to support these care package programs.

**VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley  
are Proud to Support the Blue Star Moms**

# **VNVDV Veterans and Supporters: Can you help the Blue Star Moms on Dec. 4th with YOUR Truck?**

**Do you know 5-6 people who “**have trucks**” and who would be willing to assist the Blue Star Moms—Chapter 101 get material from our Pack-Out Mailing at the **Elks Lodge in Walnut Creek** - back to: the **Extra Space Storage** - at 300 Deerfield Road in San Ramon on Saturday - December 4? This would be starting between 1-2 PM and depending on the truck size - hauling until all of the material is transported?**

**We plan to mail 2000 boxes that day to deployed troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Any help your organization can provide would be appreciated.**

**Becky Hultgren - 925 / 518 - 6255 or email: [rbhultgren@rocketmail.com](mailto:rbhultgren@rocketmail.com)**

**2011 DUES ARE NOW DUE  
YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE ONLY \$25.  
YOU CAN PAY AT DINNER - SAVE TIME AND POSTAGE  
YOU CAN ALSO PAY BY CREDIT CARD OR CHECK.**

**WELCOME HOME OUR RETURNING  
MILITARY VETERANS!**

**It is part of what we are all about -  
Remember when we came home...**

**Join fellow veterans and the community...**

**along with the Blue Star Moms - MCL - VFW - Legion**

**Patriot Guard Riders - Lafayette Flag Brigade -**

**and their family to Thank them for serving!**



**Get help & advise:  
Go see the County  
Veteran Service Office  
FIRST - Learn about your  
VA Benefits - then go to  
the VA and Register.**

# This is one Holiday Concert you don't want to miss!

## 191st ARMY BAND - the "Band of the Wild West"

### ... in concert - San Ramon

# Sunday - DEC. 5th - 2PM

# FREE

## A Festive Holiday

### *The Traditions of America*

San Francisco Bay Area Communities are cordially invited to commence your holiday season with the 191st Army Band - the "Band of the Wild West" at a FREE public concert.

The 191st Army Band - the "Band of the Wild West" is comprised of professional musicians and soldiers in the United States Army Reserve. This highly professional 45-piece Army Band presents free concerts to local military and civic communities in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Last year, these Army ambassadors presented nearly 100 military and public performances to nearly 100,000 live spectators and 2,000,000 broadcast viewers. The 191st Army Band is assigned to the 63rd Regional Support Command and is headquartered at Camp Parks, Dublin, California.

For our guests with tickets reserved - please arrive half an hour before the start of the performance. All seats will be released 15 minutes prior the start of the performance and the doors will be closed once the theatre is full.



DECEMBER 5, 2010

Showtime: 2:00pm

Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center  
10550 Albion Road  
San Ramon, CA 94582

Tickets: (925) 973-ARTS

CW2 Richard Servantez,  
Commander & Director

FREE Ticketed Event

*The* 191ST ARMY BAND

Band of the Wild West



San Francisco Bay Area communities are cordially invited to attend a military band concert with the **191st Army Band** - the "**Band of the Wild West**" at a **FREE** public concert.

"**A Festive Holiday**" multi-media concert highlights and captures the American traditions of the holiday season. Begin your holiday with music works by Tchaikowsky, Alfred Reed, John Williams, Chris Sharp, and much more! See flier above.

LOCATION: **Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center**

10550 Albion Road

San Ramon, CA 94582

COST: **FREE!**

TIME: **2:00pm**

DATE: **Sunday, December 5, 2010**

TICKETS BY PHONE: (925) **973-ARTS** (2787) or 3343

TICKETS VIA EMAIL: [boxoffice@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:boxoffice@sanramon.ca.gov)

TICKETS VIA THE WEB: [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com)

Patrons are asked to provide their full name, number of tickets & a call-back number. (Limit 4 tickets per patron)

\* General (free) admission for *non-ticket holders* will commence at 1:45pm on the day of the concert.

Order your **FREE**  
Tickets in advance  
**NOW!**

# The Blackhawk Chorus



*Presents. . .*

*Magic of the Holidays*

## **2010 Holiday Performances**

Our 2010 Holiday set will include favorites from holidays past as well as some new pieces that you are sure to enjoy. Under the Direction of **Diane Gilfether**

We'll be accompanied by *Randall Benway*, our assistant director and accompanist, featuring *The Golden Gate String Quartet...* and the **140 Voices of the Blackhawk Chorus**.

**7:00 pm - Sunday, December 5, 2010**

**Temple Hill**

4770 Lincoln Ave  
Oakland, CA

TICKETS: **There is no charge for this event.**

[Map](#)

**4:00 pm - Saturday, December 18, 2010**

**Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center**

Dougherty Valley High School  
San Ramon, CA

TICKETS: **Adults: \$20, Children 12 and under: \$15**

Call the DVPAC box office at 925-973-3343 or

[Order Tickets](#) online

[Map](#)

For more information visit us online at: [www.blackhawkchorus.com](http://www.blackhawkchorus.com) Info by member: Helen Reese – 925 / 935 – 4294

*The Blackhawk Chorus*

## **The 191st Army Band - the "Band of the Wild West"**

The 191st Army Band - the "Band of the Wild West" is comprised of professional musicians and soldiers serving in the United States Army Reserve. This highly professional 45-piece Army Band presents free concerts to local military and civic communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. Last year, these Army ambassadors presented nearly 100 military and public performances to nearly 100,000 live spectators and 2,000,000 broadcast viewers. The 191st Army Band is assigned to the 63rd Regional Support Command and is headquartered at Camp Parks, Dublin, California.

Please extend our FREE concert invitation to family, friends, and neighbors. We look forward to seeing you.

Best regards,

**RICHARD SERVANTEZ, CW2, AG**

*Commander & Conductor*

191st Army Band - "Band of the Wild West" - [www.bandofthewildwest.com](http://www.bandofthewildwest.com)

**BLUE  
STAR  
MOMS -**

# Support Our Blue Star Moms

**Chapter 101 - Upcoming "FINAL PACK-OUT" Event**

**This is the "HOLIDAY HUGS" for our Troops - we can always use your help!**

December 4 - Holiday Hugs Pack Out - this is it - ready to get it out to our troops. We have been advised this is starting at 10:00 a.m. until done, at Elks Lodge, in Walnut Creek

The Blue Star Moms need TRUCKS with drivers about 5 to 6 would be great. Around 1PM

VietNam Veteran of Diablo Valley - Proud Supporters of the Blue Star Moms



## Annual "Holiday Appreciation Dinner" - DEC. 2

**Remember to bring a NEW Toy for boy or girl to make the holiday brighter for a child!**



**Contact Mike Slattengren - Advance Reservations are Necessary.**

***Interested in Being More Active?  
Involvement in Community Service?  
Investigate One of our many Committees  
Find Out More at our "Business Meeting"***

Involvement makes the difference! Your personal activity and participation makes it all work. We thank those who are active and enjoy the many programs - projects & events our organizations participates in throughout the Diablo Valley. We cannot do it alone and thank the many wonderful organizations who partner and work with us in most all of our events. The teamwork and joint effort benefits us all and those we serve in our great community. Together we have make efforts very *successful!* New membership is encouraged. Join us! If you are already a member - join a committee of interest and get involved - you will enjoy it! *You'll be glad you did - it could change your life!*

**Learn More about our organization  
Attend a Board of Directors Meeting  
Crow Canyon Country Club**

**3rd Thursday of the Month**

**YEAR-ROUND  
DISCOUNTS  
FOR VETERANS  
AND MILITARY**

**LOWE'S HOME CENTER AND HOME DEPOT STORES** offer a 10% Discount to ALL Veterans EVERYDAY if you let them know you are a veteran when you check-out. Your VA Health Benefit Card comes in handy again or other veteran ID card.

**VNVDV Helps  
the Homeless.  
Ask how you  
can help with  
a 501c(3) donation.**





# VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

## ELECTIONS HELD FOR 2011 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President **JERRY YAHIRO** thanks the Nomination & Election Committee Chaired by Past President **Del Loewe**, with recent Past President **John Estes** and Past President **Richard Lambert** serving as the other two required members. They accepted nominations from members, contacted and interviewed members with time available to serve in 2011 as our Elected Officers & Directors. Ballots were distributed at the November "Annual Membership Meeting" and held open until 15NOV2010 - at which time all signed ballots from current paid members were counted and the results released to President Yahiro at the Board of Directors meeting in November. As the members could see on the ballot the officers and directors chose to follow President Jerry Yahiro into his second year term as President of the VNVDV for 2011. Your 2011 Officers & Directors will be introduced at the December Holiday Dinner on Dec. 2nd at Crow Canyon Country Club by the Election Officer.

If you are interested in serving on one of the many committees during 2011 or would like to co-chair a specific program or becoming involved in one of the standing committees - please contact **Director of Events - Ray La Rochelle** who can provide answers.

In addition to volunteering to help out or serving on a committee - **All VNVDV members** are welcome and encouraged to attend "**Board of Director Meetings**" on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon beginning at 6PM or at **1800**. At these meetings you can learn more about the internal workings of our organization. Remember: *New Leadership comes from Active Membership... Bring a fellow VietNam Veteran to our next dinner meeting as your guest! Our newly elected President JERRY YAHIRO will be appointing* Chair, Co-Chairs & Committee Positions for **2011** soon, let him know you want to serve... *on the Team!*

### 2011 OFFICERS

2011 President-Elect: **JERRY YAHIRO**  
Vice-President - 2011 **MIKE SLATTENGREN**  
Treasurer - 2011: **GARY ESTRELLA**  
Secretary - 2006: **CLIFF DE CUIR**

### 2011 DIRECTORS

Director-at-Large: **Dennis Giacobelli**  
Director of Public Relations: **John Reese**  
Director of Procurement: **Gene Ghio**  
Director of Membership: **Bill Chew**  
Director of Information: OPEN (will be appointed temp)  
Director of Speakers: **Bill Green**  
Director of Events: **Ray LaRoche**

## Interested in Joining the "Incoming" Newsletter Team?

*Do you have editor - publishing - computer skills... and some time monthly?*

The President has an opportunity on the Board of Directors to find a VNVDV member who has computer skills or is willing to learn and is interested. We do have a vacancy in the position of "Director of Information" - which is responsible for gathering information on various events going on in our group during our Board Meetings and obtaining regular internet communications and responding if required. Monthly the *Information Director* puts together our organization's monthly newsletter which is sent to all membership internally. The style has changed every time the editor has changed. The Public Relations Director is responsible for all external communications and both positions work closely with the President and other Board Members. Computer knowledge is necessary - although, software is provided and training or assistance / coaching is available as required. Interested in joining the team. Contact President Jerry

Yahiro for a discussion about what is involved in the position and attend one of our Board Meetings on the 3rd Thursday at Crow Canyon Country Club at 1800. It is actually a great deal of fun and you meet great people - join us!

**Thanks to our Web Mistress Chelle for a great job in 2010!**

# For the Holidays, or anytime

## Send a Card or note - to the Troops serving...



LET'S SAY THANKS... DURING THE HOLIDAYS IN SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS!

You can go to this special XEROX web site [www.LetsSayThanks.com](http://www.LetsSayThanks.com) you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services.

We are encouraging **ALL community members to participate...** veterans - our friends - supporters - sponsors and all the VSO's in the Diablo Valley and the greater East Bay to join us and send the troops *currently serving* a very special "Holiday Greeting." Just think how AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one!!! *It is FREE and only takes a minute. If you served - you may remember "mail call" - wouldn't it be wonderful if all of our soldiers - sailors - airmen - marines - guardsmen - reserves... all received mail... or actually a bunch of cards and letters!* This is not and never should be a political issue... these are **OUR** young men and women who are serving our nation proudly - wearing the uniform of the *United States of America*. Whether you are for or against war (any war) - those who are serving - need to know we are behind them and thinking of them during the holidays and every other day until they safely return home.

**This takes just a few minutes** and is a wonderful way to say **thank you** to someone in uniform... And knowing in your heart - it will mean a lot during this time of year, away from family and friends. Please take the time to fill one or a few out... and please take a moment to pass this link on for others to do the same and... **"Let's say Thanks... in Support of our Troops!"**

**We can never thank our military men and women enough!**

Link: <http://www.letssaythanks.com/Home1280.html>



**Thank You all...  
a great success!**

**Veteran's Day Program for the San Ramon Valley**

LEXINGTON + SARATOGA + YORKTOWN  
BARBARY WARS + LAKE ERIE + NEW ORLEANS  
MONTEREY + VERA CRUZ + BULL RUN + SHILOH  
ANTIETAM + CHANCELLORSVILLE + GETTYSBURG  
BULL DOGS + DIAN WARS + MANILA  
BELLINGHAM + BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC  
BIRMINGHAM + DENNIS - ALSIDE + IWO JIMA  
CHINA AIR LIFT + PUSAN + INCHON + SEOUL  
GULF OF TONKIN + ROLLING THUNDER + DAK TO  
KHE SANH + TET OFFENSIVE + COLD WAR  
GRENADA + PANAMA + GULF WAR I + BOSNIA  
SOMALIA + KOSOVO + TORA BORA + KANDAHAR  
FALLUJAH + SADR CITY + BASRA

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**Veterans Day**



November 11, 2010



**Event Chaired by VNVDV Director of Events - Ray LaRoche, and Co-Chaired by American Legion Member Dick Seavey. Both Ray and Dick appreciate the time and assistance from all the VSO groups and other support organizations. They look forward to having more community organizations also become involved along with the veterans in next year's event to make this program even better.**



# **Marine Corps League #942 Continues to Ship Packages Congratulations!**

**PACKAGES SHIPPED TO DATE: 6,492 - approximately 85,600 lbs. 90% of the packages are being shipped to the troops in Afghanistan, a much more rugged place than Iraq, with little of the same access to basic hygiene items. Your donations go a long way towards bringing a little bit of "home" to them. Report submitted by John Wintersteen, MCL #942**

**The MCL received many outstanding letters and notes from the troops serving thanking them for their packages. Keep up the good work - it is great to see they *even like your cigars* John! **BRAVO-ZULU** to the **Marine Corps League** from **VNVDV**.**

## **Pleasanton Military Families Ready for "Pack-Out" with only One-Week to go!**

Our Pleasanton Military Families Christmas Pack-Out for our troops is only 1 week away!! **ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP OUT???**

This is a **suggested shopping list** for donations for our troops. Remember the conditions in Afghanistan, where most of the deployed are, are very rugged. They may not have anything to heat food with and likely no microwaves...maybe boiling only. When you look for food items, think ready to eat items....pouches or cans of tuna, chicken, dried fruit, soups and snacks and candies. Hygiene conditions aren't good so baby wipes will be needed. Laundry opportunities are few and far between so lots of white socks and dark green or brown T shirts would be appreciated as well. Remember travel sizes for toiletries are best for care packages. Check out our website -

**WE ARE UP TO 45 TROOPS TO PACK FOR THIS TIME!!! AN ABSOLUTE RECORD FOR US. CHRIS MILLER IS GOING THRU HIS BLACK BOOKS LOOKING FOR MORE!**

**BRAVO—ZULU... *Way to go Chris!***

**LOCATION** of **Pleasanton Military Families** Pack-Out is at:

**3003-A Hopyard Road.** Right on the corner of Valley and Hopyard, in the old Sylvan Learning Center offices.

We will have some banner or flag near the entrance. Look for the flags and / or banners

**Pre-pack:** **Friday, Dec 3rd. 6pm.** Will need a dozen or so volunteers to sort items and organize tables.

**Pack out:** **Saturday, Dec 4th. 2pm:** All please come to get the boxes packed and taped and loaded into cars to get to the post office on Monday.

If You Belong To Other Groups, See If They Would Like To Collect Donations Too. Peets Coffee Is Donating Coffee To Send. Friends Of The McGuirk's Own A Hardware Store And Always Donate Some Christmas Items To Send. They Have Given Us 12 Christmas Trees And Some Garlands To Decorate And Send.

**DONATIONS for the Pack-Out CAN BE DROPPED OFF STARTING NOW AT THE HOME OF COL. CHRIS & TRACEY BUESCHER @ 4411 SHEARWATER COURT in PLEASANTON. Contact # is: 925 / 462-3200. It is "OK" TO LEAVE ITEMS ON THE PORCH. THEY WILL BE CHECKING FREQUENTLY!**  
Call or email for any questions.

***Thanks! Pat Frizzell - PMF HELP SUPPORT THE PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES.... They support our troops!***

**Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941.....**

***Lest We Forget...A Remembrance***

**When: Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Where: Lafayette Veterans Memorial Bldg.**

**Time: Social Hour 1800 Dinner 1900**

**Why: To Honor "those who were there!"  
USA, USN, USMC, USCG, USAAC**

**Cost: \$35 per person (including wine)**

***Honored Guest and Speaker:***

**Rear Admiral Winston W. Copeland, Jr., USN (Ret)**

Admiral Copeland, a distinguished Naval Aviator, Commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group, a test pilot, recipient of the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star with Combat V, a corporate success and now head of his consulting firm focusing on leadership.

**The Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of the U.S. and veterans organizations in Contra Costa County are joining to coordinate this fourth annual observance of a Pearl Harbor Remembrance. We are inviting Pearl Harbor Survivors and active duty personnel to join with us.**

.....  
**Reservations Deadline December 1, 2010, PLEASE!**

Reservations can be made by mailing to: Steve Cruikshank, 165 Random Way, Pleasant Hill, Ca 94523. Checks to CCC NLUS, please.

**Names: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Enclosed is check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Dinners**

**Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation for guests enclosed**



# Annual Holiday Tri-Valley

## "Sentinels of Freedom"

### Military "Welcome Home" Program

This year's Annual Tri-Valley Holiday Military "WELCOME HOME" Program will be hosted by the City of Dublin at the Dublin Library Community Room. The Town of Danville Press Release on their website requested families with military personnel home for the holidays provide information (names) and all VSO's and support organizations provide names on any military service members we know of... from the **Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, or any Reserve Unit** - who will be "Home for the Holidays" from our Diablo Valley which includes - Danville, San Ramon, Dublin, Alamo, Diablo, or Blackhawk. Please ask them or a member of their family / parents to let their city / town / county staff know they will be home in late December for the Welcome Home on the 27th.. This annual holiday **Welcome Home** is conducted in the later part of December in the Diablo Valley to recognize and honor those who are serving. If you know of someone who is on active-duty and lives in one of the cities or town mentioned above, and they will be home - **please pass this information on to their parents or family members** so they can participate, if they desire. This is a great opportunity for those who are serving. You can view the formal Press Release on the Town of Danville website on the Program. They do need to know **"in advance of those military personnel attending"** since certificates are being prepared for the event. Everyone is welcome to attend and support this "Welcome Home" event on **Sunday - December 27 at 1PM** to pay tribute and honor those currently serving our country. Please join the community in this special Welcome Home. All veterans, military and community members in addition to all family are encouraged to attend this special tribute to those on active duty and home for the holidays. For more information contact **Rochelle Flotten** in Town of Danville at: **(925) 314-3328** or [rflotten@danville.ca.gov](mailto:rflotten@danville.ca.gov).

### Help Pass the Word on this Military Welcome Home

*NOTE:* Each community will participate jointly as in years past - and **the location is rotated annually...** This year it is **Dublin**. If you know of active duty military serving our nation who will be home on leave during this time of the annual recognition - and they live in one of the following communities: Danville, Dublin, Alamo, Blackhawk and San Ramon. Please have their parents - spouses - girlfriends or significant others get in touch with Rochelle Flotten to *find out more information*. As Officers / Directors in the VSO's in our community - please assist by passing this information along to other service organizations and groups who may know of military personnel returning to the east bay during the later part of December. *Thank You*



### Danville prepares for annual Welcome Home Event

#### *Town is seeking active military home for the holidays*

The Town of Danville is looking for information on those Danville residents with active military personnel who will be home for the holidays, in order for them to participate in the upcoming *Sentinels of Freedom* Welcome Home ceremony.

The annual event, scheduled for **December 27, 2010**, will be held at the Dublin Library Community Room. Danville, Dublin, Alamo, Blackhawk and San Ramon are joining together for the event, in which military service people are honored for their commitment to their country. Each honoree will receive a Proclamation of Special Recognition.

Danville families who have military serving are encouraged to submit information on their loved one so that they can be a part of the event. **Deadline for submissions is Dec. 20, 2010**. For more information on the Welcome Home event, contact *Assistant to the Town Manager Rochelle Flotten* at (925) 314-3328 or [rflotten@danville.ca.gov](mailto:rflotten@danville.ca.gov).

# Support our Gold Star Family License Plate Program

**To ALL VETERANS—MILITARY PERSONNEL—COMMUNITY MEMBERS:**

Did you know it has been two years since Gov. Schwarzenegger authorized the creation of a special recognition license plate to honor the families of the fallen, also known as **Gold Star Families??** Did you also know that before production can begin of these plates **\$300,000** needs to be raised by private donations?? To date **approximately \$170,000** has been donated.

As of **31 Aug 2010, California has lost 603 brave men & women in Iraq & Afghanistan.** That is more than **10% of America's Fallen.** We realize that we have been asking a lot of you when it comes to fund-raising and that times are tough, but California's **Gold Star Families** have lost so much. And they are still in need of your help.

As a thank you gift for your **\$20 donation**, please accept a commemorative t-shirt (design shown below). Available only in white and in sizes S-XXL. And because no donation is ever too small, as a thank you gift for \$5 donation, a commemorative static cling bumper sticker (also shown below).

To ensure your thank you gifts are sent correctly - *please* contact our local representative. Donations should be sent to **SOME GAVE ALL, P.O. Box 1215, Discovery Bay, CA 94505**

If you have any questions, please contact **Leianne Graves** via email [leianne@somegaveall.us](mailto:leianne@somegaveall.us)

We should never let the memory of those who have given their all drift away.

Please forward this important information to as many people as possible and thank you so much for *ALL* your help and support!

Phil Munley  
**Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer**  
10 Douglas Drive # 100  
Martinez, CA. 94553  
(925) 313-1481

**"An Ongoing Effort"**

**VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter**

***Please Support the Wheelchair Foundation -  
The VNVDV is going back to Viet Nam!***

**During the holidays if you have someone  
who is hard to shop for... or has everything -  
a perfect gift - is giving a "new WCF wheelchair" in their name!**

**When you go on-line to donate your WCF wheelchair  
In addition to gifting it to your friend -  
Please note to also give "credit to the VNVDV"**



# Honoring Our Valley Veterans: "Heroes in Defense of Freedom"

We are involved with the planning of an exhibit, "**Honoring Valley Veterans - Heroes in Defense of Freedom**" at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley from **January 18 through March 5, 2011** at the **Railroad Depot in Danville**. There are to be displays focusing on **WW I, WW II, Korea, VietNam and the Persian Gulf wars**. We would like to have a variety of special collections, awards and medals of local veterans, models of ships, planes and military vehicles & more. **This is a special broadcast to ALL VETERANS in the East Bay - especially the Diablo Valley - Tri-Valley - San Ramon Valley areas to assist the Museum of the San Ramon Valley with this very special exhibit.** They will also include the current OIF/OEF wars, if military veterans in the area do have specific items to contribute to the exhibit. If you can help or know someone who can help on this project - please contact **Dr. Bob Sada, DDS (Ret) at (925) 820-4882** or **Linda Schardt at the new Veteran' Memorial Building Remodeling / Campaign Office at (925) 362-9806**. There will be several programs in conjunction with the exhibit and we will be getting publicity out in an effort to ensure good attendance. The Museum is planning on having a pre-exhibit promotion at the Tri-Valley "**Welcome Home**" for our Active Duty Military home on leave or on duty in the area on December 27th in Dublin at the Community Center in the Library. They hope to have military vehicle and other exhibits at additional "Welcome Home" programs events during the period of the museum exhibit. Grand Opening day for the museum exhibit will be January 22 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.. John Place will have a sampling of his military vehicles on display during the opening. We encourage all veterans to take part in this special museum exhibit and if possible provide materials to augment the displays. Remember - the new Veteran's Memorial Building is for those who have served and those who are serving now and will serve in the future. Make a pledge for the future. **Leave a Legacy!** **Remember to participate in this exhibit.**

---

**Thanks!**  
**VNVDV came out in the rain**  
**Participate in Pleasanton**  
**Veterans Parade.**

---

**VNVDV MEMBERS: WE HAVE A CONTINUAL NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR MILITARY SERVICE COLORS GUARD TEAM FOR OUR ORGANIZATION FOR VARIOUS EVENTS AND PARADES. THIS IS "YEAR-ROUND" - AND IF WE HAVE BETWEEN 16 TO 24 NAMES OF MEMBERS ON A ROTATING LIST, WILLING TO VOLUNTEER AND PARTICIPATE OCCASIONALLY WHEN AVAILABLE. YOUR PERSONAL EFFORTS WOULD HELP OUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM A GREAT DEAL. CONTACT FRED GRANADOS OUR COLOR GUARD COORDINATOR IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP OUT. FRED CAN BE E-MAILED AT: [FLGRANADOS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:FLGRANADOS@YAHOO.COM).**

# "Super Crab Feed"



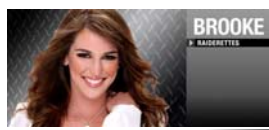
Tickets & Reservations for FEB. 6th  
 Crab Feed Available NOW from Treasurer!  
 Order yours at our Dec. Dinner.

A successful "Super Sunday" Charity Crab Feed  
 is critical to our Community Service. Please Help.

It is time to obtain "DONATIONS"  
 for our "Super Crab Feed" in Feb. 2011



**Tickets \$40.**  
 Purchase Tickets Now!  
 Mail Checks to P.O. Box 2079 or  
 Call VNVDV Treasurer @ 925 / 963-9552  
 to "reserve your tickets in advance"  
 Doors Open at 1PM - Appetizers - Beverages  
 Multiple Large Screen Televisions - Crab Feed  
 Plus the "OAKLAND RAIDERTTES"  
 VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley



We need the support and assistance  
 of each member and all of our supporters  
 and many sponsors once again.

**ALL Donations should go to SKIP GEORGE**

**WE WANT YOU! YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE CRAB FEED ARE VITAL! PLEASE HELP US!**



Help is needed **NOW** for the **February 6th CRAB FEED**. "Big Daddy John Estes" our Past President *has stepped up to the plate once again* to assist in obtaining the crab and organizing volunteers for the event. Talk with John about how you can help. Volunteer for a committee. Help is needed in all areas. We have a *new* location since the Veteran Building is being remodeled for the next 12 to 18 months. Our Crab Feed will be at the **Community Center** on Front Street next to the Danville Public Library this year. It is still on the **FIRST** Sunday - the 6th of February as always. **Tickets are still \$40.** **Make your Crab Feed Ticket Reservations with Treasurer Gary Estrella.**

**NOTE:** As mentioned every edition - Events are *subject to change* after the time of publication. Many events are NOT listed which the VNVDV supports and we encourage you to check the all websites of our friends - supporters - and other organizations we also support.

Be sure to visit our website @ [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com) Many THANKS to our "WebMistress" Chelle for keeping our newsletter on-line.





# Support Your Local Veterans



**By Supporting our new Veteran's Building**



## Honoring Our Veterans who are serving NOW!



**MAKE A PLEDGE TO LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE.**



**SUPPORT THE NEW VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING.**



Your reason for making a pledge & supporting the New Veteran's Memorial Building is really simple!



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Your Organization or Group  
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**Bronze Sponsor \$250**

5 complimentary participant packages  
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# Join Us on MAY 21st

Honoring the Men and Women  
who Served Our Nation



### Sponsorship Opportunities

ConocoPhillips SFR Rodeo Refinery and Carbon Plant invites you to partner with us and become a corporate sponsor of

Sponsorship Includes -  
"Participant - Walker  
Team Packages"

**Be a part of a very special local community event in West Contra Costa and join us in the May 21st "Walk of Honor" for our Veterans.**

2011 "Walk of Honor"  
Plan NOW to be an  
"Individual"  
WALK of HONOR  
Walker!

Following the "Walk" across the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge, all registered participants are invited to gather together for a barbeque luncheon and celebration. Many local veteran service organizations will be on hand providing information regarding their services. There will also be a Huey helicopter for you to view and, other military artifacts on display.

We hope you will join with us in support of the men and women who have given so much to protect the freedom we all enjoy.

*Walk "In Honor" of a Veteran  
Your grandfather - brother - sister -  
father - son - daughter or a friend.*

Phone: 510-245-5130  
Fax: 510-245-4617

Email:  
aimee.lohr@conocophillips.com

ConocoPhillips  
"WALK of HONOR"  
SAT. MAY 21st - 8AM  
Special Veteran Benefit  
Information Available  
Before - During - After!  
Custom Ball Caps Available!

The "Walk of Honor" benefits the Crockett Community Foundation enhancement of the Veteran's Memorial Building & aids the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley help fellow veterans in the East Bay.

### YOUR COMPANY CAN BE A SPONSOR

Contact "ConocoPhillips" NOW to be a "Walk of Honor" Sponsor this coming May.

# Be a Sponsor of the 2011 Walk of Honor

**The VNVDV "Thanks" our 2010 Newsletter ADVERTISERS -  
Your Support is appreciated by our Members & Readers!  
New 2011 ADS in our Next Issue!**



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**USMC "TOYS FOR TOTS"**

VNVDV is honored & proud to support the **USMC**  
**"Toys for Tots"** campaign -  
we may help those who are less  
fortunate enjoy a happy holiday.

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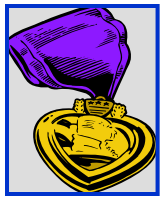
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**Thanks from the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley for your Support!**

# Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

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

**DECEMBER 2010**  
**Electronic Edition**



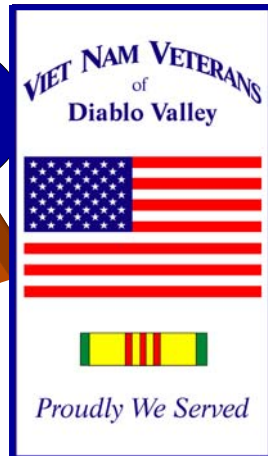
**To:**

**VNVDV Members & VIPs**

*VIET NAM VETERANS - SERVED WITH PRIDE... and VNVDV IS STILL SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE & HONOR*

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**

**www.vnvdv.com**



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.

The VNVDV meets each month on the **1st Thursday** of every month in the Diablo Valley @ **Crow Canyon Country Club**. Our Board of Directors Meetings are held on the **3rd Thursday** of each month also at Crow Canyon country Club. To find out more about some of our programs we support... visit our website at [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com). *All veterans are welcome to attend our membership meetings.* We are a casual - "fun" - social veterans 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 fellow veterans and our community.* *Our dinner meetings consist of social - dinner and a guest speaker of interest to veterans and military. These are OPEN meetings. Join us.*

**OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!**



**VIET NAM VETERANS**  
of  
**Diablo Valley**



**HOLIDAY DINNER & OPEN SOCIAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY - DECEMBER 2ND**

*At CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon*

*Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815*

*Featuring "Chef's Special Served Dinner" - \$40. RSVP **Today** Please*

**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley**  
**"Special Holiday Edition of INCOMING"**