

**VIET NAM
VETERANS
OF
DIABLO VALLEY**



SPECIAL EDITION

**VET
NEWS**

**OFFICERS
&
BOARD
MEMBERS**

SPECIAL EDITION VETERAN NEWS

JULY 2010

4TH of JULY & East Bay Stand Down

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I first want to thank *all* of the membership who made the Memorial Day Observance, on Monday, May 31, 2010, one of VNVDV's BEST! Special thanks go to the early morning crew, who set up the cammo shade cover and chairs before the observance, and then broke down the site after the ceremony. The Memorial Day Observance portion went very well. Due to an electrical circuit breaker failure, the All Wars Memorial (AWM) segment did not take place as planned at the AWM. That portion was held at the same site as the Memorial Day Observance. However, all in all, it turned out very well.

Thanks also to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75, Danville, for the 21 rifle salute. The three volleys, followed by "Echo Taps", added a poignant and solemn moment to the entire ceremony. Special thanks go out to our new "Grill Sergeant", Pete Ruben, and fiancée, Mai, for the delicious smoked chicken, ribs and BBQ beans. As we say in Hawaii, "Broke Da Mouth!" (really, really good!). After our picnic, we gave our traditional salute and toast to honor our fallen and passed veteran family members and friends. As always, it proved to be a moving tribute to our comrades and special loved ones. *Thanks to all*, who helped to make this Memorial Day Observance a special one to remember.

Our next event will be the Danville, 4th of July Parade, on, Sunday, July 4, 2010, starting at **1100 hrs (11:00 AM)**. VNVDV members and invited veterans, friends and family members, please form up NLT 9:30 AM, on Danville Blvd., in front of San Ramon Valley High School. Early street closures will be enforced. Drop-off will be at El Cerro and Danville Blvd. Official uniforms, white VNVDV golf shirt and hat, blue trousers/shorts and white tennis shoes are the order of the day. If you never got the "Thank You for Serving" and "Welcome Home" greeting that you deserve, you need to join us in this Parade. You'll certainly get the message here! Let's have a large turn-out for this year's Parade. We will again pass out 12,000 US Flags.

One last item, the East Bay Stand Down (EBSD), will take place Thursday, August 5, through Sunday, August 8, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. The VNVDV has been a primary sponsor of this event since the first EBSD was held in 1999. Many of our members serve in key staff and coordinator positions, or volunteer their time, talents and treasure, before, during and after the actual event.

If you have not been involved with EBSD previously, I encourage you to get on board for this one. EBSD still needs volunteers and donations. To learn more about EBSD, and how you can help, go to www.eastbaystanddown.org. Click on "How You Can Help", and click on "Volunteer Now", or "Donate Now", or both. And, help us get the word out, pass it along to family, friends, coworkers, and fellow veterans. See you there in a white EBSD Volunteer T-shirt!

That's all for this month. Have a happy and safe 4th of July.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

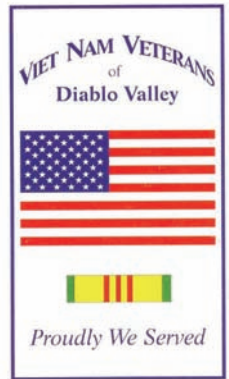
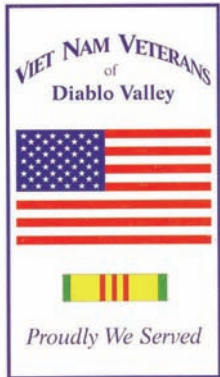


JULY 1st Dinner Meeting Guest Speaker TOPGUN Dan Harrington

4th of JULY Kiwanis - Danville Parade in Danville kicks-off at 11am - Check-in Time 10am for Vets

VNVDV TAKES ON ALL CHALLENGERS

SATURDAY - JUNE 26TH



San Ramon Valley Firefighters
**2nd Annual
Charity Bowl**



Saturday, June 26th
Danville Bowl, 200 Boone Ct., Danville, CA

Open Bowl 1-5PM
Tournament Bowl 6-10PM

Adults \$25 Kids 12 & Under \$10
Food and drink provided
Silent Auction and Raffle Prizes
Music from San Ramon Valley Firefighters Pipes and Drums

For more info and online ticket sales go to www.srvff.org

All proceeds to benefit
Veterans Memorial Building
of San Ramon Valley



This
SATURDAY
JUNE 26th
in
Danville
at the
Danville Bowl

Open Bowling:
1PM - 5PM

Tournament:
6PM 10PM

YES... you could call it a challenge! Join in the FUN. Sure - we are a bunch of old broken-down veterans... although, willing to bowl against *any* organization - Business - non-profit or community group... for fun all to help the SRVFF benefit for our new Veteran's Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley. Open / practice bowling **for fun** 1PM to 5PM - **\$25.** towards the new building. The **tournament** is from 6PM-10PM - **\$250.** for a team of 5 (\$50. per member) and you can be a "lane sponsor" for **\$100.** or more - just like the VNVDV! Now the question is: **Have you got the stuff?** **Where is your team?** **Register NOW contact - John Keel <JKeel@srvff.org>** San Ramon Valley Fire Fighters. See their website at: **www.SRVFF.org** for information.

Please Join the Firefighters and the Veterans on Saturday for some FUN and a little Bowling!

VIETNAM VETERAN BOWLERS - Friends - Supporters - Community Members -

If you are game... and interested in some fun and willing to bowl in the Saturday Tournament on the VNVDV Team it is only a donation of \$50. per player payable to the VNVDV and Gary Estrella is writing a check to the Firefighters for the \$250. for our Team or Teams. If you want to "practice" - open bowling is from 1PM until 5PM and is a donation of \$25. and all the funds go to the new Veteran's Memorial Building Fund in this SRVFF event. As the public relations folks state below—get their early to socialize and see the silent auction items... and probably practice! :) JERRY YAHIRO—Our Team Captain is expecting a good turnout from the VNVDV since this is all for FUN and a social event and encourages everyone to bring spouses—friends- neighbors-children-other veterans since it all goes to a good cause. You do not have to be a good bowler, or even have bowled before to participate in this fun fundraiser event! **See Jerry Yahiro when you arrive.**

A reminder about this Saturday's event - Firefighters Charity Bowl fundraising event for the **new** Veterans Memorial Building.

It's a pretty loose set up - come when you like in the afternoon. Many are gathering at 3:18 pm and bowl a game or two? It will be much more fun if you are there! Bring friends & family, too. Or just come cheer on the bowlers and do some shopping at Silent Auction on a Saturday afternoon.

Just as we did for the *Military Vehicles and Car Show*, we are looking for people to sign-up to staff the VMB table during this event. Open Bowl is from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m, the Tournament Bowl is 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Please Join us—it is all for FUN... we plan to make it interesting by putting together a little **friendly competition between groups**, the **Firefighters** will be happy to help put teams together at the event.

Maybe a little **U.S. Marine Corps vs. Navy...** or **Army vs. Air Force**, or **P.D. vs. SRV FPD**, or **VFW vs. American Legion**, or **hubbies vs. their beautiful brides, teens vs. parents**, or **boys vs. girls; Museum vs. Historical Society, Town Council vs. Planning Department... YOU NAME IT !!!!**

Sandee will bowl - Linda will bowl - who else out there will give it a go? A little friendly competition? **Just come anytime from 1 to 5** and bowl as much as you desire. The only limit would be if there are people waiting to bowl, then the bowling alley staff will limit people to two games. Bowlers would then put their name back on the list and await another turn. **See you Saturday!**

...send an email back after you talk to your buddies and get your friends – members – co-workers – groups and teams together - **we'll make it happen for you!** Remember, the **Firefighters will be happy to sign teams up and we can assist in adding players to teams if needed – just let Linda know you are available to bowl on a team.**

FOOD RAFFLE PRIZES SILENT AUCTION MUSIC DRINK

With... the San Ramon Valley Firefighters Pipes and Drums!!!!!!!!!!!!
It's all for fun - it's all for a great cause... you – our community and your beautiful Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley! and did we mention - it'll be a blast?!?!

John Keel, Firefighters Association President, has approved the following press release
The VMB of SRV have a team-either Open Bowl or Tournament Bowl...

You may not be a great bowler, but we could use all of you to join a team for the spirit of it.
If you want to participate in any of the ways below - you can let John know @ **John Keel**
<JKeel@srvff.org> Here is info from website - srvff.org

~If you Donate items that we can use for the silent auction or that can be raffled. We will acknowledge your business when the item is displayed for the auction or when raffled. ~ Sponsor a lane for a minimum donation of \$100. We will provide signage that will be displayed above the lanes. Please provide us with your company logo if you desire to sponsor a lane. ~ Enter a team of five for \$250 to compete in the tournament. >- Bring your families and friends and enjoy the open bowling; \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. ~ Share this information with all who may desire to donate and/or participate in this fun and worthwhile event. **THE MAIN THING IS... YOU JOIN US AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT. THANK YOU.**

JULY 4TH MILITARY SERVICE FLAG COLOR GUARD VOLUNTEERS

VNVDV members:

We need your assistance to get our 4TH of JULY MILITARY SERVICE COLOR TEAM FLAG DETAIL together and finalized by our July 1st General Membership Dinner.

Fred Granados OUR COLOR GUARD COORDINATOR HAS ONCE AGAIN REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN PUTTING TOGETHER THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS YEARS TEAM. DUE TO THE START OF VACATIONS FRED DID NOT RECEIVE AS MANY NAMES AS EXPECTED AND REQUESTS YOU CONTACT HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT THE NUMBER BELOW.

This is a “shout out” to YOU... the membership to let you all know we need your personal assistance for OUR SPECIAL 4TH of JULY PARADE UNIT for the annual “KIWANIS / DANVILLE 4TH OF JULY PARADE sponsored by Heller Jewelers—being held in Danville on **SUNDAY - JULY 4TH** – which begins at **11am**. VOLUNTEERS are to ARRIVE for event SET-UP - LAST MINUTE CHANGES - INSTRUCTIONS - ASSIGNMENTS and FORMATION **no later than 10am**.

This is the one of the largest HOMETOWN PARADES in the entire BAY AREA conducted - right here in beautiful downtown Danville... Home of the... “All Wars Memorial” and site of the new “Veteran’s Memorial Building for the San Ramon Valley.”

We will need a minimum of EIGHT volunteers for the COLORS - TWO for the BANNER - and DOZENS for AMERICAN FLAG DISTRIBUTION. REMEMBER the uniform of the day is: dark blue pants or shorts, our VNVDV official white polo shirt and white sneakers, the Color Guard Team will wear the White Ball Caps. We appreciate everyone’s assistance.

Gene Ghio - 4th of July Parade Coordinator

Please contact our color guard coordinator directly:

Fred Granados - ph: 925 / 930 – 6732 - E: flgranados@yahoo.com

July 1st Dinner Meeting Speaker - "TopGun" Dan Harrington

Our speaker for the July 1st meeting will be one of our own members,

Dan Harrington. While serving as a U.S. Navy “TOPGUN” fighter pilot stationed in the Philippines, Dan witnessed the widespread deprivation visited upon the country’s children by a plundering dictator. It was then that Dan, and his wife Nancy... a schoolteacher in the Philippines, decided to dedicate themselves to transferring the excess educational wealth of America - to meet the needs of our friends in the Philippines. Dan and Nancy founded “**BOOKS for the BARRIOS, Inc.**”

Now... Fast forward almost 30 years and “**Books for the Barrios**” has delivered over twelve million books, that would otherwise been destroyed here in the States, to needy children throughout Asia. These books are being distributed by our troops... as they build local schools while on deployment around the globe.

Join us at our Membership Dinner Meeting on Thursday – July 1st for friendships – dinner and an enjoyable presentation by Dan Harrington. We look forward to seeing you at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon.

Viet Nam Veterans are Always encouraged to attend, and

Remember our dinner meetings are OPEN... guests and all veterans are always welcome. Social Hour begins at 5:00PM – with a “chef’s choice” buffet dinner at \$25. starting just after 6:00PM – followed by introductions and our guest speaker. All dinner meetings are casual and social.

Please join us.

Groundbreaking Ceremony of Veteran's Memorial Building



Veterans Memorial Building Groundbreaking Ceremony

Friday, July 2, 2010 at 10:00 am

400 Hartz Avenue

You are cordially invited to attend a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Veterans Memorial Building on Friday, July 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. The Danville Town Council wishes to formally kick-off the renovation of this historic downtown icon with a community celebration.

View complete plans and track project progress on the Town's website at www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Refreshments will be provided after a brief ceremony.

July 2, 2010 - 10 AM

A Community Celebration!

EBSD at Alameda County Fair - Starting June 26th

EBSD has opportunity for the next three weekends for visibility at the Alameda County Fair! Through the good offices and efforts of Dave Ham – Commander of the Pleasanton VFW and with the assistance and cooperation of the Pleasanton American Legion Post – EBSD volunteers and Coordinators are invited to participate in a very visible and patriotic booth. The fair opens this Saturday (26 June) and runs the following two weekends from 10 AM to 10 PM. Please contact Dave Ham below for more details.

If you have the opportunity and time, please stop by and visit the booth, or volunteer to help staff it for a few hours. There will be a “core team” there, but the potential to meet, greet and tell our story are greatly expanded when an EBSD “subject-matter expert” is on hand. These events very often attract media attention as local channels and papers cover the event, and EBSD could be featured. John Reese has supplied our EBSD banner, Dave has printed off flyers, posters and brochures, so we will have excellent visibility.

Please e-mail Bart Buechner at [Bart.Buechner@cdva.ca.gov] if you have any questions, pass this note along to any other EBSD Coordinators or Volunteers. Please call Dave Ham – Commander of the VFW in Pleasanton at 925-580-6661 to coordinate participating in the Fair booth project. Thanks - Bart

First of all, on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, Pleasanton; let me thank you for the continuing support of our veterans and current military members that are placed in “harm's way” on behalf of our Nation.

Our plan is to set up a booth June 26-27, July 3-4 and July 10-11. As you know last year our theme was helping “Wounded Warriors” as we had children that stopped by the Veteran's booth decorate T-Shirts that were then silkscreened and taken to Veteran's Hospital for distribution. We had over 600 T- Shirts made during the 3 weekends we were at the fair. Very, very successful.

This year we would have chosen the theme “Supporting our Homeless Vets”. With these harsh economic times we are now facing, more and more veterans are returning to civilian life without employment or in many cases a place to live. This is very sad that the ones that have placed their lives on the line so we may continue the freedoms we so enjoy in America are faced with homelessness. As you know, in August, a tent city will be set up in the Fairgrounds parking lot (<http://www.EastBayStandDown.org/>) to help assist these homeless veterans.

Our plan to get the community engaged and supportive of our effort is to bring Ditty Bags (white laundry bags) to our booth and have children draw pictures and words of encouragement on these bags. Since over 400 homeless Vets have been identified in Alameda County we hope to be as successful as last year. These ditty bags would be handed out during East Bay Stand Down for the homeless to carry away any items they will receive during that event.

We hope that we can get space to set up a second tent 10 X 20 behind or beside our 12X12 booth (tent) so the children have a shaded area to do their drawings.

Any donations we receive during the fair will be given in support of East Bay Stand Down.

We believe that this could be an incredible positive marketing tool for the 2010 County Fair.

Our plan is to show up at 8:30 am each Saturday Morning and “man” the booth until 10 pm each night. We would remove the booth (tents) each Sunday evening.

Thank you again.

David Ham - 925-580-6661 - Veterans of Foreign Wars - Pleasanton

VNVDV is Sponsoring
the 1st and 18th Hole
again the 3rd year of this
Outstanding Tournament.



Sentinels Golf Gala

Watch for more details!

Bowlers Wanted for Tournament

Interested in bowling in the Firefighters Tournament this weekend with President Yahiro and other Board members? If so it is only \$50. for the Tournament at 6PM or you can play during open bowling from 1PM to 5PM for \$25. and it all goes to supports the new Veterans Building in Danville. Checks payable to VNVDV. Contact **Gary Estrella** by Friday (925) **963-9552**

LAST PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING TUESDAY - JULY 13TH - 6:30PM



PALM PAVILION

**Service Organizations: We are still in Need of -
Donations - Volunteers and some In-Kind Items**
www.EastBayStandDown.org

"THANK YOU"

VETERANS & FRIENDS

**for your Generous Outpouring
of Support... John & Helen Reese**

VA Northern California Health Care System - Mental Health Services Publishes Newsletter for "Returning Combat Veterans"

The Department of Veteran Affairs established a "Returning Veterans Mental Health Outreach, Education and Care Team." In the VA Martinez, the team is led by **Dr. Stephanie Richter, Ph.D.** Additional professionals coordinate teams in the Sacramento VA Medical Center and VA Redding. These Northern California VA professionals recently established an excellent publication entitled, "**BY YOUR SIDE**" - a newsletter for **Returning Combat Veterans**. The Summer 2010 edition covers a wide variety of informative topics for *new veterans*. The VNVDV encourages all returning veterans to utilize the benefits they have *already earned* through their proud service to their country. Start now - you will be glad you did.

For those participating in the **ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor"** for veterans this past November - you may remember **Dr. Richter** at the *information tables* with the **Concord VET Center** and the **Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office**. She conducts informal "Operation Appreciation" events **EVERY** Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at Martinez VA - MHC. Call 925/ 372-2000 Ext. 4750 for additional information. ***Some gave all... All gave some.***

Have YOU had your "BENEFIT CHECK-UP" with the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office?

**If not... What are you waiting for?
They do not send out invitations...
This is it! So get out there - NOW!**

VOLUNTEERS FOR MILITARY BRANCH SERVICE COLORS REQUESTED FOR PARADE

Volunteer to support YOUR Branch of Service and the **Honor of Carrying the Colors** during the 4th of July Kiwanis - Danville 2010 Parade this year. To *volunteer NOW* - Contact Color Guard Chair **Fred Granados** at 925 / 930 - 6732 or by e-mail at: FLGranados@Yahoo.com Fred would like to have all names by our July 1st Dinner Meeting for the parade. *Call Now.*

The Latest Update on . . .

4TH of JULY

PARADE NEWS

from GENE GHIO
Parade Chair - 2010

The **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley (VNVDV)** is proud to once again distribute **12,000 American Flags** to the school children - youth and others free along the parade route again this year. This rich tradition by VNVDV organization to promote *Patriotism* on the 4th of July has grown to a total distribution of well over **175,000 U.S. Flags** at the **Kiwanis / Danville 4th of July Parades**. The VNVDV and all veterans sincerely hope the community members & parents of all children receiving American Flags help in teaching about the **Price of Freedom - Why we celebrate the 4th of July** - & the role of **America's Veterans & Honoring our Heroes**.

Leading the **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley** 2010 entry in this year's parade is the **Official United States Marine Corps Color Guard Detachment from Concord** - followed by our **VNVDV Banner** and the VNVDV **Military Branch Service Flags** representing all five branches - and the **POW/MIA (Prisoner of War / Missing in Action) Flag** remembering... "we will never forget them."

This year the VNVDV is extremely fortunate to have join us again in this outstanding parade - the **United States Army - 191st Army "Band of the Wild West."** Our VNVDV **1949 International Harvester** (Navy Blue) pick-up truck - also known as "**the Flag Mobile**" is transporting the 12,000 American Flags moving along the parade route with the VNVDV members distributing flags on both sides of the street. The Flag Mobile also will have cold water for members distributing flags on board as well. Honoring our Heroes is the theme this year and riding in the VNVDV open convertible will be **WW II Army Ranger Bud Primrose** and our **Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer Phil Munley**. A favorite each year in the "Kiwanis" parade is the unique "**UH - 1 VietNam HUEY Helicopter**" from the **Concord VET Center** - through the support of the **AMVETS** Chapter 26 & the VNVDV. The "Huey" is escorted again by our well-known military "**Welcome Home**" & escort group of riders from many veteran & motorcycle support organizations. The **Warrior's Watch Riders** are providing the escort for the parade. Riding in the Huey will be disable veterans - not able to walk the parade route.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

East Bay Stand Down
Needs VOLUNTEERS
on Thursday & Friday

during the day. Are
YOU available?

Check the Website:

www.EastBayStandDown.org

**ALL WARS MEMORIAL
SHIRTS WILL BE SOON
AVAILABLE IN 3 COLORS.**



Only \$35. - \$40. XXL

Checks to: AWMF

Limited Number of Color / Sizes

VNVDV Supporter MARIA MURRAY assists Danville Women's Club Celebrate 100th Anniversary

Danville Women's Club is celebrating their 100th anniversary. Naturally they wanted to do it right... participating in the *Kiwanis / Danville 4th of July Parade* this year. They have been looking for an antique convertible and could not find one. They contact the VNVDV and we asked our members... *and you know who jumped-up and volunteered!* Dan! Well, *not really...* it was Maria who is always present and very willing to help out for any worthy cause. Maria will be taking the Women's Club officers in her convertible down the parade route this year. Many thanks to Maria Murray for volunteering for us!

**D/SV Rotary Club to Honor VETERANS
on ROTARY Float this year in Parade!
Check out their entry.**

NEW BANNER MADE FOR 2010 PARADE



Check the websites
of our supporters...
for other events -
East Bay Stand Down
USS Hornet
Marine's Memorial
Blue Star Moms
Wheelchair Foundation
All Wars Memorial
Lafayette Flag Brigade

CONGRATULATIONS TAMI



Ray La Rochelle presents a plaque to Tami Jenkins, Blue Star Mom and enthusiastic supporter of the VNVDV and all veterans. Plaque was presented by the VNVDV at Tami's "milestone" birthday celebration.

WELCOME HOME
for Returning Military
Occurring Weekly
Everyone should be ready on "very short notice" to attend a
"Welcome Home" event.



President Jerry Yahiro recognizes Coast Guard Petty Officer Noah Rael returning to Camp Parks

These events are happening
throughout the East Bay
two and three times a week recently.

President Jerry Yahiro recognizes Medic (L) at a Welcome Home Celebration in Livermore. The event is set up by the Lafayette Flag Brigade - the Warriors Watch Riders - Pleasanton Military Families - Livermore Military Families - Blue Star Moms - Sentinels of Freedom - San Ramon Valley Veterans including the VFW in Danville, the American Legion in Danville, the Marine Corps League in Lafayette & VietNam Veterans of Diablo and VFW & American Legion in Pleasanton & Livermore - MOMS - and many of the elected officials from city, county, state & federal



4TH OF JULY PARADE



Official UNIFORM

VNVDV White Polo Shirt

Dark Blue Pants/Shorts

White Tennis Shoes

Are You to be Ready?



*Our favority time of the year...
Bill Green's BBQ -
Flags for all !*



Official 2010 Parade UNIFORMS

VNVDV White Polo Shirt - Dark Blue Pants/Shorts - White Tennis Shoes

Remember - this year's parade falls on a **Sunday**... which means the parade "**kick-off**" time is pushed back. **JULY 4TH PARADE... THAT MORNING** - You get the opportunity to personally meet our "Supply Guy" and also Parade Chair **GENE GHIO**. He no longer carries an inventory of shirts since most members desire "custom" embroidery on them with their name and branch of service on the right side. Gene may have some of our Official VNVDV white ball caps available at the July 1st meeting and also on the morning of 4th of July. Remember - all special orders take a period of processing time if you want something for the July 4th parade - **CALL GENE or e-mail him NOW** so he can get your order placed and have it back in time. Colored polo / golf shirts are special order in any color. You can also have your name sewn onto the shirt, along with branch of service emblem for an additional fee. You can also purchase your own shirts (Hawaiian / dress or other) or jackets - give them to Gene at one of our dinner meetings for embroidery with our official logo. **Act Now!**

For the parade, you should have a new, or at least "clean" **white shirt** to distribute the flags to the public... since - you are representing our organization! and one of our goals is to improve the image of all Viet Nam veterans. Gene advised the Board that the **Parade starts at 11AM this year**. Your membership dues must be Current to purchase VNVDV Official Gear. Official gear is available at every membership meeting from Gene... our smooth talking supply guy! *Wearing the VNVDV shirts promotes new membership - wear your shirt to events.*

Town of Danville

4TH OF JULY PARADE



Kiwanis Annual 4th of JULY PARADE
on SUNDAY and Starts at 11AM this year - NEW TIME.
The VNVDV will distribute 12,000 American Flags
FREE to all Children & Youth along Parade Route!

Kiwanis / Danville Annual 4th of July Parade, proudly presented by

Heller Jewelers selected **"HONORING our HEROES"** as the 2010 theme for the parade. This is an amazing event - it draws **OVER 40,000 people from the Diablo Valley community annually to view this outstanding hometown parade!** This is a very patriotic event in the East Bay and a parade you do not want to miss. The entries vary each year and fun for all ages. The **VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley** and its members have participated in this parade since the organization formed in Danville. Once again, all members are encouraged to join-in and help celebrate our nations freedom and liberty on **Sunday - July 4th**. As a valued member, be one of our volunteers and join fellow comrades in the distribution of over **12,000 American Flags** to *thousands of children* who attend this grand event with their parents annually and sit along both sides of the parade route. **Check-in time is 10:00 AM for all VNVDV members.**

A reminder, this year **the 4th falls on SUNDAY** - which changes the parade start time to **11AM**. **Please remember - Our muster deadline is 1000.** It has been warming up, *so it may be HOT* - so prepare properly. Parking for the parade: The *start of the parade* is again in front of the auditorium for the high school. We recommend park & ride or past St.

Isadora's Catholic Church, or near the end of the parade. Remember all streets will be closed around the parade near **0930**. Remember - at the end of the parade - a Shuttle Buses is available near the Fire House on San Ramon Valley Blvd. to return participants to the start of the parade route.

VNVDV President Jerry Yahiro has requested Parade Chair Gene Ghio to ask ALL MEMBERS distributing our FLAGS to wear our - **white VNVDV polo shirts and white tennis shoes with dark blue pants or shorts - as our official parade uniform**, - *white ball caps optional. (preferred for military color guard).* **All members are encouraged to wear your medals or ribbons on the 4th of July. This is authorized by the DoD and VA and encouraged.** Volunteers for the **MILITARY SERVICE COLOR TEAM NEEDED BY FRED**. Contact him no later than the July 1st meeting. To help with set-up and assignments we encourage members to be on time to our staging area... the corner - near the high school auditorium at Hartz Avenue & Railroad **no later than 10:00 AM**. Any last minute changes regarding the parade will be reviewed at our Thursday July 1st membership dinner meeting.

At the END of the parade - just past Sycamore Valley Road... after we stop - President Jerry Yahiro requests all members to stop and **"HONOR" the other veteran organizations we work with** who are also at the front of the parade. The VNVDV Military Service Colors & Banners will "break-down" afterwards at the "Flag Mobile." Timing = it will be around 12 Noon and should be warming up. Be sure to bring sunscreen & VNVDV hat or buy one... before the start of the parade!

Note: For safety reasons - when obtaining additional American Flags from the "Flag Mobile" - **ONLY APPROACH the Truck FROM THE REAR** to avoid accidents. A reminder... when removing items from or placing items back into the truck. Please give extra attention this year to avoid **scratching** the paint any further.

Board Member **Bill Green** (and Peg) along with their extended family - are hosting their annual 4th BBQ picnic and inviting VNVDV members who **"PARTICIPATED"** in the parade - distributed flags - carried the colors. Let Bill know if you are attending his BBQ - how many and what you will bring to share. Bill & Peg live in Alamo just off San Ramon Valley Blvd. - a couple of miles from the start of the parade. Just stop by his house for some BBQ & remember please bring a **salad or dessert**.

VNVDV members and supporters there is lots to do... celebrating America's Freedom on the 4th of JULY. It is a big holiday... for a big reason - **our FREEDOM**... which we enjoy **because of our veterans!** Keep cool & drink lots of fluids and have a safe and happy fourth of July. Remember - Do not "drink & drive" - always ask for a ride home. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 1st and 4th of July. ★

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



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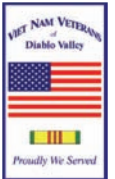
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OPERATION GATEWAY II

A VETERAN'S TRANSITION TO SUCCESS

SUMMER 2010

Operation Gateway is a great opportunity for veterans to experience firsthand the community and camaraderie that they will foster and develop throughout their experience at Las Positas College.

The three-day program is designed as an orientation for returning veterans who wish to further their education at Las Positas College. Each day will feature a wide range of topics such as course & major planning, registration, readjustment services, college resources, & Post 9/11 benefits.

	<p>JULY 15th: 2-6 PM Las Positas College Resources Veterans Office, Counseling, Financial Aid, Registration</p> <p>JULY 16th: 2-6 PM GI Benefits, Education, & Health CA Veterans Affairs, Troops to College, Vet Center</p> <p>JULY 17th: 10-1 PM Veteran Community Resources Swords to Plowshares, Student Veterans Organization, Q&A</p>	
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All Veterans are encouraged to attend

A \$500 book stipend is available to veterans who meet the following criteria:

1. Never attended college

OR

A Student Veteran who has attended a year or less of college

OR

A Returning Student Veteran who have had a break in enrollment due to military service

2. Must be enrolled in 9 units or more in Fall 2010

3. Must attend all 3 days of Operation Gateway II

If you are interested in attending or need additional information, please contact:

Todd Steffan or the Veterans Office Staff
Las Positas College - BLDG 1300, Room 1316
925.424.1571 or 925.424.1572
or email tsteffan@laspositascollege.edu



What is a... "Stand Down?"

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

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*.

Media Contact: Barton Buechner Executive Board, EBSD 2010

PH: (707) 339-1324 - E: Barton.Buechner@cdva.ca.gov

www.EastBayStandDown.org

P. O. Box 2196 - Danville, CA94526



Thank you for expressing interest in volunteering on-board the USS *Hornet*! Without the generosity of volunteers like you, the continual preservation of this historic vessel would not be possible.

At this time, the USS Hornet Museum needs additional volunteers for our annual Independence Day celebration! Last year's Fourth of July event was a huge success with nearly 2,000 guests enjoying live music on the flight deck, ship tours, interactive games, food & drink, and views of Bay Area fireworks.

As you know, the Fourth of July is just around the corner. We will once again host a variety of activities and musical acts throughout the duration of the day. If you would like to volunteer we would be happy to welcome you on board. We are seeking individuals and groups to help in a variety of areas, including guest interactions, games, and light security.

Once again, all volunteers will receive free admission for the day, a meal, and a commemorative T-shirt. All proceeds from this event benefit the restoration and preservation of this historic ship. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for one of our national treasures. If you would like to participate this year, please contact either of the following:

Heidi Schave via phone **510-521-8448 ex. 224** or email:

heidi.schave@uss-hornet.org or

Rick Thom phone **510-521-8448 ex. 268** or email:

rick.thom@uss-hornet.org

The VNVDV Proudly supports the USS Hornet

Saturday - July 10th - 10AM - 2PM

Women Veterans Fair

Meet U.S. Reps. Miller, McNerney, & Garamendi and their special guest Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris

- **Network with other female veterans**
- **Interact with a wide array of veteran service organizations**
- **Resources are available for Active Duty, Reserve and Guard Components**
- **You earned it! Learn what benefits you're entitled to with our series of issue-specific workshops including:**



Irene Trowell-Harris, R.N., Ed.D.
Director, Center for Women Veterans
Maj. General, ANG, Ret.

JOBS! - What you need to know about employment for veterans

*Presentation: Howard Goldsmith
Contra Costa EDD Veterans Workforce Specialist*

EASE THE STRESS - Resources and counseling services all women need to know about

*Presentation: Catherine Novotny
Counseling Specialist, Concord Veteran Center*

NAVIGATING THE VA - How to file a claim

*Presentation: Phil Munley
Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer*

VA BENEFITS TODAY - What am I entitled to in 2010?

*Presentation: Lydia Pomposo - Women Veterans Coordinator, VA Oakland
Miriam Tapia - Registered Nurse Practitioner, VA Palo Alto*



Congressman George Miller
Chairman, House Education
and Labor Committee



Congressman Jerry McNerney
House Committee on
Veterans' Affairs



Congressman John Garamendi
House Committee on
Armed Services

DATE: Saturday July 10, 2010 • **TIME:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Los Medanos College Cafeteria
2700 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, CA 94565

– Light refreshments will be provided –

For more information or to RSVP please call Elise Amaya at
925.602.1880 or email elise.amaya@mail.house.gov

Children are welcome!

Los Medanos College - Pittsburg



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

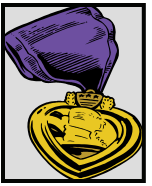
THURSDAY - AUGUST 5 & FRIDAY - AUGUST 6

Volunteer & Donate On-line
www.EastBayStandDown.org

The Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley Proudly Support East Bay Stand Down

JULY 2010

SPECIAL Edition



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

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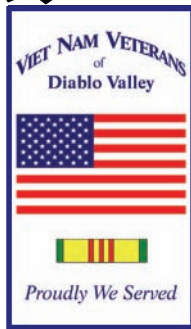
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VIETNAM VETERANS -
SERVED WITH PRIDE... and
VNVDV IS STILL SERVING
OUR COMMUNITY WITH
PRIDE & HONOR

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

We meet every month on the **1st Thursday** in the *Diablo Valley* at the **Crow Canyon Country Club**. Our Board of Directors meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon. **Our meetings are "OPEN"** - please attend and see & hear about some of our programs we support. *All veterans are welcome to attend our membership dinner 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. Please Attend & Support our Events and Programs!*

VIET NAM VETERANS
of
Diablo Valley



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER & OPEN SOCIAL MEETING

THURSDAY - JULY 1st - with DAN HARRINGTON

at **THE CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB** in San Ramon

Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at aprox. 1815

Featuring "Chef's Special Buffet Dinner" - \$25.

OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!

Guests - All Veterans - Friends & Supporters are WELCOME!

Our Annual Membership Dues for 2010 are only \$20. - Please join us for dinner. Annual Dues can be paid to Treasurer at Dinners.

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

"VETERAN NEWS"

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