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# INCOMING NEWS

VNVDV VETERAN NEWS

**SEPT 2010**



**Presidents Message  
September 2010**

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the VNVDV members and spouses, who were Coordinators, contributed financially or volunteered for the East Bay Stand Down 2010. Your contribution and commitment enabled the East Bay Stand Down to accomplish its mission. Our primary goal remains, "To break the vicious cycle of helplessness and despair that afflict many of those that have honorably served our Country."

One incident, indicating the success of this year's EBSD, took place on Sunday, as the participants were leaving the encampment. One veteran came up to me and as he shook my hand, said, "This has changed my life. How can I help other veterans in need?" I asked him how he wanted to help and he said, "I would like to come back as a tent leader." (Tent leaders at Stand Down are in charge of a tent of approximately 20 individuals. The tent groups are structured like a military squad, with the tent leader as the squad leader, responsible for these participants. The tent leader counsels and guides the participants to the services they need.)

Standing next to me were the two tent leader coordinators. I asked them if this would be possible. One of the coordinators asked the participant if he was serious about his commitment and if he would be available in October (October is when the next Stand Down, the North Bay Stand Down, will be held, in Dixon, CA). Without hesitation, the (former) participant said "yes" to both questions. He is now scheduled for tent leader training to prepare for the North Bay Stand Down.

We know that EBSD cannot improve every participant's situation to this extent. For many, "Stand Downs are not the answer, they are the beginning."

Thanks again.

Our **October** meeting will be of great interest. Our guest speaker will be Tuskegee Airman, USAF Lt. Col. Alex Jefferson (Ret.). LTC Jefferson's and the story of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group was truly a courageous and historic epic, during the time when our military was racially segregated.

More on LTC Jefferson will be in our October issue of the INCOMING.

Because of the anticipated attendance, for this meeting only, dinner reservations will be required. To make your reservations, please contact Vice-President, Mike "Slatts" Slattengren by telephone at 925-837-6238, or via e-mail, at [mjsslatt@yahoo.com](mailto:mjsslatt@yahoo.com), no later than Tuesday, October 5, 2010.

For our September speaker we are honored to have Ralph Welsh. Ralph, a World War II pilot, commanded 33 European bombing missions. He has written a book titled “Wow”. Wow has 149 separate, distinct short stories about the people behind the war stories. They are entertaining, informative, heartwarming, sad and sometimes tragic. A book full of information that you could pick up and enjoy during those short breaks in our schedules. The following is one of the many stories included in Ralph's book:

## **Taps—Do You Know the Whole Story?**

*Reprinted from The Santa Ana Cadet, Costa Mesa Historical Society*

“It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison’s Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate but out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth’s uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody we now know as “Taps” used at military funerals was born.”

Don't miss our September speaker, Ralph Welsh

**STOLEN VALOR ACT UN-CONSTITUTIONAL**

Bay Area News Group, Wednesday, August 18, 2010, Pasadena: A federal appeals court panel said Tuesday that people have a right to lie about receiving military medals.

The ruling involves the case of Xavier Alvarez, who in 2007 falsely said he won (awarded) a Congressional Medal of Honor. He was charged with violating the federal Stolen Valor Act, which makes it a crime to falsely claim to have won (awarded) a military medal.

Alvarez challenged the law on appeal as a violation of his free-speech rights.

A panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with him in a 2=1 decision. The majority said there is no evidence that such lies harm anybody, and there is no compelling reason for the government to ban such lies.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles is deciding whether to appeal the ruling.  
Associated Press

## **Lafayette Flag Brigade**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual 9 / 11 Remembrance and Patriotic Rally**

**Saturday – September 11, 2010 - 3PM until Dark.**

**El Curtola Bridge Overpass at the edge of – Walnut Creek and Lafayette  
– directly on - Highway 680 / 24 Freeway**

Folks, we have finally finished our itinerary for our upcoming **9-11 event**, it's bigger and better than before!

All of our Welcome Home family will be there!

We also have a special speaker, NYFD Survivor, has a heart wrenching story about what he experienced, moments after the towers fell, along with a beautiful picture board, and artifacts he saved, you don't want to miss this one, besides it's a **Saturday**, so we will be starting earlier, **3:00pm**.

We will have beautiful cars, motorcycles, military vehicles, and for the first time, a UH-1 Huey helicopter from the Vietnam era, compliments of the VNVDV and AMVETS, organizations.

We will also have are friends, the BSM's in the booth, handling the donations for the troops, and receiving your postcards to the troops, if you things you want to donate, diaper wipes, cd's, beef jerky, anything a service-member would like, bring it and the BSM's will see to it, they get it! Please no chocolate.

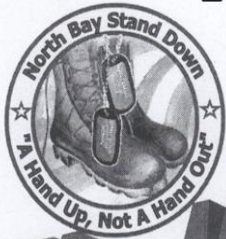
We will have the military recruiters as usual, and all motorcycle clubs welcome great speakers from the military, flags for the children, beautiful T-Shirts for sale, food and refreshments, bagpipes and flag folding demo.

I've attached the flyer for you to download, and distribute, and I have attached a slide show of the most comprehensive pictures of the history of the WTC, and the pain and suffering that those who survived, went through, warning, you will need Kleenex to watch this, we feel it's important to see, as it's important to continue these remembrances, year after year. Compliments of the Scottish-American Military Society, America needs to never forget!

It's a fun time for the whole family! So bring your O'Glory, your friends, and we will see you there, please feel free to pass this flyer to all your co-workers and friends, family. Donations for very appreciated to be able to continue this wonderful event at El Curtola Bridge Overpass – Highway 680 / 24 Freeway – 3:00PM until Dark. Everyone is Welcome.

Respectfully, Bryan Welden

# VOLUNTEER for...



# North Bay Stand Down

**October 12, 13, 14, 2010**  
 Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 South First Street (Highway 113) in Dixon

**October 12<sup>th</sup> – Opening Ceremony, Registration, Sign up for Court Services**  
**October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> – VA Services, County Social Services, Workshops**  
**& Seminars, Spiritual Services, AA/NA Meetings**  
**October 13<sup>th</sup> ONLY - Court Sessions (MUST sign up by Oct 12<sup>th</sup>!)**  
**October 14<sup>th</sup> –Closing Ceremony**

- Agent Orange, PTSD & Hepatitis C Info
- Barbers, Showers, and Toiletries
- Child Support Information Services
- Court Services – (MUST sign up by Oct 12<sup>th</sup>!)
- Drug & Alcohol Referrals
- Employment Assistance
- Entertainment
- Food, Clothing & Supplies
- Food Stamps/General Assistance

- Gulf War and Iraq War Veterans' Info
- Housing Information
- Legal Assistance & Credit Counseling
- Medical & Dental Screenings
- Social Security Information
- Spiritual Support & Counseling Services
- Veterans Benefits Information
- Women & Children's Services
- And Much More

**(NO PETS ALLOWED)**

**FREE TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED FROM THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS  
 ON OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup> FROM SOLANO COUNTY**

Bus	City	Location	Departure Time
# 1	TAFB	Passenger Terminal	8:25am
	Fairfield	Mission Solano – 740 E. Travis Blvd.	8:50am
	Fairfield	Allan Witt Park – Front Entrance at West Texas St.	9:25am
	Vacaville	Corner of School and McClellan St. (Near Andrews Park)	9:45am
# 2	Vallejo	Corner of Magazine and Sonoma Streets	8:30am
	Vallejo	Parking lot of Mission-Possible - corner of Marin and Maine (DO NOT LEAVE CARS IN THE PARKING LOT- YOU WILL BE TOWED!)	8:50am
	Vallejo	EDD – 1440 Marin Street	9:20am
Van	Rio Vista	Rio Vista CAC – Corner of Main and Front St.	9:15am

Buses will arrive at the Dixon Fairgrounds at 10am on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> and leave in the afternoon on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>.

For information, registration, or to volunteer, please call the Veterans Services Office at

**(707) 784-6590**

Early registration is suggested so we can better assist you.

Please visit our website: [www.nbstanddown.org](http://www.nbstanddown.org).

**Veterans and a Community Helping Veterans**  
 "A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out"  
 All Veterans in need and their families are welcome!

## **FLASH . . . to all *Diablo Valley* VETERANS**

**Last call !!!!! [We need your photos for the Diablo Valley Veterans Day Program being held this year](#)**

**VETERAN'S DAY** Program Coordinator **Ray LaRochelle** is in the process of putting together this year's Veteran's Day program. He is still in need of veteran and service member photos for the special collage he is putting together for the event. The committee has put out several requests for photos to VSO in the San Ramon Valley and Diablo Valley. Ray has indicated – the committee is still in need of **"YOUR PHOTO"** for the *Veteran's Day Collage*.

Ray is asking for a photo of *each veteran in uniform* when he / she was in the service. Also with your photo provide on a card your name / branch of service = Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, etc. – and include: your military dates of service / era / or combat campaign. To make this Veteran's Day presentation complete Ray is also requesting: **a current photo** to display / show beside it (if desired). A before & after!

Ray has volunteered to do **all the work** - to put this Veteran's Day program together. So this will only take a little effort on your part as a veteran to make it happen. This will be a new outstanding feature at this year's Veterans Day program and we encourage everyone's participation. Please join in and make this community display a success.

Your photos and information can be sent *"electronically"* or by U.S. Postal Service to **Dick Seavey**, on the Veteran's Day Committee - Send your military service photo with the information requested to the address below. Also include the current photo of yourself which can be displayed next to it.

*Email or mail the photos to Dick Seavey @ email address: [dseavey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dseavey@sbcglobal.net) - or Dick Seavey @ 3235 Vallejo Place - San Ramon, CA. 94583.*



Join us for the  
"Twilight Parade"



September 18th - 1700  
Downtown Walnut Creek

**The VNVDV has been Invited!**

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All VNVDV members are encouraged to participate in this invitational "Twilight Parade" in Walnut Creek. The parade is very short - down Main Street and kicks-off at 1800 Sharp.

Join us for an opportunity to promote our organization. We will have the "Parade Truck" & "Concord UH-1 Huey" plus the Warriors Watch Riders as escort. Arrive at 1700 for muster.

**Uniform: Official Parade Dress  
VNVDV White Polo - Dark Blue Slacks  
White Tennis Shoes - Ball Cap - Medals / Ribbons**

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Hi folks, the Crockett Community Foundation is having a membership drive!

Individual memberships are only \$10 and \$20 for family memberships.

As a member based organization WE NEED YOU!

I'm asking all of our members to get their friends and family to join and support our organization. The Crockett Community Foundation's all volunteer

board sponsors such great events as the free summer concerts and provides infrastructure funding for improvements like decorative green fencing and the upcoming swimming pool renovation.

**We will be having our highly anticipated DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT Sunday October 10! for members only.**

**This year is a fun Vegas theme with good food, drinks, and a special guest. Look for invitations in the mail!**

**Call 787-9708 to rsvp or join the Crockett Community Foundation**

I look forward to seeing you this Thursday at our September board meeting

Cheers,

Chris Goehe

President Crockett Community Foundation



## .N.V.D.V MAKES PRESENTATION TO ADMIRAL MULLENS

On Tuesday, August 10, 2010 in a brief ceremony at Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach, CA, Raymond F. LaRochelle, Director of Events VNVDV, accompanied by Mike Conklin, National Director, Sentinels of Freedom presented a "Naval Knot Plaque" to Admiral Michael Mullens, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on behalf of the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley, "in recognition of his continuing support of veterans and his leadership and dedication to our country". The presentation was made just prior to a charity golf tournament to benefit several organizations supporting severely wounded veterans - including the Sentinels of Freedom. The Admiral was obviously pleased with the plaque. Admiral Mullens thanked the VNVDV for its support of the Sentinels program which he had previously heard about from Mike Conklin and presented Mr. LaRochelle with his Challenge Coin.

In remarks later Mr. LaRochelle stated: "It's the biggest challenge coin I've ever seen...almost 2" in diameter and 50% thicker the the usual size...I guess when you're the top dog everything is bigger..."

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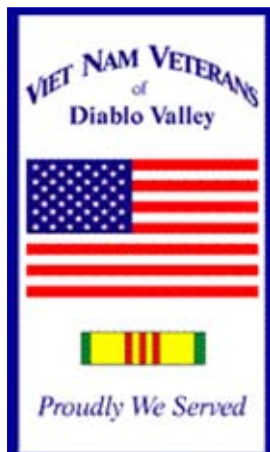
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**To:**

**VNVDV Members & VIPs**

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

**WE ARE ON  
THE WEB**



[www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)

**FACEBOOK TOO!**

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

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

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



**VIET NAM VETERANS  
of  
Diablo Valley**



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER & OPEN SOCIAL MEETING  
ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 2, 2010. THE GUEST SPEAKER IS RALPH WELSH**

*at THE CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in Danville*

*Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815*

*Featuring "Chef's Special Buffet Dinner"*

***Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley  
"INCOMING" Newsletter***