

INCOMING



April 2011
Anniversary
Edition

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Remembering

TWENTY YEARS...

Serving Veterans In Our Community

Join Us To CELEBRATE!

SIGN-UP TODAY for the "Walk of Honor" MAY 21st
Medal of Honor Recipient **Jim Taylor** - Guest Speaker

VietNam
Veterans of
Diablo Valley

...Proudly
Serving
Veterans &
Community
Throughout
the East Bay
and Beyond -
for Twenty
Years

DON'T MISS
OUR APRIL 7th
MEETING...

"20 YEARS of
VietNam
Veterans of
Diablo Valley
History"



President Jerry Yahiro

President's April Message

At our April monthly dinner meeting, we will be celebrating the **20th Anniversary of the founding of the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley (VNVDV)**. It will be held on **Thursday, April 7, 2011**, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. We will gather at 1700 hrs, (5:00 PM) for cocktails (NO HOST BAR) and remembrances. This will be a reunion of past Presidents, past & present members, spouses, friends and patriots to commemorate our proud history. It will also be a time to remember those members who have passed away.

Reservations are necessary for this occasion. Please e-mail your reservation to Vice President, Mike "Slatts" Slattengren, at mjsslatt@yahoo.com.



Let "Slatts" know if you plan to attend and have dinner. Dinner (Cost is the usual \$25 per person) will be BBQ chicken and ribs, in honor/remembrance of our original meeting location at Tony Roma's and Al Ulbrich. (If anyone knows how to contact Al, please do so and let him know about our Anniversary. We want to see all members.)

Our founding fathers' original concept was to form an organization that would *improve the image* of the Vietnam veterans and provide support to veterans, especially Vietnam veterans, through selected government and private organizations. An additional purpose was to foster patriotism and loyalty to the United States of America, through the support of local community activities, which recognize the contributions and sacrifices of veterans.

I feel that the **VNVDV** have achieved these goals throughout the past 20 years, as set forth in our By-Laws. The **VNVDV** has become the premier Veterans organization in the Tri-Valley Area through its sponsorship of various events and programs. These include, but are not limited to, the **All Wars Memorial**, our Memorial Day Observance (both in conjunction with the All Wars Memorial Foundation), the **East Bay Stand Down**, Danville's 4th of July Parade, and its continued support of needy veterans and serving military personnel throughout the Tri-Valley and Bay Area. The **VNVDV** has been recognized locally, statewide, and even nationally, for its programs and events.

Continued... on Page Four -

Help Us Celebrate Our 20th Anniversary

Ray LaRoche is coordinating **displays** and **photos** in April - Do you have history of our early years?

Bring **your** Memorabilia to the Meeting to Share!

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

**VIET NAM
VETERANS
OF
DIABLO VALLEY**



**PAST
PRESIDENTS**

Founding President

Norm Mahalich

1991 to 1995

Bill Picton

1996-1997

Ron Azarcon

1998-1999

Rich Lambert

2000-2001

Mike McDaniel

2002-2003

Mike Weber

2004

Tim Hart

2005

Del Loewe

2006-2007

John Estes

2008-2009

Jerry Yahiro

2010- Present



SPECIAL SALUTE

**TO OUR
SUPPORTERS**

Twenty Years 1991 - 2011

Thank You to Our Past Presidents - Past Officers - Past Board Members And to YOU the Members

**Many Thanks to ALL of our
Community Supporters
Civic Leaders
Major Sponsors &
Generous Donors
Veterans of All Eras
Government Officials
& Spouses of
VNVDV Officers & Directors**

President -

Jerry Yahiro

Vice President -

Mike Slattengren

Treasurer -

Gary Estrella

Secretary -

Cliff De Cuir

Membership -

Bill Chew

Public Relations -

John Reese

Events -

Ray La Rochelle

Information -

Fred Granados

Speakers -

Bill Green

Director-at-Large -

Dennis Giacobelli

Procurement -

Gene Ghio

WebMistress -

Ms. Chelle

VNVDV Officers & Directors - 2011

Don't Miss Our 20th Anniversary Celebration April 7

by **Raymond F. LaRoche**
Director of Events

"Who'd a thunk" that 20 years ago when a group of local Viet Nam Vets sat around a bar discussing the possibility of forming a local, more informal organization of Viet Nam Vets that it would actually happen and that this organization would rise to such prominence and achieve so much - even to the point of being recognized last year by none other than the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff? The vision that Norm Mahalich and Dennis Marguet had of forming an organization to elevate the status of Viet Nam vets in the eyes of the public took root and soared to levels beyond their wildest imagination. Come join us on **Thursday April 7, 2011** for the **20th Anniversary Celebration** of the **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley** at *Crow Canyon Country Club* and hear the story of how we got started, major milestones through the years of our accomplishments and what the vision is for the future of our organization. We have much to be proud of and celebrate. Like our Christmas program, this evening dinner event will be by *advanced reservation only* and will include a full service meal along with a no-host bar. Wives and significant others and/or friends and family are welcome to attend along with the member. As befitting the significance of the event this will be a **"parade dress"** event so members are urged to wear their ribbons and/or medals and other devices. As a reminder, "parade dress" is blue trousers, (not jeans), white uniform shirt, medals, wings, etc. The press and local politicians will be present so look sharp!

Anyone possessing **memorabilia** and/or **photographs** of events **over the past 20 years** of our organization's history is urged to contact me as soon as possible so that these might be *included in the program*. At a minimum, **photographs** are needed for a slide show of the organization's history. If you can scan them and e-mail them to me at RAY-L@pacbell.net, that would be the preferred method. If you only have hard copies and prefer to send them by mail, send them directly to my *home address* at: **1009 Via Madrid, Livermore, CA 94550** along with a stamped, self addressed envelope and they will be returned to you once scanned. Each photograph must include information about the picture, date taken, specific event, names of personnel in the photo, (where applicable), so that it may be included in the slide show. HURRY, HURRY, time is growing short so don't delay. **If you have old event photos bring them to the APRIL Meeting.**

Do YOU have ITEMS to bring to the April Dinner Meeting? History of ANY of our EVENTS from the past Twenty Years? Especially the first Ten Years!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- APR 4 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Campaign Board Meeting—Hap McGee Park—First Monday Monthly
- APR 5 - Tues @ 1830 in Danville... Town of Danville City Council Recognition of the VNVDV 20TH Anniversary Town Hall—Front Street
- APR 7 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV **"20th ANNIVERSARY" DINNER MEETING** @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- APR 21 -Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAY 5 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAY 5 - Thursday @ 1730 in Blackhawk... Danville / Sycamore Valley Rotary **Blackhawk Film Festival** @ Blackhawk Museum
- MAY 7 - Saturday @ 2000 in Walnut Creek... Blackhawk Chorus "Spring Oldies 50's & 60's Concert" Dean Leshner Theater
- MAY 19 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAY 21 - Saturday @ 0800 in Crockett... Annual **"WALK OF HONOR"** presented by **ConocoPhillips** in Rodeo - be a Sponsor
- MAY 30 - Monday @ 1000 in Diablo Valley... **Memorial Day** - Oakhill Park - Danville... *the annual remembrance for the east bay*
- JUN 2 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- JUN 16 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- JUL 4 - Monday @ 0900 in Danville... **Annual 4th of JULY Parade** down Hartz - VNVDV distributing 12,000 American Flags to Children
- JUL 7 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club

Note: Many other meetings - events - by fellow veteran & support organizations & [welcome home](#) events we encourage you to attend. Watch for more e-mail announcements. Wish we had time and space to list everyone's event and programs... Check the websites too.

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.

President's APRIL Message

Continued... from Page One -

Our speakers share our **VNVDV** story, telling them of what it was like and what it means to be a Vietnam Veteran.

At the more recent **"Operation Welcome Home"** events for serving military, we let our service men and women know that their service and sacrifices will not go unnoticed. They will NOT be treated like many of us were treated, when we returned from Vietnam.

Our association with **ConocoPhillips** and the **"Walk of Honor"** has enabled us to raise funds that are necessary to support and expand our veteran programs, events, sponsorships, and other activities.

Working with **Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery**, the **Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation** and the **Blue Star Moms - Danville Chapter 101** and **Concord Chapter 20**, we are able to host the annual **"Operation Santa Claus."** This is a Holiday Party for approximately 85 military families, with approximately 200 children, from the U. S. Coast Guard, Army Reserve, CA National Guard, Gold Star Families and veterans of the Bay Area. As a way to thank them for their service and sacrifices, **Operation Santa Claus** provides these families with gifts, party games, activities and a delicious lunch, in a festive Holiday atmosphere.

On **Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 7:30 PM, the Town of Danville will recognize our 20th Anniversary, at its Town Council Meeting**, at 201 Front Street, Danville. I invite you all to attend this special recognition by the community of this major milestone for the VNVDV and accomplishments.

The success of the **VNVDV** can be attributed not only to the efforts of our past Presidents and Board of Directors, but also to the many contributions of **ALL MEMBERS**. Without you, the members, past and present, the **VNVDV** would not be the premier organization that it has become today. **I am PROUD to wear the emblem/s of the VNVDV and HONORED to serve as the President of such an outstanding group.**

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE THE VNVDV THE ORGANIZATION THAT IT IS TODAY.

Two reminders for upcoming events on our calendar:

The **Walk of Honor**, across the **Carquinez Bridge**, will take place **on Saturday, May 21, 2011**. Our guest of honor and featured speaker will be James "Jim" Taylor, Medal of Honor Recipient and fellow VNVDV member. The walk will be followed by a barbecued lunch and includes a **WOH** T-shirt. Cost is \$25 per person. Please see the **WOH** Application in this issue of **INCOMING** and register as soon as possible on-line or by mail.

The **All Wars Memorial (AWM)** and **VNVDV Memorial Day Observance** will be held **Monday, May 30, 2011 at Oak Hill Park in Danville**. The Memorial Day Observance will be followed by a barbecued lunch (FOR VNVDV MEMBERS ONLY). If you plan on attending the lunch, please bring a salad and/or dessert that can be shared by all. Also bring a beverage of your choice. Meal entrée will be provided by the **VNVDV**.

See you on April 7th at the Anniversary Dinner.

Jerry Gelina
President - 2011



"INCOMING" NEWS

MEMBERS:

Anyone having memorabilia of the VNVDV or Vietnam souvenirs - please bring it for display for others to share.

[Attend Local Military Welcome Home Events.](#)



to remember how important it is to...

receive a **WELCOME HOME.**

This is for our **RETURNING**

MILITARY VETERANS!

"Proudly we Served" ... Proudly We Continue To Serve

Remember at our Monthly Dinners...
You can SAVE TIME by having YOUR CHECK
Made Payable to the VNVDV -
Written in Advance - for the Correct Amount

YOU CAN ALSO PAY BY CASH or CREDIT CARD -

(Although Our Organization Pays a Fee for Processing Credit Cards)

Buffet Dinner is \$25. per person

Attention ALL Annual Members:

Your Membership is Important to Us!

Every Member Makes a Difference and we Appreciate Your Support
even if you live a distance away... join us again!

Some of our 2010 Members have not renewed for 2011
according to the most recent report from the Membership Director.
Your Membership helps us continue Programs in the Community.
Please Support Us.

Contact VNVDV Membership Director **Bill Chew** 925/829-3658
E: WBChew@comcast.net to renew.

April meeting features “YOU”
Our Members - Who Made The
VNVDV What It Is Today

Do You Remember When... ???

What is Your Biggest Memory of the Past Twenty VNVDV Years?

Remember to send the Incoming News YOUR News & Photos -
we are proud to Support Veteran - Military & Community Service



Vet Center

RETURNING VETS

CONCORD VET CENTER

READY TO SERVE YOU

At a new location in Concord:

1333 WILLOW PASS ROAD

READJUSTMENT CENTER

Get off to the right Start

This is your **Invitation** to come and see their new offices serving our veterans and their families...

Denver Mills and his Concord Vet Team Stand Ready To Serve You

20th Anniversary

"Dinner" - APR. 7th

Reservations are Required

Contact "Slatts"

**Mike Slattengren
can be reached at:**

E-Mail:

MJSlatt@Yahoo.com

Call TODAY!

VETERANS & Military Families

Visit and Support the California Department of Veteran Affairs

Your DMV Renewal of your Veteran Plate Directly Supports

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

Obtain CA VETERAN Plates with your choice of over 100 logos:

VNVDV - Service Branch - many others



Order Specialty License Plates

California

Honor Our Veterans!

Veterans plates fund county veteran service offices statewide. Choose from over 100 organizational decals. www.cdva.ca.gov 1-800-952-5626



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California

CA 09



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VETERAN

VETERANS LICENSE PLATES



Motorcycle plates are now available....

Order with this form or online at: www.dmv.ca.gov → 'Online Services' → 'Special Interest and Personalized Plates'

VNVDV SUPPORTS OUR COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

Town of Danville to Recognize VNVDV

On **Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 7:30 PM**, the **Town of Danville** will recognize our **20th Anniversary**, at its **Town Council Meeting**, at 201 Front Street, Danville. Please join with me in accepting this special recognition, by the community, of our major milestone for the VNVDV and our accomplishments.

You, our members and community supporters have all been instrumental in the success of the VNVDV. Please Join Us as We Receive This Honor...

Members please wear your white and any attachments, VNVDV golf shirt.

See you on **Tuesday, April 5, 2011**. Muster by 1915 if possible, Thanks.

Jerry Yahiro
President

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley - Telephone: 925 / 743-8850

Thank You for Serving - Welcome Home
Our New Veteran's Memorial Building will be . . .





Wheelchair Foundation KENTUCKY DERBY - West

KENTUCKY DERBY

At Sandee Wiedemann's Home

Saturday May 7th - Register on-line

Go on-line to the
Wheelchair Foundation
donate your wheelchair -

In addition to
honoring your friend -
Please note on your donation
"credit to the VNVDV"
to help fill our container.

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

If you are looking for the
perfect gift
to purchase for
someone who is
hard to shop for...
or has everything -
A treasured gift - is
giving a new
"WCF Wheelchair"
in their name!

Thanks

*The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley are Proud Supporters of the
Wheelchair Foundation & "Wine for Wheels"*

**PHIL MUNLEY encourages all veterans to
Visit Our Contra Costa County
Veteran Service Office
to learn about your Veteran Benefits**

Contra
Costa
County



Phillip A. Munley
County Veterans Service Officer

10 Douglas Drive, Suite 100
Martinez, CA 94553-4078
Phone (925) 313-1481
Fax (925) 313-1490
E-mail: pmunl@vs.cccounty.us

100 - 37th Street, Room 1033
Richmond, CA 94805-2179
Phone (510) 374-3241
Fax (510) 374-7955

Attend A Local Welcome Home Event

Join fellow veterans & the community...
along with the Blue Star Moms - MCL - VFW - Legion
Warriors Watch Riders - Diablo Valley Flag Brigade -
military groups to Thank our Military for serving.

This is part of what being a veteran is all about...

Remember when we came home...

Now let's Welcome them Home the Right Way!



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

2011 "Walk of Honor"
Registration Open On-Line NOW
Sign-Up to be an "walker" In
this year's May 21st
WALK of HONOR
sfrwalkofhonor.com

Be A Sponsor



Your Organizations Name Listed as a Sponsor for the Veterans

Walk of Honor - 2011

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Sponsorship

Still Available...

\$5000.

Sponsorship Opportunities

GOLD SPONSOR

\$2500.

SILVER SPONSOR

\$1000

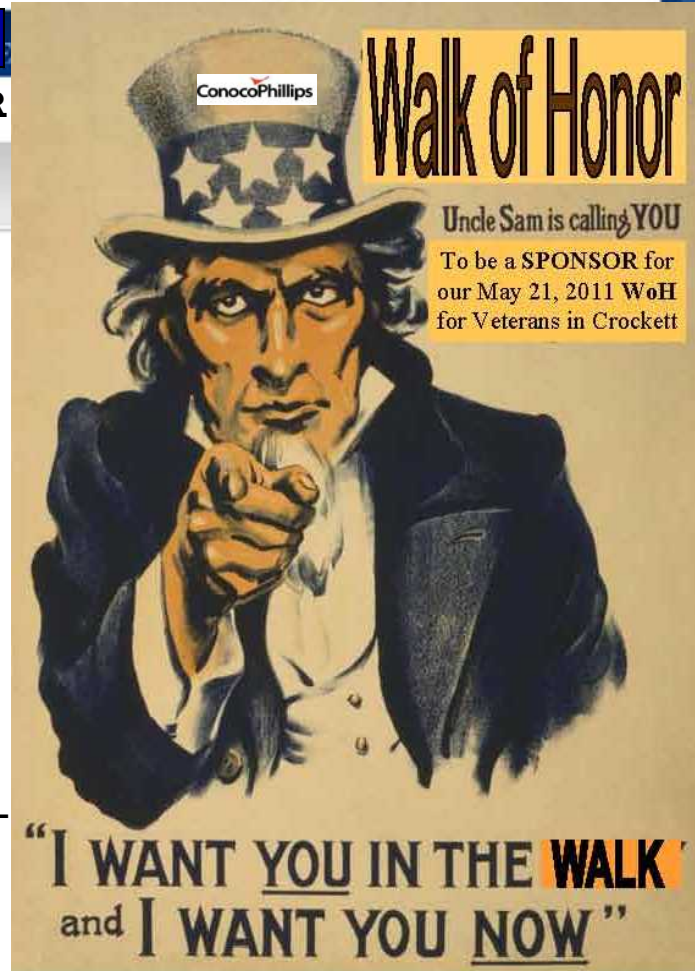
BRONZE SPONSOR

\$500.

ConocoPhillips SFR Rodeo Refinery and Carbon Plant invites you to partner with us and become a corporate sponsor of the 3rd Annual "Walk of Honor for Our Veterans" fundraising

Act Now

Contact Mark Hughes at **ConocoPhillips** to take advantage of this great advertising and sponsorship opportunity while supporting our veterans & the local community.



"I WANT YOU IN THE WALK and I WANT YOU NOW"

YOUR Group - Organization - Company... CAN BE A SPONSOR

Contact "ConocoPhillips" NOW to be included.

The "Walk of Honor" proceeds benefit the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley and will also benefit Crockett Community Services for restoration of the Crockett Veteran's Memorial Building.

Jim Taylor

Medal of Honor Recipient

Is our Guest of Honor

Support the Veterans - Be a Sponsor of the 2011 Walk of Honor

Please make your "Walk of Honor" checks payable to:

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
TAX ID# 68-0266369

Send your Sponsor / Donation checks to:

ConocoPhillips
Attn: Mark Hughes
Manager, Public Relations
1380 San Pablo Avenue
Rodeo, CA 94572

Phone: 510 / 245-4400

Fax: 510 / 245-4617

Email:
mark.r.hughes@conocophillips.com



Sign up today for the **May 21, 2011** event! Enjoy a memorable leisurely walk across the "Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge" and share a delicious BBQ lunch at the Crockett Community Center – 850 Pomona St. Crockett, with your family, friends and neighbors; while honoring the service of loved ones who honored us by their service to our country.

Registration Form

SFRWalkofHonor.com

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____
(Receipt Confirmation purposes)

Walking in honor of: _____ (Veterans name)

Registration - \$25.00 T-Shirt and BBQ included

Check-in 8:00 AM– 9:30AM at Crockett Community Center / Walk will begin at 10:00 AM.

T-Shirt Size: S / M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL / 4XL (Please circle one)

Purchase "Walk of Honor" Baseball Cap _____ @ \$ 15.00 = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley or (VNVDV)** (Tax ID#68-0266369)
 Mail registration form along with check to: **ConocoPhillips, Attn: Aimee Lohr, 1380 San Pablo Avenue, Rodeo, CA 94572**

Participant waiver must be filled out completely. Deadline for application May 11, 2011.

Participant Waiver

I, _____, do hereby agree that I will indemnify and hold harmless the ConocoPhillips, its subsidiaries and affiliates, successors, assigns, agents, representatives, directors, officers, and employees, from any and all liability or claims of injury of whatsoever nature which may be incurred by me as a result of my voluntary participation in the project sponsored by ConocoPhillips on _____ (date).

I further represent and certify to ConocoPhillips, its officers, employees, agents and assigns that I am physically able to do the various things enumerated above without limitation, and that I have no disabilities which might prevent me from doing the same.

I certify that either I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, or that my parent or court-appointed guardian has full knowledge of my participation in this event and has given me permission to participate, as evidenced by his/her signature below.

 PARTICIPANT (If not age 18 or older, parent/guardian must co-sign below.)

 PARENT/GUARDIAN (Undersigned has read the above and understands this waiver.)

 DATE

For additional information please contact Aimee Lohr at 510 245-5130 or Harvey Duran at 510 245-4946

THANK YOU for your support.

Use This "Mail-In" Registration Form to mail with your Check to the address "highlighted" above... or register "on-line" - for ConocoPhillips 2011 Walk of Honor @ sfrwalkofhonor.com.

You Can Organize a Group or Team of Walkers "Honoring Your Veterans" for this Pre - Memorial Day - May 21 "2011 Walk of Honor"

Place an ad in the Incoming News 2011 -

Your Support is appreciated by our Members & Readers!



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E: HReese@sbcglobal.net

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Fax 925-875-1747
rgreene747@comcast.net
CA Sale Permit CH 100-314584

WEB: nathan.GNLD.net



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925-736-1001
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movinginc@sbcglobal.net

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BLACKHAWK CHORUS ADVERTISEMENTS

You can place **YOUR Business Card** in their
Holiday Concert Program Book for a Special
VNVDV Rate of \$25. for season. You must act
Now. Ads Subject to Close & Going to Print. See Website
or Call Helen Reese for more details.

Advertisers - Sponsors & Event Donors - Time to Renew your ADS!
Thanks from the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley for your Support!

Thank You to All of our Crab Feed Supporters!



Help Support Our New Building



by **Making a Personal "Pledge" over a Three-year Period - Your Name will leave a LEGACY**



Honoring Our Military Veterans who are Serving NOW!



Build for the Future... MAKE a PLEDGE to LEAVE a LEGACY

for our Local Military Serving. SUPPORT OUR NEW VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING.



The new building funding campaign for the Veterans Memorial Building renovation continues. For more information or to make a pledge, see **Linda** at our meetings or at the temporary Veterans Memorial Building office at 433 Diablo in Danville - Phone 925 / 362-9806 or log on to www.srvVeteransHall.org.



Your reason for making a pledge & supporting the Our New Veteran's Memorial Building should be simple...



Find Out More by Attending the Monthly Veterans Board Meetings First Monday of the Month Hap Magee Ranch Park - Danville - 6PM





Danville/Sycamore Valley
Rotary Foundation

Presents the

21st Annual

BLACKHAWK FOOD, WINE & FILM FESTIVAL

SPONSORS & PROGRAM

Thursday, May 5th, 2011

5:30 – 8:30 PM

Blackhawk Museum

"CASABLANCA"



Proceeds go to the Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary Foundation a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization in support of local charitable and non-profit organizations and international service projects.

A Private Event for the Donors of the Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary Foundation.

The VietNam Veterans
of Diablo Valley
is a Proud Supporter
of the ROTARY

Tickets are available for a **Donation** of **\$40.** per person

If you need information or to *donate & obtain tickets* for this outstanding annual event - Contact one of our **VNVDV** Supporters:

David Behring or

Helen Reese or *Rotary Member*

This is the event of the year and held at the Blackhawk Museum... features outstanding food restaurants -

wineries - desserts - beverages and film & much more, in addition to a great silent & live auction on **May 5th.**

4th of JULY

PLAN NOW...

Mark YOUR Calendar for the Kiwanis July 4th Parade in Danville

This year it is on a Monday and the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley will distribute **12,000 American Flags** along the parade route! :))

VietNam Veterans Give Final Salute

Last Surviving WW I Veteran Has Passed

February 28, 2011

Mr. Frank Buckles marks the final departure of the last surviving link to the more than two million American men and women who served our Nation during **World War I**. Sadly, this generation of heroes has surrendered to time and the day has come when they no longer walk among us.

World War I unleashed an unrestrained, methodical and mechanized destruction of human life leaving more than 8 million dead and 21 million wounded. Our late entry into the war in 1917 helped stop the slaughter in Europe, but at a heavy price to the nation; 126,000 deaths and more than 200,000 wounded by the end of the war in 1918. Despite the extremes of the war; fear, courage, cruelty and compassion, America made a conscious decision to fight for the ideal of freedom.

The full scope and stark reality of that war was beyond all of us, with the exception of one man who represented an entire generation assigned to history...

Frank Buckles' service and that of his now-absent comrades was borne from neither bravery nor bravado. **It came from within - a sense of selflessness... doing something good for others, despite the danger. They faced fear and accepted it, challenged it, fought it, and then acted with honor. That is their legacy to us.**

And that's why we must ensure the memory of their courage and sacrifice won't fade or disappear into anonymity. That would be an irretrievable loss to the nation, one that we cannot afford to pay.

Frank Buckles was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, just 50 yards from the gravesite of **Gen. John Pershing**, under whose command he served.

Buckles' flag-draped casket was carried to the gravesite on a caisson led by seven horses. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, Army Vice Chief of Staff Peter Chiarelli and Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler, the service's top enlisted soldier, were among the mourners. After the folding of the flag, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli presented the flag to Buckles' daughter, Susannah Flanagan.

Out of respect for his passing and that of his entire generation, the President ordered the U.S. Flag to be flown at half-staff on his day of interment. Buckles lied about his age to enlist at age 16 and outlived the approximately **4.7 million** Americans who served in WW I.

Frank Buckles will be remembered by the VNVDV this Memorial Day at Oakhill Park at one of the largest East Bay programs held Annually at the site of the All Wars Memorial on - Monday May 30th.

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Celebrating Twenty Years 1991 - 2011

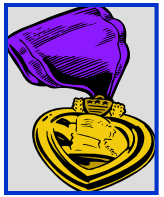
Memorial Day Program - May 30th - Oak Hill Park - Danville

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Post Office Box 2079
Danville, CA 94526 - 2079
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Electronic Edition



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EDITOR and PUBLISHER of "INCOMING" NEWS

Anniversary Issue - John Reese - Public Relations 2011

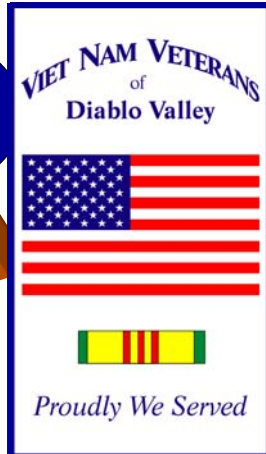
To:

VNVDV Members & VIPs

VIET NAM VETERANS - PROUDLY WE SERVED and the VNVDV IS STILL SERVING VETERANS & OUR COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE

WE ARE ON THE WEB

www.vnvdv.com



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. Our Veteran's Memorial Building is under construction.

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. *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



MONTHLY DINNER & OPEN SOCIAL MEETING

THURSDAY - APRIL 7th

At CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon

Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815

RSVP for "Special BBQ Chicken & Rib Dinner" - \$25.

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

"April Edition of INCOMING"