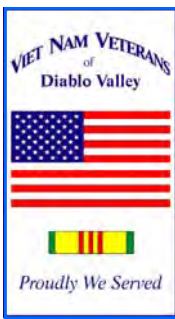


INCOMING NEWS



**DEC
2011**



**Jerry Yahiro
VNVDV President
2011**

**Remember
your new
unwrapped TOY
for a boy or girl
of any age... at
our Thurs. Dec
1st Dinner for
"Operation
Santa" & USMC
"Toys for Tots"
programs.**

**December 1st
is the VNVDV's
Annual Holiday
Recognition
Dinner - Your
Reservation is
a must! Please
contact VP Mike
"Slatts" Slattengren
e-Mail TODAY
mjslatt@yahoo.com**

*** SEE DETAILS INSIDE

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

December 1st Holiday Recognition Dinner

Your TOY donations benefit Operation Santa & Toys for Tots

CRAB FEED - Feb. 5th Mark Your Calendar!

Thank You PHIL MUNLEY - County VSO

December Message from President Yahiro

As 2011 draws to a close, so does my tenure as President of the VNVDV. Thus, this is my last "President's Message". I have been honored to serve as your President these last 2 years, representing the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley, and whenever applicable, all Vietnam Veterans. Serving with all of you, then and now, truly has been my pleasure, as well as greatest honor.

I want to thank all of our VNVDV members, and especially our Board of Directors, for making this organization "**PHE PREMIER**" Veterans Service Organization it has become, not only in the Tri Valley Area, but maybe in all of this Country. Thanks also to all our past Presidents who have served during our **21 years**, for their part in the establishing and evolving this fine organization. Our motto is, "**Proudly We Served**" - yet we continue to "**Serve**" those currently serving our Country, Veterans and their families, as well as our community. The VNVDV has made, and will continue to... "**make a difference.**"

In that spirit of service, please bring any **new, unwrapped** toys (for children of all ages), that you wish to donate for our SPECIAL PROGRAM - **Operation Santa / USMC Toys for Tots**, to our Dec. 1st Thursday dinner meeting. * *Don't forget your Toys!*

*You Served Our Veterans
With Dedication & Honor*



**Veterans
Services**

**VietNam Veterans of
Diablo Valley**

"Salute" Phil Munley

Thanking him for his long hours

**- extra efforts & dedication to
serving the veterans of Contra
Costa as our Veteran Service
Officer. BRAVO—ZULU PHIL!**

**A job well done & we wish you
the best in your new position.**

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley extend our deepest sympathy to the CORRAL family. Our thoughts & prayers are with them during these difficult times.

Jerry's Message Continued... on Page Two -



Please Remember Your Unwrapped "TOY" on Dec. 1st



President's NOV Message

Continued... from Page One -

CHANGES in the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office

Cash donations for such are also much appreciated, with checks made out to the **Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation** - Operation Santa.

As we close out the year and approach 2012, it is time for us to bid adieu to another good friend and great champion of Veterans, especially the VNVDV. Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer, **Phil Munley**, has announced that he has accepted a new post as the Director of Services and Benefits, for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. Although Phil's decision was not an easy one, it will take our proud Grandpa back to his East Coast roots, close to his family and precious grandkids. His last day with CCC will be Dec. 2. Phil plans to attend our dinner.

Phil, GOOD LUCK TO YOU! Best wishes for fair winds and calm seas! We will miss you! Know that you will always have FRIENDS here in the VNVDV.

Looking toward 2012, plans are being made for our **Return Trip to Vietnam**. We will depart in early November, with the cost at approximately \$3,000, per person, for about 15 days in VN. Strategic stops may be planned throughout the trip, to accommodate in-country side trips, at additional cost/s, for those who wish to visit areas of VN where they served during the WAR. *Further details will be available soon.*

As I prepare to pass the baton to our next president of the VNVDV, I would like to take this last opportunity to wish you all the very best for the Holiday Season and New Year.

During this special time of year, please keep in mind that there are still thousands of men and women, serving overseas in harm's way, not only in Afghanistan or Iraq. When you sit down at your Holiday dinner, please give thanks and say a prayer for all of them. The recent loss of one of Danville's own, LCpl Josh Corral, USMC, as a result of an IED while serving in Afghanistan, especially brings to mind the harsh realities of War.

Thank You All for Serving!

Welcome Home!!!



Good afternoon all -

I want to let you all know that I have made a very bittersweet decision, but I have accepted a position as the **Director of Veteran Services and Benefits for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs**. As such, I will be leaving Contra Costa County effective December 2, 2011.

It has been an honor and privilege to work with and for the veterans, dependents and survivors of veterans in Contra Costa County. I have made many, many friends here and will miss you being a-part of my everyday life. This was a very difficult decision to make however due personal reasons believe it is the correct decision.

I wish you all the Very Best and will try to see any many people as possible prior to my departure, but please always know that you will always be in my heart.

Sincerely,

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

Phil Munley is leaving the Contra Costa County Veteran Service Office in "very good hands" with a good friend, fellow veteran... Forrest Michael Hoffschneider known as "Mike or Hoff" to his many friends and colleagues. We understand that Hoff will serve as the interim County VSO until the Board of Supervisors officially reviews the applications & hires a new VSO.

Mike started working for the Contra Costa County Veteran Service Office on part-time contract as a Veterans Services Specialist in March 2005 under former County VSO Gary D. Villalba. He has been there since serving veterans.

Mike retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), VA Regional Office in Oakland as the Veterans Service Center Manager in October 2004. He had an exemplary career with the VA Veterans Benefits Administration and he has a national and local reputation as an expert in the adjudication of veterans benefits, especially the VA disability compensation and death programs. "Hoff" is a nationally recognized expert in the field of veteran services.

Operation Santa Claus

Sponsored by Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery



Help Make Christmas Bright for someone!



Please Remember to "Bring an Un-Wrapped Toy"
to our DEC. 1st Holiday Dinner!



As in year's past... Our goal is to collect toys for both male & female children of all ages, unwrapped. Our members & guest have been great at this project every year!

Your kindness & generosity in providing these wonderful Toys we collect at our Annual Holiday Dinner on Dec. 1st - will be distributed at OPERATION SANTA... to children of special invited families, serving with the U.S. Coast Guard, Gold Star Families, Reserve/National Guard Families and GWOT families... selected by the Command. Help us make Christmas special for someone young. Thank You.

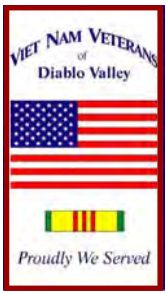
All Toys Left each year are donated to our local USMC Toys For Tots program.

Contact: Jerry Yahiro - PH: 925 / 743 - 8850 - E: jyahiro@aol.com

Sponsored by: **TESORO Golden Eagle Refinery**

Hosted by: the Blue Star Moms & VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley





We are glad you are joining us Thursday!

Save the VNVDV \$\$\$

at all Dinners by Paying by CHECK -

Made Payable to the "VNVDV" -

Save Time Writing it in Advance - for the Correct Amount.

Holiday Dinner

Our "Holiday Recognition Sit-Down Dinner" is \$35. members /guests

Please Note: You may also pay CASH or use a Major Credit Card.

The VNVDV is charged a percentage - "a processing fee" on all Credit Cards purchases.

Don't forget your New - unwrapped TOY

Tonight - Thursday - DEC. 1st

It's recognition time & the holidays!

Yes... a great VNVDV time of the Year!

Our Annual Holiday Dinner is planned with a Fun Filled Evening of Music - Great Food - Good Friends - Awards & Recognition and we are pleased to have over 130 reservations for our Year-End Dinner. & Gala Event. Social Hour begins at 1700 at **Crow Canyon Country Club** in **San Ramon.**

Your TOY Donations benefit OPERATION SANTA & the local USMC Toys for Tots



Your Toy donations support Operation Santa & Toys for Tots

Remember Your Unwrapped Toys!



The **Blackhawk Chorus**... Helen Reese was asked for this schedule - so trying to get the word out!

Sending this out so you can get a date on your calendar. Hope to see your faces in the audience! I'll be in the top row right - looking for you.

Winter 2011 Upcoming Performances . . .



OUR 2011 HOLIDAY PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE SEVERAL NEW ARRANGEMENTS OF FAMILIAR HOLIDAY PIECES. LOOK FOR YOUR FAVORITES SUCH AS ***I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS BELLS ARE RINGING, AND IT'S A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS.***

WE'LL BE ACCOMPANIED BY RANDALL BENWAY - OUR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND ACCOMPANIST... PLUS **THE GOLDEN GATE STRING QUARTET.**

**7:00 PM - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH -
TEMPLE HILL**

4770 Lincoln Ave
Oakland, CA

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

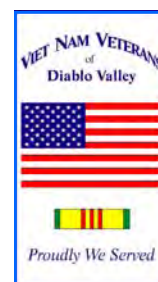


**8:00 PM - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH -
RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

7557 Amador Valley Boulevard
Dublin, CA

TICKETS: \$25 for adults, \$15 for kids 12 and under

Call: [925-828-1580](tel:925-828-1580) to order tickets



**5:45 PM - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH -
BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB**

Danville, CA

Concert is open to Members and their Guests.

TICKETS: \$47 each for concert and dinner



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR! 😊

**SUPPORT OUR NEW VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING FOR THE SAN RAMON VALLEY WITH A SPECIAL PLEDGE - LEAVE A LEGACY
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FUTURE OF OUR VETERAN'S LIVES IN DANVILLE**

The George S. "Spanky" Roberts Chapter, along with the Wells Fargo Veteran's Team Member Network, announces the

Tuskegee Airmen 70th Anniversary Gala Educational Assistance Fundraiser



Used by permission of Leigh (Roberts) Prawdzik



Used by permission of Leigh (Roberts) Prawdzik

Celebrate with Original Tuskegee Airmen!

Join the fun, come in 40's style dress (optional)

- Fun, Food, Raffle, Silent Auction
- Live WWII music from Sisters Swing
- WWII displays, authentic re-enactors
- Guest Artist - Theresa Keene
- Concert Pianist, Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra
- MC - Karen Massie of Channel 10

Make check payable to: George S. "Spanky" Roberts Chapter
Mail to: P.O. Box 15029, Sacramento, CA 95851
We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization; donations are tax deductible.

All checks must be received by November 30, 2011. Pre-paid tickets will be available at the door for pick-up.

Please check the organization's website at: www.taisac.org

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Saturday, December 3, 2011

**Tickets: \$40.00 Team Members,
\$60 guests**

Doors open at 6:30 pm;

Event from 7:00 – 11:00 pm

McClellan Aerospace Museum

3200 Freedom Park Drive

McClellan, CA 95652

For any questions, please contact:
Mark J. Grgurich at (916) 742-3808
Cathie Gedney at (916) 774-2052

Event sponsored by the Wells Fargo Foundation



VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

BOARD MEETING - MONDAY - DECEMBER 5TH @ 1830

HAP MC GEE PARK - DANVILLE

VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter

Pearl Harbor 70th Anniversary Luncheon.

11am-1pm @ Willow Pass Community Center - 2478 East Olivera Road in Concord, CA.

Note: RSVP is Mandatory to Virginia Thomas - CALL: (925) 521-9922 or (925) 212-9946 &
Space is limited to 200 people.

December 7th 1941
"A Date Which Will Live in Infamy"

Dear Sir or Madam,

December 7th, 2011 will mark the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and other military installations on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii.

The Todos Santos Business Association along with the City of Concord is hosting an event to remember!

We will honor the 2,405 individuals who lost their life that morning along with honoring local Pearl Harbor survivors and their families by sharing the history of that day with an observance luncheon, exhibits and live entertainment.

We want to extend an opportunity to you and your company to remember those who lost their life on that memorable morning. We are asking for sponsorship donations to support the costs for the event, history display and live entertainment. Any unused proceeds will be held in trust for future Pearl Harbor local events including annual December 7th remembrance luncheons. We deeply appreciate any and all support.

Please make checks payable to Todos Santos Business Association FBO PH. TSBA a non-profit business organization in the Downtown of Concord, CA.

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 234
Concord, CA 94520

Thank you Kindly,

Virginia Thomas President TSBA
(925) 521-9922



Thank you Kindly,

Earl J. "Chuck" Kohler, Pearl Harbor Survivor, N.A.S. Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. T.H.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A COLD WAR RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE?

While the NPRC provides proof of service and separation documents; the Center does not supply the Certificate itself, nor does it have the application form available. For more information concerning the application process visit the [Cold War Recognition Certificate](http://coldwar.army.mil) webpage.

SITE LINK: <https://coldwar.army.mil>



GARY VILLALBA



DEDICATED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Established in 2007 by the... **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley**

A Perpetual Award... Presented Annually to only a select few...

In Honor of the lifetime of Dedicated Service to Our Veterans & their Families provided by our Contra Costa County Veterans Service Officer - Gary D. Villalba. This is our Highest Veteran Service Honor.

IN 2007 - THEN PRESIDENT JOHN ESTES ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VNVDV'S HIGHEST HONOR... at the Retirement Dinner given in Honor of Gary Villalba at the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Building

★ THE GARY VILLALBA ★ DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

What the Award means...

Standing Up to the Highest of Standards & Qualities - Gary held close and demonstrated on a daily basis – year in and year out in his dedication to serving veterans & their families in our community. To Gary - it was not a career... it was "his lifestyle" - To serve those who served our nation... always going "above & beyond" the call for the veterans.



★ Presentation of the Award at our Annual Dinner -

We are honored to have our former and *legendary* Veteran Service Officer **Gary D. Villalba** attending from Santa Barbara attending again this year. Gary is a Life member of the VNVDV and will be assisting President Jerry Yahiro in our presentation of the VNVDV's highest honor... the **"GARY VILLALBA DEDICATED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD"** - the perpetual award the VNVDV bestows to an individual from our veteran community who distinguishes themselves above others through serving veterans—maintaining the excellence Gary established in over 25 years of service to our veterans. Also attending the dinner will be County VSO Phil Munley at his last veteran function. Be sure to say farewell to Phil and thanks for his work.

THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY DINNER ALSO INCLUDES MANY SPECIAL GUESTS... INCLUDING CONOCOPHILLIPS—THE SPONSORS OF OUR "WALK OF HONOR" - THE FAMED 25TH HUEY OWNERS & PILOT - THE BLUE STAR MOMS - SENTINELS OF FREEDOM - DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE - WARRIORS WATCH RIDERS - CONCORD VET CENTER - COUNTY VSO - MANY OTHER VSO ORGANIZATIONS & MANY OTHERS... OVER 135 GUESTS.

Contra Costa County Veteran Service Office

The role of the County Veterans Service Office, which was established in 1946, is to provide assistance to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of America, their dependents and survivors, and the general public in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DOD), the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) and other programs for veterans and their families. The six member staff which consists of two Veterans Service Representatives, one Branch Office Manager and two support personnel is led by Phillip A. Munley, our County Veterans Service Officer.

Contra Costa County has an established network of veterans of all generations to ensure that veterans are aware of all of the benefits available to them. Contra Costa County has been used as a model county, due to this network, that does not let veterans fall through the cracks. Some of the organizations that make-up this network are: Blue Star Moms; Sentinels of Freedom (a non-profit organization); Veterans of Foreign Wars; Marine Corps League; the American Legion; AMVETS; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The VA consists of three branches, Health Care, Benefits and National Cemeteries. The County Veterans Service Office endeavors to connect veterans with these entitlements. The County Veterans Service Office is an accredited representative of the entire VA system and sees veterans with discharge documents DD214s on a one on one basis. Every veteran is seen, their discharge documents are reviewed, their circumstances are reviewed and the office staff then assists the veterans in accessing the specific benefits they need. Phillip A. Munley, County

Veterans Service Officer, notes that "Due to congressional and court decisions, the VA system has become more complicated over the years making the role of an advocate even more essential in assisting veterans of all eras to understand these complexities."

A key area that the County Veterans Service Office assists with is the disability compensation cases of veterans. The office provides case management for VA claims that

**THANK
YOU
PHIL!**

**PHIL A. MUNLEY A GREAT
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY - VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER**

can take upwards of a year for resolution. Homeless, terminally ill, Korean War, WWII and seriously wounded veterans are given priority by the VA. The County Veterans Service Office makes phone calls to follow-up on these types of cases, including: claim development, preparation and submission; case management; and initiates appeals when appropriate.

If a veteran is determined to have a disability of 0% or above, then their children with income below the national poverty level (along with support from the parent) can attend University of California, California State University or California Community Colleges with a waiver of state mandated tuition fees. In fiscal year 10/11 the department assisted 402 students with a savings of \$1,572,710.

In addition, during fiscal year 10/11, the County Veterans Service Office of six staff conducted 6,368 interviews; fielded 11,000 phone calls; and gained 104.6M dollars for Contra Costa County veterans, dependents and survivors through VA monetary payments from disability compensation payments, disability pensions, education and vocational rehabilitation and insurance and indemnities.

If you, or someone you know, is a veteran living in Contra Costa County and would like to know more about benefits and entitlements, please contact the County Veterans Service Office at 925-313-1481.



**VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Proudly Support the Concord VET Center**



Please join the
Concord Vet Center Team
for our

HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 9, 2011

Beginning at 4 p.m.

Dinner, Music

Santa for kids under twelve

1333 Willow Pass Road

Concord, CA 925 680 4526

RSVP'S appreciated/no regrets necessary

VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter

The VNVDV Sends Out a Giant THANKS to:

Thanks to our Web Mistress Chelle for a great job in 2011!

**The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Proudly Support Our Blue Star Moms
and We Ask YOU Please Do The Same...**

Visit Their Websites often & support their efforts!

Contra Costa BLUE STAR MOMS - Chapter 20

Check website for needs & drop zones: www.ccblostarmoms.org

San Francisco East Bay BLUE STAR MOMS - Chapter 101

Check website for needs & drop-zones: www.bluestarmoms.org

Their hearts are on the line... with sons & daughters!



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

**Proud to Support the new Veterans Memorial Building's
Historical Library & Museum**

VNVDV President Jerry Yahiro announced this week the Board's donation of a new computer system for the cataloging & retrieval of the new historical section & library at the VMB.

Annual "CRAB FEED" - FEB. 5th

 **Mark Your Calendar - Reservations Are Necessary.**

3rd Thursday of the Month

Learn More about our organization

Attend one of our Board of Director Meetings

Crow Canyon Country Club

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 organization 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 & joint effort benefits all veterans & those we serve in our great community. Our successful efforts are well known & we would like your to be on the team. Together we make a difference. Join us! If you are a member - join a committee of interest - get more involved - you will enjoy it and make new & lasting friendships! *We believe - you will be glad you did - it may change your life!* **Veterans serving Veterans**

***Interested in Being More Active?
Involvement in Community Service?
Find Out More at our "Business Meeting"***

VETERAN'S DAY

in the

**San Ramon Valley
a Huge Success!**

THANK YOU

to all for

**making 11-11-11
a year to remember!**



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

ELECTIONS HELD FOR 2012 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President **JERRY YAHIRO** thanks the Nomination & Election Committee Chaired by Past President **Del Loewe**, with Past President **Mike Weber** 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 2012 as our Elected Officers & Directors. Ballots were distributed at the November "Annual Membership Meeting" and sent electronically to all members. Mike Slattengren our Vice President for the past two-years is now President-Elect of the VNVDV for 2012. Your 2012 Officers & Directors will be introduced at the December Holiday Dinner on Dec. 1st at Crow Canyon Country Club.

The Election Committee has two Director positions currently open for full-time Directors. These roles will be temporarily filled by other Directors until the Committee has found candidates who are interested in these positions for "Events" and "Information" If you are interested in serving on one of these please contact Del Loewe for additional information

2012 OFFICERS

2012 President-Elect: **MIKE SLATTENGREN**

Vice-President - 2012: **RAY LA ROCHELLE**

Treasurer - 2012: **MARTY DE VENUTA**

Secretary - 2012: **CLIFF DE CUIR**

2012 DIRECTORS

Director-at-Large: **Dennis Giacovelli**

Director of Public Relations: **John Reese**

Director of Procurement: **Gene Ghio**

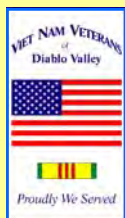
Director of Membership: **Bill Chew**

Director of Information: OPEN (will be appointed temp)

Director of Speakers: **Bill Green**

Director of Events: OPEN (will be appointed temp)

"CONGRATS!"



"Proudly We Served"

***Please Support the Wheelchair Foundation -
The VNVDV is going back to Viet Nam in 2012!***

**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"
It helps fill our distribution container. Thanks.**





Operation Welcome Home Events

DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE

*Dedicated to the Remembrance of 9-11.
Devoted to the Support of our Troops.*

www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com



OPERATION WELCOME HOME!

We will never, ever again let our military heroes be treated like they were when they came home from the Vietnam War, when our Soldiers, Airmen, Seamen and Marines were spat on when they got off the plane.

NEVER, EVER AGAIN.

If you know of a military member that is returning home and you would like to surprise them with one of these heart-warming Welcome Home ceremonies, please contact Bryan Welden of the Diablo Valley Flag Brigade at 925-212-9260 or to see pictures of past Welcome Home ceremonies or to be added to our E-mail list, go to:

www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com

www.warriorwatch.org
spiker592000@yahoo.com

For Full Military Escorts : Welcome Homes, Funerals And All Veteran Events. An All Volunteer Patriotic Riding Group

Recognition of active-duty military service members is one of the most worthwhile activities VSO members are able to perform. Members of the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley - VFW #75 - American Legion #246 - Marine Corps League #942 make-up the San Ramon Valley Veterans. They attend & thank each returning veterans for serving & help with these other great organizations in providing the proper Welcome Home. Each returning service member is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the SRV Veterans.

Please Join Us!

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley wants to thank the many including the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade - the Warriors Watch Riders - Blue Star Moms and all the other many support organizations for their dedication & efforts to Honor our own LCpl. Josh Corral. This was the hardest task we ever faced locally and we hope this is not repeated Thank You to all organizations.**

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE AT A WELCOME HOME EVENT?

It is easier than you might think...

Obtain the location, bring a flag, have a smile inside you or a handshake on you, keep a sincere thanks for their service in your heart - share all this with the returning service member when you see them.

You will feel good inside...

It's a Win - Win!



Join us friends - family & the community... along with the Blue Star Moms - MCL - VFW - Legion Warriors Watch Riders - Diablo Valley Flag Brigade - Military Family groups & many others...

As we conduct our local returning military "OPERATION WELCOME HOME" events for those serving from our community.

This is part of what being a VSO is all about... Remember when we came home... Never Again! We Welcome Home our Troops the Right Way!



DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE - Welcomes Home the dedicated Military Men and Women that keep this Country Safe

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

BOARD MEETING - MONDAY - DECEMBER 5TH @ 1830

HAP MC GEE PARK - DANVILLE

"CANCELED"

Annual Holiday Tri-Valley

"Sentinels of Freedom"

Military "Welcome Home" Program

Attention ALL ANNUAL DUES PAYING Members:

Your 2012 Membership is Important...

Every Member "Makes a Difference" We Appreciate Your Support even if you live a distance away... Please join us again!

DVVF Helps

the Homeless.

Ask how you

can help with

a 501c(3) donation.

DIABLO VALLEY VETERANS FOUNDATION

A WAY TO HONOR AND REMEMBER SOMEONE DURING THE HOLIDAYS!

DONATIONS & FUNDS ALL GO TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY VETERAN PROGRAMS SUCH AS - EAST BAY STAND DOWN

DONATION GIFTS CAN BE MADE IN-LIEU OF FLOWERS or TO HONOR A VETERAN or HERO

Visit their website: www.diabloveterans.org

The USS Iowa... *an article* – by Bob Fish (USS Hornet Museum)

BOB FISH our good friend and Trustee aboard the USS Hornet in Alameda, just published a small article about the USS Iowa in the November edition of ALIVE East Bay magazine. Bob mentioned the URL has been added to the excellent Iowa relocation photos he recently added to the Naval Historical Foundation website... he also asked if we would passing this link along to all the VNVDV members, and the many other readers of the "INCOMING" who may not have found it yet. The URL link is: <http://aliveeastbay.com/feature/uss-iowa-%e2%80%93-farewell-salute-to-%e2%80%9cthe-big-stick-%e2%80%9d/>. Bob mentioned, ALIVE's publisher Eric Johnson does a great job of supporting our men and women who have served, or are serving, in the military. I have looked at these photos Bob shared and this a great documentation of "the big stick" moving out of the mothball fleet. We might mention Bob Fish is also a big supporter of the VNVDV and stays in contact with us updating the organization on events of interest to all veterans. Great photos and interesting story we thank Bob Fish for contributing to this month's edition of the Incoming... we appreciate all you do.

HELP NOW

Start to Support our "Super Crab Feed" with a "Donation" for our Auction.



**Members: Please Begin to Obtain Donations
for our Sunday - FEB. 5th 2012 Crab Feed
Contact President Jerry Yahiro @ 925 / 743-8850**

Tickets will go on Sale in December. Official Donation Request Letters are available from Public Relations.

**All Funds Raised at our "Charity Crab Feed" will go to support our
2012 Veteran & Community Service Projects. Start NOW & Help!**



We are in need of members & friends obtaining "DONATIONS" -
Merchandise & Gift Certificates for our "Super Crab Feed" Silent Auction!



It's time for 2012 ANNUAL DUES

Your Membership is Important to Us!

**Every Member "Makes a Difference" We Appreciate Your Support
even if you live a distance away... Please join us again!**

Contact VNVDV Membership Director **Bill Chew**

925/829-3658 or E: WBChew@comcast.net to renew.

Mailing Overseas to our Military during the Holiday

The United States Postal Service and Military Postal Service Agency have released deadlines to ensure packages arrive to Military and State Department post offices overseas by Dec. 25, 2011. Deadlines to ensure arrival by Dec. 25 are **Nov. 12 for parcel post mail; Nov. 26 for space-available mail; Dec. 3 for parcel airlift mail; Dec. 10 for priority mail and first-class mail, letters and cards; and Dec. 17 for express mail military service.** Not all Military or State Department post offices are eligible for Express Mail Military Service. For information on mailing deadlines and restrictions, e-mail the Military Postal Service at: [mailto: MPSA-TR@conus.army.mil](mailto:mailto:MPSA-TR@conus.army.mil) or visit the Military Postal Services Agency website at: <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/>. **The VNVDV Proudly Supports our Troops!**

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THOSE ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING US.

Your Support is appreciated by our Members & Readers!



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VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter

Advertisers - Sponsors & Event Donors - Thank You!
You make a difference for the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley with your Support!

ADVERTISING IN THE "INCOMING"

BUS. CARD = \$50 MBRS/SUPPORTER

\$75 NON-MEMBERS

VNVDV SPEAKER'S BUREAU BREAKING ALL RECORDS

The Speakers Bureau had another great year speaking to students from grade school to college and our numbers are now close to 35,000 over the past 10 years All though Mike and Bill do most of the speaking they get great support from other members like Jerry and Ray and Nathan to name a few. Already this year, they have spoken at Monta Vista, Las Positas college, Diablo Vista Elementary, Antioch Library, Christ the King Church Jr. High group and more. Looks like another busy year for the Bureau.



Wine for Wheels



The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Proudly Support the
Wheelchair Foundation

Giving a wheelchair as a gift in someones name is a
great way to provide the freedom of mobility

Some of our Members can no longer get out and attend meetings... Your personal visits – calls and cards will make a big difference in their lives...

Terry Miller

Stratford

1545 Pleasant Hill Rd

Lafayette, ca. 94549

PH: 478-3051

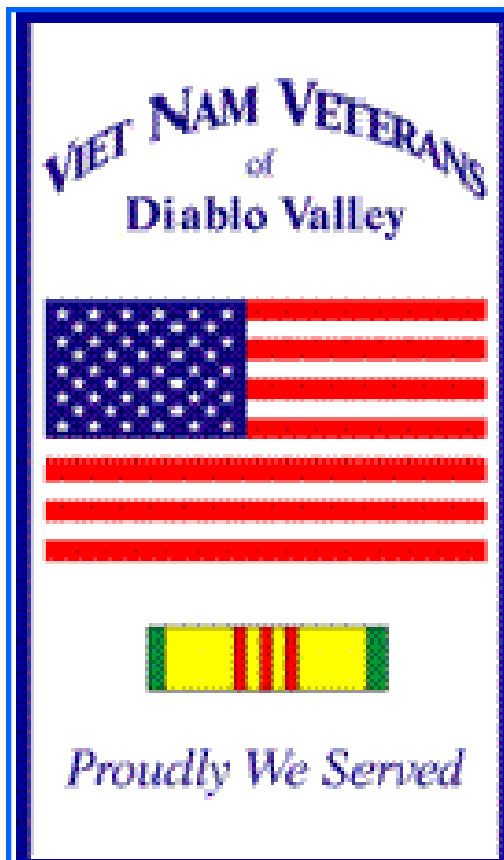
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*You can make
someone's day
a lot brighter
with a visit or
a phone call.*

VNVDV SUPPORTS "GWOT" RETREAT... A DUCK CLUB WEEKEND



VNVDV sets up a week end for GWOT VETS at the South Butte Duck club . This year we had over 20 Vets and they were treated to a weekend of FUN. They swam, played horse shoes, shot up over \$1,000 of clay pigeons and shot gun shells, ate like there was no tomorrow (thanks to the AMVETS) , road in the 25th Huey (thank you MIKE and CHRIS) over the rice paddies and the Buttes, and sit around bond fire at night and enjoy them self's and their buddies. This is a drug and alcohol free weekend and thanks to the help of Nathan Johnson, the Concord Vet center and the Mentors, and the South Butte club, our young Vets had a week-end to REMEMBER !!

Editor's Note: I had the opportunity to visit this special GWOT Retreat by way of the 25th Huey in a flight up & back the same day. These veterans truly had a great time and we thank the kindness & generosity of Jim Miller & Pacific Valley Aviation for providing fuel for these rides was valuable considering the amount of fuel used to provide these veterans a special Huey ride they won't soon forget! Many thank to Ray—Brent—Mike & Chris for all making my short trip up to document the weekend event just as enjoyable and one I will not forget! jgr

VETERAN & FAMILY OPEN HOUSE & GRAND OPENING NEW VA FACILITY

VA MARTINEZ CLINIC - 150 MUIR ROAD - MARTINEZ - SAT - DEC. 3RD - 1 to 3PM

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW BRAIN CENTER - WITH A VETERAN CLUB-HOUSE—CHALLENGING ROCK CLIMBING WALL—EXERCISE & FITNESS CENTER

"OPEN HOUSE" on SAT - DEC. 3RD FROM 1PM TO 3PM for ALL VETERANS & FAMILY MEMBERS to ATTEND AT MARTINEZ VA BUILDING 23 AT THE MARTINEZ VA CAMPUS SEE THIS AMAZING NEW FACILITY FOR VETERANS IN MARTINEZ.

YOUR MILITARY MEDALS!

Question to the Editor? I've lost my medals and awards, what should I do?

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET YOUR MEDALS REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE AT:

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/public/awards-and-decorations.html>

For the Veteran: in general, the military services will work replacement medal requests for the veteran at no cost. This includes family members with the [signed authorization](#) of the veteran.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) does not issue service medals; that is a function of each military service department. Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served.

However, for cases involving Air Force and Army personnel (click [here](#) for exceptions), the NPRC will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request along with the records verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals. Use the addresses listed on the website link and mail your request accordingly.



One VETS Remembrance of 'Nam...

Called to serve when we were just boys
Weapons of destruction became our toys
With a little training and a ride on a plane
Soon we learned a whole new game
Kill or be killed; try to stay alive
Lord God above, help me survive
If I follow their orders and do as they say
Will I get the heaven on judgment day?
The Bible says, "Thou shall not kill"
Is the Bible wrong and this is what's real?
We fight for people who look like people we fight
Lord God above, help me do what is right
We sleep with rats and eat from a can
Write letters home now and then
Watch friends fall like household flies
While left alone with our sorrows and cries
Now it's the night before Christmas and stockings are hung
We're over here clutching a gun
If we die over here, as so many do
Will our bodies ever get home to you?
We think of our families so far away
And pray to God we get home someday
Before you know it, enough time has passed
Our time to go home has come at last
We made it through what so many hadn't
For those left behind, our hearts are saddened
Now we are home, but something is wrong

There is no one to greet us, have we been gone too long
Has everything we've done been forgotten by all?
Why now at home do we feel so small?
Our families say, "Son it's all in the past"
So why do the memories, for me, still last?
Now it's thirty years later and I stand at the Wall
Fifty eight thousand names in all
I try to stand tall and hold my head high
Why, dear God, did so many have to die?
With all the names, there's still some not there
What about the missing, does our Country not care?
Let's bring them home and their just place
Remember God, they're not just a face
They served their Country and families proud
Coming home...they should be allowed
With a lump in my throat, and tears in my eyes
I bid them all, my final good-byes
As I leave the Wall, I stop and look at the sky
Then once again, ask God, "**WHY?**"



Dale Butts

Vietnam Vet

US Army

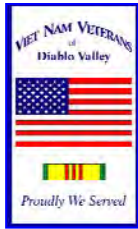
Combat Engineer

1970 – 1971

11th Armored Cavalry

e-mail, dalebutts@yahoo.com

"Super Crab Feed"



Reservations for FEB. 5th Crab Feed
Available NOW from 2012 Treasurer!
Make yours by Contacting Marty De Venuta

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. 2012
Don't Sit on the sidelines... Get Active - Get some Donations!*

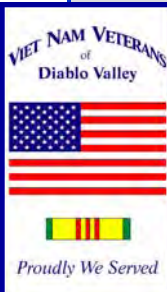
We need the support & assistance
of each member & all of our supporters
& many great sponsors once again.

Donations are being collected by Jerry Yahiro & Skip George

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

Help is needed **NOW** for the **February 5th CRAB FEED**. Jerry Yahiro close to retirement will be back in action again - on this big event, along with "Big Daddy John Estes" our Past President *has stepped up to the plate once again* to assist in obtaining the fresh crab. Volunteer for a committee. Help is needed in all areas. We have a *new* location since the Veteran Building is not going to be ready as planned. The 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 5th of February as always. It just happens to be the same day as the **Super Game** on TV. Mark your calendars and gather your friends for this great event. **Join Us on Feb. 5th.**





Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Mailing Address:

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Post Office Box 2079

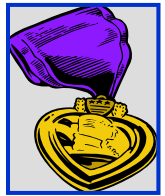
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DEC 2011

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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. 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 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 & military. All of our meetings are OPEN meetings... fellow veterans - active duty military - history buffs ... Join us.

OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!

VIET NAM VETERANS of Diablo Valley

MONTHLY DINNERS with GUEST SPEAKERS
1st THURSDAY of each Month
at CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon
Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815
Featuring "Chef's Special Buffet Dinner" - \$25.

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley "November Edition of INCOMING"