



# INCOMING NEWS



JUNE  
2012

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley  
*"Proudly We Served"*



## Memorial Day Remembrance

### Mon. - May 28th 10AM

## Oak Hill Park - Town of Danville

JUNE 2012 - Message from  
President Mike "Slatts" Slattengren

### Site of the All Wars Memorial

MIKE  
SLATTENGREN  
VNVDV  
President  
The VNVDV  
Thanks Phillips 66  
and all their  
employees - the  
great Sponsors in  
addition to the  
hundreds of  
participants and  
all the VS  
Resource  
Providers for  
another  
outstanding 2012  
event.

Welcome to this month of June's INCOMING. **Memorial Day Services are Monday May 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30 to noon** at Oak Hill Park (next to Monte Vista High School) in Danville. The VNVDV again will assist in the service, first by setting up chairs, cammo cover for shade and the PA system. We will need able bodied men to help set up that cammo shade and chairs for this event. We will also be participating in the service with our service flag color guard. Our PR Director has sent info on this day and I'm sure he has reminded everyone again in this issue of the Incoming with the able assistance of Linda. Please come out & honor those veterans who have passed on. We will also be holding a lunch at the picnic area (South end of the park). Hot dogs, plates, etc. will be furnished, bring a salad or dessert to share with others & bring along what you want to drink that day.

The Town of Danville conducts one of the few true traditional remembrance of the Memorial Day Holiday... when we remember all those who have served and gone before us serving in our military & those who have given the ultimate price for freedom! *Join Us!*



The Danville 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade is another fulfilling activity. If you have not participated in a parade since you separated from the service, this is the place to be. We actually don't march; we walk along, handing out over 10,000 flags to the parade watchers so they can wave them patriotically to all the parade entries behind us. The recognition we receive from the parade watchers is thunderous! It is a welcome home we didn't receive 40 years ago. Our VP Ray La Rochelle has been meeting with the parade organizers to place us in a prime spot.

## Phillips 66

## WALK of HONOR

## A HUGE Success!

East Bay Stand Down (EBS D) is conducting monthly meetings in preparation for the event in Sept. Consider volunteering to help in any capacity needed. This is a very rewarding activity that helps & assists our fellow veterans who don't quite have things as nice as we do. More info each month as plans develop.

**JOIN US FOR OUR  
DINNER MEETING  
THUR - JUN 7 6:00 P.M.  
Crow Canyon Country  
Club  
OPEN Meeting - Vets  
Community Invited!**

**VNVDV Members  
Family BBQ Picnic  
After Memorial Day  
Members Join Us!  
Bring Side-Dish or  
Dessert to Share  
& Your Beverages**



# President's Message

*Continued... from Page One -*

If you did not have a chance to come to Danville's new Veterans Memorial Building's open house, take the time to come and visit it. It is as beautiful inside as is the outside.... A great historical museum.

We had a very successful Walk Of Honor (WOH – recognizing veterans by walking across the Carquinez bridge last Saturday May 19 in Crockett. The Phillips 66 company donated to the VNVDV over \$18,000, money raised from sponsors supporting this event. There were many members from our organization there along with their spouses. It was good to see everyone. We had a delicious lunch and our own Gary Villalba was the keynote speaker. There were a number of booths/tables from various veteran support resources providing information to veterans, and our outstanding singer Lanisa Keith.

Finally, as I mention each month, don't forget our Welcome Home's. If you are interested in participating in these, let John Reese know & check the Diablo Valley Flag Brigade website to learn about when these young warriors come home. No special skills are needed, just show up with a flag in your hand, a smile on your face and a thank you hand shake for the young man or woman. These are "feel good" gatherings and only take about an hour out of your day. Very fulfilling for every veteran & supporter.

I hope to see all of you all at the Memorial Day Service and our "members only" (with your family too) BBQ Picnic after the Monday Memorial Day program. The organization is furnishing the hamburgers - hot dogs - buns & all the fix in's and members are requested to bring a side-dish, salad or dessert for your family along with some to share (potluck style) and your own beverages. It will be a fun time to get together - honoring & remembering those who have gone before us. Also, I look forward to seeing everyone at our next dinner meeting: Thursday, June 7, 2012 at the Crow Canyon Country Club - 711 Silver Lake Drive - on the Danville/San Ramon border. Have a safe & pleasant Memorial Day weekend. Thanks...

*Michael Slattengren*

Michael Slattengren

President 2012

PH: (925) 837-6238

E: [President.VNVDV@Gmail.com](mailto:President.VNVDV@Gmail.com)



June 7th Speaker: **Ray La Rochelle** —

*A Trip Down Memory Lane - Mekong Delta*

Guest Speaker for June 7th Dinner Meeting-

**our very own... Raymond F. LaRochelle**

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Mekong Delta, Viet Nam JUL 67 - JUL 68

**“A snapshot of my tour as a Huey Gunship Pilot with the HA(L)-3 Seawolves, featuring over 230 slides including off duty activities, R&R as well as actual combat photos. The presentation includes stark photos of the devastation suffered by the city of Ben Tre in the course of the first 3 days of the Tet offensive of 1968. Ben Tre was the hardest hit city in Viet Nam during the Tet offensive when over 3,500 V.C. launched the assault. You may remember the famous, much aired quote from an Army Adviser at the time: "We had to destroy the city to save it." He was talking about the city of Ben Tre. Join Us!**



## Memorial Day 2012

### VNVDV Members Family

### BBQ Picnic after the program

### Join Us & remember your side-dish, salad or dessert to share + your beverages.

### Volunteer to Help Beginning at 0730 to set-up for program

**Note: My E-Mail Address!**



# 2012 Memorial Day Ceremonies at All Wars Memorial



This Monday - MEMORIAL DAY... Join US and truly Honor those who fought & provided the Freedom we all enjoy so much today! This is a family event... educate & preserve our great nation's history.

**Town of Danville's OAK HILL PARK on Stone Valley Road is the site of the 2012 MEMORIAL DAY Remembrance in the East Bay for our community.**

**Music Program begins at 10AM  
Remembrance starts at 10:30AM  
Great Keynote Speaker & Tribute Program lasts about 1 1/2 hours - Honoring our Fallen Veterans and Remembering those who went before.**



**This traditional & educational program remembers our nation's veterans and will Honor & pay Tribute to our GOLD STAR FAMILIES in the East Bay.**

**This is an opportunity for families to visit the beautiful ALL WARS MEMORIAL**

**in Oak Hill Park - visit the "Liberty Panels" - Historic Quote Wall & Lincoln's famous words... Honoring our veterans.**

**See over one-thousand names lining the walkway up the AWM site a true educational experience for the family on Memorial Day**



# Honoring Gold Star Families & Fallen Veterans



## Town of Danville



Honor our veterans at the site of the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park in the Town of Danville on Memorial Day

## MEMORIAL DAY 2012 MONDAY - MAY 28th OAK HILL PARK

The **ALL WARS MEMORIAL** Foundation which "operates & manages" the AWM for the **Town of Danville** just completed a Spring 2012 "engraving order" of new Pavers at the AWM. After Memorial Day - we have another engraving taking place... to begin work on paver repairs and additional new engravings. Now is the time to think about obtain pavers for your military members - veterans - and patriots in your family to be engraved for Father's Day or the 4th of July. A truly great gift.

Do you have a paver yet? Order yours at the Memorial Day program at one of the AWM Paver tables or ask questions about the pavers from one of the AWMF Board members. **Less than 200 pavers remaining in the walkway. AWM Pavers are a great gift for your favorite veteran or patriot and will be cherished forever!** A paver is a true honor for those who have served or are current members of the military. The AWM can provide special "family groupings" if you have multiple family members who have served or desire to honor other family members in a paver grouping. *AWM Paver ordering information can be found on the [AWM website](http://www.allwarsmemorial.org) at: [www.allwarsmemorial.org](http://www.allwarsmemorial.org). AWM Pavers are a donation of only \$250.* Mail your form available on the website to **AWM - P.O. Box 158 - Danville, CA 94526**. If you have questions about paver engraving or the AWM - please contact John Reese at: 925/035-4859, or visit the All Wars Memorial website.

Memorial Day in the Town of Danville is the best traditional remembrance in the east bay... remembering those who have served in the military. The **VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley** is proud of one of its best known events paying tribute & honoring our military VETERANS who have gone before us and a special time to remember all those who paid the ultimate price... our brave heroes proudly wearing the uniform of our United States Armed Forces. This is the real Memorial Day tribute Honoring our nation's veterans.

Oak Hill Park located on Stone Valley Road in the Town of Danville is the site of the annual Memorial Day Remembrance & best traditional remembrances in the East Bay paying tribute to our fallen veterans. This family event last less than two-hours & is hosted by the VNVDV & coordinated with the *All Wars Memorial Foundation* & Town of Danville. Annually the event traditionally draws a great group of community guests to beautiful Oak Hill Park in Danville - site of the beautiful "All Wars Memorial" honoring all veterans. Seating available - arrive early

While you are at Oak Hill Park take time to visit the beautiful ALL WARS MEMORIAL... see the over one-thousand "pavers" engraved in the walkway leading to the top of the memorial... and the five liberty panels along the wall lining the memorial walkway. A wall of freedom quotes form the base of the memorial next to a beautiful bronze statue of a warrior helping another comrade. Two famous Lincoln quotes are carved into large granite boulders at the top of the memorial. Information about the All Wars Memorial will be available on Memorial Day .

The Memorial Day program is traditional & historical in nature. We encourage everyone to help spread the word in our community of this family event - help pass down this educational program & the true meaning of Memorial Day... to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and remember those who have gone before us. Please join us on Monday - May 28th at Oak Hill Park in Danville. The program begins at 10AM - plan to be there early! *Thank You for your support!*

**Memorial Day in the Town of Danville - Oak Hill Park - Mon. May 28th**

# Beginning at the NEW VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

## A very special day... Fallen Hero Memorial Dedication

### Danville Fallen Hero Memorial Dedication

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2012**

Join us for a memorable celebration to dedicate the Danville Fallen Hero Memorial at the newly renovated Danville Veteran's Memorial Building in Danville, CA. The dedication ceremony will be followed by a community celebration at the Danville Community Center in front of the Town Library.

#### MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Danville Veteran's Memorial Building  
400 Hartz Avenue, Danville, CA

10:00 a.m. Ceremony

Mariachi processional to the Danville Community Center

#### DANVILLE DAY ON THE GREEN

In Celebration of LCpl Joshua "Chachi" Corral, USMC

Danville Community Center / The Town Green  
420 Front Street, Danville, CA

11:00 a.m. Food, Music, and Family Activities

12:00 p.m. Program Presentation

1:00 p.m. Live Band



*In Loving Memory*  
LCpl Joshua "Chachi" Corral  
USMC



**Semper Fi**  
FOUNDATION

[WWW.SEMPERFIFFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.SEMPERFIFFOUNDATION.ORG)

# 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- The **New Veteran's Memorial Building** in Danville **IS NOW OPEN**. Please drop in to see your beautiful new building!
- MAY 28 - Monday @ 1000 in *Diablo Valley*... **Memorial Day** - Oakhill Park - **Danville**... the annual remembrance for the East Bay
  - JUN 5 - Tuesday @ 1800 to 2100 in Danville... Danville Lions Club "A Taste of Danville" - Eating Tour of Danville Restaurants - Supports EBSD
  - JUN 7 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
  - JUN 20 - Wednesday @ 1800 in Danville... VNVDV Wheelchair Foundation Distribution Trip - Travelers Planning Meeting @ VMB
  - JUN 21 - Thursday @ 1800 in Danville... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Veterans Memorial Building
  - JUN 23 - Saturday @ 1000 in Danville... Fallen Hero Memorial Dedication at VMB - followed by a Celebration Honoring LCpl "Chachi" Corral
  - JUL 04 - Wednesday in Danville... VNVDV participates in annual 4th of July Parade - through downtown Danville - distributing 12,000 flags
  - JUL 05 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club

Many outstanding events going on throughout the greater Diablo Valley each month and the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley encourages everyone to attend these other meetings - events - programs offered by fellow VSO & support organizations plus our **Operation Welcome Home** events - Watch for more announcements! The VNVDV only wishes we had time and space to list everyone's event and program. Please check their specific websites of all our partnering and supporting organizations for details on their upcoming events - **listed in this edition of the newsletter**. Look for special features from "other organizations" - and please visit & see listings on each website for more information.

All "**Operation Welcome Home**" event updates can be found at: [www.DiabloValleyFlagBrigade.com](http://www.DiabloValleyFlagBrigade.com) for upcoming events. Thanks.

Visit our website to see more about the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley at: [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)

For information on **All Wars Memorial** and obtaining **AWM Pavers** at Oak Hill Park - visit: [www.AllWarsMemorial.org](http://www.AllWarsMemorial.org)

For details and information on our **new Veterans Memorial Building** visit: [www.srvveteranshall.org](http://www.srvveteranshall.org)

You can make a "**pledge**" over a **three to five year period**... and **YOU** can "**make a difference in the future**"

Phillips 66  
WALK of HONOR  
A HUGE Success!

WALK OF HONOR  
FOR OUR  
VETERANS




The "Walk of Honor" benefits the Crockett Community Foundation enhancement of the Veteran's Memorial Building in Crockett & aids the VNVDV in helping fellow veterans & our active-duty military

**THANK YOU!**



With the enthusiasm of everyone who participated and sponsored—this year's Walk of Honor resulted in over \$38,000 raised, of which over \$19,000 was donated to the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley! These funds will go a long way toward "helping hands" efforts for our community!  
Honoring the Men and Women



WALK OF HONOR  
FOR OUR  
VETERANS





# VNVDV Veterans Plan Return to VietNam in 2012

## Wheelchairs for VietNam... the 2012 Return Are You Joining Us?



Plans for the **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley's** (VNVDV) November 2012, return to Vietnam are well underway. We will once again partner with the **Wheelchair Foundation** on this journey to distribute approximately 250 wheel chairs to those in need, at pre-screened locations with in-country agencies throughout Vietnam. A travelers planning meeting is scheduled for June 20th @ VMB 1800.

The tentative timeframe for this trip is **November 4 to 21, 2012**. We expect the cost for this trip, to be approximately \$3,000 to \$3,500, per person, when finalized. The cost of the trip may be tax deductible, as we will be on a volunteer, charitable mission in conjunction with the **Wheelchair Foundation**. Please **consult your tax adviser for further details. Act now... you do not want to miss this opportunity!**

There will be space available for 20 to make the journey. Since space will be limited, if there are more than 20 who wish to make the trip, some criteria will be set to determine travel priority. An initial deposit of \$1,000, per individual is due now, and we are in the process of collecting the second \$1000. installment.

The following areas are being considered for this trip, so that those wishing to visit locations where they served, during the War, may do so: Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Can Tho, Quay Nhon, Hue, Ha Long Bay and Hanoi. The locations will be discussed at the planning meeting on WED.—June 20th at the VMB.

The 2012 trip will be the **VNVDV's** second return to Vietnam. In 2006, nine (9) VNVDV members and their spouses/significant others made the memorable journey. Everyone who made this trip in 2006 felt that it not only helped the veterans, but also dramatically improved the life of those who received a wheelchair, as well as the benefits to their caregivers and families... **changing lives through freedom of mobility.**

During the 2006 journey, impromptu "group sessions" were held to discuss veterans' memories, feelings, and observations. More importantly, spouses/significant others were involved in many of these discussions, contributing to the healing experience of any leftover war time issues. A truly great trip!

Additional trip details will be discussed at the June trip planning meeting - attend & discuss as plans and itinerary are finalized. If you think you may want to join the group for this amazing Vets return to Viet Nam, please contact VNVDV Past President Richard Lambert at [925/938-1767](tel:9259381767) or e-mail [Rich](mailto:Rich@RLAMBERT@RITCHIECOMMERCIAL.COM) at: (RLAMBERT@RITCHIECOMMERCIAL.COM) so that we may finalize our count of intended travelers and how many seats are still available. There are a couple of seats still available... contact Rich! Thanks.

## VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

## Proudly Supports the Wheelchair Foundation

## Visit their website: [www.wheelchairfoundation.org](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org)

When you attend the "Wine for Wheels" monthly events or Wheelchair Foundation events... please Remember to **"credit"** your wheelchair donations to our VietNam container - "mark" your donation payment with **"VNVDV"** or **"VietNam Container"** please! We thank everyone for their support in making our 2006 trip possible and the VNVDV is once again looking forward to our Nov. 2012 distribution return trip to VietNam. Please Support these Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels Events in 2012.





APRIL 27, 2012  
 A GREAT DAY IN HISTORY  
 FOR THE VETERANS OF THE  
 SAN RAMON VALLEY  
 In DANVILLE



# Grand Opening of the new Veterans Memorial Building



Historical Military Museum is featured in the front veterans section of the new building with amazing displays.



Visit the new VMB



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# Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED

*Please Join Us each First Thursday at 1700!*

At our dinners you can Help Save \$ (processing fees) for the VNVDV  
by Paying by CHECK - or with Cash.

Checks Payable to the "VNVDV" -

Save Time Writing it in Advance - for the Correct Amount

**Our "Regular Monthly Meeting" Buffet Dinner is \$25. members /guests**

You are also welcome to pay by using a Major Credit Card...

Friendly reminder - the VNVDV is charged a percentage - "a processing fee" for all Credit Cards purchases.

FOR SALE: 1974 1/2 MGB Roadster



E-Mail John  
at: [JGReeseUSN@sbcglobal.net](mailto:JGReeseUSN@sbcglobal.net) & request details

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# VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING for San Ramon Valley

## Dedicated & Open - Visit see the Historic Military Displays



VETERANS EVENT HALL

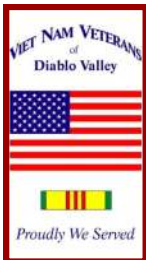
**Grand Opening of our new Veterans Memorial Building WAS A HUGE SUCCESS - MANY THANKS to our Town of Danville - all VSOs & our patriotic community!**



VETERANS RESOURCE ROOM



BOARD ROOM & LIBRARY





# THANK YOU to Our Many WALK Providers!

**Wheelchair Foundation  
Diablo Valley Flag Brigade  
Blue Star Moms  
Sentinels of Freedom  
25th HUEY from Mike & Chris  
Warriors Watch Riders**

Special Thanks  
to Phillips 66 for  
Sponsoring &  
Hosting the 2012  
WALK of HONOR  
for our Veterans  
event




Maybe You Forgot... We Need all of our 2012 ANNUAL Members  
Your Membership is Very Important to Us &  
Every Member Makes a Difference & we Appreciate Your Support  
Please join & Stay with Us Annually

Contact VNVDV Treasurer Marty De Venuta to *Renew* @ VNVDV.Treasurer@gmail.com

For Membership Information contact Bill Chew @ 925/829-3658 or E: WBChew@comcast.net

See our activities on-line at our website @ [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)

**Danville Self Storage**



**Thank You for Years of Sponsoring our VNVDV Storage Locker**

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# Operation Welcome Home 2012

## DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE

Dedicated to the Remembrance of 9-11.  
Devoted to the Support of our Troops.  
[www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com](http://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](http://www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com)

[www.warriorwatch.org](http://www.warriorwatch.org)  
[spiker592000@yahoo.com](mailto:spiker592000@yahoo.com)

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

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley wants to thank and welcome all those returning along with **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** - the **Warriors Watch Riders** - **Blue Star Moms** & many support organizations.

To find out how and when these events are in your area and occur - visit the new website of the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** at [www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com](http://www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com).

Website has video slideshow of each Welcome Home event & dates of all upcoming events & is updated daily. It is the best source for Welcome Home news & where families can schedule a Welcome Home

Recognition of all our 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** - along with **VFW #75** - **American Legion #246** - **Marine Corps League #942** make-up the **San Ramon Valley Veterans**. **\*\*\* Special Note:** Bryan Welden will be needing assistance in set-up for the near term as one of his members is hospitalized and not able to assist. If you can help... please contact Bryan Welden prior to each event to see his needs.

**Visit the Website & Please Join Us!**

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...**

JOIN US

In 2012



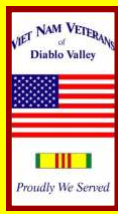
Join friends - family - veterans & the community... along with the **Blue Star Moms** - **MCL** - **VFW** - **Legion** **Warriors Watch Riders** - **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** - **Military Family groups** & many others...

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

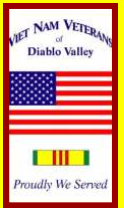


# VNVDV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING BOARD MEETING

THIRD THURSDAY - EVERY MONTH @ 1800

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING - BOARD ROOM (1st Floor)



Contra Costa BLUE STAR MOMS - Chapter 20

Check website for year-round needs: [www.ccbluestarmoms.org](http://www.ccbluestarmoms.org)

San Francisco East Bay BLUE STAR MOMS - Chapter 101

Check website for year-round needs: [www.bluestarmoms.org](http://www.bluestarmoms.org)

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

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.

Phillips 66

"WALK of HONOR"

WAS A HUGE SUCCESS -

THANKS TO ALL OF

OUR PARTICIPANTS!

Monthly Meeting - First Thursday of Each Month at Crow Canyon Country Club - San Ramon - 1700 is Social Hour and 1800 the Chef's Choice Buffet (\$25) members & guests - same + RSVP is NOT necessary! Social Event - Dinner & featured guest Speaker...

*Just join Us... Open Meetings - Bring Spouse, Friends, fellow Vets*

A Social, Relaxing Dinner with Friends - & a Featured Guest Speaker!

No Business just casual - relaxed fun with fellow veterans & supporters!

## Join Ryan Sykes in the Sentinels Bike Ride!

Business Card Rates: \$50. YR. For members - \$100. YR. for non-member/commercial - ADS run one-year: Jan-Dec in the Incoming

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# **VietNam Veterans receive DoD communications from Washington, D.C. of the beginning of a new 13-year program to Thank VietNam veterans.**

Greetings Friends of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration,

We are proud to announce the Presidential Proclamation for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War has been released by The White House.

In addition, a special ceremony hosted by the Secretary of Defense is scheduled at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC at 1 p.m. EST on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012.

**This will mark the beginning of a 13-year, nationwide program to thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans.**

You can visit our newly designed website at: [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com) for all the details on the event, view the Presidential Proclamation and watch videos and read stories from recent events.

We hope to see you all at this memorable Memorial Day ceremony.

For those of you who cannot make it to Washington, DC, you can watch it live on The Pentagon Channel, C-SPAN or a number of national and local news stations.

You can even watch it live, streamed from our website by visiting:

[http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/events/the\\_united\\_states\\_of\\_america\\_vietnam\\_war\\_commemoration\\_national\\_announcement\\_\\_proclamation\\_ceremony/](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/events/the_united_states_of_america_vietnam_war_commemoration_national_announcement__proclamation_ceremony/) on the day of the ceremony.

We would like to thank you all for your support and hope you have a great Memorial Day weekend.

Very Respectfully,

CPT Valerie Palacios

CPT Valerie M Palacios

Public Affairs Officer

The United States of America

Vietnam War Commemoration

DoD Office of Commemorations

1401 Wilson Boulevard Suite 400/401

Arlington, VA 22209

[www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com)

[valerie.m.palacios@us.army.mil](mailto:valerie.m.palacios@us.army.mil) - Office: 703-696-1490 - Cell: 210-273-6114

# VNVDV Members & New Veterans... Join Us for our

## Members BBQ & ...



Honor our veterans at the site of the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park in the Town of Danville on Memorial Day

# MEMORIAL DAY 2012 MONDAY - MAY 28th OAK HILL PARK

Memorial Day is VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley's longest running & one of its best known events to pay tribute - honor our military VETERANS who have gone before us & to remember all those who paid the ultimate price - proudly wearing the uniform of our United States Armed Forces. This is the real Memorial Day tribute Honoring our nation's veterans.

The Oak Hill Park Memorial Day Remembrance is one of the best traditional - real programs in the East Bay paying tribute to our fallen veterans. This worthwhile program hosted by the VNVDV & coordinated with the *All Wars Memorial Foundation* & Town of Danville. Annually the event traditionally draws a great group of community guests to beautiful Oak Hill Park in Danville - site of the beautiful "All Wars Memorial" honoring all veterans.

This manual event requires all members & supporters to volunteer at what ever level they are able to assist in making this event the best possible. President Mike "Slatts" Slattengren requests members join us beginning at 0700 Hrs. to help with set-up on Monday - May 28th at Oak Hill Park. The program starts at 10AM - last less than two-hours... leaving you the weekend & day to enjoy with your family.

President Slatts indicated members are needed in all areas - primarily to aide in the set-up & take-down all the shade cover & chairs required for a successful event. Our program is traditional and historical in nature we encourage everyone to promote this program - help pass down this educations program this year to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and those who have gone before us. Help pass the word & mark you calendar - plan to be there early! *Thanks!*

**After MEMORIAL DAY the VNVDV will again conduct our "Members Only" Family BBQ Picnic. All members are encouraged to participate. Just bring side-dish - salad or dessert for your family to SHARE.**

**If you are not a Life Members & have not renewed your Membership - Please do so... at the BBQ & attend the Members Only Picnic with your family.**

**You can update your VNVDV Membership at the event.**

The **ALL WARS MEMORIAL** Foundation which "operates & manages" the AWM for the **Town of Danville** finalize our Spring 2012 "engraving order" for Pavers at the AWM and we are now waiting for our outstanding engraver to begin the engraving.

Do you have a paver yet? Order yours at the Memorial Day program at one of the AWM Paver tables or ask questions about the pavers from one of the AWMF Board members. Less than 200 pavers remaining in the walkway.

**AWM Pavers are a great gift for your favorite veteran or patriot and will be cherished forever!** A paver is a true honor for those who have served or are current members of the military. The AWM can provide special "family groupings" if you have multiple family members who have served or desire to honor other family members in a paver grouping. *AWM Paver ordering information can be found on the AWM website at:*

*www.allwarsmemorial.org.* **AWM Pavers are a donation of only \$250.** Mail your order to **AWM - P.O. Box 158 - Danville, CA 94526.**

If you have questions about paver engraving contact John Reese at: 925/035-4859.

Members - Remember to bring an appetizer - side-dish - salad and dessert for you & your family PLUS please bring some to **SHARE** with others... a big pot-luck for all of our MEMBERS. Don't forget to bring your favorite beverages too! The VNVDV will furnish the meat & buns this year - *Plus* we will have all the plates - eating tools - napkins & condiments furnished. BBQ will be after we tear-down the event in the corner of the parking lot.

**Food Safety: Please remember to keep items you bring "chilled or on-ice" if needed!**

# Sentinels of Freedom 5th Annual Golf Gala & Tournament

September 16 & 17, 2012

Hosted by the Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation for the exclusive benefit of Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation.

The year, unlike previous years, we will have a 2-day event held on Sunday September 16, 2012 and Monday September 17, 2012.

Both events will be held at the Diablo Country Club, 1700 Club House Drive, Diablo, CA. There are many pricing options, depending on if you decide to attend the dinner/auction only, golf only, or attend both events. [Click here to see our pricing online.](#)

In addition, there are many [sponsorship opportunities available](#)

## Sunday September 16, 2012 - Cocktails, Dinner, Speaker and Auction

4 – 5:30 pm: Cocktail House (times are approximate; a full schedule will be posted closer to the event. The event order may also change.)

5:30 – 6:30 pm: Dinner/Program

7:00 pm: Speaker Col. Danny McKnight; USA (Ret.)

7:45 pm: Auction

## Guest Speaker, COL Danny McKnight - US Army Ranger



COL Danny R. McKnight, USA (Ret.) – His military career included two combat duty tours (Panama 1989 and Somalia 1993 – the basis for the Book and Movie "Black Hawk Down"). His new book is "Streets of Mogadishu".

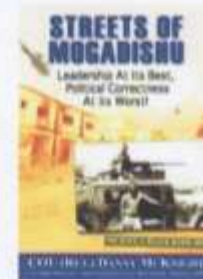
COL Danny R. McKnight's awards and decorations include:

- Legion of Merit (2 awards)
- Bronze Star Medal for Valor
- Purple Heart
- Combat Infantryman's Badge
- Ranger Tab
- Mater Parachutist Badge
- Combat Star and the Path Finder Star

COL Danny R. McKnight has authored a new book called "Streets of Mogadishu" and there will be a book signing opportunity available.

*"COL Danny McKnight, one of the heroic figures of the battle of Mogadishu, has written a superb leadership-primer for all chiefs and up-and-coming leaders, which will serve them well from battlefield to boardroom – World Defense Review"*

*"If you can handle the unvarnished, politically incorrect truth, then you'll love this book. Danny McKnight pulls no punches as he provides a behind-the-scenes version of American combat action in Somalia that you won't get from the main-stream media. Combined with his thoughts on time-tested leadership skills honed while leading soldiers under fire. Highly recommended. – Robert A. Schmidt, Federal Agent and Retired Naval Officer"*



[Click here to register for dinner only](#) - (Sunday, September 16).

Dress: Business Casual, Class A Uniform

[Click here to register for golf and/or dinner](#) - (Sunday & Monday, September 16 & 17).

## Monday September 17, 2012 - Golf

9 am: Check-In Opens

10:45 am: Opening Ceremonies

11 am: Shot Gun Start with the Cannon

4:00 pm: Appetizers and Open Cash Bar (time may change)

5:00 pm: Awards Ceremony (time may change)

If you wish to pay by check, make it payable to DVVF, PO Box 1316, San Ramon, CA 94583. For golf, [please print out this form](#). For dinner attendees, [please print out this form](#). Refer to our pricing page (link above).

Discounts are only available online.

**Visit the Sentinels of Freedom website for all details!**



# VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

## Board of Director POSITIONS OPEN...

*Interested in Being More Active?  
Get Involved in Community Service!  
Find Out More - at our "Business Meeting"*

Learn More about our organization...  
Ask one of our Board of Director Members -  
at our Dinner Meetings or attend a Board Meeting!

## VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

### Director of Events

### Director of Information

Interested in Joining the VNVDV Board of Directors?

*Do you have some spare time & want to volunteer for community service?*

Two great positions as a "Director" exist & our Board is looking for interested members  
and our new members are encouraged to consider

**The VNVDV Thanks Phillips 66  
& all Walk of Honor participants!**

#### SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC PAIN?

Give us your opinion on our Natural, TOPICAL  
pain relief LOTION. Back, Neck, Nerve,  
Arthritis, Joint & Muscle Pain etc.

Free samples & follow up: 925 / 323-1093  
email: askmikemartin@gmail.com

WEB: <http://rtpr.com/site/1fec12ae>

Support "Wine for Wheels" Call or email Jeff  
Behring  
[jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org](mailto:jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org)  
(925) 648-3829

The VNVDV encourages you to give the FREE-  
DOM of mobility! Donate a Wheelchair!

VNVDV Proud Supporters of  
the Wine for Wheels and the  
Wheelchair Foundation

# Danville Lions Club to Support East Bay Stand Down with Proceeds!

## DANVILLE LIONS CLUB



**We Serve**

***"A Taste of Danville"***  
**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Restaurant Walk**  
**Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**Hours 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

### *\*An Eating Tour of Old Town Danville Restaurants\**

#### Restaurants

- \*FAZ
- \*Akira
- \*The Peasant & The Pear
  
- \*Incontro
- \*Los Panchos
- \*Tower Grille
- \*Primo's Pizza
  
- \*BevMo!
- \*Bridges Restaurant & Bar
- \*Wild Vine Hideaway Bistro
- \*Amber Bistro
- \*Basil Leaf Café
- \*China Paradise
- \*That Bar
- \*Trader Joes @ Starbucks
- \*The Vine at Bridges
- \*Mangia Mi
- \*Sideboard

#### Sampler Servings

- Swiss Chard/Herb Ravioli & Rosemary Focaccia
- Ahi Tuna Tartare, Special Sushi Roll & \$1 Cold Sake
- Assorted Rustic Flatbread Pizza & \$3 Short Pear Flower Cocktail
- House Made Gnocchi Alla Piemontese
- Assorted Mexican Menu Item Samples
- House Made Signature Meatballs & \$2 Short Wine
- Mediterranean & Margherita Pizza, \$1 Short Wine and \$1.50 Pabst Blue Ribbon Pint
- \$1 Wine Tasting, Non-Alc. Bev., Cheese & Crackers
- BBQ Chicken Sliders
- Regular and Apricot Bruschetta
- Chilled Marinated Prawn over Julienne Vegetables
- Pasta Primavera
- Egg Roll, Princess Chicken & Fried Rice
- Spicy Shrimp & \$1 Short Wine
- Reg. & Decaf. Coffee with Assorted Cookies
- Two - 1 Ounce Pour Boutique Red & White Wine's
- Signature Lasagna and \$3.00 Wine
- Truffle Mac & Cheese

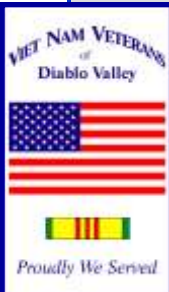
**All for only  
\$25.00**

***THE BEST PROGRESSIVE DINNER IN TOWN!***  
**FOR EVENT TICKET BOOKS CALL**  
**DANVILLE LION Dr. Brent Waterman (925) 275-1990**

EBSD 2012 is September 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> at Alameda County Fairgrounds – Pleasanton

See Information – Needs & How You Can Help -

Website: [www.EastBayStandDown.org](http://www.EastBayStandDown.org) + EBSD is on Facebook too!



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Mailing Address:

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

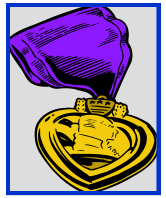
Post Office Box 2079

Danville, CA 94526 - 2079

E-Mail: [VNVDV1@gmail.com](mailto:VNVDV1@gmail.com)

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

**JUNE 2012**



**Electronic Edition**

**2012 OFFICERS &  
BOARD MEMBERS**

*President—*

*Michael Slattengren*

*Vice President -*

*Ray La Rochelle*

*Treasurer -*

*Martin De Venuta*

*Secretary -*

*Cliff De Cuir*

*Director-at-Large -*

*Dennis Giacobelli*

*Membership -*

*Bill Chew*

*Public Relations -*

*John G. Reese*

*Information -*

*Currently OPEN*

*Events -*

*Currently OPEN*

*Speakers -*

*Bill Green*

*Procurement -*

*Gene Ghio*

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*Norm Mahalich*

*LINDA SCHARDT - Editor*

**“INCOMING” NEWS**

*John Garfield Reese,*

*EDITOR in CHIEF and*

*Public Relations Director*

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**

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



**Proudly We Served**

**To:**

**VNVDV Members & VIPs**

*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 & Support of fellow Veterans. Our new Danville 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](http://www.VNVDV.com). All veterans are welcome to attend our membership meetings. We are a casual - fun - social veterans group - always looking for new members who enjoy friendship & the special bond as military veterans. We are Proud of our Military Service... and of our continued contributions to fellow veterans and our community. Our dinner meetings consist of social - dinner and a guest speaker of interest to veterans & military. All of our meetings are OPEN meetings... fellow veterans - active duty military - history buffs ... Join us each month.*

**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**  
**“June 2012 Edition of INCOMING”**