



INCOMING NEWS



**January
2012**



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

"Proudly We Served"

Mike Slattengren takes the Helm in 2012

CRAB FEED - SUNDAY - FEB. 5th - Tickets Available

Donate & Support our Troops

**MIKE
SLATTENGREN
VNVDV President
2012**

The official "passing of the torch" happens on Jan. 1st of each year... We thank Jerry Yahiro for two great years in office and look forward to a milestone year in 2012 with Mike leading us in the opening of our new Veterans Memorial Building .

Donations are Needed & new Volunteers to serve on our Crab Feed Committees NOW - please help us in supporting our 2012 programs

JAN Message from 2012 President Mike "Slatts" Slattengren

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday with family and friends and that you celebrated the New Year safely. Thanks for electing me as President of this VNVDV organization. We have a strong group of officers and directors. Some are continuing to serve from Jerry's 2011 board, others are returning to help us this coming 2012. I also want to thank each of them for their dedication.

We look forward to the 2012 year with all of its activities. The opening of our new **Veteran Memorial Building** will be one of the big events.

But the first activity will be our 8th annual **Crab Feed** charity fund raiser scheduled for **Sunday - FEB. 5th** and being held at the Danville Community Center (same place as last year) next to the Library. Our past President, John Estes will be heading this event again as in past years. Contact Estes to let him know what subcommittee you'd like to volunteer to help with. But what each of us needs to do is get out and find donation items for the raffles and for the silent auction.

Pete Laurence January's featured Guest Speaker with highlights from his trip to VietNam

Take a travel journey back to VietNam... at our January 5th Dinner meeting, we will spend an hour with fellow VietNam veteran **Pete Laurence**. He has a great video story to share & says his presentation will be "a combination of **Travelogue and History...** as myself and Lt. Bob Little from our Special Forces A-Team returned to Vietnam and Cambodia recently and took many photos of the changes from then and now."

Tribute to our Troops Support our Crab Feed

The VNVDV's only fundraiser we conduct is one-month away & we do need *every member* to help, in addition to support from our many friends. Collectively we can make 2012 a success. We need members & guests to attend. Tickets available at our JAN. Dinner Meeting or you can reserve your tickets in advance. We are in need of *many* donated items for our silent auction - raffle & door prizes. Donate items personally & use the donation request letter included in this newsletter. Please bring your items to any of our meetings or drop them off at the Veterans Memorial Building office in Danville. See the details inside this edition. **Questions?** Contact event chair John Estes at: 925 / 227 - 6000 x1375

*** SEE DETAILS INSIDE

"Prez Message" Continued... on Page Two -





President's JAN Message

Continued... from Page One -

We have included in this edition two sample **donation request letters** (states that we are a charitable-non-profit veteran's organization and the donated items may be tax deductible) that each of us can share with merchants in our communities who donate gift cards & other items. Also - please invite all your friends to come have a fun afternoon of "all the crab you can eat" and enjoy Super Sunday with friends and support our programs. Buy your tickets at our January dinner meeting & think about *buying a second ticket & donate it* back to the our organization so we can **pay tribute to our troops** by inviting returning and current military personnel.

As the 2011 year came to a close there were numerous **"Welcome Home"** events conducted. The young warriors were home on leave with their families for the holidays or were completing their deployments. These were excellent opportunities to let these men and women know that we support their sacrifices, their commitment to their country. And as a side benefit, it makes us as Viet Nam veterans feel pretty darn good too. As I attend these **"Operation Welcome Home"** events - I've felt that welcome home too that none of us ever received. Public Relation Director, John Reese always receives information on upcoming Welcome Home events from the **Warrior Watch Riders** & you can view all upcoming events on the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade's** new website (see our **"Operation Welcome Home"** page in this newsletter). Let **Bryan Welden** know you want to be a part of them & get on the mailing list (attend the ones you can, you don't have to commit to all of them- but try to make the ones in your own community).

We'll see you all at our January dinner / speaker meeting this Thursday - **January 5**, for our **first 2012** dinner meeting.

Thanks...



Michael Slattengren

President 2012

E: MJSlatts@yahoo.com

PH: (925) 837-6238



Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office in *Expert* hands!

As reported in our last edition Phil Munley left the Contra Costa County Veteran Service Office & in "very good hands" with a well-known friend of all veterans... **Forrest Michael Hoffschneider** - better known as **"Mike or Hoff"** to his many friends & colleagues. The County Board of Supervisors has appointed **"Hoff"** to serve as the *interim* County VSO until the *official* County selection process is completed with the Board of Supervisors reviewing all applications - interviews - the selection & hiring of a new VSO for Contra Costa. See *County website for the application process.*

Mike is *not* new to the *Contra Costa County Veteran Service Office* - he started working on part-time contract as a *Veterans Services Specialist*... way-back in March 2005 under *legendary* County Veteran Service Officer **Gary D. Villalba**. Gary said, *"we are very fortunate to have a true expert in veteran benefits serving us."* Mike is a knowledgeable friend & the **VNVDV** encourages all returning veterans to use & visit our County VSO for all your VA claims & veteran service needs. We are in the hands of a true **"expert"** with **"Hoff"** *leading* our VSO office.

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 has a national & 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 & public speaker in the field of veteran services. Veterans... *we are in very good hands!* **Thank you Mike for your dedication to all veterans.** VNVDV

I want to thank all of our VNVDV members, and especially our Board of Directors, for making this organization **"THE 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."**



Thank you...



2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 5 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... First Meeting to Review 2012 Crab Feed Planning - *Open to all* @ Crow Canyon Country Club
JAN 5 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... January 2012 Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker Pete Laurence @ Crow Canyon Country Club
JAN 9 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Capital Campaign Committee Meeting @ Hap-Magee Park - Swain House
JAN 14 - Saturday @ 1800 in Danville... *VFW Crab Feed* at the Danville Community Center - 420 Front Street - Contact Nathan Greene
JAN 19 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... Crab Feed Planning Review Meeting - *Open to all Members* @ Crow Canyon Country Club
JAN 19 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
JAN 24 - Tuesday @ 1800 in Pleasanton... *EBSD* - First Public Planning Meeting for Sept. 2012 Event - Alameda County Fairgrounds

FEB 2 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... FEB Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
FEB 5 - Sunday @ 1300 in Danville... *Super Sunday Charity Crab Feed Fundraiser* - *Danville Community Center* - 420 Front Street - Danville
FEB 16 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" FEB Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club

MAR 1 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
MAR 16 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
* Watch for the *Grand Opening* of the New Veteran's Memorial Building for the San Ramon Valley in Danville - *more details when available!*
APR 5 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
APR 19 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club

MAY 3 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
MAY 17 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
MAY 19 - Saturday @ 0900 in Crockett... Armed Forces Day "**WALK OF HONOR**" presented by *ConocoPhillips* in Rodeo - be a Sponsor
MAY 28 - Monday @ 1000 in *Diablo Valley*... Memorial Day - Oakhill Park - **Danville...** *the annual remembrance for the east bay*

Note: Many other meetings - events - crab feeds by fellow VSO & support organizations + our Operation Welcome Home events we encourage you to attend. Watch for more announcements & only wish 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. Thanks.

Thank You - Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery

Operation Santa Claus
Sponsored by Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery

Thank You for
making Christmas Bright for someone!

& Special Thanks to all our toy donors

January Featured Guest Speaker. . .



PETE LAURENCE

On our Thursday... January 5th Dinner meeting, we will spend an hour with fellow VietNam veteran **Pete Laurence**. Pete has a great story to share with photos & says his presentation will be ***“a combination of Travelogue and History as myself and Lt. Bob Little from our Special Forces A-Team returned to Vietnam and Cambodia and took many photos of the changes from then and now.”***

Pete's recent visit included: Hanoi, Nha Trang, their old A-Team Area, Phan Thiet, Saigon, the Cu Chi Tunnels, the Cambodian famous Temples, and the Khmer Rouge communist Killing Fields. In the mid 1960's Pete was one of the few Americans that was living in Canada (working for a bush pilot service in the Yukon), but came down to enlist and “do his part”. Basic Training at Ft. Ord, CA then Military Police training at Ft. Gordon, GA. He was then sent to Korea by troop ship, for a year as an MP on patrol, at the DMZ and in Black Market/Narcotics. Upon returning to the U.S., he was sent Fort Benning Jump School, then Special Forces (Green Beret) training at Ft. Bragg NC. Pete volunteered for Vietnam, and spent a one year tour on A-237 in II Corps, where he gained much combat experience. Pete returned to the states after his tour and after receiving a college degree embarked on a Real Estate career. Though a family man, and civic minded, Pete always stayed involved with Veterans Issues such as the MIA/POWs, promoting respect for Vietnam Veterans.

Pete has been part of the VNVDV's Speaker's Bureau and carries this message by speaking at High Schools and colleges during Memorial and Veteran Day ceremonies and in his writing. Pete is a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Special Forces Association, and the VNVDV. He is also a member of the Special Operations Association and American Legion. He attends annual reunions with his wife, to stay current with military technology, tactics and current events. Two men from Pete's A-Team became 2-star Generals and head of Special Forces before their retirement... one which was with him on his first combat operation.

Don't miss our exciting guest speaker Pete Laurence, fellow VietNam veteran as he shares a story on how much VietNam has changed - even since the **VNVDV's Wheelchair Foundation** distribution trip in 2006. As reported in our last newsletter – the VNVDV ***is going back to VietNam*** in November of 2012 to once again provide the ***freedom of mobility*** to those in-need. Pete's presentation will give our members & guests a good idea of what the country is like from the eyes of a recent VietNam veteran visiting.

Join us this **Thursday – Jan. 5th** at Crow Canyon country Club in San Ramon. Our 2012 year starts with a ***Social Hour*** beginning at 1700 and the Country Club's ***“Chef's Best Buffet”*** dinner - \$25. for members & guests starting just after 1800 following by our ***new President Mike Slattengren's*** welcome & introduction of our guest speaker. All VNVDV dinner meetings are “OPEN” to members - all veterans – spouses – friends - guests & our supporters. Military history buffs & world travelers welcome! Bring a friend or fellow veteran & attend. ***Please Join Us... We look forward to seeing you!***

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Proudly Supports the Wheelchair Foundation

Visit their website: www.wheelchairfoundation.org

Participate in the local "Wine for Wheels" events supporting the Wheelchair Foundation

VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter



Community

Support

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

CRAB FEED COMMUNITY CENTER DANVILLE

SUNDAY - February 05 2012

Community Center - 420 Front Street - Danville



\$40.

Confirm your Reservations Now!
Contact our VNVDV Treasurer at
our Meetings or e-mail: VNVDV@att.net

Doors Open at 1PM - *All day Appetizers Included*
Multiple Large Screen Televisions - No-Host Bar
Crab Feed - plus the **"OAKLAND RAIDERETTES"**
Join us - your support helps us - help others!

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

WEB: www.VNVDV.com
E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

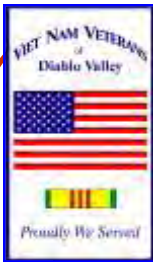


For Additional Information
Tickets & Reservations:

Reserve Tickets Call: 925 / 935-4859
or E-mail: VNVDV@att.net (JGReese)
General Info: 925 / 935 - 4859 (John)

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley's support our troops "SUPER CRAB FEED" on *Super Sunday - Feb 5th* at the *Danville Community Center*. Our all volunteer, non-profit fundraiser on **Sunday - Feb. 5th** is our major event of the year supporting all our veteran programs & events - military welcome home activities & community service programs conducted by the **VNVDV**. Please *generously support* our Crab Feed fundraiser and *"silent auction."* All types of *Donations* still needed for our silent auction... gift certificates - military & sports items - wines - tours - gift baskets - travel - golf - or other unique items are needed. Let us know if you can donate. ***Tickets still available - Please "sponsor active-duty military members to attend - purchase & donate Crab Feed tickets to... Support our Returning Troops***

Limited Tickets sold *in Advance*: **\$40. each** - **No tickets at the door!**
Doors Open at 1PM - Snacks & Appetizers all day
Italian Crab Feed Dinner Served After 3PM -
Great Silent Auction - Raffles - Door Prizes - Football Games
Featuring **Football's Fabulous Females** the **"Oakland Raiderettes"**
Multiple large screen TV's - *All proceeds* go to VNVDV's charitable programs benefiting veterans - military & our local community.
Seating is limited each year to allow for comfort - Sold Out Every Year.
Purchase your Tickets - Donate Tickets or **"Sponsor"** a Table of eight **now!**



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

OUR NEW OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

for 2012

2012 OFFICERS

Congratulations to all...

President - **MIKE SLATTENGREN**

Vice-President - **RAY LA ROCHELLE**

Treasurer - **MARTIN DE VENUTA**

Secretary - **CLIFF DE CUIR**

*Openings
for positions...*

2012 DIRECTORS

Director-at-Large: **Dennis Giacobelli**

Director of Public Relations: **John Reese**

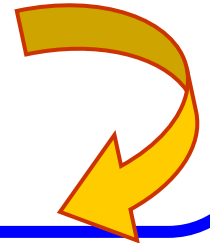
Director of Procurement: **Gene Ghio**

Director of Membership: **Bill Chew**

Director of Information: **OPEN**

Director of Speakers: **Bill Green**

Director of Events: **OPEN**



Director of Events

Director of Information

Are YOU Interested in Joining the VNVDV Board of Directors?

Do you have some time to volunteer time & want to be of service?

Two great positions as a "Director" exist & our Board is looking for interested members.

Our new President **Mike "Slatts" Slattengren** is *looking for a few good men or women!* His need is to fill **two** open vacancies on our new Board of Directors with VNVDV members who are seriously interested in **"continuing to serve"** proudly as a member of our Board. As noted above... the position of **Director of Events** is "open" with our new V.P. **Ray La Rochelle** filling-in for the time being & very willing to share his valuable experience with a **new** Director in this key role to help coordinate the overall process of our VNVDV events. Want to help out - coordinate the management of our major events? If you have some time available this is a great position in our group... *please say yes!*

The **Director of Information** is another open position on our Board. It is currently being covered by our *Director of Public Relations* - **John Reese** who will continue to work with & assist the **new** Director in any transfer of knowledge regarding this position while he serves in PR. Something new... our **Information** position now has some *additional support* from member **Linda Schardt** who coordinates our new Veterans Memorial Building among many other activities. Linda has volunteered to assist with our distribution of *Information* - serving as our Communications Specialist & playing a key role in the publication & distribution of our monthly newsletter... **"Incoming"** which is shared with all of our members & on our website. This additional support greatly our organization & this position. Information Director is responsible gathering information from e-mails & the **Internet** - on a regular basis - obtaining the specifics on various programs & events conducted by the VNVDV & other supporting groups. This downloading of timely information is collected throughout each month & then shared by this Director with our Officers - Membership & outside our organization with our supporters using our newsletter. This Director works closely with Public Relations.

Both open Director positions required having some spare time & working with other Board members as part of the *management team* for the VNVDV led by our President. To find out more - plan on attending our monthly Board Meetings on the 3rd Thursday at Crow Canyon Country Club at 1800. You do not need to be a Board member to attend. If you want more details about either of these great service positions... please contact **President Mike Slattengren** or *Nomination Committee Chair* - **Del Loewe** for information on what is involved in these two positions. Being our the VNVDV Board of Directors is a great way to volunteer in a meaningful manner and supporting our organizational goals. Plus it is actually a great deal of fun working with fellow veterans - friends & supporters. Please *seriously consider* one of these **two** Director positions & advise **Del** of your interest in joining the Board. You will be glad you did! Help pass the word and consider recommending serving to other VNVDV members if you know they have the time. Our new Veterans Memorial Building opens soon and we want to fill these two vacancies as quickly as possible to share the workload evenly among our Directors. We appreciate you taking the time to consider these positions. **Thanks.**

**Annual Holiday Dinner
A Huge Success!**

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.

**2011 Gary Villalba Dedicated Veteran
Service Award is Presented to
PEGGY CONKLIN
President of the Blue Star Moms #101**

What receiving 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 fami-
lies 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 those who serve - our
military service members and veterans.**



**2011 Gary Villalba Dedicated Veteran
Service Award is Bestowed Upon
MIKE CONKLIN**

Founder - Sentinels of Freedom Foundation

Presentations at our Annual Dinner



Linda Schardt "Volunteer of the Year"

Richard Lambert "Veteran of the Year"

Holiday Recognition Dinner Gala a Huge Success!

THANK YOU to the over 140 of our members, friends, supporters, sponsors and guests who once again **joined us** attending our annual December **Holiday Appreciation Dinner**. *Crow Canyon Country Club* was decorated for the holidays and dinner was served. It was a largest holiday gala in VNVDV history with many members attend *that we only see once a year & we thank them for coming the distance to be with their fellow veterans*. It was a special night of recognition for many guests... including **ConocoPhillips** executive **Mark Hughes & Aimee Lohr** - both who received recognition for their support of veterans & their community through their annual **ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor."** They were accompanied by many refinery representatives. The VNVDV gave special recognition to the owners - pilot & crew of the **25th Huey - EQUIPCO** executives **Michael Haus - Christopher Miller** & huey pilot **Ray Murphy** all three veterans... for their outstanding support of our military & veteran programs using their historical - flying UH-1 Huey for charitable projects. The night was special with many other special guests including the leaders from the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade - Warriors Watch Riders - Blue Star Moms - Sentinels of Freedom - the Wheelchair Foundation in attendance**. Our *Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer* **Phil Munley** received recognition for his dedication & service to our veterans from both the **VNVDV & Blue Star Moms**. **Special Honor & Tribute Recognition** was given to our former & legendary *County Veteran Service Officer* **Gary D. Villalba** for his many contributions to all veterans with over twenty-five years of dedicated service. Both Gary & Phil received a very special U.S. Capitol Flag flown on Veteran's Day 11-11-11 in their honor. Phil Munley who was leaving the County VSO position for a new role in Maryland serving veterans was given a solid farewell by the veterans & supporters.

During our dinner - we has the outstanding voices from the **San Ramon Valley High School's Holiday Chorus**. After their enjoyable performance President Yahiro presented a donation from the VNVDV towards their School's music fund. President Yahiro told them - "*The chorus had been performing at our annual dinner now for twenty-one years*" - mentioning... "*This was before you were born... longer than you have been alive!*" The VNVDV has continued its objectives to provide service to veterans - our military serving & the community through our projects & programs.

At our December Holiday Recognition Gala, Jerry also publically recognized all of the 2011 VNVDV Officers & Board of Director Members for their service - thanking them for volunteering & serving. We were also honored to have many of our out-of-town members present. One of the evenings highlights is appreciation of all our members & supporters & recognizing them for all they did in 2011 to continue to improve the VNVDV & help maintain our active role & premier status in the community serving veterans. Jerry also thanked those who were not able to attend the annual dinner & also contributed in other ways to the organization during the year & said, "Everyone plays a role in our organization & without our members & supporters it would not get done - *Members make a difference & we thank you.*"

Continuing with the evening's recognition - the presentation of the "**Veteran of the Year**" award going to **Richard Lambert**, Past President of the VNVDV for his solid support & active role in all of our events throughout the year & monthly participation in our activities. Rich also continues to serve the VNVDV on the All Wars Memorial Foundation Board of Directors since the beginning. Bravo-Zulu to **Rich Lambert Veteran of the Year**. The recognition for "**Volunteer of the Year**" went to **Linda Schardt**, *Executive Coordinator* of our new Veterans Memorial Building in Danville. This award & presentation definitely caught Linda by surprise that evening. Actually, she was planning on leaving early to take the Admiral home & was shocked when President Yahiro announced her name - recognizing her for her dedication as a volunteer for many projects. Congratulations to **Volunteer of the Year... Linda Schardt**.

The VNVDV's highest honor bestowed to "*anyone who serves our veterans*" is the VNVDV's perpetual recognition award and the distinguished honor of receiving the "**Gary Villalba Dedicated Veteran Service Award.**" This honor was established upon Gary's retirement after serving as our County VSO for *over twenty years* & been awarded only four times. 2011's highest honor went to **Peggy Conklin - President of the Blue Star Moms** for her dedication to all those currently serving & forming the **Blue Star Moms** - Chapter 101 into a premier service organization in the east bay. This year the VNVDV Board recommend *two* recipients... the other distinguished individual receiving the award personally from Gary Villalba was **Mike Conklin**, Founder & President of the **Sentinels of Freedom Foundation** for his dedication to serving our wounded warriors both locally & on a national basis. All veterans salute both **Peggy & Mike Conklin** - recipients of the "**Gary Villalba Dedicated Veteran Service Award**" for 2011. This perpetual award plaque proudly hangs in our *Contra Costa County Veteran's Service Office* for all veterans & visitors to see! The VNVDV Congratulates all those recognized. "*Congratulations to all*" as President **Jerry Yahiro** summed it up... "*It was a great evening for everyone!*" He thanked everyone for their dedication & support during the year... and knows everyone will give the same solid support to our new President **Mike Slattengren** in 2012. It was a grand evening - as our organization demonstrated once again... we "*Continued to Serve*" our fellow veterans in need, our community and those who are proudly serving in uniform today. A special Thank you goes to Chelle & Lee who do an outstanding job on our website... and we want to THANK all of our many **Sponsors & Supporters** during 2011 for your kindness and generosity to our organization enabling us to continue to **Proudly Serve... Thanks to all!** ★

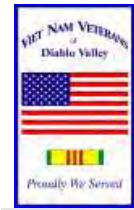
2011 Recognition & Presentation of Awards at our Annual Holiday Dinner



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley SALUTES PHIL MUNLEY



THANK YOU PHIL MUNLEY
FOR YOUR DEDICATION & SERVICE



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



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 Weiden 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.



In 2012 Please Join Us!



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** & the 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**.

This site have a video show of each Welcome Home event and the dates of all upcoming events & is updated daily. **It is the best source for Welcome Home news!**

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!



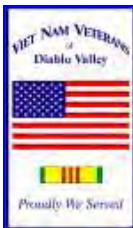
Join friends - family - veterans & the community... along with the Blue Star Moms - MCL - VFW - Legion Warriors Watch Riders - Diablo Valley Flag Brigade - Military Family groups & many others...

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



"Super Crab Feed"



Reservations for FEB. 5th
Crab Feed Available NOW
from 2012 Treasurer!

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 - Help with some Donations!*

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

Donations are being collected by Linda Schardt & Skip George

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

PLEASE HELP US!

Critical help is needed for our **February 5th CRAB FEED**. President Mike Slattengren is calling upon all members to aid & support this event, along with "Big Daddy John Estes" our Past President who *stepped up* to obtain the fresh crab. Please Volunteer for a committee... Help is needed in all areas. We are in the Danville **Community Center** on Front Street next to the Danville Public Library again this year since our new building is not ready. Our Charity Crab Feed for our Troops is on "Super Sunday" the 5th of February beginning at 1300 (1PM). It just happens to be the same day as a big **Super Game** on TV. Make your reservations now... it will sellout!



WE WANT YOU!

Gather your friends for a day of great food & fun. **Join Us on FEB 5th.**

Welcome Home All Returning Veterans...

Please visit our County Veterans Service Office FIRST!

Before you register with the VA

Get help & advise:

Go see our County

Veteran Service Office

FIRST - Learn about your

VA Benefits - then go to

the VA and Register.

**Flu Shots available
at the Martinez VA**

**Your New 2012
VA Calendar is
available at the
Martinez VA**



**Visit the Diablo Valley
Flag Brigade Website
to see Welcome Home
Event Upcoming Dates.**



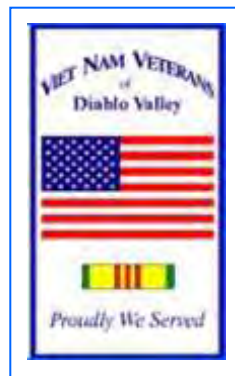
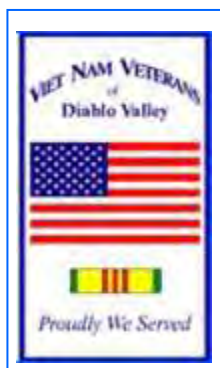
**Welcome Home Danville - After Christmas
attended by VNVDV Officers & many VSOs**



Thanks for Serving from the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley!

**The following pages contain
two "sample donation request letters"
members can use to obtain donations
for our 2012 Crab Feed Silent Auction & Raffle.**

**These two Official Donation Request
Letters are to be used by our members & supporters
ONLY to obtain merchant / business
donations for the next 30-days.**





January 2012

Dear Business Owner / Manager -

The **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley** (VNVDV) proudly announces their annual fund-raiser, and respectfully requests your support for this event. On **Sunday, February 5, 2012**, we will hold our annual Charity Crab Feed, at the Community Center Building, in Danville, CA.

The VNVDV are an independent, “grass-roots”, *non-profit, tax-exempt*, 501(c)(19), veteran’s organization, comprised primarily of Viet Nam combat veterans. We “***proudly continue to serve***” our community, through a variety of programs and events.

The money raised through our 2012 Crab Feed, supports our various veterans, serving military and community-related events and programs, throughout the year. These include:

- The East Bay Stand Down
- Memorial Day Program at Oak Hill Park
- Danville’s 4th of July Parade
- Danville Veteran’s Day Program
- The VNVDV School Speaker’s Bureau
- Operation Welcome Home
- New Veteran’s Memorial Building Program
- The Blue Star Moms
- The Sentinels of Freedom
- Diablo Valley Flag Brigade
- All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park
- The Wheelchair Foundation
- Operation Santa Claus
- The Holiday Toy Drive

We respectfully request your business support for this event, through a discount on goods purchased for this event, “monetary sponsorship”, ticket purchase, donated items, or gift cards /certificates for your goods and services. Your donated items will be used in our Silent Auction or Raffle held during the 2012 Crab Feed, to raise the necessary funds to continue these and many other worthwhile projects for our community.

For more information on the VNVDV, its programs, events, membership, our monthly newsletter, or how you can contribute to the Crab Feed, visit our website at www.VNVDV.com - or e-mail us at the address below.

We look forward to you joining us in support of the Crab Feed and are grateful for your generosity to our veterans, serving military, and community programs. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Slattengren - President

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

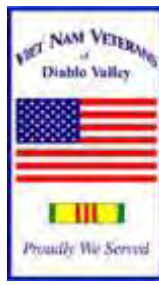
Telephone: **(925) 837-6238**

[Viet Nam Veteran of Diablo Valley](http://www.VNVDV.com)

P. O. BOX 2079 - DANVILLE, CA 94526 - 2079 - Public Rela. ons: 925 / 935-4859 - E-MAIL: VNVDV1@gmail.com - WEBSITE : www.VNVDV.com

[Veterans Memorial Building - 400 Hartz Avenue - Danville, CA 94526](http://www.VNVDV.com)

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley is a non-pro t veterans organiza on / corpora on (EIN 68-0266369) exempt from federal (IRC 501c) and state (RTC 23701w) income tax



January 2012

Dear Business Owner / Manager:

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley is a non-profit organization comprised mostly of combat veterans who proudly served our nation... and continue to serve our community providing a variety of programs to veterans - those less fortunate – school children and worthy local community projects. Your donation makes a difference... and our community is a better place due to your efforts – allowing us to assist others. We would appreciate your support for our February 6th Charity Fundraiser in Danville at the Community Center on Front Street, while our new Veterans Memorial Building is still under construction and scheduled for completion in Spring of 2012.

What we are looking for in the way of support is a donation from your business? This could be in the form of Gift Certificates – Gift Cards – Award Letters for Dinners, Tickets for Events, Golf Foursomes, Merchandise, Overnight Accommodations, Air Travel, Wine Set, Sports or Military memorabilia, a selection of your products, a “Gift Basket” assembled by your employees - any other unique or different items which you normally could not just go out and purchase. All donated items will be used in our *silent auction* to raise necessary funds to support the many community-based programs the [VNVDV](#) sponsors.

What is in it for you and your business -besides feeling good about helping others? Your charitable donation will be recognized during the event and we request you provide us with business cards or brochures regarding your business we would display next to your donation to advertise & promote your business or services. We announce sponsors by name at the event and we published all donations received prior to printing deadline in our event program. We publish a listing of all sponsors and donors in our monthly newsletter and advertise all on our website: www.VNVDV.com for the entire year – again promoting your firm. Since your donation is to a 501(c) non-profit organization, your business will also receive written confirmation of your charitable donation for tax purposes. Please “state the value” of your donation on the back of one of your business cards and attach / include with your donation which will also provide us with your business information & mailing address. The [VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley](#) respectfully request you as a business leader in our community... to help us... allowing us to help others – with a donation from your business.

How do we use your donations? This is important to share with you how the funds raised from your donation will help in supporting our broad community service... assisting veterans and military in need and our community projects. In addition – our **Speaker’s Bureau** has currently reached over 35,000 students in local schools and is recognized by our State Board of Education. We are the originators & first sponsors of the East Bay Stand Down program for homeless veterans – we originated and designed the All Wars Memorial in Oakhill Park - we sponsor & conduct the *Town of Danville’s* public Memorial Day program annually - and are one of the original supporters & mentors for the “**Sentinels of Freedom**” program helping the severely-wounded warriors currently returning to our community and work closely with the Blue Star Moms & other organizations on “Welcome Home” programs for those serving today - and we volunteer at many Wheelchair Foundation events. These are just a few examples of how we use Who and what is the VNVDV? We are independent, grass-roots, local, non-profit tax-exempt veteran’s organization – primarily VietNam “*combat veterans*”... We proudly served our nation – and “*continue to serve proudly*” in our community. We are all volunteers and a bay area “*grassroots*” - veteran’s organization and not affiliated with any *national veteran’s organization*. We receive no other funding – other than annual membership dues and funds from this annual fundraiser... so we are totally depend on local business and community support! We are a hard working – fun - social & civic minded group - using our funds wisely... and we are proud to say we are one of the most active veteran’s organizations in the East Bay! We are always looking for other VietNam veterans to “join us” as members. Our success is primarily due to businesses - such as yours – that have strongly supporting our efforts and our energetic members volunteering. We respectfully request your help for our Feb 2012 event - allowing us to continue our volunteer efforts.

Gift certificates and award letter may be sent to our official mailing address listed below on our letterhead, or if donating a gift basket or merchandise - one of our members can pick-up your donation at any time. Remember... we cannot continue our success in 2011 with programs and projects without the business community’s help! If you require additional information – visit our website or e-mail us at the address below. We look forward to your generous support for our upcoming 2012 [VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley](#) Charity Crab Feed Fundraiser on Sunday - FEB. 5th. *Please join us and support our troops!*

Sincerely...

C. John Estes

C. John Estes - Past President 2008 - 2009

Crab Feed Fundraiser Committee Chair

[VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley](#)

[Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley](#)

P. O. BOX 2079 - DANVILLE, CA 94526 - 2079 - Public Relations 925 / 935—4859 - E-MAIL: VNVDV1@gmail.com - WEBSITE : www.VNVDV.com

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley is a non-profit veterans organization / corporation (EIN 68-0266369) exempt from federal (IRC 501c) and state (RTC 23701w) income tax

HELP NOW

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



**Members & Supporters: We Need Your Donations
for our Sunday - FEB. 5th 2012 Crab Feed**

Contact any Board Member @ VNVDV1@gmail.com

Tickets are Now Sale at our Meetings. Official Donation Request Letters are available in this Newsletter.

**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 Your 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 to Renew**

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

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**See the New AD layout in the newsletter?
You Should Advertise your business in the INCOMING!
Current business card advertisers... Please renew
& update your ads for our 2012 editions with Treasurer.
Your Support is appreciated by our Members & Readers!**

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

Our new VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING "DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE"

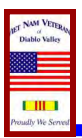


**BOARD MEETING - FIRST MONDAY - EVERY MONTH @ 1830
HAP MC GEE PARK - SWAIN HOUSE - DANVILLE - Please Attend!**

**The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Thank the Marine's Memorial Association
for their Support of our VNVDV Organization.
Visit their website for event information.**

**The VNVDV "Salutes" the Marine Corps League #942
for their Care Package Project to our Troops.**

**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 RETURNING VETERANS**



Thanks to our WebMaster CHELLE & LEE for their Support - www.VNVDV.com

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EBSD 2012 will be

September 13 - 16, 2012

Alameda County Fairgrounds

Plans are coming together...

Our First Public Meeting will be on

January 24, 2012 - 1800 Hrs. - 6PM

Alameda County Fairgrounds

Palm Center

4501 Pleasanton Ave.

Pleasanton, CA

Parking - Parking lot across from main entrance

All community organizations are encouraged to get involved in the planning of this major community-support event for homeless & displaced veterans.

Donations - Made payable to: Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation - EBSD

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

Chateau III

175 Cleveland Road

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

PH: 925 / 935 - 1001

Evangeline Jamisson

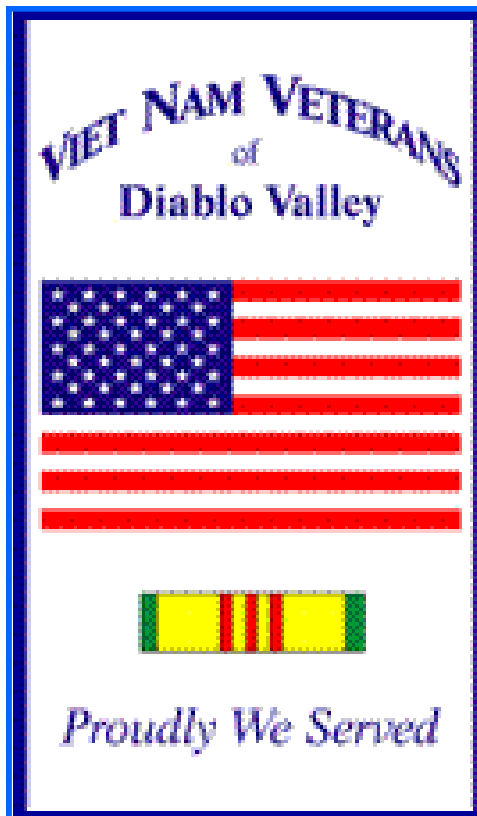
San Miguel Villa

1050 San Miguel Rd.

Concord, Ca. 94518

PH: 825-4280

When visiting please do not mention his former facility or "pool" or any problems - Be positive!



You can make one of our member's day a lot brighter with a visit or a phone call.

If you know of someone who cannot get out... let us know.

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Proudly Support all of 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 year-round needs: www.ccbluestarmoms.org

San Francisco East Bay BLUE STAR MOMS - Chapter 101

Check website for year-round needs: www.bluestarmoms.org

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



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

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

The VNVDV donated a new - state-of-the-art computer system & printer for the cataloging & retrieval of the new historical museum & library at our new Veterans Memorial Building.

Annual "CRAB FEED" - FEB. 5th
Get Your Tickets at our Meeting or Make Your Reservations Now!

Learn More about our organization
Attend one of our Board of Director Meetings
Crow Canyon Country Club

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

Involvement makes the difference! Your personal participation makes it all work in our community & our organization. We thank all those who are active - serve on committees & enjoy our many programs - projects & events we participate in throughout the Diablo Valley. We know... we cannot do it alone & thank the many wonderful organizations who partner & 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 others to be on the team. Together - we make a big difference... **Join us!** If you are a member - **join a committee** of interest & **get more involved** - you will enjoy it. Plus you will make new & lasting friendships! As any Board member! *We believe... you will be glad you did - it may change your life!* *Proud Veterans serving Veterans & our Community Proudly!*

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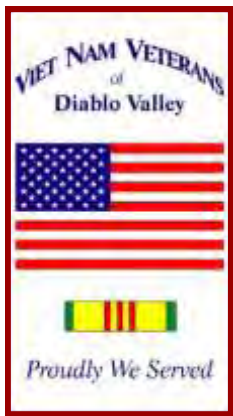
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February's Featured Guest Speaker

PHIL LANCASTER - President of the Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum Foundation

And for our February Meeting: Most of us know the story of the "Doolittle Raid". Four months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle and his squadron of 16 B-25 bombers, manned by all volunteers, took off, secretly, from the USS Hornet and bombed their targets of Tokyo, Kobe, Yokohama, Osaka, and Nagoya. Knowing they lacked enough fuel to reach a safe airbase, Doolittle and the majority of his men bailed out over China and were rescued by Chinese guerrilla fighters. All the planes were lost. While the "Doolittle Raid" did minor damage to the Japanese towns, this was seen as a major morale-building victory for the United States. The raid had shown the Japanese that their homeland was vulnerable to air attack, and forced them to re-direct a portion of their firepower to homeland defense, leading directly to the decisive American victory during the Battle of Midway. What you probably did not know: Doolittle was a local boy, having been born in Alameda, and attended UC Berkeley. He was a high speed test pilot. Most famous for his development of instrument flying. Realized that pilots had to be trained to "trust their instruments". Fought in Mexican Border Service, WWI, WWII Pacific, Mediterranean, and European Campaign as well as the Korean War. Had a long career with Shell Oil. Reached the rank of Four Star General. Died in 1993 at Pebble Beach, CA. These are just a few of the many fascinating facts and stories about Jimmy Doolittle. On February 2, 2012 join us for our monthly dinner meeting to hear Phil Lancaster, President of the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundation, being built right here in the Travis Air Force Base. The museum will tell not only the story of Doolittle, but California Military Aviation History.



Please Join Us each First Thursday at 1700!

You can Help Save \$\$\$ for the VNVDV
at all Dinners by Paying by CHECK -
Made 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 may also pay CASH or use a Major Credit Card...

Please note - the VNVDV is charged a percentage - "a processing fee" on all Credit Cards purchases.

Tax Time - Need Accounting Help?

CONTACT

Martin M. De Venuta

**Professional Income Tax Preparation
& Consulting**

PH: 925 / 229 - 4730

E: MDeVenuta@yahoo.com

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**Your Organization or Group
can Sponsor a Team of Walkers
in our 2012 Walk of Honor . . .**



**Join Us
on MAY 19th**

Honoring the Men and Women
who Served Our Nation



Gold Sponsor \$1000

15 complimentary participant packages
Company Logo on promotional materials



Silver Sponsor \$500

10 complimentary participant packages
Name on promotional materials



Bronze Sponsor \$250

5 complimentary participant packages
Name on promotional materials

**Sponsorship Includes -
"Participant - Walker
Team Packages"**

**Be a part of a very special local
community event in West Con-
tra Costa... join us on Armed
Forces Day - Saturday - May 19
in our 2012 "Walk of Honor" for
our Veterans. Fun for the Family**

Following the "Walk" across the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge, all registered participants are invited to gather together for a barbeque luncheon and celebration. Many local veteran service organizations will be on hand providing information regarding their services. There will also be a Huey helicopter for you to view and, other military artifacts on display.

We hope you will join with us in support of the men and women who have given so much to protect the freedom we all enjoy.

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

Sponsorship Opportunities

ConocoPhillips SFR Rodeo Refinery and Carbon Plant invites you to partner with us and become a corporate sponsor of

**Plan NOW to be a
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"Tribute"
Walker!**

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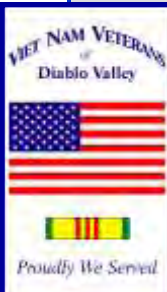
aimee.lohr@conocophillips.com

YOUR COMPANY CAN BE A SPONSOR

Contact "ConocoPhillips" NOW to be a "Walk of Honor" Sponsor this coming May.

Become a Sponsor of the 2012 Walk of Honor

The "Walk of Honor" benefits the Crockett Community Foundation enhancement of the Veteran's Memorial Building & aids the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley help fellow veterans in the East Bay.



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

Web: www.VNVDV.com

JAN 2012

Electronic Edition



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John Garfield Reese

EDITOR

Public Relations Director

WE ARE ON THE WEB

www.VNVDV.com



Proudly We Served

To:

VNVDV Members & VIPs

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 & 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. 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 "November Edition of INCOMING"