















MAY 2012



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

"Proudly We Served"

BREAKING NEWS... IT'S OPEN!!!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING?

SLATTENGREN

VNVDV President

MIKE



MAY Message from 2012 President Mike "Slatts" Slattengren

Welcome to this month of May's INCOMING. A couple of activities are coming up in this month of May.

JOIN US FOR OUR DINNER MEETING THURSDAY, MAY 3, 6:00 P.M. Crow Canyon Country Club

Depending on when this issue of the INCOMING is published, the grand opening of the San Ramon Valley Veterans Memorial Building (SRV VMB) in Danville will be coming soon or has just completed. Friday, Apr 27, the 4 Veteran organizations that will use the memorial building (VNVDV, VFW, AL and the Marine Corp League) along with the Blue Star Moms will have a flag raising at 5 pm. After the short flag raising ceremony the building will be open for the veterans to tour and admire. Then on Saturday (28th from 2 – 5 pm) the Town of Danville will have a ribbon cutting ceremony. This will be the official, open for the public event. Each of our members should have received an invitation to come.

Next, mark your calendar for the Walk Of Honor (WOH – recognizing veterans by walking across the Carquinez bridge) on Saturday May 19 in Crockett. This is an event generously sponsored by ConocoPhillips Oil Company to give back to their community. We have been a recipient of theirs for a few years. This year they have invited us again along with the Crockett Community Foundation to work with them in the planning and as mentioned, be a recipient from the donations raised through this WOH. This donation along with the crab feed/fund raiser gives us the financial resources which we use to aid veterans in need and other organizations (Blue Star Mom's for one) who support veterans and current military personnel. Mark your calendars. Reese will have info in this INCOMING on where to signup (\$25 donation gets you a T-shirt and lunch).

For Memorial Day, as in previous years, we will assist in the service at Oak Hill Park (next to Monte Vista High School) in Danville. The date will be Monday May 28th (10:30 - noon). We will need able bodied men to help set up cammo shade and chairs for this event. Again, more info forth coming on this in next month's INCOMING.

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

President's Message

Continued... from Page One -

The Danville 4th of July parade is another fulfilling activity. If you have not marched in a parade since you separated from the service, this is the place to be. We actually don't march; we walk along and hand out over 10,000 flags to the parade watchers so they can wave them patriotically to all the parade entries behind us. However, the recognition we receive from the parade watchers is thunderous. It is a welcome home we didn't receive 40 years ago.

East Bay Stand Down (EBSD) is conducting monthly meetings in preparation for the event in Sep. Consider volunteering to help in any capacity needed. This is a very rewarding activity that helps and assists our fellow veterans who don't quite have things as nice as we do. More info to come on this in the months to come.

Finally as I will mention each month, don't forget our Welcome Home's. If you are interested in participating in these, let John Reese know you want to be on his distribution list when we 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 both the returnees and to each of us.

I hope to see all of you all at our May dinner meeting on Thurs May 3, 2012 at the

> Crow Canyon Country Club 711 Silver Lake Drive Danville, CA 94526



Michael Slattengren

President 2012

PH: (925) 837-6238

E: President.VNVDV@Gmail.com



Note: New E-Mail

DO YOU SEE "YOU" IN HERE?



COMMUNITY HALL



VETERANS RESOURCE ROOM





At our February dinner meeting, Past President Jerry Yahiro provided an update on the plans developing for the VNVDV's return to VietNam in November of 2012. Working with the Wheelchair foundation's Joel Hodge who provides excellent program guidance and oversight on our last wheelchair distribution trip, again spoke to us about finding host organizations in country. Find out more about the Wheelchair Foundation and our planned distribution in VietNam.

Food - Friends - Fellowship - Fun

APRIL 27, 2012

A GREAT DAY IN HISTORY FOR THE VETERANS OF THE

SAN RAMON VALLEY









DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED





THE VETERA NS MEMORIA L BUILDING

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 3 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club MAY 7 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee Mtg.—Veterans memorial Building 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 Crockett – See Ad MAY 28 - Monday @ 1000 in Diablo Valley... Memorial Day - Oakhill Park - Danville... the annual remembrance for the east bay

JUN 7—Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club JUN 21—hursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Veterans Memorial Building, Danville*

JUL 04 - Wednesday in Danville... VNVDV participates in annual 4th of July Parade - through downtown Danville - distributing 12,000 flags

Note: We encourage you to attend many other meetings - events - information by fellow VSO & support organizations + our Operation Welcome Home events 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 - listed in this edition of the newsletter. Look for special feature "other organizations" - listing website for more information.

All "Operation Welcome Home" event updates can be found at: www.DiabloValleyFlagBrigade.com for upcoming events. Thanks. Visit our website to see more about the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley at: www.VNVDV.com

For information on All Wars Memorial and obtaining AWM Pavers at Oak Hill Park - visit: www.AllWarsMemorial.com

For details and information on our new Veterans Memorial Building visit: www.srvveteranshall.org







* The New Veteran's Memorial Building in Danville IS NOW OPEN. Please drop in to see your beautiful new building!



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







VNVDV Veterans Plan Return to VietNam in 2012



VNVDV Return to Vietnam, 2012

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 agencies throughout Vietnam.

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.

Have you signed up Yet?

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.

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, Quy Nhon, Hue, Ha Long Bay and Hanoi.

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.

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.

Please participate in our local "Wine for Wheels" events supporting the Wheelchair Foundation



Vietham Veterans of Diablo Valley Proudly Supports the Wheelchair Foundation Visit their website: www.wheelchairfoundation.org

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.

Calling all Rock n' Rollers, Come join

Wine for Wheels and The Diablo Valley Philanthropic Society

on May 18, 2012, starting at 6:30pm for their

"Rock n' Roll Bash"

at the Home of

Lynnette Fox-Rindner

Music by the Dead Posers Society

Catered by Fuddruckers... Micro brew by E J Phair, and guest winery to be announced!

Checks to be made out to the Wheelchair Foundation. A minimum \$35 dollar per person donation is requested online and \$40 at the door, but a \$75 or more dollar donation provides a wheelchair for a needy recipient and their family who will be most grateful.

We request you bring one bottle of nice wine per two people to share, or if you prefer, you can bring water or a nonalcoholic beverage. The main reason for this gathering is to have fun, to educate, and to help bring mobility, hope, and dignity to the physically disadvantaged of the world.

Sponsorships are available - Call or email Jeff Behring jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org
(925) 648-3829

If you are not able to attend the event, please consider a donating **an auction item** or donate monitarily to bring Hope, Mobility, and Freedom to those in *Fiji* who are in need of a wheelchair. To donate without tickets do so on the Wheelchair Foundation website or contact Jeff Behring & let him know the **VNVDV** sent you to their **"10th Annual Wheelchair Foundation Charity Ball.**

Sat. Feb. 25th - EVENT TICKETS:

General Admission - \$150 (\$75 tax deductible amount per ticket) **VIP Admission** - \$250 (\$175 tax deductible amount per ticket)

Admission - \$250 (\$175 tax deductible amount per ticket)

For concert only tickets (9:00pm admission) - \$25

[Please call Jeff Berhing at (925) 648-3829 or

email jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org **for concert only tickets**]

The VNVDV encourages you to give the FREEDOM of mobility!

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





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 bome and you would like to surprise them with one of these heart-warming Welcome Home ceremonies, please contact Bryan Welden of the Diablo Valley Fing Brigade at 925-212-9260 or to see pictures of past Welcome Home ceremonles or to be added to our E-mail list, go to:

www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com

www.warriorswatch.org 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.

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. Attending & thank each returning veterans for serving. Help these other great organizations in providing the proper Welcome Home. Each returning service member is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the SRV Veterans.

Vist 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 Sale

Many THANKS to all of our BLUE STAR MOMS!

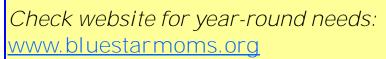
the VNVDV ask all members & organizations to... Visit their Websites often & Support their efforts!



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







Website: www.VentureResearch.biz
"Experience the Quality Difference... over 30 years
serving California and beyond with Excellence"



Bill LaVigne

President & CEO

Cell: (510) 368-4441
Toll Free: (866) 369-4446
Office: (877) 668-3677
(877) MOVE: 677
Fax: (707) 644-2294
movinginc@sbcglobal.net

55 Springstowne Ctr. 4301 - Vallejo CA 94591



Special Thanks
to Rotary Club
INTERACT
Students for being volunteer
servers at the
2012 event

THANK YOU to Event Supporters:

Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary
Wheelchair Foundation
Blackhawk Chorus Members
Blue Star Moms
Sentinels of Freedom
for purchasing tickets to attend!

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





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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our new VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING BOARD MEETING

FIRST MONDAY - EVERY MONTH @ 1830

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING - BOARD ROOM (1st Floor)



PH: 925 / 935 - 4294 E: HReese@sbcglobal.net

"Experience the Quality Difference... over 25 years serving California and beyond with Excellence"



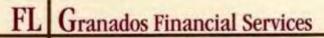
Bill LaVigne President & CEO

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Frederick L. Granados, FSS, LUTCF Financial Advisor

P.O. Box 30961 Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (925) 930-6732 flgranados@yahoo.com CA Lic. #0770492

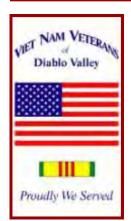
Group Medical Estate Planning Financial Planning



Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony







Please Join Us each First Thursday at 1700!

You can Help Save \$\$\$ (processing fees) 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 are also welcome to pay by CASH or use a Major Credit Card....

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





Involvement makes the difference! We need your personal participation... it makes it all work in our community & in our organization. We thank all those who are serving & active. Join a committees & enjoy our many programs - projects & events 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. Working Together - we make a big difference! If you are a member - join a committee of interest & get more involved - spend only what time you want & you will enjoy it... plus you will make new & lasting friendships! We believe... you will be glad you did - it may change your life! Proud Veterans serving other Veterans & those who now currently serve our nation in uniform & we continue to serve our community Proudly!

Learn More about our organization... Ask one of our Board of Director Members at our Crow Canyon Country Club Meetings!

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





tham Veterans irector of

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" exsist & our Board is looking for interested members.

Our 2012 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...Think about it.

The **Director of Information** is another great position on our Board. It is currently being covered by our Director of Public Relations - John Reese who will continue to work with & assist any new Director in any transfer of knowledge regarding any position while he serves as our PR. Something new... the 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 & play a key role in the publication & distribution of our monthly news - the "Incoming" which is shared with all members & on our website. Linda's support greatly assist our organization & this position. Information Director is responsible gathering information from emails & 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 - just ask & plan on attending our monthly Board Meetings the 3rd Thursday at Crow Canyon Country Club @ 1800. Any member can attend a Board Meeting. If you want more details about either of these great service positions... please contact **President Mike Slattengren** or Nomination Committee Chair - **Del Loewe** for details what is involved in these two positions. Being our the VNVDV Board of Directors is a great way to volunteer in a meaningful & key manner while supporting our organizational goals. 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 knowing more. You will be glad you did! Help us pass the word & consider recommending serving to other VNVDV members if you know they have time & talent. Our new Veterans Memorial Building opens soon & we need to fill these two positions as quickly as possible to share the workload evenly among our Directors. We appreciate you taking the time to consider these positions. Thanks. Your Organization of Walkers

Your Organization of Walkers

Team of Walkers

Can Sponsor a Team Honor . . . in our 2012 Walk of Honor



Armed Forces Day

Sponsorship Includes -"Participant - Walker Team Packages" REGISTER ON-LINE

2012

ConocoPhillips "WALK of HONOR" SAT, MAY 19th - 8AM Special Veteran Benefit Information Available Before - During - After + Custom Ball Caps Available!

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.



Join Us

n MAY 19th

Honoring the Men and Women who Served Our Nation

Be a part of a very special local community event in West Con-

tra Costa... join us Armed Forces Day - Saturday - May 19 in our 2012 "Walk of Honor" for our Veterans. Fun for the Fam-

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 Walk "In Honor" of a Veteran freedom we all enjoy.

Your grandfather - brother - sister father - son

WALK OF HONOR



Sponsorship Opportunities

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

REGISTER NOW on-line to be a 2012 Participant and walk in honor of Your Veteran at the 2012 WALK of HONOR

http://sfrwalkofhonor.com/

Phone: 510-245-5130 Fax: 510-245-4617

Email:

aimee.lohr@conocophillips.com

YOUR COMPANY CAN BE A SPONSOR

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

Step-Out... Be a Sponsor in the 2012 "Walk of Honor"

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

LINDA SCHARDT - Coordinator

"INCOMING" NEWS

John Garfield Reese

EDITOR

Public Relations Director

President—

Prinally We Served

Michael Slattengren

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Procurement -

Gene Ghio

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Mike Weber
Mike McDaniel
Rich Lambert
Ron Azarcon
Bill Picton
Norm Mahalich







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

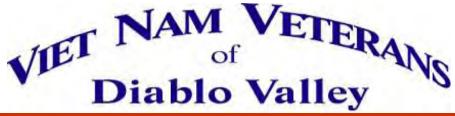
Thursday of each month also at Crow Canyon country Club. To find out more about programs we support... visit our website at www.VNVDV.com. All veterans are welcome to attend our membership meetings. We are a casual - fun - social veterans group - always looking for new members who enjoy friendship & 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.

WE ARE ON THE WEB





OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!



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
"MARCH 2012 Edition of INCOMING"