



INCOMING NEWS



**March
2012**



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
"Proudly We Served"

ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor"
Armed Forces Day - May 19th
Register to Participate On-line Now!

"Salute To VietNam Veterans"
Marines Memorial Association

**MIKE
SLATTENGREN
VNVDV President**

**We encourage all
Supporters &
Members to
Register NOW
for the
ConocoPhillips
"Walk of Honor"
on-line**

**Scheduled on
Armed Forces
Day - May 19th in
Crockett**

**Walk in Honor
of Your Veteran
or Military Unit**



**East
Bay
Stand
Down -
Sept
2012
Join Us**

March Message from 2012 President
Mike "Slatts" Slattengren

Our thoughts and prayers are with our fellow member Nathan Greene and his family after his wife Ellen, unexpectedly passed away earlier in the month of Feb. She was buried at the Veteran's cemetery in the San Joaquin Valley and a memorial service was held on Sat. the 18th. A number of members were there in support of Nathan and his family. Member Steve Mazaika is recovering from surgery & we send him our best.

We started the month of Feb with our annual crab feed/fund raiser on Sunday the 5th. It was a sell-out crowd of 160 guests and a large choice of silent auction items. I want to thank all those who planned and helped out on that day. The appetizers, raffle items, kitchen team, setup & teardown group, bar and front office (Marty and his workers) all put in *herculean efforts* to see the day be a successful one. We believe this was our biggest crab feed/fund raiser to date. Again this year we had 4 beautiful **Oakland Raiderettes** who assisted in the sale of raffle tickets along with Patti, Lori, Lindsey and others who assisted. The Blue Star Moms added to the delicious food by bringing such great dessert items. It was a tough day to be on a diet. Thanks to our donors and many supporters for making this year a success.

Mark your calendar for the **ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor"** on **Saturday - May 19** in Crockett, it's **Armed Forces Day**. This is an event generously sponsored by **ConocoPhillips** & their San Francisco Refinery - to give back to their community. We have been honored to be a partner and recipient of this "Walk" for a few years.

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

**VietNam 2012 Return Trip to
Distribute Wheelchairs &
provide Freedom of Mobility
Planned for NOV. 2012**



**Super Sunday Charity Crab
Feed Fund Raiser A Success**

APPROVED

**Danville
Fallen Soldier
Memorial**

www.godspeedchachi.com



President's March Message

Continued... from Page One -

Again this year our "Walk" partner is the *Crockett Community Services Group* teaming up and working with them in the planning along with the outstanding team of employees from **ConocoPhillips**. The generous funds donated from this "Walk" gives us the financial resources which we need to continue our community efforts to aid veterans in need and other projects & programs which support veterans and current military personnel. **So again mark your calendars & You can register NOW on-line to participate** - walk and enjoy a lunch of great BBQ food and visiting with others.

East Bay Stand Down "EBSD" is conducting planning meetings monthly on the third Tuesday. See the website for location changes. Plan now to set aside a few days in Sept of this year to come volunteer and help out at the **2012** stand down. This is a very rewarding activity that helps and assists our fellow veterans who don't quite have things as nice as we do, and need a *helping hand up!* Watch the **EBSD** website, and attend the planning meetings for more information.

The **Wheelchair Foundation's Wine for Wheels** fund raiser continues to raise money to fill another container of wheelchairs that a group of members will be taking to Viet Nam to distribute later this year in Nov. Past President Jerry Yahiro will be the speaker at our March monthly meeting, sharing the previous visit he and nine other members participated in a few years ago. He will be sharing the draft itinerary for this year's trip along with asking for those who want to go to put a down payment/commitment for the trip in Nov.

Memorial Day is also approaching and as in previous years we will assist in the service at Oak Hill Park (next to Monte Vista High School) in Danville. Again, more info forth coming on this in the coming newsletters.

Finally, don't forget our **Operation Welcome Home** events. We've had a couple this past weekend. As mentioned before, if you are interested in participating in these, check the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** website *often* - for the upcoming schedule 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.

Check the **calendar of events**... and I hope to see all of you all at our March dinner meeting this Thursday - March 1, 2012 at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon.

Thanks for your support...

Michael Slattengren

Michael Slattengren

President 2012

PH: (925) 837-6238

E: President.VNVDV@gmail.com



Note: New E-Mail

Nathan Johnson Selected as our new Contra Costa County Veterans Service Officer

Eight years of service in our local Concord VET Center working with returning veterans - Nathan Johnson gets the nod to begin the process of continuing the legacy of service to our veterans.

**The VietNam Veterans of
Diablo Valley
Congratulate Nathan Johnson
on his new VSO appointment
& wish him the
greatest success!**

How does Your County Veterans Affairs Staff in Martinez Work for You?

The County Veterans Service Representatives (VSR's) are thoroughly trained and accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to represent you. Contra Costa County Veterans Service office are not employees of the federal government. They are county employees ready to assist you with any veterans claim. Stop in the Martinez VSO office for a "benefit check-up" it's easy. If not for yourself,, do it for your family. Now is the time to be sure your records are in order... Not when you are ill or in poor health. It is simple & it is Free - for all veterans and their family members... Stop in the VSO in Martinez - Monday thru Friday. It is the best visit you can make for your family. Remember... Every time you see someone in uniform or a veteran... please remember to thank them for their service! *Freedom is not Free!*

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAR 1 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
MAR 5 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee Mtg. - Hap McGee Ranch Park - Swain House
MAR 16 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
MAR 20 - Tuesday @ 1100 in Rodeo... ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor" Planning Meetings at the ConocoPhillips SF Refinery for Volunteers
MAR 20 - Tuesday @ 1800 in a location to be announced... East Bay Stand Down Info & Planning Meeting for the Public - Volunteers

APR 2 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee Mtg. - Hap McGee Ranch Park - Swain House
APR 5 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
APR 17 - Tuesday @ 1100 in Rodeo... ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor" Planning Meetings at the ConocoPhillips SF Refinery for Volunteers
APR 17 - Tuesday @ 1800 in a location to be announced... East Bay Stand Down Info & Planning Meeting for the Public - Volunteers
APR 19 - 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 - *details when available!*

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. - Hap McGee Ranch Park - Swain House
MAY 15 - Tuesday @ 1100 in Rodeo... ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor" FINAL Planning Meetings at the ConocoPhillips SF Refinery
MAY 15 - Tuesday @ 1800 in a location to be announced... East Bay Stand Down Info & Planning Meeting for the Public - Volunteers
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*

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

*Note: Many other meetings - events sponsored by VSO & support organizations + our **Operation Welcome Home** events we encourage you to attend. Watch for **FLASH** & other announcements & only wish we had the space to list everyone's events or programs. Please check specific websites of all our partnering & supporting organizations for details on their upcoming events - **listed in this edition of the newsletter. Look for special features from "other organizations"** - check their website for information.*

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES:

All "**Operation Welcome Home**" event updates can be found at: www.DiabloValleyFlagBrigade.com for upcoming events. Thanks.

Visit our own VNVDV 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

East Bay Stand Down monthly meetings - **Third Tuesday** - visit: www.EastBayStandDown.org for location of monthly meeting

Marines Memorial Association / Hotel / Club in SF - Visit their website at: www.MarineClub.com

Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels - Support our **Return to VietNam 2012** - Visit www.WineforWheels.org & see VNVDV

Register for the 2012 **ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor"** now - on-line at: <http://SFRWalkofHonor.com>

See other websites listed inside this edition of the INCOMING News

For details and information on our **new Veterans Memorial Building** visit: www.srvVeteransHall.org You can make a "**pledge**" over a **three to five year period... and YOU can "make a difference in the future"**



THANK YOU

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR CRAB
FEED EVENT DONORS & SPONSORS OF
OUR MILITARY & SENTINEL ATTENDEES**

**Our New Veterans Memorial Building is a
Tribute to our Troops Now Serving & to
Remember our Fallen & Honor All Veterans.**



Our new VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING "DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE"

BOARD MEETING - FIRST MONDAY - EVERY MONTH @ 1830

HAP MC GEE PARK - SWAIN HOUSE - DANVILLE - *Please Attend!*





MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB & HOTEL
UNION SQUARE • SAN FRANCISCO • WWW.MARINECLUB.COM

"Salute To VietNam Veterans"

Register Now and Join Us for Our Salute to Viet Nam Veterans

The **Marines Memorial Association – Hotel & Club** in partnership with the Association of the United States Army (San Francisco Chapter), on Thursday March 8th - 6PM presents a

"Salute to VietNam Veterans" this very special evening will include... a grand reception – dinner – musical entertainment and featured guest speakers –

General Tony Zinni, USMC (Ret.) and **Joe Galloway** - author of **"We Were Soldiers Once... and Young"** *Don't miss this great evening honoring VietNam Vets!*

Tickets - \$75.00 per person for Club Members & Guests - for an outstanding evening!

You may Register Now On-line ... or Call: 415 / 673 – 6672 x 229

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley proud supporters of the

Marines' Memorial Association

609 SUTTER STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-1027 • UNITED STATES
TELEPHONE: (415) 673-6672 • FAX: 441-3649

Our Charity Crab Feed Fund Raiser on Super Sunday was a Huge Success. We Thank all of our Donors & Sponsors and Thanks to our Members & Guests for their Support

THANK YOU

A BIG Thanks to the...

OAKLAND RAIDERETTES

for 8 continuous years of "Super Sunday Support" to our Troops who Proudly Serve & to the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR CRAB FEED EVENT DONORS & SPONSORS OF OUR MILITARY & SENTINEL ATTENDEES



We Could Use Your Talents...

Two great positions as a "Director" exist on our Board... We're looking for interested members.

Do you want your retirement free time to Make a Difference?

Leave Something You - the Community & VNVDV

are Proud to have your involvement...

Volunteer for community service?

Members Interested in the Shaping our 2012 Programs & Events...

Join our Board of Directors!

*Involvement makes the difference! We need your talent & skills in a positive & active role... Your 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!*

Director of Events

&

Director of Information

Opportunities Available... Join Our Team of Officers & Directors

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 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 - 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.**

Wheelchair Foundation's VNVDV "Return to VietNam 2012"

SPRING 2007
Changing
THE WORLD



**JOIN US... SEE
HOW IN ARTICLE**

healing the past
IN VIETNAM

Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley, California return to Vietnam

Wheelchair Foundation's VNVDV "Return to VietNam 2012"

The Wheelchair Foundation's VNVDV VietNam Revisit - November 2012

Plans for the VNVDV's 2012 return trip to Vietnam will be shared and discussed at our March 1st dinner meeting. A 25 minute video, documenting our 2006 trip, produced by Charter Member, Dennis Marguet, will be shown during our meeting, in lieu of a guest speaker.

The group will depart from San Francisco for Vietnam on November 3rd or 4th, 2012 and depart Hanoi, Vietnam, November 18, 2012, arriving back at San Francisco, November 19th or 20th. Departure time and return time will be dictated by the airline schedule. **It is critical, for the continued planning of this trip that we know the number of VNVDV members and their traveling companions, that intend to join us**

A video of our 2006 wheelchair distribution trip will be shown, during our dinner.

As in our previous trip, we intend to travel with the **Wheelchair Foundation** and distribute wheelchairs throughout Vietnam. The trip will be approximately \$3,000 to \$3,500. This includes air-fare, hotel accommodations, some/all meals and in-country transportation. This cost does not include any side trips that individuals may wish to make on their own.

Current plans include Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Can Tho (Mekong Delta), Da Nang, Hue, Ha Long Bay, and Hanoi. Side trips may be planned from these locations. More information on arranging side trips will follow, once travelers are identified and your intentions are known.

Interested VNVDV travelers are asked to make an initial deposit of \$1,000. *per individual.*
Checks only, please. Make checks out to **VNVDV**, note, for Vietnam trip and mail to P.O. Box 2079, Danville, CA 94526. **Once again, we are making this request - to aid the WCF and to finalize our plans for this trip.** Additional trip details will be forthcoming, as we begin to receive reservation commitments and the itinerary is finalized.

Members... Join us on this memorable and at times emotional trip, to see the country that we fought for and meet the people we fought against.

If you are unable to attend the March meeting and would like additional information, & think you want to join the group for this amazing **Wheelchair Foundation VNVDV's "Return to VietNam 2012" distribution trip** - Please contact VNVDV Past President **Richard Lambert** at **925/938-1767** or e-mail *Rich* at: (**RLAMBERT@RITCHIECOMMERCIAL.COM**) or Past President **Jerry Yahiro** at: **925 / 743-8850** or email at: **Jyahiro@aol.com**. *Thank You.*





Wheelchairs for VietNam... the 2012 Return March



Past President Jerry Yahiro working with Past President Rich Lambert and Past President Mike Weber have been meeting with the Wheelchair Foundation to plan our Return to VietNam 2012. In March at our monthly dinner—members and guests will be provided an overview of our first wheelchair distribution trip in 2006. In addition Jerry and others will provide 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 provide excellent program guidance and oversight on our 2006 wheelchair distribution trip is again working with us in finding host organizations in country. Find out more about the Wheelchair Foundation and our planned distribution in VietNam. Join us on our trip to Viet Nam to distribute wheelchairs and give the Freedom of Mobility to those in need—Nov. 2012. *Contact Rich or Jerry for details*

Featured Speaker

Jerry Yahiro

DENNIS MARGUET who traveled to VietNam in 2006 to distribute wheelchair has produced his VNVDV video of our trip. This great video will be featured at our March meeting giving you a great idea of our trip.

Don't miss this outstanding video!





Operation Welcome Home

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

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**.

Visit the Website & Please Join Us!

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE AT A WELCOME HOME EVENT?

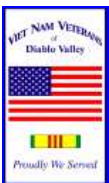
It is easier than you might think...

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



Visit the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** website to see our local schedule for returning service members... and view the video slide show for recent Welcome Home events conducted in the **Diablo Valley**.

We join in conducting 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

Have You attended a Welcome Home?

WITH a rumbling roar, 30 motorcycles ridden by tough, hard-bitten bikers pull up to an airport curbside with lights flashing and flags rippling in the breeze to greet an unsuspecting soldier returning from Iraq or Afghanistan.

"Welcome home, brother!" bellows Fred "Spike" Schau, cheering and waving the Stars and Stripes. "We want you to know we appreciate what you've done."

The raucous scene has been repeated hundreds of times in the last two years by the Oakland-based bikers group Warriors' Watch. Founded by Schau, an active Navy reservist with 18 years' service, the organization is dedicated to making sure that Iraq and Afghanistan vets get a happier welcome home than their Vietnam counterparts.

"During Vietnam, our soldiers came home to protests - some were even spit on," Schau told *The ENQUIRER*. "We learned a hard lesson. These vets are our children, our neighbors, our brothers and sisters, who are doing their duty for America. We need to let them know that they are loved and their mission is appreciated.

"That's why we ride."

And ride they do - over 300 bikers

It makes it all worthwhile to see the smiles on their faces!



Warriors' Watch and friends pose with a vet

Combat vets GET ROARING WELCOME HOME

Warriors' Watch motorcycle 'gang' SURPRISES SOLDIERS



Spike (on right) with a serviceman

from Warriors' Watch have provided more than 700 escort rides to soldiers returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. They coordinate with families and meet the surprised warriors at airports or restaurants, providing a "rolling thunder" accompaniment to their triumphant return home.

WARRIORS' WATCH HELPS ORGANIZE gala receptions, often featuring local politicians, police and firefighters - all there to greet and applaud military heroes who have served their country.

Sadly, they also perform another duty - escorting the hearses of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Sometimes they function as pallbearers and have even provided send-off rifle volleys.

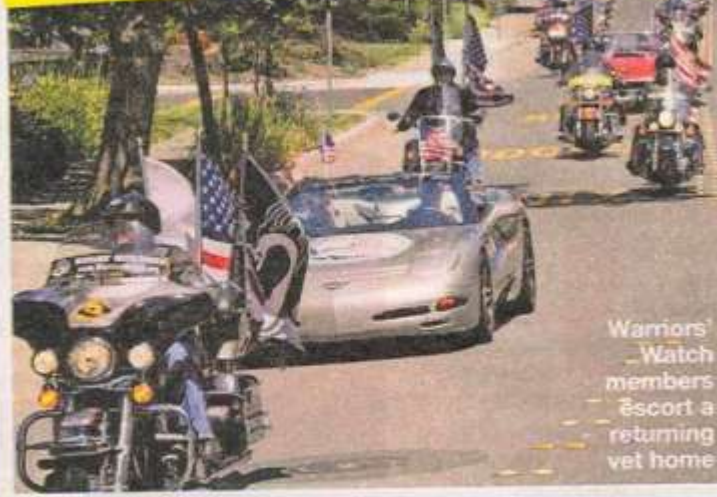
"These men have given everything they have to our country," explained Schau. "It's up to us to make sure they

know that their sacrifices will never be forgotten."

Schau, who's been named Veteran of the Year for his district, has racked up more than 120,000 miles on his Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Classic motorcycle in service to veterans. When he's not riding, he saddles up to his computer to maintain the organization's website - www.warriorwatch.org - keeping track of members in 38 states.

The group, which accepts no donations, makes 15 to 20 trips per month, and not all are on motorcycles. Scooters, three-wheelers and cars have also joined the cavalcade.

"It's really a sight to see when we welcome a vet home," Schau, 52, told *The ENQUIRER*. "It makes it all worthwhile to see the smiles on their faces. They know we love and honor them - that's what counts."



Warriors' Watch members escort a returning vet home



EXCLUSIVE

Young Returning Veteran is Grateful for Local Programs

San Ramon Valley - February 22, 2012 - US Army Sgt Teresa Somoza was recently honored with a Welcome Home Celebration by her appreciative San Ramon Valley neighbors. She came home on leave to Alamo after serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan. That was her second deployment to Afghanistan, following a tour in Iraq!

Teresa has had experiences that many of us cannot even imagine. She deserves the best when she returns to her hometown.

Many new programs are envisioned at the renovated and expanded Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley! Some of the line up to support our local population of younger Veterans include: State Employment Development Department Outreach; Family Outreach Services; Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Counseling; plus Support Groups for Employment Assistance, Current Veterans Issues, and Social Interaction.



*This flagpole can be named for your family or company for posterity!
You can check srvVeteransHall.org or call (925) 362-9806.*

"I appreciate that these opportunities will be available right in our Valley. Returning to civilian life can be a huge adjustment for many, and it will be great to have these resources," said Teresa. "Thank you to our community for providing a place for Veterans of all ages."

Now help is needed to complete this exciting project for Veterans, for our seniors, for non-profit groups, businesses, those wishing to have party or wedding, and generations of our neighbors. You can make a donation and/or learn more about this building at srvVeteransHall.org or call the Veterans office at (925) 362-9806.

Become a Veterans Memorial Building Donor... Make Your Pledge Today!

Individual Pledges can be made - payable over a 3 year period...
to have your name / family Honored & Remembered forever
on the permanent donor recognition wall in the new Veterans Memorial Building

For less than \$1.40 a day (less than \$42. month)... YOU can be a "LEGACY" donor at \$1500. - Join Us

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

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

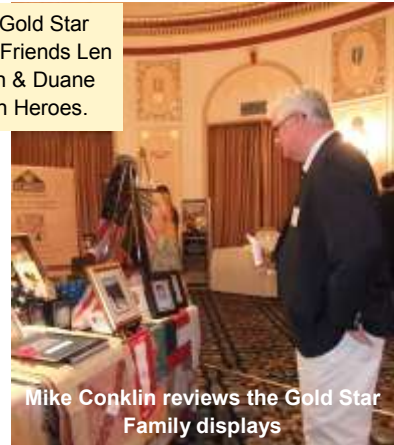
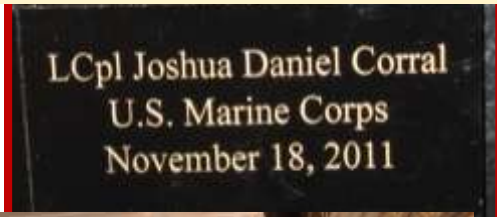
Their hearts are on the line... with sons & daughters serving!



Thank You to the Blue Star Moms for Sponsoring the Gold Star Families - Hosted by the Marines Memorial Association Club



L.Cpl. Josh Corral, USMC is remembered & honored shown in the recent Gold Star Family event held by the *Blue Star Moms* in S.F. at the Marines Memorial. Friends Len Hack & Chuck Baumann joined *Diablo Valley Flag Brigade's* Bryan Welden & Duane Ferrell, and VNVDV's John Reese at the event to Honor California's Fallen Heroes.



Mike Conklin reviews the Gold Star Family displays



Nancy Totman - Coordinated this event. Nathan Johnson.in the background.

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Helen S. Reese
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Website: www.VentureResearch.biz

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President & CEO

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(877) MOVE-677
Fax: (707) 644-2294
movinginc@sbcglobal.net

55 Springtowne Ctr. #301 - Vallejo, CA 94591

The Journey of a VNVDV Challenge Coin...

A note from a dedicated "Walk of Honor" volunteer.

Just a quick note to thank you... Jerry

I know you're probably shaking your head wondering why I'm saying thanks, so I'll tell you!

I went to a funeral for a guy I've known since high school, his name was John Griffin, he was a neat man who along with his wife supported the "Walk" every year. Even last year, he managed to make it half-way across the bridge, I was proud of him, but was prouder still that he was such a good and decent man who served in the Army from 1969 to 1972 in Vietnam.

As I was getting dressed this morning, I grabbed my ring and watch and the "Challenge Coin" you presented us, as I have everyday since you gave it to me. When I got to the cemetery this morning and went up to say goodbye, I thought about the coin in my pocket and went to find John's wife. I showed her the coin and asked if I could give it to John, she said of course, so off I went again to say goodbye to John.

I placed the coin in John's hand as best I could, smiled and told him it was his now because he might need it and walked away happy in the knowledge the coin was in the hands of a man who earned it and deserved it much more than I.

So thank you Jerry, for giving me a gift that I was able to pass on to my friend John, I know the next time I see him... it'll be his turn to buy!

Jan

Oh... FYI - John was buried in his favorite 501's, a tidy whitey tee shirt, a "Walk of Honor" tee shirt, his favorite Pendleton and one of his favorite jackets! I tiered up when I heard about the shirt, but that was John.

Jan Hogue

Contract Secretary

ConocoPhillips Rodeo Carbon Plant

©

Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely

in a well preserved state, but rather to skid in

sideways, totally worn-out shouting,

"Holy Cow, what a ride!"

Editor's Note:

Past President Jerry Yahiro presented the VNVDV's *Presidents Challenge Coin* to each of the full-time members of the **ConocoPhillips Walk of Honor** planning team... telling them the history behind a challenge coin. Jan - one of the team members... re-presented her coin to a VietNam Vet as you noted in this letter to Jerry! *jgr*

ConocoPhillips "Walk of Honor"

Register to Participate On-line Now!

Visit: <http://sfrwalkofhonor.com> to register.

All Wars Memorial Pavers

Reserve Yours now in time for Memorial Day

An "AWM Paver Engraving"

is planned prior to Memorial Day

Visit: www.AllWarsMemorial.org
for a Paver donation form.



THANK YOU to Crab Feed Supporters:

Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary

Wheelchair Foundation

Blackhawk Chorus Members

Blue Star Moms

Sentinels of Freedom

for your ongoing support of VNVDV.

**Special Thanks
to Rotary Club
INTERACT
Students for be-
ing volunteer
servers at the
2012 event**

*Many THANKS to the very generous Donors & Sponsors of our
2012 Super Sunday Charity Crab Feed Fund Raiser!*

**Dues notices for 2012 ANNUAL Members
are coming your way & your Membership is
Very Important to Us & Every Member
Makes a Difference! We Appreciate Your Support!
Please Renew for 2012... Thanks!**

Contact VNVDV Treasurer Marty De Venuta to *Renew at* - 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



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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 update your ads for our 2012 editions with Treasurer Marty. Your Support is appreciated by our Members & Readers!

Business Card Rates: \$50. YR. - members - \$100. YR. - non-member/commercial - ADS run one-year: Jan-Dec in the Incoming and is also shown on-line at our website: www.VNVDV.com

Free Tax Help for Military Personnel & their Families

Free tax return preparation assistance is available for eligible military members and their spouses. The IRS and U.S. Armed Forces participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which provides free tax advice, tax preparation, return filing and other tax assistance to military members and their families.

Here are five things you need to know about free military tax assistance:

- 1. Armed Forces Tax Council** The Armed Forces Tax Council oversees the operation of the military tax programs worldwide, conducting outreach with the IRS to military personnel and their families. The AFTC consists of tax program coordinators for the Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard.
- 2. Volunteer tax sites** Volunteer assistants at military-based VITA sites are trained to address military-specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the Earned Income Tax Credit guidelines.
- 3. What to bring** To receive free tax assistance, bring the following records to your military VITA site:
 - Valid photo identification
 - Social Security cards for you, your spouse & dependents or a Social Security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration.
 - Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents
 - Wage and earning statement(s) like Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R
 - Interest and dividend statements (Forms 1099)
 - A copy of last year's federal and state tax returns, if available
 - Checkbook for routing and account numbers for direct deposit
 - Total amount paid for day care and day care provider's identifying number
 - Other relevant information about income and expenses
- 4. Joint returns** If your filing status is Married Filing Jointly and you wish to file your tax return electronically, both you and your spouse should be present to sign the required forms. If it isn't possible for both of you to be present, a valid power of attorney that allows tax preparation can be used to sign and file the return.
- 5. Special exception** There is a special exception to using a power of attorney for spouses in combat zones. The exception allows the filing spouse to e-file a joint return with only a written statement stating the other spouse is in a combat zone and unable to sign.

For more information, review IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide, available on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or order a free copy by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Link:

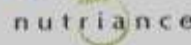
Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide (PDF 1010.5K)

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Pleasanton Military Families Announces Pack-Outs Dates for the Year

Pleasanton Military Families plans for 2012

PREPACK- MARCH 16TH, FRI DAY, 4PM

PACK OUT- MARCH 17TH, SATURDAY, 2PM

PREPACK- JUNE 8TH, FRI DAY, 4PM

PACK OUT- JUNE 9TH, SATURDAY, 2PM

PREPACK- NOVEMBER 16TH, FRI DAY, 4PM

PACK OUT- NOVEMBER 17TH, SATURDAY, 2PM

Please visit their website for further informa. on on the
Pleasanton Military Families & their Support of our troops

MSgt. Ford Jacob, USMC to Retire aboard the USS Missouri

MSgt. FORD JACOBS, USMC - son-in-law of VNVDV Past President Del Loewe will Retire soon with 20 years in the U. S. Marine Corps. Ford shared his announcement with the VNVDV - a planned retirement will be held on Friday 29 June 2012 aboard the **USS Missouri** at 1000 on **Ford Island, Oahu Hawaii.**

Many members attended a very special Welcome Home event for Ford after his return from duty in Afghanistan. The VNVDV Congratulates Ford - wishing him continued success in his new career., and Thank You for Serving - We are Proud of You.

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.

FOR SALE: 1974 1/2 MGB Roadster



E-Mail John
at: JGreeseUSN@sbcglobal.net & request details

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ConocoPhillips

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

Register NOW On-line

**Armed
Forces
Day
2012**

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

**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
on 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 For-
ces 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.

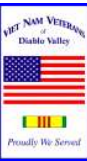
We hope you will join with us in support of the men and women who have given so much to protect the freedom we all enjoy.

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

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"**

**WALK OF HONOR
FOR OUR
VETERANS**



**WALK OF HONOR
FOR OUR
VETERANS**

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/>

Register NOW On-line

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

amee.loni

Tours aboard the Battleship USS IOWA BB-61



We wanted to let your group know that **Battleship USS IOWA** is open for tours on the weekends for a brief period of time at Pier 3 at the Port of Richmond before our departure to Los Angeles.

Pacific Battleship Center, the non-profit organization that is bringing **USS IOWA** back to life is hosting the "Battleship Expo at the Port of Richmond." The "expo" includes a visit on board **USS IOWA** and access to exhibits that include a short film on the battleship, 16" shells, a Sheridan tank & half-track displayed by the **Military Vehicle Foundation**, the Blue Angels F-4 Phantom flight simulator from Pacific Coast Air Museum, and numerous other exhibits. The "Battleship Expo" entrance donation is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child 12 years or older, and children 11 & under are free.

Currently the forward portion of the main deck with a view of turrets 1 & 2 is open to guests. As work is completed, additional exhibits and areas on the battleship may be open to the public for visitation. It is encouraged to return to see the progress.

Reservations are not required. **USS IOWA** is located at Terminal 3 - 1411 Harbour Way - Richmond CA. The "Battleship Expo" can be accessed via the northeast gate on Saturdays and Sundays during the hours of 10am to 4pm.

Information -

Contact: Tour Manager USS IOWA BB-61 - Pacific Battleship Center
PH: 877 / 446-9261 Ext. 713 or E-mail: dway@LABattleship.com

VNVDV Helps Support the 2012 Charity Ball for the Wheelchair Foundation



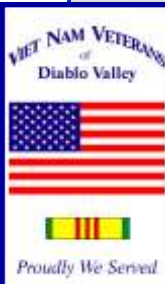
Photos from the Wheelchair Foundations 2012 Charity Ball held at the Blackhawk Museum can be found on the Facebook Page for VNVDV



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

VNVDV Veterans Plan Return to VietNam in 2012





Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

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Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

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E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

Web: www.VNVDV.com

MAR 2012

Electronic Edition



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“INCOMING” NEWS

John Garfield Reese

EDITOR

Public Relations Director

WE ARE ON THE WEB



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 “MARCH 2012 Edition of INCOMING”