

INCOMING NEWS



**SEPT
2012**

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Established in 1991

East Bay Stand Down tops this month's events! Septmeber & October Meeting Features Outstanding Speakers!



**MIKE
SLATTENGREN**
President VNV DV

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley will be remembering our POW & MIA on the Third Friday of September at 0930 - VMB in Danville.

See You at EBSD
Sept. 13-16

Volunteer for 10-12



**In Danville... New
Contra Costa
County Veterans
Service Office is
OPEN in our new
Veterans Memorial
Building every
THURSDAY from
10AM until 2PM for
benefit services
& information.**



September 2012 - Message from President Mike "Slatts" Slattengren

Welcome to this month of September's INCOMING.

East Bay Stand Down (EBSD) is this month being held Thursday 9/13 – Sunday 9/16. All volunteer workers should have registered in August on the website of www.eastbaystanddown.org in order to help. **There will be no walk-ins.** Workers are still needed for earlier in the week, setting up tents and arrainging the site & then working afterwards to perform the tear down. This program assists our fellow veterans who don't quite have things as nice as we do. Visit the EBSD website.

Keep attuned for forth coming information on the bay area's Fleet Week celebration. Ships will sail into the bay and be open for tours while docked in San Francisco; and of course the Blue Angels are scheduled to perform - scheduled Oct. 4 - 8.

At our dinner meeting in October we plan to have **Tuskegee airman Alex Jefferson** (pilot) speak to us. Alex spoke to us a number of years ago & it was most interesting. He has been asked back to the East Bay by friends to speak to a number of veteran organizations in the East Bay as well as to a number of high schools. He will have a busy week... but he loves sharing his experiences.

Veterans Day planning is well on its way & again will be held at San Ramon Valley High School in Danville in the Performance Art Center (where we formed up for the 4th of July parade) as it has in previous years. Please mark that day on your calendar & come to this event. Veterans Day is for us; we veterans. The date and time is easy to remember. It's always on Nov 11 at 11 am (11/11 at 11 am). More details next month in the Incoming.

Don't Miss Thursday's Dinner Meetings & enjoyable Speakers!

Our VNV DV dinner meeting is Thur. - SEPT. 6th at Crow Canyon County Club - Open to all veterans & guests.

VNV DV scheduled another great speaker - Join us for a casual evening of relaxing, social enjoyment - followed by our Chef's Choice Buffet Dinner & our featured guest speaker. No business - just a fun, enjoyable evening with fellow veterans & their guests - friends & supporters & interesting speakers. You are invited - Join Us!

Sept. Guest Speaker Lt Colonel Roger S. Dong, USAF - Retired

Do you know each month we have interesting speakers - usually with historical topics of interest to veterans & our many supporters? Please join us for a casual - relaxed - fun evening. It may be the best evening out you have enjoyed in some time!

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley proudly supports East Bay Stand Down.

The volunteer registration is closed and only pre-registered volunteers will be admitted. No Walk-Up Volunteers.

Although, you can still help by visiting the EBSD website and support this event with a donation or in-kind materials.

Visit: www.EastBayStandDown.org



President's Message

Continued... from Page One -

We are using the new San Ramon Valley Veteran's Memorial Building facilities as much as we can. Our BOD meetings are held there each month. The VNVDV has also hosted East Bay Stand Down planning meetings in our new building and we are conducting special workshops for our veterans dealing with PTSD and those who would benefit from group counseling. Also remember - we now have our own Veterans Service Representative in the Danville VMB every Thursday from 10AM until 2PM to review your benefits you have earned through your military service. Call the Martinez VSO Office and schedule an appointment for any Thursday in Danville to get your "benefit check-up" without having to drive to Martinez, or if you live closer to the main office - go by and visit Nathan Johnson or one of his experienced team members. You will be glad you did. Also at the new VMB - We are assisting in continued raising of funds for the operations of our section of the building. The Library & Historical Committee continues to work on the Military Museum displays and they are looking for Docents for the new VMB. If you are interested in helping in any of the activities please let me know. The events don't require any heavy work, just showing up and assist with some function. Stay active!

Don't forget our Operation 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. You may also check online at: **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade's** website. 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. It is very fulfilling for both the returnees and to each of us. We welcomed a female Marine returning home in Concord this past weekend and plans are in the works for another Welcome Home event this next weekend and following. Join us.

I hope to see all of you all at our September dinner meeting this Thursday - September 6, 2012 at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon. Social hour begins at 1700 Hrs. followed by chef's choice buffet dinner available at 1800 Hrs. - only \$25. for a great all you can eat dinner... followed by our featured guest speaker. Be sure to check-out the line-up of speakers in this edition and plan to bring a friend or fellow veteran and *Please join us!*

Michael Slattengren

Michael Slattengren
 President 2012
 PH: (925) 837-6238
 E: President.VNVDV@Gmail.com



**New Members:
 Have Questions
 Please Contact Me.**

Note: E-Mail with a "dot"

President Mike "SLATTS" Slattengren is inviting all veterans to join us for dinner at Crow Canyon Country Club to hear our September & October featured Guest Speakers...

Sept ~ LTC. Roger S. Dong USAF

**Oct. ~ Alex Jefferson
 Tuskegee Airman Pilot**

Dinner is \$25. for both members & guests - A Reception @ 1600 - Buffet (*all you can eat*) @ 1800 followed by Guest Speaker. *No business - a relaxed - enjoyable dinner with friends - fellow veterans & guests.*
RSVP for our October Meeting Please!

Healing the Wound of PTSD

At our August Dinner Meeting, David Behring introduced a special guest - Stephen Olsson who produced and directed a feature video entitled "A SOLDIER'S HEART" - Healing the Wound of PTSD. Stephen was kind enough to provide selected members with a preview copy of this film he produced to help all veterans and their family members in dealing with combat and its affect on the warrior. The plan is for the VNVDV to join with the other VSOs and provide an open showing of this important message to all veterans in our community, hopefully at the Veterans Memorial Building. President "Slatts" will be following up on this effort sometime after the completion of East Bay Stand Down our program for Homeless veterans.

**The Danville VMB
 Veteran Service Office
 is OPEN each Thursday
 with hours from 1000 to 1400
 Every Thursday for Vets
 & family members for
 veteran benefit reviews.**

**Make an Appointment Now!
 To make YOUR appointment to see the VSR in
 our new Danville Veterans Memorial Building
 call our CCC VSO in Martinez at 925 / 313-1481.**

Veterans Memorial Building in Danville displays new Plaques



2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 2 - Thursday - County Veterans Service Office is Open EVERY THURSDAY in Danville - 10AM until 2PM each week
- Sept 6 - Thursday - San Ramon - VNVDV Social & Dinner Meeting at Crow Canyon Country Club with guest speaker - see newsletter info.
- Sept 11 - Tuesday @ 1730 in Danville - A 9/11 Tribute at the All Wars Memorial - Oak Hill Park - Sponsored by the Exchange Club
- Sept 13 to 16 in Pleasanton... East Bay Stand Down at the Alameda County Fairgrounds - a four-day event for the Homeless Veterans.
- Sept 15 - Saturday @ 1800 in Walnut Creek - Walnut Festival "Twilight Parade" down Main Street in downtown Walnut Creek—a great parade
- Sept 16 - Sunday in Diablo - Sentinels of Freedom Tournament Dinner with Guest Speaker -
- Sept 17 - Monday in Diablo - Sentinels of Freedom Golf Tournament - for details visit their website on-line
- Sept 13 & 20 - Thursday - County Veterans Service Office is Open EVERY THURSDAY in Danville - 10AM until 2PM each week
- Sept 20 - Thursday @ 1800 in Danville... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Veterans Memorial Building
- Sept 21 - Friday @ 0930 in Danville at the Veterans Memorial Building - Remembrance of MIA & POW the 3rd Friday in Sept annually.
- Sept 27 - Thursday - County Veterans Service Office is Open EVERY THURSDAY in Danville - 10AM until 2PM each week
- Oct 4 - Thursday - County Veterans Service Office is Open EVERY THURSDAY in Danville - 10AM until 2PM each week
- Oct 4 - Thursday @ 1700 - San Ramon - VNVDV Social & Dinner Meeting at Crow Canyon Country Club with Alex Jefferson—RSVP
- Oct 13 - Music on Eagle Ridge 2012 - Wheelchair Foundation - Home of Ken & Pat Behring - Blackhawk - A grand gala event
- Oct 11 & 18 & 25 - Thursday - County Veterans Service Office is Open EVERY THURSDAY in Danville - 10AM until 2PM each week
- Oct 18 - Thursday @ 1800 in Danville... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Veterans Memorial Building
- Nov 1 - Thursday @ 1700 - San Ramon - VNVDV Social & Dinner Meeting at Crow Canyon Country Club with guest speaker
- Nov. 5 - 22 - VNVDV Wheelchair Distribution Trip to VietNam to various orphanages *Providing the freedom of mobility to those in need.*
- Nov 11 - Sunday - 10:30 in Danville - San Ramon Valley Veteran's Day Observance - San Ramon High School Performing Arts Center
- Dec 6 - Thursday - 1700 in San Ramon - VNVDV Annual Holiday Appreciation Dinner & Gala at Crow Canyon Country Club - RSVP

* See Newsletter for additional dates of events & more during the month & see our note below on visiting other websites.

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 features "other organizations" - listing website for more information on events we support... such as the Sentinels of Freedom - Blue Star Moms and many others.

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

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

Join & visit the Marines Memorial Club & Hotel in San Francisco - visit the website for details - www.MarineClub.com

Support the Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels - website: www.wheelchairfoundation.org

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

More events - Not enough space to list them all - watch for FLASH News to our Supporters! Thanks... jgr

September Featured Guest Speaker



Lt Colonel Roger S. Dong, USAF, Retired

“China in Turmoil?”

Thursday - September 6th, the VNVDV is extremely fortunate to have a distinguished veteran and a leading expert discuss what's going on in China today. This will be another great VNVDV dinner meeting... plan to attend Thursday.

Lt Colonel Roger Dong is currently the Project Manager, the Veterans Success Center in San Francisco and the Immediate Past President, Association for Intelligence Officers, Northern California Chapter. He retired from the Air Force after 12 years on active duty and 16 years of Air Force reserve service. In his military career from 1967-1993, he served in intelligence, counter-intelligence, and law enforcement. In the Reserves, Roger was the Director for Foreign Language Training and Primary Chinese Instructor for all three services and he also served the Air Force Academy as a Liaison Officer (Recruiter). During his 32 year career in the Air Force and Department of Defense, he was a China specialist.

He will be providing us his views on the rise of Asia and the impact of the rise of China. He will explain how China, mired in Communism under Mao Tse-tung for 30 years, through a quirk in history, incredibly transformed into the world's manufacturer.

Recent reports of corruption in the PLA and pending changes in the national leadership in China have been in the news. Colonel Dong will give us the latest information to help understand the stories coming out of China. The title of his presentation will be “China in Turmoil?” Join us at Crow Canyon Country Club on Thursday - September 6, 2012 for another great speaker and dinner with the VNVDV and fellow veterans and our many supporters. The meeting is OPEN and you are encouraged to bring a guest or other veterans to experience a casual, relaxed evening with friends. We look forward to seeing you.

Town of Danville Enhances Communications to Community

Nat Rojanasathira - Assistant to Danville's Town Manager announced in a Press Release recently Danville's enhancement of Communications.

Nat stated, As part of the ongoing efforts to increase and enhance communication between the Town and residents, the Town of Danville this week unveiled the new online version of Danville Today. For years, the Danville Today was a print document mailed quarterly to residents. Each issue would feature articles written by Town staff detailing different project, programs or events.

The new version is designed to be available to residents visiting the Town's website www.danville.ca.gov, subscribing to receive e-mails about the Danville Today through the Town's e-news service or by linking to the articles through the Town's Facebook page or twitter feed. In addition, the articles are designed to be printer friendly for those who like a hard copy, for use at Town events such as the Farmers' Market or at Town facilities like the Danville Senior Center.

“We want our residents to know what is happening here in Town,” said Town Manager Joe Calabrigo. “There is a lot going on in Danville, and the Danville Today will be a good way for people to stay informed. “ Articles in the Danville Today will be updated weekly and cover a wide variety of topics.

For more information on the Danville Today, contact Assistant to the Town Manager Nat Rojanasathira at (925) 314-3328 - or e-mail Nat at: nrojanasathira@danville.ca.gov

Outstanding Line-Up of Featured Guest Speakers...



September's Speaker is...

LTC. Roger S. Dong, USAF (Ret)

Lt Colonel Roger Dong is currently the Project Manager, the Veterans Success Center in San Francisco and the Immediate Past President, Association for Intelligence Officers, Northern California

October's Featured Speaker is...

Alex Jefferson - Tuskegee Airman Pilot

An Outstanding Featured Speaker & to plan for the proper meal service...

Reservations are requested for our October Meeting by contacting VP Ray La Rochelle at: 925 / 606 - 5828

November we have scheduled...

VNVDV's Speakers Bureau Leaders...

Bill Green & Mike Martin



December features...

The VNVDV Annual Holiday Appreciation Dinner ~

Reservations Required in Advance for Dec. Dinner & your meal selection choice

RSVP to ~ Ray La Rochelle by e-mail at: Ray-L@pacbell.net

Slightly Higher cost for this one holiday dinner ~ to make it special each year.



Looking back in time... the VietNam Veterans have been involved in the foundation of East Bay Stand Down since 1999. In the beginning - Miss America 2000 Heather Renee French helped lift the spirits of our homeless veterans when the program started... the VNVDV continues to proudly assist and support this worthy community effort to end homelessness among our veterans. The organization donated funds to sponsor a tent - plus additional support funds and provided additional insurance - all to supporting the communities "helping hand-up" to these worthy veterans at the 2012 EBSD to be held at Alameda County Fairgrounds from September 13 - 16. It's 24 hours a day for four-days... and a real commitment made by many individual members of the VNVDV to direct - coordinate and volunteer this year! The VNVDV thanks all those who volunteered and helped in sponsoring EBSD 2012. Find out more on the EBSD website.



HEATHER RENEE FRENCH, Miss America 2000, signs Vietnam veteran Altorzo Blevins' T-shirt Sunday at Camp Parks. French, 24, whose father was wounded in the Vietnam War, had vowed if she won last month's pageant to become an advocate for veterans. About 160 veterans received medical care, sleeping bags, job leads, hot food and fellowship at the Dublin event, which ended Sunday.

*Our Dinner Meetings
are OPEN...*

Join Us for a great evening.

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.

**The 9 / 11 Observance at the
 All Wars Memorial in Oak Hill Park at 1730
 Featuring Admiral Mary O'Donnell, USCG (Ret)
 Sponsored by the Exchange Club of San Ramon**



Danville Self Storage

3550 Camino Tassajara
 Danville, CA 94506
 925-736-1001
 Fax 925-736-0872
 danvillestorage@sbcglobal.net
 www.danvilleselfstorage.com

**Many Thanks to
 Danville Storage**



Promotive
 Performance and Repair

**Veteran-Owned
 Business**

Richard Rein
 owner/operator

2145 North Broadway Walnut Creek, Ca 94596

(925)247-4268
 promotiveshop@gmail.com



VNVDV Sponsors "GWOT" Recovery Retreat Weekend

Bill Green's Duck Club was Host - for a very special weekend.

Veteran **Nathan Johnson** again participated in our special GWOT Recovery Retreat... last year as a Returning Veteran Readjustment Counselor with the VA's Concord Vet Center and this year he joined supporting this program as our new County Veterans Service Officer. Nathan was pleased to report this year's event was a success, as if three days of eating, shooting, swimming, flying, etc. wouldn't.

Nathan reports - The GWOT retreat weekend always begins with Vets carrying their pack, full of experiences, emotions, and daily life stress. Some are having serious problems and you can tell they are initially regretful that they came. By the time the first campfire is lit and the coffee and "monkey bread" is served, the pack starts to come off. The rest of the weekend flows without any hesitation about where we are, what time it is, when it will all end. By Sunday, a Duck Club community has formed and people are smiling, they've slept, they've felt the good adrenaline again (the Huey ride is the ultimate rollercoaster ride), they look relaxed, and everyone is regretful that it will have to be another year until we can do it all again.

AK Smith the "Duck Club" Secretary and General Manager followed up with the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley on his thoughts and observations on the GWOT Recovery Retreat last month. "AK" wanted to let our Board & membership know that having the GWOT Vets are our duck club was indeed an honor and a pleasure.

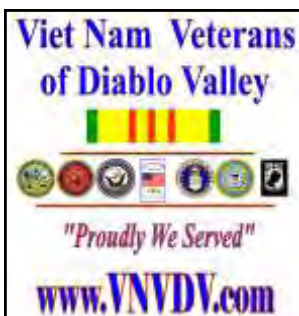
From the time of the first arrivals till the time the vets all left, the atmosphere around the club was very upbeat, we had **fly fishing demos** with "hands-on" experience, **copious meals** as prepared by VNVDV member **Bill Green**, a member of the "Duck Club" with his famous "Monkey Bread." **AK** added, this was followed by an **Ice Cream Social**, **trap shooting** galore with the boys starting out as rank amateurs - winding up as **accomplished shooters**; with the evening highlighted by the **bonfires** and the **conversations**. Cases of "clay pigeons" (below) donated by VNVDV.

AK and Bill both agreed... There is nothing more enjoyable than seeing a group of vets smiling, laughing and in general having a hell of a good time which I along with the other two club members in attendance thoroughly enjoyed. This was our third year and are looking forward to next year when we can do it again.

Board Member **Bill Green** coordinated and organized the annual GWOT Recovery Retreat - selecting the participants from the two groups of veterans he mentors through his volunteer efforts at the VA's Vet Center. Bill shared with fellow members of the VNVDV Board of Directors one of the comments from a participants who told him he had not previously been able to sleep through the night... for years! Finally, at this VNVDV sponsored Recovery Retreat was the first time he had a full-nights of restful, uninterrupted sleep in many years. He added, this was probably prior to his entry into the military for his training! This is an amazing example of just "one benefit" obtained by one of our returning GWOT veterans who participated. The VNVDV extends its thanks and gratitude to **Bill Green** and **AK Smith** - along with the members of the "Duck Club" for their generous hosting of this special program of recovery for our GWOT veterans, and to the VNVDV organization for its sponsorship & funding.

The VNVDV also extends a "Bravo-Zulu" and **many Thanks** to **Mike Haus** and **Chris Miller** for donating their 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey (below) providing the "ride of a lifetime" to our GWOT veterans... with the dedicated Pilots **Ray Murphy** and **Brent Marker** (both veterans) taking the Huey up to the Duck Club for this special event. The VNVDV also Thanks Army Veteran & pilot, **Jim Miller** - owner of *Pacific Valley Aviation* in Arbutle, CA (below - with Nathan & Bill) for his generous donation of "multiple tanks loads of fuel" to make these special flights possible. We also understand Jim certainly enjoyed the opportunity to get back-in the "right seat" again... to give these GWOT vets a real thrill in the Huey! The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley are pleased to report the **2012 GWOT Recovery Retreat** was truly a great success... **Thanks to all!**

jgr



HOT SUMMER NIGHTS CAR SHOW IN DANVILLE A SUCCESS

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley want to Thank David Miller & Linda Mannina for their kindness & support at the 2012 event.

The VNVDV helped promote the new Veterans Memorial Building at Hot Summer Nights in addition to providing information on East Bay Stand Down & other activities supported by the veteran community.

Special Information for ALL Veterans using the Martinez VA Clinic:
The new Brain & Wellness Center in Martinez at the VA Northern California Health Care System offers supervised personal physical therapy instruction for Veterans in this new state-of-the-art facility. The best equipment - rock climbing wall - club room with pool table - X-Box and more! Exercise and know "your own limits" by contacting your VA Primary Care Doctor for a consult to this new center. The VA offers the best in Health Care for Vets!

The VNVDV Supports County VSO staff in Outreach Providing Logo Shirts



Find out about the Veteran Benefits
You earned through your Military Service

Veterans Contact

Nathan D. Johnson

Veterans Service Officer

Contra Costa County

10 Douglas Dr. Suite 100

Martinez, CA 94553

Tel: (925) 313-1481

Fax: (925) 313-1490

Nathan.johnson@vs.cccounty.us



VENTURE RESEARCH
*Commercial Real Estate
Appraisers & Consultants*

Helen S. Reese
PH: 925 / 935 - 4294
E: HReese@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.VentureResearch.biz
"Experience the Quality Difference... over 30 years
serving California and beyond with Excellence"



INTEGRITY
MOVING SOLUTIONS, INC.

**MOVING?
Call Wild Bill!**

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. #301 • Vallejo, CA 94591

VNVDV Members participate in Welcome of Purple Heart Warriors at the 4th ANNUAL PURPLE HEART OUTDOORS TOUR held in LIVERMORE

Members Jerry Yahiro coordinated the flight of the 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey as it traveled over the motorcade through downtown Pleasanton and Livermore in-route to the beautiful Rao Ranch for a special welcome and kick-off BBQ. The event was planned for five active duty soldiers that have been awarded the Purple Heart & have been decorated for valor in Afghanistan or Iraq. They were joined by Warren Forsyth, a New York City Firefighter and first-responder to the World Trade Center terrorist attacks. This group of outstanding young men hunted on some of the most prestigious ranches in Livermore-Pleasanton area for Blacktail Deer for the entire August 23rd weekend.

The Purple Heart Outdoors Tour is an organization founded by Lt. Col. Dan Hammack, US Army Reserves (Special Forces), whose sole purpose is to organize a series of group hunting and fishing events for active duty Purple Heart recipients or for those who have received commendations for valor in the War on Terror.

These Purple Heart participants were escorted through Pleasanton and Livermore to the Rao Ranch on Mines Road on August 23 by over 100 Warriors' Watch Riders and amazing escort vehicles. This was a well planned - patriotic escort with police & fire department participation in both cities. In this year's escort was the **VNVDV Parade Truck**, a 1949 International Harvester KB-1 pick-up truck driven by **VNVDV member John Reese, JR's** VNVDV truck had the privilege of transporting one of the Purple Heart recipients - a young Army Ranger... a warrior with 11 years of military service in special operations and **13 tours of duty**... truly the best of the best! Bryan Welden from the Diablo Valley Flag Brigade also drove an escort vehicle transporting one of the Purple Heart warriors.

It was a special trip for everyone in the motorcade escort as both cities "came to a halt" as the community waved flags along the route - cheering as the motorcycles and vehicles passed by with a full police and fire escort and all intersections closed as they passed. This was an example of the community coming together and providing the ultimate tribute to these heroes! The **VNVDV** wants to extend out thanks to all the members involved & the many others who helped in supporting this event in various ways. We offer a special thanks to Mike & Chris for the airborne UH-1 Huey Helicopter overhead landing at the Rao Ranch for a pre-hunt BBQ. This event would not have been possible without the very generous support and participation for the fourth year from - **Fields Livestock Co., N3 Cattle Co., Patterson Ranch, Marciel Ranch, Walker Ranch, Koopman Ranch and Rao Ranch**. This is the fourth time this event has been held in Livermore with the support of these ranchers and firms.

Robert Rao hosted the Welcome BBQ at his ranch and added... "This is a time for the soldiers to leave the battle field and relax and enjoy some of the best deer hunting in California." The **VNVDV** is honored to participate in this wonderful tribute to our Purple Heart warriors. We always look forward to opportunities to honor those currently serving our nation proudly.



SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC PAIN?

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

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

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

Support "Wine for Wheels"

Call or email Jeff Behring

jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org

(925) 648-3829

The VNVDV encourages you to give the **FREEDOM** of mobility! Donate a Wheelchair!
VNVDV Proud Supporters Wine for Wheels & Wheelchair Foundation

Sentinels of Freedom 5th Annual Golf Gala & Tournament

September 16 & 17, 2012

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

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

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

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

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

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

5:30 – 6:30 pm: Dinner/Program

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

7:45 pm: Auction

Guest Speaker, COL Danny McKnight - US Army Ranger



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Dress: Business Casual, Class A Uniform

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

Monday September 17, 2012 - Golf

9 am: Check-In Opens

10:45 am: Opening Ceremonies

11 am: Shot Gun Start with the Cannon

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

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

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

Discounts are only available online.

Visit the Sentinels of Freedom website for all details!



Veterans Service Outstation

Now Open Every Thursday in Danville

A free benefit to all veterans... get a Benefit Check-Up today!

Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office - Danville VMB outstation

EVERY THURSDAY - FROM 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING, 2nd Floor – Room 208
400 HARTZ AVENUE - DANVILLE, CA**

The opening of this outstation extends Veterans Service's capability in serving elderly - disabled - newly returning Veterans - Vets of all Era's - and their families. **This is a FREE Service to all veterans. You Earned it!**

Comprehensive benefits counseling, claims assistance, case management, information & referrals are some of the services offered at this location. **Mike Hoffschneider is the on duty Veterans Service Representative.**

Please call (925) 313-1481 to schedule an advance appointment.

The Danville Outstation is staffed each Thursday from 10:00am to 2:00pm by **Mike Hoffschneider**, VSR. **Mike is the most experienced Veterans Service Representative (VSR) in our office**, with *over 36 years* of dedicated work in serving Veterans. At the Danville VSO Outstation, he is able to schedule appointments with Veterans in 45 minute increments beginning at 10am and ending (last appointment) at 1:00pm. An appointment can be scheduled by calling the Martinez VSO at **(925) 313-1481**. Nathan advise all Vets & family members to schedule this appointment in advance, as these appointments fill quickly. **Remember – these are benefits you earned!** If you have not received a “benefit check-up” – do it for yourself & especially for your family. This is something “EVERY” veteran needs to do... regardless of when they served! **This could be the most important appointment you ever make... to help your family!**



**Help our Bay Area
Homeless Veterans...**



You Can Make a Difference - Get Involved - Be Active!



The VNVDV thanks DAVID BEHRING - VNVDV Honorary Life Member for sponsoring & hosting the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley at the Wheelchair Foundation's "Drive Fore Mobility" annual Golf Tournament at Blackhawk Country Club... providing the VNVDV a Tee Booth in support of our wheelchair distribution trip "Return to VietNam - 2012" in November with the Wheelchair Foundation.

Thank You



The 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey leaving the 18th green at Blackhawk Country Club Lakeside Course at the 11th Annual Drive Fore Mobility Wheelchair Foundation Charity Golf Event after delivering VNVDV MOH member JON CAVAIANI

The VNVDV **THANKS** David & Jeff Behring and event chair Pete Petrovich - along with all the Wheelchair Foundation Supporters for their kindness & generosity.

www.wheelchairfoundation.org
Wheelchair Foundation

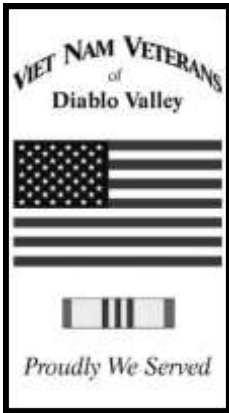


Remember to Support the Wheelchair Foundation's Wine for Wheels events scheduled monthly by Jeff Behring. These are casual social events in support of providing the Freedom of Mobility to those in need. These are local events - Check the WCF website for details.

Bid on an Rare Opportunity to Ride aboard the 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey at the Sentinels of Freedom Golf Tournament



See the Sentinels of Freedom information page for details on their Annual Golf Tournament at Diablo County Club. This auction will feature an opportunity to take your family - friends - business associates on a tour of the San Francisco Bay aboard this VietNam UH-1 Huey Helicopter with your charitable non-profit donation... don't miss this event!



Join Us the First Thursday at 1700!

Help Save \$\$\$ (processing fees) for the VNVDV at all Dinners by Paying by CHECK - Made Payable to the "VNVDV" -

Reminder: OCT Dinner requests RSVP to VP Ray LaRoche

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

You are also welcome to pay CASH or use a Major Credit Card... for your all you can eat dinner at Crow Canyon Country Club on the 1st Thursday

FOR SALE: 1974 1/2 MGB Roadster



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

RICHARD W. LAMBERT
Managing Director

RITCHIE Commercial
RESPONSIBLE REAL ESTATE

1940 WEBSTER STREET
SUITE 100
OAKLAND, CA 94612

(510) 834-6464
FAX (510) 834-6590
rlambert@ritchiercommercial.com



CORE
San Francisco · Oakland · San Jose
Walnut Creek · Burlingame

VNVDV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING BOARD MEETING

THIRD MONDAY - EVERY MONTH @ 1800

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING - BOARD ROOM (1st Floor)



Come to a Board Meeting or Consider a Board Position in 2013

Your Involvement makes the difference! **We need your personal participation** If you are a member - come to the parade - visit the Veterans Memorial Building - **join a committee** of interest or **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!*

Note of Caution to all Veterans:

Do NOT OPEN any e-mail you may receive if it does not have a subject - even if you know the sender. *Most have spam links!*

SUPPORT



Visit our website to see more about the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley at: www.VNVDV.com

DOCENTS needed for VMB museum tours of the new Veterans Memorial Building. If interested contact John Estes - Operating Committee Chair for details & training



The VNVDV Proudly Supports our Blue Star Moms

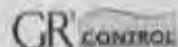
FL | Granados Financial Services

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

WEB: nathan.GNLD.net



R. Nathan Greene
Independent Distributor

21001 San Ramon Valley Blvd, A-4 #104
San Ramon, CA 94583
Phone 925-875-1747
Fax 925-875-1747
rgreene747@comcast.net
CA Sale Permit CH 100-314584

Don't Miss the San Francisco 2012 FLEET WEEK

The history of Fleet Week in San Francisco goes back... and the **Legacy** continues... **Oct. 4th thru Oct. 8th**

The First Celebration started with the Arrival Of Admiral Evans and His Fleet, Wednesday, May 6, 1908

The "Great White Fleet" was sent around the world by President Theodore Roosevelt from December 16, 1907 to February 22, 1909. It consisted of 16 battleships of the Atlantic Fleet and various smaller vessels. The hulls of the battleships were painted white except for the gilded scrollwork on their bows. The Atlantic Fleet battleships later became known as the "Great White Fleet."

The fleet sailed from Hampton Roads, Virginia, on 16 December 1907 under the command of Rear Admiral "Fighting Bob" (Robley D.) Evans. His flagship was the U.S.S. Connecticut. Among the junior officers of the fleet were William Halsey (on U.S.S. Kansas) and Raymond Spruance (on U.S.S. Minnesota) who were to play major roles in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Evans stated that his ships "were ready at the drop of a hat for a feast, a frolic or a fight".

San Francisco Welcome to the Fleet... The 14 month long voyage was a showcase of American sea power. The ships were manned by 14,000 sailors. They covered 43,000 miles and stopped at 20 ports on 6 continents. The fleet arrived in San Francisco on May 6, 1908 from Magdalena Bay, Mexico for a huge celebration hosted by the City of San Francisco.

As each ship passed Fort Point it fired a 21-gun salute, which was answered with a salute from land. Crowds flocked to San Francisco to see the fleet. It was one of the largest crowds of California had seen.

The officers of the fleet were entertained at theater parties, and had their hotel expenses paid by the city welcoming committee. They were hosted at receptions at the Ferry Building, St. Francis and Fairmont Hotels. The enlisted men were entertained with a clubhouse, music, athletics and sightseeing. The people of San Francisco were taken by launches to visit the ships.

At San Francisco ill health forced Admiral "Fighting Bob" Evans to relinquish command of the fleet. On July 7, 1908 the fleet was reassembled under the command of Rear Admiral Charles Sperry and bid farewell to San Francisco and departed for Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii.

The current Fleet Week commenced In 1981 under Mayor Dianne Feinstein, with the purpose of honoring and thanking the men and women of the United Forces for their contributions to the city of San Francisco and abroad.

The 2012 San Francisco Fleet Week is Oct. 4 - 8 & moving along with plans - featuring the U. S. Navy Blue Angels on Friday - Saturday & Sunday... plus much more. Visit the SF Fleet Week website for details & updates.

Walnut Festival Parade

The VNVDV loves an opportunity to participate in a patriotic parade. Unfortunately due to a conflict in schedule - prevents our Military Service Colors participation in the outstanding event hosted annually - the Walnut Festival's "Twilight Parade" in Walnut Creek. This parade is one of our favorites. The major conflict in schedule is due to East Bay Stand Down in September. We strongly encourage the community to go out and support this great parade in Walnut Creek this year to be held on Saturday - Sept. 15th in downtown beginning at 6PM.

The VNVDV **will be back next year** with our Military Service Colors - VNVDV Parade Truck & the Concord Vet Center's UH-1 Huey with the escort from the Warriors Watch Riders.

VNVDV & Community Loss of a Dedicated Veteran

Retired Contra Costa County Sheriff Warren E. Rupf recently passed due to an aggressive form of Leukemia. Warren was a friend of the VNVDV - a past guest speaker & visitor with other speakers. Warren also attended our annual Holiday Appreciation Dinner with his wife Carole & CCC's current Sheriff David Livingston & his wife. He will be missed by his fellow veterans & community.

After the Marine Corps. Rupf joined the Office of the Sheriff in November 1965. He was appointed Sheriff by the Board of Supervisors in December 1992 & elected to his first four-year term beginning in January 1995 - serving as Sheriff for 18 years until his retirement in January 2011.



Warren was a proud Marine & also very active in the community, especially youth and service organizations. A very dedicated man putting the community first for over 45 years during his career.

Sheriff Livingston said, "We lost a great man, a great leader and a true statesman." "His first priority was always the public safety of the Contra Costa County community & supporting the people he worked with." VNVDV's members thoughts & prayers are with his family during this difficult time..

2013 Nomination Committee Appointed & Begins Search for Officers & Directors

President draws upon past leadership to seek interested members in serving on 2013 VNVDV Board of Directors.

Past Presidents - Jerry Yahiro - Del Loewe - John Estes - Mike Weber - Rich Lambert to serve on Nomination Committee.

The VNVDV Board of Directors -

Available to provide YOU details on the various "key roles" in the organization. Join the 2013 Board!

Interested in finding out more? Just ask a Board Member.

Support & training will be provided by current Board Members - Past Presidents to all new elected Officers & Board Members.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Help us keep in touch with YOU

We Value all MEMBERS!

Made E-Mail or Contact Information changes recently? Please let us know. With all the technology changes - sometimes it is hard to keep up!

We care about every member and want to provide you the best in communications in our Newsletters - Flash News - and keep you up to date on items of interest to our members and supporters... although we need your help!

For many reasons - information can change quickly... we do not want to lose touch with valued members! If you changed e-mail providers, cell numbers or other - please let us know. We do want to keep you informed of our VNVDV activities & of various programs of interest! THANKS!

The VNVDV is Active... are YOU?



Once again in September - VNVDV members are very active and helping volunteer with the East Bay Stand Down program being held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds from Sept. 13 - 16. Join us! See more information in this edition. Remember - Check on the benefits you Earned at our new Danville Veteran Service Office - "OPEN" every Thursday - 10am until 2pm - Call the Martinez VSO for an appointment.

We encourage members & our supporters to attend the monthly *Wine for Wheels* events supporting the Wheelchair Foundation - as our group of VNVDV members prepare for "Return to VietNam - 2012" a distribution trip to VietNam to deliver wheelchairs - providing the *freedom of mobility* to those in need. *Join Us!*

In October we will have a reception for our featured speaker PRIOR to our usual Social Hour at 1700 at Crow Canyon Country Club. RSVP with Ray and join us - meet Tuskegee Airman Alex Jefferson. Lots going on every month for veterans in the greater Diablo Valley! Check out the Calendar and the websites of our many partners for events & programs to support our veterans & our great community. Don't miss our Guest Speakers at our Dinner Meetings! Please RSVP for October. Thanks!

A Major Loss... LINDA SADA

Our thoughts and prayers are with fellow VNVDV member Dr. Bob Sada as he mourns the loss of his amazing wife Linda Sada. She will be missed by the community.

Don't Miss the Sentinels of Freedom Tournament Dinner & Featured Speaker Sunday - Sept. 16th



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 I PARTICIPATE AT A WELCOME HOME EVENT?

It is easier than you might think...

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

You will feel good inside...

JOIN US

In 2012



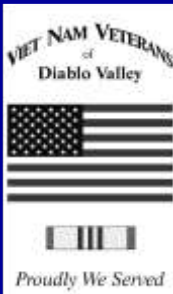
Join friends - family - veterans & the community... along with the Blue Star Moms - MCL - VFW - Legion Warriors Watch Riders - Diablo Valley Flag Brigade - Military Family groups & many others...

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

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



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



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

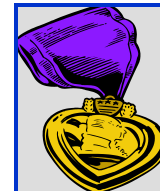
Post Office Box 2079

Danville, CA 94526 - 2079

E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

Web: www.VNVDV.com

SEPT 2012



Electronic Edition

**2012 OFFICERS &
BOARD MEMBERS**

President—

Michael Slattengren

Vice President -

Ray La Rochelle

Treasurer -

Martin De Venuta

Secretary -

Cliff De Cuir

Director-at-Large -

Dennis Giacovelli

Membership -

Bill Chew

Public Relations -

John G. Reese

Information -

Currently OPEN

Events -

Currently OPEN

Speakers -

Bill Green

Procurement -

Currently OPEN

PAST PRESIDENTS

- Jerry Yahiro
- John Estes
- Del Loewe
- Tim Hart
- Mike Weber
- Mike McDaniel
- Rich Lambert
- Ron Azarcon
- Bill Picton
- Norm Mahalich

*Contact Us... Visit our Website...
Attend our Open Meetings...
Participate in our Community!*

To:

VNVDV Members & Supporters

John Garfield Reese,
Publisher & Editor
VNVDV Public Relations Director

**Visit Our
Website:**

www.VNVDV.com



The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley was established in 1991 as a non-profit Veterans organization to promote & enhance the image of the VietNam Veteran through Community Service & Support of fellow Veterans. Our new Danville Veteran's Memorial Building is complete - Come Visit!

*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 at our new Veterans Memorial Building in Danville. 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... & of our continued contributions to fellow veterans & our community. Our dinner meetings consist of social - dinner & a guest speaker of interest to veterans & military. All of our meetings are **OPEN** meetings... fellow veterans - active duty military - history buffs welcome! ... **Join us!***

**VIET NAM VETERANS
of
Diablo Valley**

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.