

# INCOMING NEWS



**VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley**  
*Established in 1991*

**April 2013**

## Armed Forces Day - "Walk of Honor" for our Veterans Memorial Day - Remembrance Oak Hill Park



MIKE

### Message from the "Prez" - "Slatts"

The month of **April** has arrived... **spring is here** and we have many upcoming activities to plan & participate in.

The various Veteran (VSO) groups who use the SRV Veteran Memorial Building plan to have **"Saturday morning coffee"** gatherings - beginning **Saturday - April 6<sup>th</sup>** held from **8 - 11 am** and each Saturday following. Open to ALL veterans... and a nice way to spend an occasional Saturday morning visiting with fellow veterans. Not sure if they are making *Army coffee* or *Navy coffee*, come on down to find out which one! *Also will have donuts!*

The **Blue Star Mom's** will be holding their **BSM Spring Golf Tournament & fund raiser** on **Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>** in Pleasanton. They have asked us to march in and display the military service flags at the start of their program (at about 1 pm). Our VP, Ray LaRoche is coordinating this activity, so if you have that Friday **free** and would like to help, let Ray know. This is not a long march, just a short parade / entry of service flags & then posted for display.

*Please register now* and save the date on your calendars for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Walk Of Honor (WOH)** in Crockett, walking across the Carquinez / Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge followed by a wonderful catered BBQ lunch and short presentation by a Purple Heart recipient of the Afghanistan War is scheduled for **Saturday - May 18<sup>th</sup>**. This is an event generously sponsored by **Phillips 66 Oil Company** to give back to their community. The VNVDV is honored to have been a recipient of this major event for a number of years. This year they have again invited the VNVDV to work with them in the planning & as mentioned, be a recipient of a donation from **Phillips 66** to allow us to continue our service to veterans. This donation along with our annual crab feed fund raiser gives the VNVDV the financial resources which we use to aid veterans in need & other organizations supporting worthy causes for our veterans & military personnel currently serving. The **"Walk of Honor"** and lunch comes about through a **registration** (\$25 donation) which includes a nice participant's T-shirt. The WOH website is up and active; take a browse through it and sign up for an enjoyable morning walk at - <http://sfrwalkofhonor.com>.  
**Continued... on Page Two -**

### Register for the Walk

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley most important fund raiser is the **"WALK of HONOR"** for our Veterans  
Sponsored by Phillips 66.  
Please support our community effort for veterans - Register Now

### Join Us

Monthly the VNVDV holds a dinner meeting on the First Thursday at Crow Canyon County Club - **Open to ALL veterans - guests & visitors.** - Join us for a casual evening of a relaxing, social time with fellow veterans. After social hour enjoy the *Chef's Choice Buffet Dinner* & our featured guest speaker.  
**No business - just a fun, enjoyable evening** with veterans & guests - friends & supporters. ***You are invited*** - Join Us!

April featured speaker - author  
**KENNETH LEVIN (Cmdr. USN)**

### In INCOMING this month ... Walk of Honor for our Veterans



**Outstanding featured guest speaker author at April dinner meeting**  
**Join Us - Thursday - April 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Events in our Community
- Recent VNVDV Activities

VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter

**SLATTENGREN  
President VNVDV**

**Sign -Up for the...  
2013 "Walk of Honor" for our Veterans - on  
Armed Forces Day  
2013**

**Saturday - May 18  
Crockett, CA**

**Morning Coffee...  
With fellow veterans  
on Saturday from  
8AM until 11AM**

**At the Danville  
Veterans Memorial  
Building**

**Donuts too!**





# President's Message

Continued... from Page One -

**Memorial Day** this year will be observed on **Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>** at Oak Hill Park. As in past years, this is an event drawing 800 – 1000 community members from Danville and areas surrounding the Diablo Valley... to remember those who died in service to our country. The VNVDV will be setting up cammo/shade cover & chairs prior to the start of the event - and always seeking some able bodied souls to assist in this early AM effort. The VNVDV will present & post the military service flags for this annual program - and again VNVDV members are needed to volunteers for this program. This is one of the only Memorial Day Remembrance Programs with **"fly-overs"** honoring & paying tribute to those who have gone before serving in the U. S. Military. More info on Memorial Day in the next month.

Our VNVDV Board of Directors (BOD) has also already started planning for the **Danville/Kiwanis 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade**. We've ordered & received the 10,000 American-made U. S. Flag we hand out to parade attendees. The Kiwanis parade theme for 2013 is **"People Helping People"** and the *parade will start at 0900 Hrs* this year. The Army band is reserved and we are working on other participants including the mobile UH-1 HUEY from the *Concord VET Center* sponsored by the **AMVETS Post 26** & escorted by the **Warriors Watch Riders**. BTW, since the 4<sup>th</sup> is on a Thursday this year, **our dinner meeting in July will be on Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Remember your membership dues & mark your calendars regarding this change in meeting date for July 2013.

The **SRV Veterans Memorial Building** is open from 9 am to 3 pm each day - Monday – Friday providing tours. There are a number of docents that volunteer a 3 hour shift - to share the building information & displays with visitors. We are looking for more volunteers (easy 1 hour training provided) - so if you are interested in volunteering... just 1 or 2 shifts a month (not much time taken away from your schedule) please let me know. *I volunteer on Thursdays.*

Please don't forget our **Operation Welcome Home** events. We've had a few more this past month of March. The VNVDV is proud to be a part of the **San Ramon Valley Veterans** who recognize our returning veterans. If you are interested in participating - visit the **Diablo Valley**

**Flag Brigade** website to see the upcoming schedule & previous event videos. John Reese can put on our distribution list when we learn about when these young warriors come home. *No special skills are needed, just show up with a flag in your hand, a smile on your face and a thank you hand-shake for the young man or woman.* These are fun gatherings taking about an hour out of your day. Very fulfilling for both the returnees & to each of us.

We'll see you all at our April dinner meeting on Thurs Apr 4, 2012, 6 pm at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon. Social hour starts at 5 pm. *An enjoyable evening - Join us!*



*Michael Slattengren*

**Michael Slattengren**  
President 2012

PH: (925) 837-6238

E: President.VNVDV@gmail.com



## OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO ALL VNVDV MEMBERS

The 2013 JULY VNVDV Membership Dinner Meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY - July 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon. Social Hours begins at 1700 - Dinner at 1800 Hrs. \$25

*This change is necessary due to the Thursday being - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday. Please attend the parade on 4<sup>th</sup>.*

## Walk of Honor Registration

President Mike **"SLATTS"** Slattengren invites all VNVDV Members - Supporters - Friends & Fellow Veterans to join us for our 5h Annual **"WALK of HONOR"** on Armed Forces Day - Saturday MAY 18<sup>th</sup> in Crockett sponsored by Phillips 66 SFR. We encourage you to organize your team or group & "register now" on-line at:

<http://site.walkofhonor2009.com/>

The event begins at the Crockett Community Center with check-in from 8AM to 10AM. Transportation provided to & from the Bridge... followed by a BBQ luncheon included with your registration at the Community Center. Shirts for all registered in the Walk - plus much more!

## Submit Your Dues

**Did you know - VNVDV Dues are now only \$25.00 a year!**

**Notices were not sent out - we encourage all members to pay to renew your dues at a Dinner Meeting or you can still mail in your payment**

**To the VNVDV at:  
P. O. Box 2079**

**Danville, CA 94526**

**Attn: Treasurer / Dues**

**Members:**

**Have Questions?**

**Please Contact Me.**

**Note: E-Mail with a "dot"**

# VNVDV Monthly Meetings feature Buffet Dinner & Guest Speaker Meetings are Open... Join Us!

## **APRIL Guest Speaker - Author Kenneth Levin**

The featured Guest Speaker for our March 7<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting will be Kenneth Levin - Author of "Crazy Razor". This is a tale of two young service men during the Viet Nam war who just happen to be on "opposite" sides during the war. *Don't miss this very interesting guest speaker at our dinner meeting!*

**Author Kenneth Levin** is a decorated combat veteran of the war in Vietnam whose blindness forced him to retire from the US Navy with the rank of Commander. A student of the Vietnam War, he completed several drafts of Crazy Razor before traveling to Hanoi, Hoi An, and Cu Chi to interview Viet Cong and NVA veterans and their children to incorporate their experiences in the novel's final draft. Originally from Chicago, he holds degrees from Washington University in St. Louis and the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He and his wife live in Oakland, California.

**Author Kenneth Levin's** bracingly honest and harrowing debut is reminiscent of masterworks like Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* and Bao Ninh's *The Sorrow of War*. A decorated combat veteran whose his own experiences in Vietnam are combined with the personal interviews of North Vietnamese veterans, Levin deftly explores the nature of man amidst the chaos and horror of war. As illuminating as it is disturbing, *Crazy Razor* demonstrates with stark clarity that the real villain in war...is war itself.

### *A bit of the book... "Crazy Razor"*

Who do you think will win this war?" The different reasons for participating in the Vietnam War between four major groups—the American army, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), the North Vietnamese Army (NVA), and the Viet Cong (VC)—could not be more stark. As much as one approaches it as a war like any other, its mirror opposite sees it more of what war is really about: the struggle between life and death with no compromise. There is no retreat or surrender for those fighting for North Vietnam. There are no weekend passes for R&R, no trips back home after a year, and no returns to base camp for a meal and a shower. There is only squatting hungry in the bush, waiting for the opportunity to kill or be killed—and that's it. These dualities feed off each other in ways far more significant than strategy and tactics can provide summation for.

***This is an exciting book - with great reviews - we hope you will join us for dinner!***

## Outstanding Guest Speakers "coming soon"

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Craig B. Smith - author of "Counting the Days" the true story of six P.O.W.s from completely different situations and their determination to survive.**

**June 6<sup>th</sup> - OPEN - none yet (contact Dennis)**

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> - (Wednesday meeting) - Chuck Kohler - Pearl Harbor Survivor**

Many Thanks to our MARCH Dinner Speaker...

**Steve P. Simpkins**

*Chief of Police - Town of Danville*



# Join the VNVDV on Armed Forces Day - May 18th

**Phillips 66**

San Francisco Refinery - Rodeo and Carbon Plant



## **2013 WALK of HONOR for our Veterans**

### **Honoring the Men and Women who Served Our Nation**

The **Phillips 66** San Francisco Refinery and Carbon Plant invite you to join with us in honoring and celebrating the service of our military veterans on Armed Forces Day 2013. Currently, our employees are organizing the "5th Annual Phillips 66 sponsored **Walk of Honor**" which will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013. The "Walk of Honor" will be a short walk across the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge and back. Last year's event was a huge success. More than 400 employees, contractors and local residents participated in the celebration, and together raising in excess of \$100,000 in the past four years. We are working hard to surpass last years fundraising and attendance milestones, and with your help we are sure to succeed! We promise you a fun, exciting and fulfilling day honoring the men and women who have valiantly served our nation.

Once again, we are partnering with both the **Vietnam Veterans of the Diablo Valley** (VNVDV), and the **Crockett Community Services District** (CCCS). We will equally divide all proceeds from the Walk between these two organizations. The VNVDV is an incredible organization comprised of community volunteers who work diligently providing support services to veterans in need, including hosting the "East Bay Stand Down". The volunteers of the CCSD have undertaken a huge public benefit challenge, as they lead efforts to restore the Crockett Veterans Memorial Building. We are very honored to support these *two* worthy causes and hope we can count on your support.

*If you want to be a **Sponsor** - contact Mark Hughes at Phillips 66 - see website for details.*

**Register "on-line" to support this major VNVDV event - in Crockett SAT. May 18th**

The **Walk of Honor** check-in begins @ 8AM until 9:30PM at the Crockett Community Center

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## **Join Us... Attend the Blackhawk Film Festival**

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley  
voted to donate a custom engraved  
All Wars Memorial paver  
to the D/SV Rotary's Blackhawk  
Firm Festival for silent auction.



ARMED FORCES DAY  
SATURDAY - MAY 18th

Your Organization or Group  
can Sponsor a Team of Walkers  
in our 2013 Walk of Honor ...

Join Us  
in Crockett  
on MAY 18th

Be a part of a very special community  
event in CROCKETT, CA  
... join us on Armed Forces Day - Saturday  
- May 18 in our 2013 "Walk of Honor" for  
our Veterans. Fun for the Family  
Register on-line - Now Open

Register NOW  
to be a 2013  
"Individual Walker"  
or  
WALK of HONOR  
"Tribute"  
Walker!

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.



The "Walk of Honor"  
features a great morning  
bridge walk & following  
all registered participants  
are invited for a BBQ luncheon  
at the Crockett Community Center

**YOUR COMPANY CAN BE A SPONSOR**

Custom Ball Caps Available! **Contact "Phillips 66" NOW to be a "Walk of Honor" Sponsor this coming May.**

**Register Now for Armed Forces Day "WALK" - Sat. May 18th**

**Sign up today for the May 18, 2013 Armed Forces Day "Walk of Honor" event!** Enjoy a memorable leisurely walk across the "Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge" & share a delicious BBQ lunch at the Crockett Community Center - 850 Pomona St., Crockett. Invite your family, friends & neighbors; & enjoy yourself while honoring the service of loved ones who honored us by their service to our country.

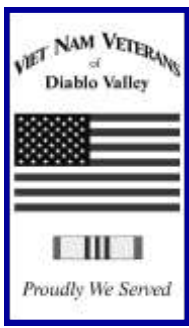
**Registration \$25.00** T-shirt and BBQ included + Veteran Information & Benefit Booths

**Check-in 8:00 am - 9:30 am** at the Crockett Community Center / Walk will begin at 10:00am.

**Please make checks payable to:** SFR Community Fund - (Tax ID#45-2483804).

**Mail check to:** Phillips66 - Attn: Aimee Lohr - 1380 San Pablo Avenue - Rodeo, CA 94572....or...

If you wish to pay by credit card, please enter card information on registration form found on-line at:  
<http://sfrwalkofhonor.com>



**2013 Membership Dues only \$25.00**

**Pay Your 2013 Dues by mail or at our Monthly Dinner.**

**Membership Dues reduced for 2013 - Renew Now!**

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## Mark Your Calendars

**VNVDV prepares for Memorial Day -  
Mon. May 27th - Oak Hill Park in Danville**

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley are working with the All Wars Memorial Foundation to present another successful Memorial Day event.

Plan to join us & attend.

The VNVDV will be setting-up cammo & chairs beginning at 0700 at Oak Hill Park on May 27th & after the remembrance program we will have our Members Only Family BBQ - meat provided.

*The VNVDV & All Wars Memorial Foundation  
sponsors this annual Memorial Day Remembrance...*

*featuring one of the only "fly-overs" on Memorial Day! Join Us!*

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## VietNam Veterans ready for 4th of July Parade

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley purchased & received 10,000 U. S. Flags - made in America for distribution to the large crowd expected at the 4th of July Parade in Danville. Wear your shirt

**VNVDV members encouraged to help in Flag distribution... all hands!**

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The 4th this year falls on the First Thursday.  
Our monthly dinner meeting will be held  
the day prior - Wednesday - July 3rd

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# Veteran's Club Room at VA Martinez - Exercise Room - X-Box - Pool Table

## **Martinez VA Clinic is encouraging veterans to use Building 23.**

The new *Brain & Wellness Center* in Martinez at the VA Northern California Health Care System offers supervised physical therapy instruction for Veterans in this *new state-of-the-art facility*. They have the best equipment + a rock climbing wall - club room with pool table - X-Box for between appointments. Exercise & determine "your own limits" by contacting your VA Primary Care Doctor for a "consult" & use this new building 23 center.

The VA offers the best in Health Care for Vets!

## **VSO Outstation Hours**

### **VMB Danville VSO Outstation Hours & Extension of Richmond Hours**

**Danville Outstation - 400 Hartz Ave. Room 208 - Open every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm (Except Holidays). Your appointments may be scheduled by calling (925) 313-1481 (Martinez VSO).**

Richmond branch office - 100-37th Street - Room 1033 - Veterans service is available on Tuesdays from 9am to 12pm & 1pm to 4pm (Except Holidays). To reach this office by phone, call (510) 374-3241.

**We pledge to continue comprehensive and respectful services to the Veterans community of Contra Costa County.**

*Nathan Johnson - County Veterans Service Officer*

## **FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS**

Link to 2012 Veterans Handbook: [http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book/2012\\_Federal\\_benefits\\_ebook\\_final.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/2012_Federal_benefits_ebook_final.pdf)

*Download your copy of your Veteran Benefit Handbook - Review the benefits you may have earned with your service!*

## **Affordable Care Act and the Veterans Health Administration**

The provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court **will not affect** the current role the Department of Veterans Affairs



(VA) has in the lives of America's Veterans. We will continue to provide Veterans with high quality, comprehensive health care and benefits they have earned through their service. VA health care does not change as a result of the ACA. *All veterans are encouraged to enroll in the VA medical health care benefit services. See our Veteran Service Rep. in the Danville VMB on Wednesdays from 10 until 2, or contact the VSO office in Martinez - open Monday thru Friday. 925/313-1481*

**Concord VET Center & County Veteran Service Office  
announce "VetCon 2013"  
the East Bay Veterans Fair  
July 15, 2013  
Hilton Hotel  
1970 Diamond Blvd  
Concord, CA 94520  
For more details visit:  
[www.eastbayveteransfair.org](http://www.eastbayveteransfair.org)  
or - [www.VetCon.org](http://www.VetCon.org)**

VA HOME LOAN information from the County Veterans Service Office -

Stable housing leads to long-term stability, which factors into reliability and other characteristics of successful employees. Are you aware that loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Loan Program have had the lowest foreclosure rate in the past 19 quarters compared to all other types of home loans? This is pretty significant given the trials & tribulations of the housing market during the past several years.

Did you know the VA's Home Loan Program Benefit is not a one-time benefit, but can be reused? Since 1944, more than 20 million Veterans and Service Members have enjoyed the benefit of a home purchase through the VA Home Loan program. Veterans who have already used their VA benefit in their home purchase may reuse that benefit to purchase another residence, or to refinance to a lower rate. This is referred to as an Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL) or Streamline Refinance Loan. No appraisal or credit underwriting is required.

Consider this: If a Veteran used their benefit, perhaps while on active duty, to purchase a home, they should compare their interest rate with current rates in their area. That Veteran can reuse their VA benefit to refinance their home with "no money out of pocket," as costs may be included in the loan. If that Veteran has since separated or retired from the military and receives disability compensation of at least 10%, he or she is exempt from the funding fee. This can be a considerable monthly or total savings for the Veteran. On average, Veterans saved more than \$200 per month payment on IRRRLs last year, saving those Veterans over \$900 million in their first two years alone! Learn more about IRRRLs on the VA website: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/irrrl.asp>.

Veterans may obtain a Certificate of Eligibility through our office, online through eBenefits, or through their lender. I encourage Veterans to seek the advice of a financial professional and to contact several lenders for quotes to determine what is in their best interest. If you have any questions, you can contact our office or speak with Loan Guaranty staff by calling 877.827.3702, or visit [http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/contact\\_rlc\\_info.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/contact_rlc_info.asp). From CCC VSO

**Veterans Benefits 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](mailto:Nathan.johnson@vs.cccounty.us)**



**Our Contra Costa County VSO  
is ready to serve our Veterans!**

Find out about the Veteran Benefits  
You earned through your Military Service  
Visit the County VSO Office NOW...  
for your Benefit Check-Up. You Earned it!

Our Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office is "the place" to have all of your VA paperwork completed - by a qualified, experienced service rep. & this service is available free to you in Martinez or on Wednesdays in Danville.

**VENTURE RESEARCH**

**Commercial Real Estate  
Appraisers & Consultants**

Helen S. Reese

PH: 925 / 935 - 4294

E: [HReese@sbcglobal.net](mailto:HReese@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.VentureResearch.biz](http://www.VentureResearch.biz)

"Experience the Quality Difference... over 30 years  
serving California and beyond with Excellence"

Business Card Advertisers:  
ADS have EXPIRED!  
Business Cards - \$50.00 YR to  
Renew your Incoming Ad by  
contacting VNVDV Treasurer.



# Blue Star Moms Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

## Friday - April 26, 2013

Callippee Preserve Presents

### Blue Star Moms Chapter 101 3<sup>rd</sup> Charity Tournament Supporting Gold Star Families

Friday April 26, 2013      1:00pm Shotgun Start      Check in 10:30am

#### \$200 Entry Fee

Footjoy Shoes            (\$100 value)  
Green Fee & Cart Fee    (\$60value)  
Lunch & Dinner            (\$50 value)  
2 Raffle Tickets            (\$10 value)  
1 Free Round next time    (60 value)  
    (Monday -Friday after 10am)  
    **\$280 value**

#### Prizes

Prizes raffled off at dinner  
1 Scotty Cameron Putter  
1 Flat Screen TV  
Taylormade Driver  
Titleist Driver  
Nike Putter  
Golf Bag and Much More...

#### Additional Ways to Contribute

**Platinum Sponsorship \$500** – Includes 4 dinners after the event and a gift certificate for four rounds of golf w/cart

**Gold Sponsorship \$250** – Includes 2 dinners after the event and a gift certificate for 2 rounds of golf w/cart

**Hole Sponsors \$100** – Includes name and brief description posted on our GPS units located on every golf cart

#### Benefits for Our Sponsors

All sponsors will be promoted through signage, flyers, and our GPS units for golfers in view. All sponsor and player donations are fully tax deductible, Blue Star Moms ID#84-1622728

\*\*\*\*No other discounts or gift certificates may be used with this event.\*\*\*\*

Make Checks Payable to: Callippee Preserve Golf Course

8500 Clubhouse Drive Pleasanton, CA 94566

If you would like to sign up or have further questions please contact

Doug Giannini or Alison Lombardo 925-426-6666 ext.18

Player	Phone #	Email	Shoe Size
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1.

2.

3.

4.

The VNVDV is Proud to Support our Blue Star Moms!  
Diablo Valley VSOs providing Color Guard for this "Blue Star" tournament!

# 2013 CAL Veterans Group Golf Tournament

Hosted at Tilden Park Golf Course



"All proceeds go to the Cal Veterans Group at U.C. Berkeley. For more information on sponsorship, donations, and golfer registration contact the Cal Veterans Group at [www.Calveterans.org](http://www.Calveterans.org). Follow the instructions on the website and come out to enjoy a nice day of golf while supporting Veterans in higher education!"



## Friday, April 5, 2013

12:30 Registration

1:30pm Shotgun Start

**\$100 for Single Registration**

**\$90 if Registered in a Group**

**\$75 for Student Registration**

*Includes: Green Fee, Cart Fee, Lunch*



*For more Info. Call Christian Fierro at 818-334-0380 or [csfierro@berkeley.edu](mailto:csfierro@berkeley.edu)*



***"Proudly We Served"***



# The Distinguished Warfare Medal

## Pentagon's New Medal Draws Criticism

A new medal approved by Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta just over a week ago was not welcomed by everyone.

The Distinguished Warfare Medal, which will be awarded for support of combat operations by drone pilots, cyber warfare troops and the like, has been ripped for its position in the military's "order of precedence," according to a report in Army Times.

The medal will rank just below the **Distinguished Flying Cross** and have precedence over the **Bronze Star with Valor** device. It also will rank above the **Purple Heart**, awarded for being wounded or killed in action.

"This award recognizes the reality of the kind of technological warfare we are engaged in in the 21st century," Panetta said last week.

But several people recently told publisher of Army Times that the ranking is wrong.

"Medals that can only be earned in direct combat must mean more than medals awarded in the rear," said VFW National Commander John Hamilton.

Military Times Hall of Valor curator Doug Sterner, said, "I understand the need to recognize guys at the console who are doing some pretty important things. But to see it ranking above the Bronze Star [with] V?"

Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, Pentagon spokesman, told the Army & Navy Times the medal will be limited to "achievements that are truly extraordinary."

"The DWM is visionary in that it fills a need for a non-valorous combat impact medal," Christensen added.



**3rd Annual Marine  
LCpl Travis Layfield  
Memorial Golf Tournament  
& Fun(d) Raiser**

Friday, May 4, 2012  
Sunol Valley Golf Course  
Sunol, CA

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**Support "Wine for Wheels"**

**Call or email Jeff Behring**

**[jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org](mailto:jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org)**

**(925) 648-3829**

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

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**Did you know - we have a Veteran Service Office...  
OPEN - Every Wednesday from 1000 to 1400 in Danville  
for all Vets & family members. Get Help - Make an Appointment!**

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*Your Business Card could be in our newsletter!*

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# VNVDV BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING - Danville

BOARD MEETING - THIRD THURSDAY - EVERY MONTH @ 1800



*The "Business Meeting" of the VNVDV*

## Volunteer positions open - Attend our Board Meeting on Third Thursday

*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!*



## The VNVDV Proudly Supports our Blue Star Moms

## Remember to Support the BSM Annual Golf Event!

**New Veteran Memorial Building OPEN weekdays for tours**  
**DOCENT** volunteers needed for VMB museum tours of the new Veterans Memorial Building in Danville. Contact President Mike *"Slatts"* Slattengren for details & training.

Business Card Advertisers:  
ADS have EXPIRED!  
Business Cards - \$50.00 yr.  
to Renew your Incoming Ad  
by contacting Treasurer  
Marty De Venuta at dinner.

**What about the Cold season...get your FLU Shots at the Martinez VA!**

The VA has the new 2013 Calendars available for all veterans - pick one up this month.

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

*We are on Facebook too!*

## East Bay Stand Down 2014 Dates Announced

**East Bay Stand Down 2014 dates set ~ Sept. 11, 12, 13, and 14**

*All you long term planners..... 2014* Dates reserved at the Alameda County Fairgrounds are for **Sept. 11, 12, 13, and 14** - plus related set up & tear down before & after. Calendar the dates I. As Mike Weber said - See you there... and don't say - *I didn't tell you early enough!*  
*Questions?* Contact Logistic Director - Mike Weber - 925-736-1500

# A note from veteran friend - Mark Curtis ...

As you know, I supported and publicized many of the good things about the Bay Area military community for many years.

Today I ask your help in spreading the word about a military related film I am helping promote and publicize.

It is called "Amazing Ops :Siege at Benghazi" and is about how the U.S. forces responded after the terrorist attack of September 11,2012.

Please look at the trailer and share with your friends: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/historivision/amazing-ops-siege-at-benghazi>

Please donate to the cause if you can! A press release is also attached to share!

Some of you are friends with me on Facebook. I would appreciate it if you went to my link and clicked "share" and clicked "like" as we are trying make this video go viral! Here is that link: <http://www.facebook.com/mark.curtis.1000>

God bless you all and thank you for all you are done for our country!

Hopefully I will be in the Bay Area soon on business and will see many of you!

Best wishes,

*Mark*

## **Benghazi Rescue Depicted in New Film; 'Kickstarter' Funding Sought**

WASHINGTON, DC– "Siege at Benghazi" chronicles the daring rescue mission at the U.S. Diplomatic Mission and the subsequent battle at a nearby CIA facility in Libya on the night of 9/11/2012. American and Canadian companies have joined forces to dramatize these heroic actions. Their mission was to create a new visual style for recreating Special Operations missions, without huge Hollywood budgets. With consultants from varied Special Operations and Intelligence backgrounds, HistoriVision, based in the Washington, DC area, and Whipsnap Films and Thoughtform Digital, both of Toronto, Canada, teamed up to create the short film. Weather delays and late-breaking details of the action prompted film makers to add extra shooting days, and turn to the popular crowd-source funding site Kickstarter to raise additional funds to complete the project. HistoriVision's 30 day campaign was launched on February 18, 2013, and has set a target to raise at least \$250,000 to finish the film. The movie trailer and Kickstarter campaign can be seen here:

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/historivision/amazing-ops-siege-at-benghazi>

"We think a lot of people want to see the story told without the politics," said HistoriVision Co-Executive Producer Rich Ware. "The CIA teams fought off a concerted attack and saved a lot of lives," said Jeff Hix, HistoriVision Co-Executive Producer, "People hold these American heroes in awe and want to see how they pulled it off." Whipsnap and Thoughtform are known for creating cinematic film shorts related to the Call of Duty Modern Warfare video game plot. "Find Makarov" and "Operation Kingfish" fused live action and video game style visual effects and garnered over ten million views on the internet. "We are bringing that same look to 'Siege at Benghazi,'" said Thoughtform's Jacky Wan.

**HISTORIVISION**

"Siege at Benghazi" was filmed at "Strategic Operations" studio and other locations in San Diego County in December 2012. The film makers plan to finish the project this Spring and then widely distribute it on new media platforms, or as part of a more ambitious broadcast offering.

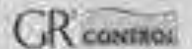


**Thomas Corbett**  
Family Service Counselor  
Pre-need and Veteran Specialist  
Lic. #44629  
tcoak8@gmail.com

2099 Reliez Valley Road • Lafayette, CA 94549  
cell 925.216.4785 • office 925.935.3311 • fax 925.935.0625

COA #619, FD #875

Member - VNV DV & Marine Corps League



**R. Nathan Greene**  
Independent Distributor

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San Ramon, CA 94583  
Phone 925-875-1747  
Fax 925-875-1747  
rgreene747@comcast.net  
CA Sale Permit GH 100-314584

# Marines Memorial Club hosts Security Conference in SF

**The Naval War College Foundation  
Presents:**

**Economic & Maritime Security  
In the Western Pacific**

**Saturday - April 6, 2013**

**Marines' Memorial  
Club and Hotel  
609 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California**

## **Schedule:**

*0730-0900: Registration, and continental breakfast, Crystal Lounge*

*0900-0915: Welcome and Introduction, John E. Odegaard, Executive Director, Naval War College Foundation, Crystal Ballroom*

*0915-1030: Dr. Peter Dombrowski, Professor of Strategy, Naval War College; Chair, Strategic Research Department, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island*

*1030-1045: Break*

*1045-1200: Dr. Casey Lucius, Associate Professor of Theater Security Decision Making, Department of National Security Affairs, Naval War College, Monterey, CA.*

*1200-1300: Lunch, Crystal Lounge*

*1300-1415: Dr. Terence Roehrig, Professor, National Security Affairs; Director, Asia-Pacific Studies Group, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island*

*1415-1430: Break*

*1430-1600: Panel discussion, Q & A*

*1600-1700: Closing remarks, Hosted Cocktail Reception, Crystal Lounge*

**Cost: \$95**

**To register online for this event, please go to our website at**

**<https://registration.nwcfoundation.org/sf2013>**

**Call Steve Stasiuk at the Naval War College Foundation at 401.848.8308**

# VietNam Veterans... Are You Enrolled in VA Health Care?

## Why should Vietnam War veterans enroll in the VA Health Care System?

Diseases & Conditions due to Military Exposures » Vietnam War

Vietnam War (Nov. 1, 1965-April 30, 1975)

Vietnam Veterans may have been exposed to a variety of environmental and chemical hazards that carried potential health risks. **VA offers eligible Veterans a free Agent Orange Registry health exam for possible long-term health problems related to herbicide exposure.**

### **Agent Orange or Other Herbicides**

Herbicides used to destroy foliage and crops

### **Noise**

Harmful sounds from guns, equipment, and machinery that is often experienced during military service

### **Hepatitis C**

Vietnam-era Veterans are at risk for hepatitis C. Talk to your provider about getting tested.

### **Occupational Hazards**

Exposures from working with chemicals, paints, and machinery during service

### **Others**

***Editor's Note:* The VA offer to eligible VietNam Veterans of FREE Agent Orange Registry health exam for possible long-term health problems related to herbicide exposure is NOT based on Income. For assistance in completing the required paperwork – please see our *Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office FIRST* - prior to registering at VA. Some of the conditions listed above may be service –connected. If you are a VietNam veteran & been denied due to income - contact our VSO office.**

## **VSO Outstation Hours**

### **VMB Danville VSO Outstation Hours & Extension of Richmond Hours**

**Danville Outstation - 400 Hartz Ave. Room 208 - Open *every Wednesday* from 10am to 2pm (Except Holidays). Your appointments may be scheduled by calling (925) 313-1481 (Martinez VSO).**

**Richmond branch office - 100-37th Street - Room 1033 - Veterans service is available on Tuesdays from 9am to 12pm & 1pm to 4pm (Except Holidays). To reach this office by phone, call (510) 374-3241.**

**We pledge to continue comprehensive and respectful services to the Veterans community of Contra Costa County.**

***Nathan Johnson - County Veterans Service Officer***

# ***Sentinels of Freedom***

## **2013 Dinner Gala and Golf Tournament**

### ***Reserve the Date***

**Dates:**

**Dinner: Sunday September 29th, 2013**

**Cocktails begin at 4 pm. Dinner, Auction and Speaker to follow**

**Golf: Monday September 30th, 2013**

**Registration opens at 9 am**

**Opening ceremonies at 10:30 am**

**Goal:**

**To raise money and awareness for Sentinels of Freedom and the Veterans that we serve.**

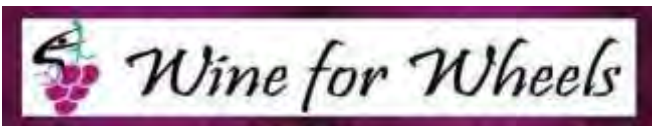
**Location:**

**Diablo Country Club  
1700 Clubhouse Road  
Diablo, CA**

**Questions:**


**Email: [carlagoulart@sentinelsoffreedom.org](mailto:carlagoulart@sentinelsoffreedom.org)**

**Phone: (925) 380-6342 ext 2**



The ***Wine for Wheels & Wheelchair Foundation*** events are amazing to attend & support. **VNVDV** members interested in attending events should check on-line for upcoming functions and please contact ***Jeff Behring*** if you have questions. Visit their websites.

The VNVDV is honored to be a proud supporter of the Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels and the opportunity to provide the **freedom of mobility** to those in need. *We Thank both **David & Jeff** for their support & to all others supporting these events.*

 **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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**Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.**  
Martinez Primary Care Clinic  
150 Muir Road, Martinez, Calif. 94553

Advice Nurse-Appointment Line  
800-362-8387  
Pharmacy(Toll Free)Line  
866-900-6279  
Martinez, CA 94553

Fax: (925) 372-2804

Business Card Advertisers:  
ADS have **EXPIRED!**  
Business Cards - \$50.00 YR to  
Renew your Incoming Ad by  
contacting VNVDV Treasurer.



## In the News...

**MCCLELLAN: ONE LAST CALL TO SERVICE – END MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS**

**COLUMNIST : VETS DON'T DESERVE HONORS MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS FOR VETS NOT KILLED IN COMBAT SHOULD BE ELIMINATED TO CUT COSTS, ONE COLUMNIST SAYS, BECAUSE MOST VETS HAVE DONE NOTHING HEROIC.**

*Bill McClellan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Read more on-line by Bill McClennan*

Posted on-line - March 27, 2013 6:00 am • By Bill McClellan [bmcclellan@post-dispatch.com](mailto:bmcclellan@post-dispatch.com) 314-340-8143

Voice Your Opinion directly !

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## Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary announces Blackhawk Food, Wine, & Film Festival



We have Emmy award winning sports anchor **Mark Ibanez** helping host our event this year. This bay area legend is the longest running sportscaster here in the bay! I'm pumped to meet the guy, how about you?

**This event also features - great food from many of the bay areas finest restaurants and the Livermore winery community... plus lots more - attend this event!**

**Mark Ibanez**

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

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## **VNVDV donates funds to sponsor - VetCon 2013**

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## **New Veteran Outreach Coordinator**

### **Maurice Delmer accepts position at Concord VET Center**

If you need to reach me for any reason please call the VET Center **(925) 680-4526**. If you are looking for a staff member in Assemblywoman Bonilla's office please call 925-521-1511. Thanks. We look forward to continuing to support our returning veterans.

**Maurice Delmer**  
Concord Vet Center  
OEF/OIF/OND Outreach Coordinator  
1333 Willow Pass Road, Ste. 106  
Concord, CA 94520  
[Maurice.Delmer@va.gov](mailto:Maurice.Delmer@va.gov)  
Tel: (925) 680-4526  
Fax: (925) 680-0410

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### **In Danville... MORNING with the MAYOR - Friday - April 12th**

**Morning with the Mayor** set for March 29, 2013 will instead be held **Friday April 12, 2013... Community is invited.**

**Town of Danville's Morning with the Mayor** will have a new location. The meeting will take place from 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at the *Veterans Memorial Building*, 400 Hartz Avenue.

For more information on Danville's Morning with the Mayor, contact Assistant to the Town Manager **Nat Rojanasathira** at **(925) 314-3328** or [nrojanasathira@danville.ca.gov](mailto:nrojanasathira@danville.ca.gov).



Rotary Club of Danville/Sycamore Valley  
Community Foundation

Presents the 23rd Annual

# BLACKHAWK FOOD, WINE & FILM FESTIVAL

Date: Thursday, May 9th, 2013

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Location: The Blackhawk Museum

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, California



Featuring the classic movie "007 in Dr. No."

An Evening of Great Food, Wine & Entertainment!

Featuring the wines of Livermore Valley, local fine restaurants, and great musical entertainment. Silent and Live Auctions



Featuring Wineries from the Livermore Valley  
& the Finest Restaurants throughout  
the San Ramon Valley

Proceeds go to the Rotary Club of Danville/Sycamore Valley Community Foundation a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization in support of local charitable and non-profit organizations and international service projects.

A Private Event for the Donors of the Rotary Club of Danville/Sycamore Valley Community Foundation with a minimum annual donation of \$50.00 or more.

Advance Invitations Only. Information at [lippman.max@gmail.com](mailto:lippman.max@gmail.com) or call 510.289.4020

Contact Helen Reese @ 925/935-4294 - She has 10 Advance Invitations.



# Operation Welcome Home

## DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE

*Dedicated to the Remembrance of 9-11.  
Devoted to the Support of our Troops.*

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



### OPERATION WELCOME HOME!

We will never, ever again let our military heroes be treated like they were when they came home from the Vietnam War, when our Soldiers, Airmen, Seamen and Marines were spat on when they got off the plane.

**NEVER, EVER AGAIN.**

If you know of a military member that is returning home and you would like to surprise them with one of these heart-warming Welcome Home ceremonies, please contact Bryan 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](http://www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com)

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

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

**VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley** thanks and welcomes all returning military along with Diablo Valley Flag Brigade - Warriors Watch Riders - Blue Star Moms & our fellow VSO support organizations.

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

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

Recognition of all our active-duty military service members is one of the most worthwhile activities VSO members are able to perform. Members of the **VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley - along with VFW #75 - American Legion #246 - Marine Corps League #942** make-up the San Ramon Valley Veterans. Attend & thank each returning veterans for serving & help these other great organizations to provide the proper Welcome Home. Each returning service member is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the SRV Veterans. **Visit the Website on a regular basis!**



**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 San Ramon Valley Veterans...  
VNVDV - MCL - VFW - Legion & Blue Star Moms -  
Warriors Watch Riders - Diablo Valley Flag Brigade -  
+ many others...

as we celebrate our local returning military in  
"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**

# Your Veteran Resources



## **County Veterans Service Office**

10 Douglas Drive - Suite 100

Martinez, CA 94553

**PH: 925 / 313-1481**



## **VA Martinez Outpatient Clinic**

150 Muir Road

Martinez, CA 94553

PH: 800 / 382-8387

**PH: 925 / 372-2000**



## **Concord Vet Center**

1333 Willow Pass Road - Suite 106

Concord, CA 94520-7931

**PH: 925 / 680-4526**

PH: 877 / 927-8387



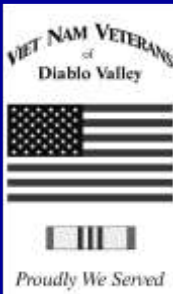
## **VA Oakland Regional Office**

Federal Building

1301 Clay Street

Oakland, CA 94612

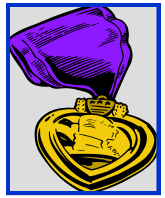




# Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley  
Post Office Box 2079  
Danville, CA 94526 - 2079  
E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com  
Web: [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)

# Apr 2013



## Electronic Edition

### 2013 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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- Vice President -**
- Ray La Rochelle**
- Treasurer -**
- Martin De Venuta**
- Secretary -**
- Cliff De Cuir**
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- Bill Chew**
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- Vacant**
- Events -**
- Vacant**
- Speakers -**
- Mike Martin**
- Procurement -**
- Bill Green**

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- Jerry Yahiro
- John Estes
- Del Loewe
- Tim Hart
- Mike Weber
- Mike McDaniel
- Rich Lambert
- Ron Azarcon
- Bill Picton
- Norm Mahalich
- Est. 1991 -

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



*The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley was established in 1991 as a non-profit, local, grass-roots 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 open & we are looking for Docents. - 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](http://www.VNVDV.com). All veterans & their guests are welcome to attend our dinner 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!

**April — Kenneth Levin Featured GUEST SPEAKER**  
**1st THURSDAY - April 4th**  
**at CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon**  
**Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815**  
**Don't Miss our great monthly speakers!**