



INCOMING NEWS



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Established in 1991

JUNE
2013

Phillips 66 "WALK of HONOR" a Huge Success - Thank You! Great turn-out for Memorial Day Remembrance at Oak Hill Park

Message from the "Prez" - "Slatts"

Welcome to this month of June's INCOMING. The month of May was one of our busiest and July will be also with the month of June giving us some prep time for the 4th of July parade in Danville.

Phillips 66's 5th annual Walk Of Honor (WOH) in Crockett, walking across the Carquinez Bridge on Armed Forces Day (Sat May 18) was a HUGE SUCCESS! The VNVDV is fortunate to be a recipient of half of the donations made to the PHILLIPS 66 Community Foundation by the many sponsors & supporters now completing our 5th year! I want to thank all of you who came to walk or if you weren't able to attend, did support this worthy effort through a financial donation to this important community cause. Brig Gen Bart Gilbert (Ret), who is a member of our VNVDV, was the keynote speaker that day. We all enjoyed beautiful weather - a most delicious lunch & great event. Thanks to Mark Phillips & the Phillips 66 Team!

Memorial Day this year was observed on Monday May 27th. This year was amazing drawing approx. 800 - 1000 people from Diablo Valley & surrounding communities - coming together to remember those who died in service to our country. As always, we had a great time setting up cammo/shade cover prior to the start of the event.

Our two Blue Star Mom Chapters (Contra Costa #20 and East Bay #101) are active in their annual collections for their shipments to our Troops in time for the 4th of July. Please visit their websites for more details (in newsletter)

We recently discovered special collection points in the "Patelco Credit Union" branches - and Blue Star Mom "Drop Zones" have been active throughout the area. On June 8 from 10AM - 3PM the BSMs will be at: **Safeway** - 200 Alamo Plaza in Alamo. We encourage member & community support... Consider dropping off items like: "just add water" products (think - Top Ramen. Powdered drink mix), *protein* (think - tuna or chicken (pop-top can), or *baby wipes*, *Q-tips*, *snacks* (think - sun flower seeds, trail mix), *White cotton crew neck T-shirts* (M or L). Vet or civilian - Think of things we wanted - NO do not send a subscription to *PLAYBOY!* Remember - The BSMs **are always** there to assist & help us in our projects & programs.

Continued... on Page Two -

Thank You Phillips 66



Mark Hughes, Phillips 66 - SFR Community Relations Manager accepts recognition from VNVDV President Mike Slattengren on behalf of all veterans who will benefit from the 5th "Walk of Honor"

Join Us Monthly

Monthly the VNVDV holds a dinner meeting on the **First Thursday** at *Crow Canyon County Club* - **Open to ALL vets - guests & visitors.** It is 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!**

Inside INCOMING this month...

Speaker's Bureau teams with Vietnam Helicopters for HS history education

★
RAdm. Russ Gorman - Recognized for significant contributions to vets

★
VNVDV Sponsors Annual GWOT "Duck Club Retreat"

VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter



MIKE SLATTENGREN
President VNVDV

Our Sincere Thanks goes to all who supported the 5th Annual "Phillips 66 Walk of Honor" - for our Veterans on Armed Forces Day



Every Saturday ...

"Morning Coffee" & pastries with fellow veterans every Saturday from 8AM until 11AM

At the Danville Veterans Memorial Building





President's Message

Continued... from Page One -

As veterans - let's step-up individually to help the BSMs back - with their packages to our Troops. Visit a **BSM "drop zones"** - and if you are **not a shopper**... consider a cash donation to help defray the costly postage / shipping expenses stateside & overseas. The Blue Star Moms "also serve" - with their sons & daughters... *our proud military service members of today!* Please Support BSMs by visiting their websites (in this newsletter).

Our Board of Directors (BOD) has registered and is planning for the Danville/Kiwanis 4th of July parade. The VNVDV has over 10,000 American flags our members will distribute to parade attendees, especially the children. A USMC Color Guard & U.S. Army band is scheduled to perform with the VNVDV unit & we are working on other participants joining in our entry (Concord Vet Center Huey, Warriors Watch Riders escorts & others). The Kiwanis parade theme for **2013 "People Helping People"** & the VNVDV is an organization of "Veterans Helping Veterans" throughout our community! Join us in the parade on Thursday (July 4th) starting at **0900 Hrs** this year. We need all members to assist in our annual flag distribution. Member *staging* will be near the intersection next to the high school BTW - since the 4th July is on a Thursday this year, our dinner meeting in July will be on **Wednesday, July 3rd**.

Don't forget to attend & support the **Concord Vet Center Flag Pole Dedication Ceremony on Saturday - June 15th** beginning at 1300 Hrs. followed by a BBQ at 1400 Hrs. The ceremony is "Dedicated to the Women who served & are serving."

On July 15th - from 9AM - 2PM at the Concord Hilton the *East Bay Veterans Fair* expands into **VetCon 2013...** a special event for returning vets and all other veterans who are looking at college - employment - and a wide variety of other services/ programs & support available in our East Bay Community.

Then in the month of September the *Sentinels of Freedom* will be holding their 2013 Dinner Gala and Golf Tournament. Please see more details on this worthy fund raising effort in the INCOMING. Our Board of Directors voted to support by sponsoring the 1st and 18th Tees.

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

Remember "SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE" with fellow Veterans... hosted by the various veteran groups who use the SRV Veteran Memorial Building (VNVDV being one of them). These are great "Saturday morning" gatherings. The VMB is open from 8 - 11 am each Saturday. It's a nice way to spend an occasional Saturday morning visiting with fellow veterans. Come when you'd like between 8 & 11 and leave when you'd like. It's simple & a nice way to start a Saturday morning.

Continued... Top of Page

According to our by-laws a "life membership" dues in the VNVDV is calculated as **8 times** the annual dues. Since our dues were lowered this year to **\$25 per year** - the life membership payment of **\$200 is a bargain** - for you to consider. **There are criteria for applying for life membership:** One needs to be a member in good standing for 5 years and has contributed effort to the VNVDV (helped at Memorial Day, participated in the 4th of July parade, or other). If you are considering this, please let our Membership Chairman Bill Chew & Treasurer Marty DeVenuta know of your interest.

Finally, don't forget our *Operation Welcome Home* events. We've had a few more this past month of May. As mentioned before, if you are interested in participating in these, check the website & let John Reese know you want to be on the distribution when we learn about 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 and only take about an hour out of your day. Very fulfilling for both the returnees and to each of us. Details in newsletter.

There is a lot of information in this INCOMING newsletter, so be sure to look at all the articles. Besides information on the various activities we participate in or support, there is further information we need as veterans for ourselves and our families. Take a look at our supporter's websites.

We'll see you all at our June dinner meeting on Thurs. - June 6, 2013, 6 pm at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon. Social hour starts at 5 pm.

Michael Slattengren

Michael Slattengren
President 2012

PH: (925) 837-6238

E: President.VNVDV@gmail.com



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

Note: E-Mail with a "dot"

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO VNVDV MEMBERS

The 2013 JULY VNVDV Membership Dinner Meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY - July 3rd** at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. A reschedule of days.

This change is necessary due to this Thursday being - 4th of July Holiday. Please attend the parade on 4th.

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

JUNE Guest Speaker - Captain David Yuers

June 6th at our dinner, Captain David Yuers will be speaking at dinner for the VNVDV

A local, David Yuers was born in Oakland, raised in Lafayette, and attended schools in Pleasant Hill, Concord and finally, San Francisco State University. Growing up, Yuers dreamed about one day becoming a pilot, and was most proud of the aviation merit badge he received in Boy Scouts. Because of a vision loss, Yuers was not able to realize his dream and in 1982 he joined the U.S. Air Force as an enlisted and became an Aircraft Weapons Chief. He left the regular Air Force in 1992 and joined the Air National Guard in 1994.



From 1994 through 2004, he was stationed with the California Air National Guard's 129th Combat Search and Rescue Wing at Moffett Federal Air Field. He trained to become an all-source intelligence analyst and worked with the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement in San Jose as an Air National Guard liaison.

In 2004, Yuers earned a commission in the United States Air Force Reserve and is presently stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

His decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with valor) and the Operation Iraqi Freedom Campaign Medal.

Captain Yuers now lives in Walnut Creek and is presently assigned at Nellis Air Force Base working at the 547th Intelligence Squadron. His last deployment, February to August 2012, was to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti,

Africa. As guest speaker Captain Yuers will be enlightening us on **WHAT IS GOING ON IN AFRICA.**

Djibouti, officially the Republic of Djibouti, is a small desert country located at the south entrance of the Red Sea in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Eritrea in the north, Ethiopia in the west and south, and Somalia in the southeast. The remainder of the border is formed by the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden at the east. Djibouti occupies only a total area of just 8,958 square miles, but is strategically located near the world's busiest shipping lanes, controlling access to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. It serves as a key refueling and transshipment center, and is the principal maritime port for imports to and exports from neighboring Ethiopia. A burgeoning commercial hub, the nation is the site of various foreign military bases, including Camp Lemonnier.

Djibouti's importance stems from its strategic location at the entrance to the Bab al Mandeb. The country's airfield served as part of a strategic air bridge for operations in Somalia, and the US has an ongoing ship visit program. Djibouti's pro-Western orientation and long-standing French presence afford the U.S. important access to support facilities for crisis response.

Join us for a great dinner with the author featuring his interesting book!

Many Thanks to our **MAY** Dinner Speaker...

Craig B. Smith

Author - **“Counting the Days”**





Phillips 66 - SFR
Rodeo & Carbon Plant
WALK of HONOR
Sponsors

WALK OF HONOR
FOR OUR
VETERANS
Armed Forces Day

THANK YOU to Phillips 66
San Francisco Refinery
& Carbon Plant
The Sponsors -
Contractors -
Employees &
Many Supporters
from the
VNVDV



A Huge Success Thanks to our Community Support

The *east bay* community joined-in supporting the event this year on **Armed Forces Day** and truly honoring the Men and Women who Serve & Served Our Nation

The **Phillips 66** San Francisco Refinery and Carbon Plant joined with the community in honoring and celebrating the service of our military veterans on **Armed Forces Day 2013**. The 5th Annual **Phillips 66** sponsored "**Walk of Honor**" which was held on **Saturday, May 18, 2013**.... Was a HUGE SUCCESS! Near 500 employees, contractors and local residents participated in the celebration, and together raising in excess of \$140,000 in the past five years. It was a fun, exciting and fulfilling day honoring the men and women who have valiantly served our nation and we thank all who helped in making this year another success!

Phillips 66 partnering with both the **Vietnam Veterans of the Diablo Valley** (VNVDV), and the **Crockett Community Services District** (CCSD) and is equally dividing 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*. Phillips 66 is very honored to support these *two* worthy causes and again thank everyone for their support of the 5th annual Walk of Honor for our veterans.

The VNVDV "Thanks" all the Sponsors & Supporters on **Armed Forces Day 2013** for the Phillips 66 "Walk of Honor"

Armed Forces Day - Phillips 66 "Walk of Honor" for our Veterans



"Walk of Honor" 2013

Phillips 66 "WALK of HONOR"



**THANK YOU... Phillips 66
"WALK of HONOR"**

VET CENTER FLAG POLE DEDICATION CEREMONY

Dedicated to "Women Who Serve/d."
SATURDAY, JUNE 15.

1:00 PM CEREMONY
2:00 PM BBQ AND
POTLUCK
HOSTED BY
VETERANS
OF THE CONCORD
VET CENTER

1333 WILLOW PASS ROAD
CONCORD, CA 94520
IN THE PARKING LOT BETWEEN DENNY'S AND SIZZLER

**Veterans who Recently Returned
should drop-in to the
Concord VET Center
to discover the services available.**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONCORD VET CENTER

Denver F. Mills

Director / Team Leader
Readjustment Counseling Service

1333 Willow Pass Road
Suite 106
Concord, CA 94520

Telephone: (925) 680-4526
Fax: (925) 680-0410
BlackBerry: (925) 588-1954
E-mail: denver.mills@va.gov



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.

Martinez Primary Care Clinic
150 Muir Road, Martinez, Calif. 94553

Advice Nurse-Appointment Line
600-362-8367
Pharmacy (Toll Free) Line
866-600-8279
Martinez, CA 94553

Fax: (925) 372-2804

VNVDV donates "All Wars Memorial" PAVERS supporting two - Community Charity Foundations.

The VNVDV Board of Directors voted during May to purchase & donate *two* "All Wars Memorial" PAVERS to help assist, local charitable foundations which support veterans - those serving & veteran-related community efforts.

These AWM Pavers will be *custom-engraved* for the *winning donor* - to HONOR either *a veteran* or *patriot* at the beautiful memorial in Oak Hill Park, located in the Town of Danville. Currently there are less than *one-hundred blank, granite pavers* remaining in the long walkway leading to the top & going fast. There are now *over one-thousand pavers* currently engraved in the *twenty-three panels* - for family members who served - local veterans - VSOs - support organizations & many *non-veteran "patriots"* from the community who desired to support this beautiful tribute memorial, dedicated to *all those who served* - including family members who waited at home & supporters. There are AWM pavers for each Tri-Valley service member who gave *the ultimate price* since 9/11

The VNVDV is honored to be able to support the *Danville / Sycamore Valley Rotary Foundation* and the *Phillips 66 Community Foundation* - both organizations dedicated supporters of veterans & those who proudly serve.

All Wars Memorial "PAVER" Order Form

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the **All Wars Memorial Foundation** or purchase an AWM Paver To honor the service or contribution made by an Individual - Organization or unit

PURCHASER'S INFORMATION: (If paying by credit card Use the information as on the billing statement)

Name of Purchaser

Address

City / State / Zip

Contact Phone and E-Mail Address

INDIVIDUAL Granite 8" x 8" Pavers @ \$250.00 each

___ IN MEMORY (for those who died while serving their country)

___ IN HONOR (for all other pavers)

NAME (to be shown on paver)

Can add **Rank** for those who that served in the military. Up to two lines available - maximum of 15 characters on each line - including spaces. **Please PRINT all letters.**

BRANCH of SERVICE: (circle one)

U. S. Army - USMC - U. S. Navy - USAF - USCG - **Army/Air Corps**
Merchant Marines - National Guard - or - **PATRIOT** (for all others)

Organization / Unit Granite 8" x 8" Pavers @ \$250.00 each

PAYMENT METHOD:

Enclosed **Check** for: \$ _____

Payable to: **ALL WARS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

Post Office Box 158 - Danville, CA 94526

Charge my: Visa - MasterCard

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature and Date... & mail to: AWMF (address above)

www.AllWarsMemorial.org



The All Wars Memorial located in Danville, California is a project undertaken by the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley and continued by the All Wars Memorial Foundation. The Memorial is unique in three ways. As the name implies, it honors those who perished or served in all wars, past and future. Second, it recognizes the sacrifices of the families of those who served. Lastly, it pays tribute to all patriotic Americans, who in their own way supported, contributed, volunteered and sacrificed to assist those fighting in a conflict.

www.AllWarsMemorial.org

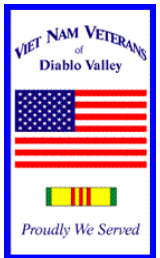
Order your AWM Paver Today!

Time is Limited - Less than One-Hundred (100)

AWM "Pavers" remaining in the walkway at Oak Hill Park.

Mail your order to: AWMF - P.O. Box 158 - Danville, CA 94526

"GWOT" (Global War on Terrorism) Veteran Weekend Duck Club Retreat Sponsored by the VietNam Veterans



One of the VNVDV's less publicized efforts is a special veteran services program designed by long-time VNVDV member & Director **Bill Green** - who serves as a volunteer "mentor" for Vet Center support groups. Created to assist our more recent returning vets - "GWOT" (Global War on Terrorism) giving them a relaxed, social environment to aide in readjustment to civilian life & activities after combat military service..

Assisting the VNVDV with counselor support is our County Veterans Service Office & Vet Center "mentors & coaches" allowing time for these younger vets to talk with other veterans. This worthy program was developed for returning / GWOT veterans - and made possible, largely due to funding received through our partnership with **Phillips 66** & their annual "**Walk of Honor**" on *Armed Forces Day*. *We thanks all those who supported this year's event.*

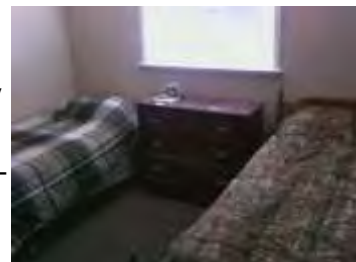


Lots of effort goes into this retreat by VNVDV Director Bill Green - who fortunately happens to be a member/partner member of a private "Duck Club" located near the **Sutter Butte Mountains** - not far from Yuba City. Bill worked with fellow members to create this retreat & a time when these younger vets could gather - socialize & relax together with a wide variety of activities. Part of the process is to be able to feel secure - no pressures - get a good night's sleep - being with others who understand the *sometimes difficult process* of readjusting socially to everyday life.

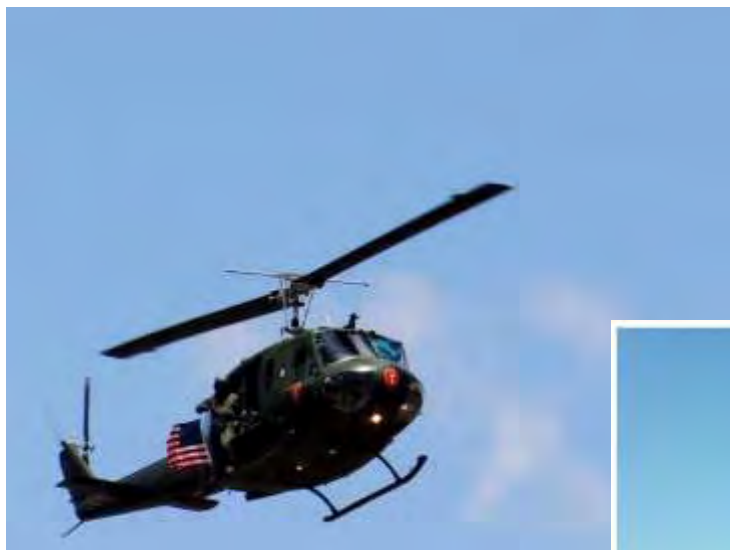
This "weekend retreat" features the full-use of this remote Duck Club with a variety of activities - movies - campfires - sleeping accommodations for at least thirty - plus a swimming pool - fly-casting lessons - game room - BBQ grills and "cases of clay pigeons" with shotguns provided & enough shotgun shells to become quite proficient! So much to do in this great outdoor space - including usually a few dogs to pet - enjoying the many different activities - or to just relax. Although, one *special highlight* which is rarely passed-up at this special veteran retreat weekend is the arrival & landing of **Vietnam Helicopters, Inc.** -



25th Inf. Div. **UH-1 HUEY**. To add to the thrills in a door-open, ride aboard this fully-restored, vintage VietNam combat helicopter. * We have been told by much older vets - the Huey tour is better than a *Disneyland "E Ticket"* ride! These younger, GWOT vets truly get an amazing tour over the Sutter Butte Mountains. Attending with these vets includes our County Veterans Service Officer & others who serve as Vet Center "coach" providing always someone to talk with. This is quality time together with others who understand & have been there! All this works up an appetite and Bill has lots of food and special treats prepared at this special weekend.



GWOT Retreat will feature Vietnam Helicopters, Inc 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey



Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation Update

VNVDV President Michael Slattengren attended the **San Francisco State University Veterans (only) Graduation** on May 25th representing VNVDV - and attended with our **New Sentinel SSGT. Kyle Garcia, USMC** wounded in Afghanistan in 2012. The SFSU Graduation event was held at the **Marine Memorial Club** in San Francisco - who by the way Mike Conklin, *Sentinels of Freedom Foundation* Founder stated "did an outstanding job."

Kyle will be attending SFSU in the Fall and studying accounting. Kyle & his wife live in El Sorbronte. PG&E was honored as his scholarship sponsor at the event.



Sentinels President - Mike Conklin also thanks all of you in the VNVDV for your support of the SFSU *Veteran Graduation*. His plans are to get Kyle to one of the next VNVDV dinners.

Photo: (Left to right) Mrs. Crystal Garcia - Kyle wife, New Sentinel SSgt. Kyle Garcia & VNVDV President Michael "Slatts" Slattengren at the **Marines Memorial Club** graduation dinner held in San Francisco.

Community & Veterans Recognize & Honor Rear Admiral Russell "Russ" Gorman, USN for his Significant Contributions to the Veteran Community.



NEW VETERAN MEMORIAL BUILDING "LIBRARY" NAMED IN HONOR OF RADM. & MRS. RUSSELL GORMAN FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.



VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII



A VMB Tribute Honoring RADM. Russell "Russ" Gorman, USN



Upcoming Events...

Please Join Us

BLUE STAR MOMS - DROP ZONE PRIOR TO PACK-OUT FOR TROOPS!
GWOT Veterans Duck Club Retreat - June
CONCORD VET CENTER FLAG POLE DEDICATION - JUNE
East Bay Veterans Fair - VETCON 2013 - July
Purple Heart Heroes Tour - Livermore - August

**The Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley
express our sincere THANKS to
Vietnam Helicopters, Inc
and their 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey
to Support education at our local high schools.**



Renew Your
Dues
only \$25



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!

The parade is one of the most amazing events
you - as a VietNam veteran can attend...
It is the Welcome Home you may not have received!

VNVDV Speaker's Bureau exceeds 50,000 students participating in educational presentations on the Vietnam War

Speaker's Bureau partner with Vietnam Helicopters, Inc taking the 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey to many local high schools to expand the history of Vietnam to students.



(U-L) **Bill Green** co-chair of the VNVDV Speaker's Bureau shares a story with students at Monte Vista High School after his formal presentation. The UH-1 Huey's "LZ" - a grass field behind the HS with hundreds of students waiting
 (U-R) **Mike Martin** also a co-chair of the Speaker's Bureau with MV HS a key teacher responsible for coordinated & supporting live history education of the Vietnam War using VNVDV speaker's bureau who teaming-up with **Vietnam Helicopters**, to provide real *hands-on* experiences with the 25th Inf. Div. Huey.



Pearl Harbor Survivor **Mickey Ganitch** (93) spoke to *lots* of students & even had an opportunity to "tell stories" to some pre-school children & parents.. Playing next door - in Oak Hill Park & hearing the distinctive "wop-wop" of the 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey as it approached the LZ at Monte Vista High School VNVDV member **Joe Callaway** invited his grandchildren to come out to see the helicopter land. Joe was aboard & wearing a family WW II jacket & his own Vietnam field jacket (yes - it was cool & windy) as the **Vietnam Helicopter's fully-restored Huey** made multiple, *special educational history visits* in the Diablo Valley to further education & keeping history alive & interesting for students.

During May, San Ramon Valley High School *juniors* study the Vietnam War... and the VNVDV along with **Vietnam Helicopters**, made this history lesson "real"... transporting veterans who actually served in multiple conflicts. This "flight team" included two **Pearl Harbor Survivors** - Korean War veteran - "assorted" Vietnam veterans & one pilot who served in the Gulf War. The Huey landed at the school allowing students to speak with these veterans - ask questions & get photos with the UH-1 Huey - **A plus...** in history education! : jr

VNVDV Speaker's Bureau & Vietnam Helicopters team-up and land 25th Inf. Div. UH-1 Huey for History Education at Monte Vista ~ San Ramon Valley ~ Cal High ~ Dorathey Valley High





2013 Membership Dues only \$25.00

Pay Your 2013 Dues by mail or at our Monthly Dinner. Membership Dues reduced for 2013 - Renew Now!

County VSO Outstation in Danville on Wednesdays

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

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

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

Veteran's Club Room at VA Martinez -
Exercise Room - X-Box - Pool Table
Rock Climbing Wall & more - Bldg. 23



VA HEALTH CARE | Defining **EXCELLENCE** in the 21st Century

Martinez VA Clinic is encouraging veterans to visit 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 in Northern California offers the best in Health Care for Vets!

Sentinels of Freedom

2013 Dinner Gala and Golf Tournament
September 29th & 30th - Save the Date

Sentinels Golf Gala 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

Registration or Questions:

Email: carlagoulart@sentinelsoffreedom.org

Phone: (925) 380-6342 ext 2

*Note - Special Offer from
VNVDV member Tom Corbett
for Veterans - this month Only...*



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 - VNVDV & Marine Corps League

OAKMONT MEMORIAL PARK

Is Honoring Veterans with a

25% Discount on

pre-need purchases for traditional
or cremation placement.

(excludes opening/closing)

Through June 30, 2013

Contact: Thomas Corbett/Veteran Specialist

(925) 216-4785 or tcoak8@gmail.com

Your DD-214 could be worth thousands!

VA Martinez "Breaks Ground" on new Mental Health Clinic for Veterans



VA Northern California Health Care System Executives with Congressman George Miller at Ground Breaking for a new Mental Health Clinic in Martinez at VA Facility



Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office is a FREE service for all 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 for all veterans FREE & available M - F in Martinez or on Wednesdays in Danville.

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



Veterans Services

VENTURE RESEARCH Commercial Real Estate Appraisers & Consultants

Helen S. Reese

PH: 925 / 935 - 4294

E: HReese@sbcglobal.net

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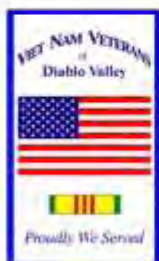




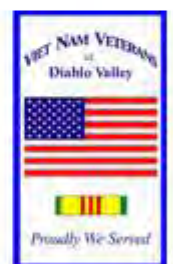
**Concord VET Center & County Veteran Service Office
announce "VetCon 2013"
the East Bay Veterans Fair
July 15, 2013
Hilton Hotel
1970 Diamond Blvd
Concord, CA 94520
For more details visit:
www.eastbayveteransfair.org
or - www.VetCon.org**

VetCon 2013 is the continuation of the *East Bay Veterans Fair* designed to help returning veterans & all those who served... This year it will be held **Monday, July 15 from 9am to 2pm** at the **Concord Hilton Hotel** in Concord, CA. **VetCon 2013** expands the evolution of the *East Bay Veterans Fair* events held for the past several years. This year's event will include representatives from the Contra Costa County Veteran Service Office + representatives, counselors & service providers from VA - veterans & other relevant service organizations - with contacts - jobs - services - benefits + employers & colleges bringing a highly concentrated level of support for area Veterans & their families. **VetCon - 2013... Join us Monday - July 15.**

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley will have an information booth at VetCon 2013.



VNVDV President & Past Presidents participated in previous *EBVF* events.

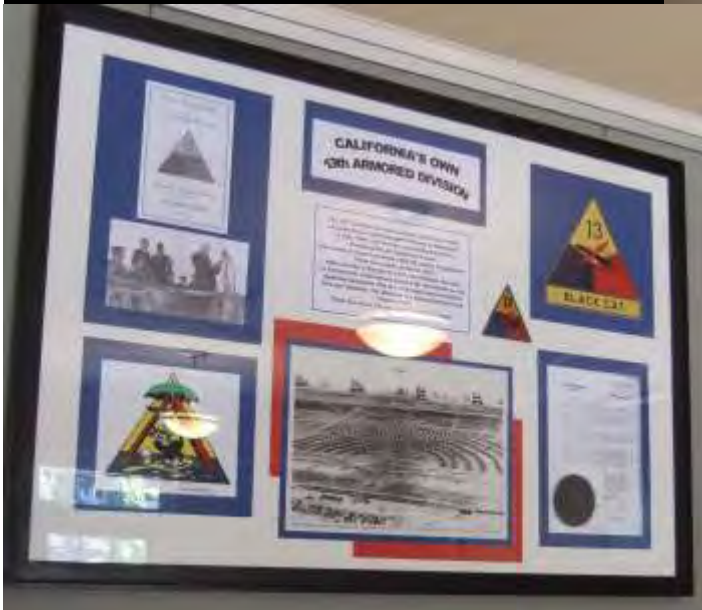


VNVDV becomes Major Sponsor of - VetCon 2013

New Historic Military Items added to VMB Museum... Come Visit



Danville's Veteran Memorial Building OPEN weekdays for public visitors. President Mike Slattengren mentioned additional DOCENT volunteers needed for military museum tours ~ of the new Veterans Memorial Building for the San Ramon Valley. Contact VNVDV President Mike "Slatts" Slattengren for details / training ~ easy hours.



Many new displays at VMB Museum - with VFW docent Art Gaskins showing the Library / Boardroom named in Honor of RADM & Mrs. Russell Gorman, USN



Rub it on - Pain is gone!

Promo Code: 2058

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VNVDV BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING - Danville

BOARD MEETING - THIRD THURSDAY - EVERY MONTH @ 1800



Join Us for our "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

Announcing the 2013 Danville Hot Summer Nights Hot Rod and Classic Car Show. "PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW DATES"

This is our 19th year! We hope you will join us - the dates for our 2013 shows will be on THURSDAYS - **JULY 18th & AUGUST 15th** Show hours are 4 PM to 9 Pm, while our car staging starts at 2 PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE WARRIORS WATCH RIDERS FOR THEIR 5TH YEAR OF SUPPORTING ALL OUR VETERANS. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF ALL OF YOU!

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

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! 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

Honor Flight Network gets Mobility from Navy for WW II Veterans to see Memorials. New wheelchairs from Wheelchair Foundation rerouted by Navy to make trip possible.

Navy Donates Wheelchairs to Vets Visiting Memorial

May 17, 2013

Navy News| by Commander Lewis Preddy

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- When the Navy cancelled Continuing Promise 2013 deployment due to sequestration, 280 brand-new wheelchairs from The Wheelchair Foundation, provided for the deployment mission to 4th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR), no longer had a final destination.

Turns out these wheelchairs were just what some American Veterans needed for their visit to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. The Tallahassee, Florida, Chapter of the Honor Flight Network was planning a trip for Veterans from the Tallahassee area, but needed wheelchairs for the mission.

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization that transports American Veterans to Washington D.C. to visit their memorials, with the priority being to senior Veterans such as World War II survivors.

"We need wheelchairs because the youngest of our World War II Veterans is 85 years old," said Captain Scott Barry, Special Operations Director for the Leon County Florida Emergency Management Service. "The wheelchairs allow us to safely transport many of the Veterans and help keep them comfortable as they go from place to place."

Capt. Barry contacted the Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation, who had provided the 280 wheelchairs to U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet (USNAVSO/FOURTHFLT) for Continuing Promise 2013. After a few phone calls and emails, the wheelchairs, located in Norfolk, Virginia, were redirected to the Honor Flight Network.

But one hurdle remained how to get the wheelchairs loaded onto trucks in Norfolk and taken to Tallahassee in time for the Veterans' trip to Washington, D.C. That's where a group of Fleet Logistic Center Norfolk volunteers contributed their time and talents to palletize the wheelchairs and stage them for shipment. Approximately 20 Sailors and civilians loaded approximately 35 Pallets on two United Parcel Service semi-trucks for the trip to Tallahassee.

On May 11th, 79 Veterans made the trip to Washington, D.C. Volunteers from the Honor Flight Network, greeted the Veterans at the Tallahassee and Baltimore airports, and provided a police escort to and from the Memorial, all to say thank you for their service. "Many of the Veterans told me this was one, if not best day of their lives," said Capt. Barry. "Not only did they get to visit the Memorial but also made connections with other Vets in our area and now will continue to support each other in their final years."

"We are pleased that we were able to play a small role in helping these American heroes see their Memorial," said Rear Admiral Sinclair Harris, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/Commander U.S. 4th Fleet. Harris went on to say.

"We like to say that we do real work to help real people to make a real difference, and in this instance, we were fortunate to have just what the Honor Flight Network needed for a memorable day."

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet supports USSOUTHCOM joint and combined full-spectrum military operations by providing principally sea-based, forward presence to ensure freedom of maneuver in the maritime domain, to foster and sustain cooperative relationships with international partners and to fully exploit the sea as maneuver space in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.



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!





Operation Welcome Home

DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE

*Dedicated to the Remembrance of 9-11.
Dedoted in 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 Welden 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 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

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 2013



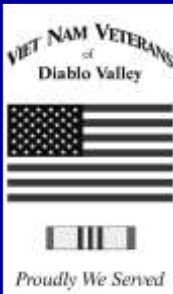
Join friends - family - veterans + the San Ramon Valley Veterans...
VNVDV - MCL - VFW - Legion & Blue Star Moms -
Warriors Watch Riders - Diablo Valley Flag Brigade -
+ many others...

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



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
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Danville, CA 94526 - 2079
E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com
Web: www.VNVDV.com

June 2013



Electronic Edition

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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



Proudly We Served

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. 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!

JUNE — Featured GUEST SPEAKER & DINNER
1st THURSDAY - MAY 2nd
at CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon
Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815
Don't Miss our great monthly speakers!