



INCOMING NEWS



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Established in 1991

**March
2013**

VietNam Veterans prepare for Armed Forces Day "Walk of Honor" - Everyone is Invited!



MIKE

**SLATTENGREN
President VNVDV**

On behalf of the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley I want to **THANK** all who supported our Super Sunday Crab Feed Fundraiser - A *Big Success!*

Message from the "Prez" - "Slatts"

As the month of March begins we've completed another great "Super Sunday" crab feed/fund raiser. It was held on Sunday Feb3 at our new San Ramon Valley Veterans Memorial Building (SRV VMB) in Danville. A big thank you to all who worked that day & the Blue Star Moms for providing the desserts making it a success and to all who attended also contributing to the success of this annual event.

Our March dinner speaker will be the *Town of Danville's* Chief of Police. This should be another interesting evening, as **Chief Simpkins** recently returned from an FBI training session that only the top 1% of the nation's law enforcement officials were invited.

A major event in the near future includes the **Walk Of Honor** (WoH) in Crockett, walking across the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge followed by a wonderful BBQ lunch. Mark your calendars for the WOH scheduled for **Saturday May 18th**. This is an event generously sponsored by **Phillips 66 Oil Company** to give back to their community. Phillips 66 has invited us again to partner with them planning & creating this ever-increasing & successful event. The 5th annual *Walk of Honor* is held on the 3rd Saturday of May - Armed Forces Day. The donation from the *Walk of Honor* is critical, along with the crab feed/fund raiser mentioned, gives us the financial resources necessary to proudly serve our veterans in need & other organizations who support veterans & current military personnel.

The *Walk of Honor* & lunch comes about through a registration (\$25 donation) in advance which includes a nice participant's T-shirt. The check-in begins at 0800 at the Crockett Community Center. Please register online for the 2013 Walk of Honor at: <http://site.walkofhonor2009.com/>.

Thank You

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
THANK YOU
the members - supporters - donors &
The Oakland Raiderettes
& Blue Star Moms
for a successful "Super Sunday"
Crab Feed Fundraiser

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 we enjoy our Chef's Choice Buffet Dinner & featured guest speaker. No business - *just a fun, enjoyable* evening with veterans & guests - friends & supporters.
You are invited - Join Us!

March features Danville Chief of Police
STEVE SIMPKINS

In INCOMING this month ... Special Veteran Benefit Issue



- ~ Help with your VA Claim
- ~ VA Claim Waiting Time
- ~ Changes in VA & CalVet
- ~ News from our County VSO
- ~ Upcoming Events for Vets
- ~ Recent VNVDV Activities

Continued... on Page Two -

VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter



Sign -Up now...

2013 "Walk of Honor" for our Veterans on Armed Forces Day 2013

Saturday - May 18
Crockett, CA





President's Message

Continued... from Page One -

Memorial Day this year will be observed on Monday May 27th. At Oak Hill Park. As in past years, this is an event drawing 800 – 1000 people from Danville and surrounding communities to remember those who died in service to our country. We will be setting up camo/shade cover and chairs prior to the start of the event, so will be seeking some able bodied souls to assist. More info on this will also be coming in the next months. Scout Troops encouraged to help.

Our Board of Directors (BOD) has also already started planning for the Danville/Kiwanis 4th of July parade. We've ordered the 10,000 American flags we hand out to parade attendees. The Army band is reserved and we are working on getting other participants (trailed Huey, etc.). Please note - since the 4th is on a Thursday this year, **our dinner meeting in July will be held on Wednesday, July 3rd.** More reminders of this as we approach that date.

The SRV Veterans Memorial Building is open daily Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. There are a number of docents that stand 3 hr. shifts to share the building information and displays with visitors. We are looking for a few more volunteers (easy 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.

The various Veteran groups who use the new VMB are planning to have a "Saturday morning coffee" gathering. This is just now in the planning stages, but this could be a wonderful way to spend an occasional Saturday morning visiting with fellow veterans. When this planning is solidified, we'll send out a FLASH with the info.

Finally, don't forget our *Operation Welcome Home* events in the east bay for our returning service members. We've had a couple more toward the end of January. As mentioned before, if you are interested in participating in these, - visit the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** website to view 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 and only take about an hour out of your day. Very fulfilling for both the returnees and to each of us.

We'll see you all at our March dinner meeting on Thurs Mar 7, 2013 - 6 pm for dinner - 5 pm social hour begins at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon. As mentioned, we have another great speaker - *Town of Danville's* Chief of Police Steve Simpkins. **Please join us.**

Thanks for your support of our events.
Regards,

Michael Slattengren
President 2012

PH: (925) 837-6238

E: President.VNVDV@gmail.com



OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO ALL VNVDV MEMBERS

Our JULY VNVDV Membership Dinner Meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY - July 3rd 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 - 4th of July Holiday. Please attend the parade next day.

Registration Now Open

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 18th 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!

County VSO Office in Danville

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!

To make YOUR appointment to see the VSR in
the Danville Veterans Memorial Building -
call our County VSO in Martinez at 925 / 313-1481.

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!

MARCH Guest Speaker - Chief Steve P. Simpkins



The featured Guest Speaker for our March 7th dinner meeting will be **Steve P. Simpkins**, Danville's Chief of Police. Chief Simpkins is the fifth Police Chief in Danville's 28 year history. The Chief came to us after serving 16 years with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff. Simpkins has been in the post for a little over two years now, so he has a firm grasp of the challenges in protecting the town's citizens. When selecting Simpkins, Danville Town Manager, **Joe Calabrigo** said Simpkins has a *"well rounded background in law enforcement and is committed to public service"* and that he was personally *"impressed with his sincerity, communication skills and his commitment"*.



Chief Simpkins has recently returned from the National Academy of the FBI in Quantico, Virginia, where less than 1% of law enforcement leaders from not only the United States but also 27 other countries are invited to participate. The course brings law enforcement leaders together to train in advanced principals of the business side of law enforcement. They also participated in daily physical agility challenges culminating in a 6.2 mile obstacle course called *"the Yellow Brick Road"*. Chief Simpkins

is a proud recipient of the *"Yellow Brick Plaque"* for completing all of the physical challenges.

Please join us as Chief Simpkins shares insights on progress in the Town of Danville & future challenges - Crow Canyon Country Club - social begins 1700 & buffet dinner at 1800 - \$25 for members & guests. *Join Us!*



Outstanding Guest Speakers "on-deck"

- April 4th - Kenneth Levin - author of "Crazy Razor" a tale of two young men during the Viet Nam war who just happen to be on opposite sides.**
- May 2nd - 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 6th - OPEN - none yet (contact Dennis)**
- July 3rd - (Wednesday) - Chuck Kohler - Pearl Harbor Survivor**

Many Thanks to our FEBRUARY Speaker...

JERRY W. WHITING

Author & Historian



HONOR FLIGHT

YOU ARE INVITED: HONOR FLIGHT – *One Last Mission*

Summit is hosting a private screening of **Honor Flight**, the powerful and moving tribute to America's WWII Veterans and our great nation. Come and celebrate the heroes to whom we are forever indebted for our way of life. All are welcome, and we encourage you to bring friends and family members. **Tickets are free**, but seating is limited. **Please RSVP today.**

Honor Flight follows a devoted team of Midwest volunteers as they race against the clock to send every local WWII veteran to the Washington, D.C. memorial built in their honor. The more they do, the more the cause takes on a life of its own. The film captures Honor Flight from the point of view of the volunteers and veterans, who share their war and life stories along the way. The trip itself is a profound event, filled with surprises and acts of appreciation from a grateful nation. The all-but-forgotten veterans are heroes once again. The vets, volunteers, and even complete strangers are often moved to tears by the power of the experience. Audiences are captivated as veterans begin to share their war stories – sometimes for the first time ever.

“Not all of us can be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by” – Will Rogers

Please stand and clap with us:

Thursday March 14th
7:30PM

Century Theater - Blackhawk Plaza
4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, CA 94506

Thursday March 14th

Tickets are free, but seating is limited. Please RSVP to Katy Avery at katy@summitadvisors.com, or call 925.866.7800.

Hosted / Sponsored by our good friend & supporter - Don Ledoux & Summit... make your reservations now for Mar. 14.

New Veteran Outreach Coordinator

Maurice Delmer accepts position at Concord VET Center

I wanted to inform you with a heavy heart that I am leaving my position as a Field Representative for Assemblywoman Bonilla. I have accepted a position at the **VA Vet Center** in Concord and look forward to working with Veterans and their families. It has been an extraordinary opportunity to work with Assemblywoman Bonilla and get to know all of you during these last couple of years, and I hope to continue working with you all in whatever capacity life presents.

I will be unavailable at the below contact information beginning January 23, 2012. If you need to reach me for any reason please call **510-283-8310**. If you are looking for a staff member in Assemblywoman Bonilla's office please call 925-521-1511.

Best,

Maurice Delmer
Field Representative
Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla

In Danville... MORNING with the MAYOR

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.

Join the VNVDV on Armed Forces Day - May 18th

Phillips 66



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*** (CCCSD). 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 CCCSD 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.

VNVDV News Update - Registration is Open!

Register "on-line" now... or the day of the event - in Crockett SAT. May 18th

The ***Walk of Honor*** check-in begins @ 8AM until 10AM at the Crockett Community Center

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.



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 or call 510.289.4020

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

A Message from the Secretary of Veteran Affairs

You now know that budget sequestration is in effect, and VA has been exempted from it. Sequestration will bring difficult cuts to the budgets of many other Departments and Agencies of the Federal government. This exemption acknowledges the Nation's obligation to provide care and benefits to our Veterans who earned them, their eligible family members, and our survivors. Even in a time of difficult economic choices, this obligation to Veterans must endure. You are crucial to achieving that mission.

We, as a Department, have always focused on fulfilling these obligations, while also serving as good stewards of taxpayer dollars. We will not compromise the safety, security, or well-being of Veterans or our employees, but we must scrutinize every event, initiative, program, and proposal to assure that each is absolutely essential and will produce positive, measurable, returns to the accomplishment of our mission.

In his recent State of the Union Address, President Obama discussed the need to rebuild a competitive middle class in this country and the importance of education, health care, and employment opportunities to doing so. The Veterans of World War II saved the world from oppression, returned home, used the original GI Bill to gain an education, bought homes, started businesses, became entrepreneurs, business leaders, doctors, scientists, and politicians and thereby earned for our country 60 years of sustained global leadership, prosperity, and security.

In that same way, today's Veterans are fully capable of helping grow our middle class, and providing a powerful return on the country's investments in them. Veterans have done it before; they will do it again.

As we look to the future, our mission is clear, our values define who we are, and our priorities—expand access for Veterans, eliminate the claims backlog, and end Veterans' homelessness—will be our guideposts through this difficult time for the Nation. Serving Veterans is a privilege and an honor. I am proud of you, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Eric K. Shinseki

New Funding for CALVET

Newly-Released Governor's Budget Includes Additional CalVet Funding

The 2013-14 Governor's Budget released includes funding that will help the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) continue to serve California veterans and their families.

The proposed budget includes \$27 million for the ongoing funding needed to open the Redding and Fresno Veterans Homes. These funds are in addition to the \$9.4 million that was included for the current fiscal year to begin the hiring process for staff that will serve the veterans in the two new homes. Job examination list eligibility placement processes are currently underway, and hiring will take place this Spring. The plan calls for the first residents to be admitted to the Redding and Fresno Veterans Homes in the fall of this year.

The Budget also includes \$96,000 for the Veterans Service Office Fund. That money will be used to maintain the annual licensing fees for the County Veteran Service Offices enterprise standard case management software—a statewide system that the counties and the Department have implemented.

An additional \$153,000 in Federal Trust Funds have been proposed to pay for two positions and operating costs at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery and the Yountville Veterans Home Cemetery that will help maintain the perpetual memorials to the men and women who served honorably in the U.S. Military. The funding has been provided through a recent increase in burial allowances the State receives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

“This new budget shows the Governor's continued commitment to California veterans and their families,” said Peter J. Gravett, CalVet Secretary. “We are proud to serve our military veterans statewide and thrilled that now we will be able to better serve those living in the Central Valley and North State.”

VA Claim? Avoid Problems & Save time - utilize our County VSO... it's Free!

Contra Costa County Veterans Service Officer Nathan Johnson is sharing the information in the below attachments from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to inform the Veterans Service Organizations of the current VA backlog and waiting time for claims to be completed. Nathan points out - the County VSO office **is not the VA**, however utilizing their free services they are attempting to decrease the likeliness that a Veteran will face the lengthy backlog by submitting a **Fully Developed Claim (FDC)**. A FDC will typically include:

A completed applica. on

All relevant private medical treatment records (VA & Military records are obtained by VA during the claims process)

All dependency informa on (current spouse & children, previous marital history)

All suppor g documents, if needed (physician's statement, care expense statement, Power of Aorney)

These FDC claims are typically brokered out to other regional offices (Muskogee, Lincoln, and Phoenix) and are generally resolved within 4 – 6 months according to VSO Johnson. Get help to complete your FDC with the VA to help avoid the delay in claims shown below in VA report.

How Long Does VA Take?

February 12, 2013

AVERAGE DAYS DISABILITY CLAIMS ARE PENDING (ADP)

(Data as of 2/11/2013)

	<i>Oakland</i>	<i>Nation</i>
Rating Workload:	448 days	279 days
Original Claims (7 issues or less):	456 days	293 days
Original Claims (8 issues or more):	486 days	290 days
<i>Reopened & Claims for Increase:</i>	<i>440 days</i>	<i>278 days</i>
Fully Developed Claims:	159 days	118 days
Hardship Claims: (215 pending)	471 days	310 days
Homeless Claims: (220 pending)	299 days	163 days
Non-Rating Workload:	364 days	230 days
NOD Inventory	5,213	-
NOD ADP	639.2 days	-
Form 9 ADP	901.7 days	-

PENDING DISABILITY CLAIMS

Oakland has 31,518 disability claims pending an average of 452 days. Of those, 25,761 (87.9%) have been pending more than 125 days, and 19,678 claims (72.8%) have been pending more than one year.

Oakland has 7,827 disability claims pending initial development. Average days awaiting development is 192.4 days.

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

In January 2013, the VA conducted 857 personal interviews in Oakland and 261 interviews in Sacramento with an average wait time of 27 minutes in Oakland and 0 minutes in Sacramento. The best things to do? File a Fully Developed Claim. and register for eBenefits at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>.

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan..." Abraham Lincoln

* * *

Do you need help with your VA Claim? Or, not sure of the benefits you earned through your military service, or don't know if you have a claim? The VNVDV recommends **all veterans** save time & frustration by allowing our County Veterans Service Office to provide you with professional, knowledgeable & certified assistance in reviewing your benefits and competition of a claim.

Visit our Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office - Get Free Assistance!

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

VA Claim? Veterans need assistance with a VA Claim & enrolling in VA health care - a fact. Find out more about your veteran benefits earned through military service. Do you have questions on benefits listed below?

Contact our County Veteran Service Office for information & answers!

Agent Orange

What it is, problems, exposure, conditions, compensation, and more information....

Burial Benefits

What it is, who is eligible, how much does it pay, how to apply, and other related benefits....

California College Fee Waiver Program

Three plans for dependents of deceased or disabled California Veterans.....

CHAMPVA

CHAMPVA For Life (CFL) is not separate from CHAMPVA, its simply an extension of benefits to certain individuals over age 65....

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monthly monetary benefit payable to eligible survivors of certain deceased veterans....

Disability Compensation

Description, eligibility, how to apply, and other related benefits....

Disability Pension & Death Pension

Disability Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income who are no longer able to work....

Employment

Finding a job can be one of the most beneficial factors in a Veteran's readjustment from the military. This will lead you to some local representatives who can help you find meaningful employment

Funeral Honors

Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation's deep gratitude to those who have faithfully defended our country in times of war and peace. It is the final demonstration that a grateful Nation can provide to the veterans' families....

Gulf War Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers Persian Gulf veterans physical examinations and special eligibility for follow-on care. VA also is compensating veterans under unprecedented regulations addressing undiagnosed conditions....

Millennium Bill Emergency Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now has the authority to pay for emergency care in non-VA facilities for eligible veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system. The program is retroactive for eligible veterans who have been treated since May 29, 2000....

Re-Employment Rights & Soldiers' & Sailors' Civil Relief Act

Members of the National Guard and Reserves activated for Federal Duty -- their civilian careers and activities interrupted -- are provided protection and rights to offset the hardships imposed by the sudden and unscheduled call to active duty....

The most sweeping improvements to the Department of Defense's healthcare system in nearly 30 years began October 1, 2001. You will gain access to expanded medical coverage known as TRICARE For Life, as long as you are a uniformed services beneficiary who is Medicare-eligible, and have purchased Medicare Part B....

VRAP

Congress passed, and the President has signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans....

* * *

For more information on all the above benefits for veterans - Check-out others in the Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents - 2012

The VA link below - takes you to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Web Site. This site also has Benefit and Healthcare information - forms - available for download.... **The VNVDV recommends you utilize our County VSO to complete any VA forms.**

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!

Library Coordinates with County Veterans Service Office

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PUBLISHES GUIDE FOR VETERANS

(MARTINEZ, Calif.) - The Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office, in partnership with the Contra Costa County Library, is pleased to announce the online publication of a Veterans Resource Guide. Intended to enhance access to timely and relevant information on Veterans' benefits, this guide is for Veterans, their families, and the general public. The guide is free to access and can be reached from the Contra Costa County Library website or at <http://guides.ccclib.org/vets>.

The Veterans Guide offers links & addresses to local & valuable Bay Area resources such as the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office, VA Martinez Outpatient Clinic, Concord Vet Center, and the VA Regional Office. The guide also offers feeds from credible new sources addressing updates to Veterans benefits, discussions about Veterans issues, and interviews with leaders in the Veteran Community. The guide further offers Veterans a reading list, podcasts, videos, and Veterans facts.

The Veterans Guide is a first for Contra Costa County. "Libraries are cornerstones of community in our culture, and to see such a dynamic and relevant collaboration beginning, gives me faith that Contra Costa County Veterans Service and Library are taking up the colors, where far too many have just dropped them by the wayside" says Jason Deitch, Army Veteran and Contra Costa County resident. Users of the guide can provide their own feedback and suggestions regarding the content of the guide. This input will be helpful to further develop this concept.

For more information regarding the Veterans Resource Guide, contact Chris Brown, Contra Costa County Library, at (925) 427-8390., or contact our Contra Costa Veterans Service Office directly at 925 / 313 - 1481

VNVDV donates funds to support Blue Star Memorial in Alamo

The Alamo **Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker** is now surrounded by **brand new wood chips** that will set off the new landscaping around this beautiful Marker, reports **East Bay Blue Star Moms Peggy Conklin**. If you didn't know about the **BSM Marker...** is it at the bottom of the I - 680 exit into Alamo. When the trees that are planted around the Marker bloom, they will bloom **red/white & blue** colors!

Peggy & the **Blue Star Moms** say... Thank you to the *Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley* for donating funds to help cover the cost of the new wood chips! This *Blue Star Memorial* project was completed by the *Rotary Club* - supported by our Blue Star Moms.

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*

VA & Ancestry.com Partner to Index Historic Burial Records

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has partnered with the internet-based genealogy research firm Ancestry.com to bring burial records from historic national cemetery ledgers into the digital age. The effort will make the collection—predominantly of Civil War interments—accessible to researchers and Ancestry.com subscribers undertaking historical and genealogical research.

“We are excited to be able to share this wealth of primary documentation,” said VA’s Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Steve L. Muro. “With the help of Ancestry.com, we have opened the doors to thousands of service members’ histories through the information contained in these burial ledgers.”

From the 1860s until the mid-20th century, U.S. Army personnel tracked national cemetery burials in hand-written burial ledgers or “registers.” Due to concern for the fragile documents and a desire to expand public access to the ledger contents, VA’s National Cemetery Administration (NCA) duplicated about 60 hand-written ledgers representing 36 cemeteries using a high-resolution scanning process. The effort resulted in high quality digital files that reproduced approximately 9,344 pages and 113,097 individual records. NCA then transferred the original ledgers to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) where they will be preserved. In addition to the NCA’s ledgers, NARA was already the steward of at least 156 military cemetery ledgers transferred from the Army years ago.

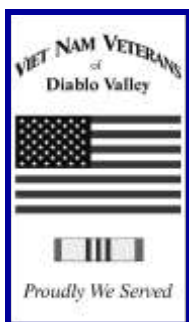
In 2011, NCA initiated a partnership with Ancestry.com to index its cemetery ledgers, allowing the data to be searched or browsed in a variety of ways. Ancestry.com spent more than 600 hours indexing NCA’s records at no charge to the government.

Ancestry.com has assembled the digitized and indexed NCA burial ledgers with those at NARA into a new collection, "U.S. Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960." The burial records contain information such as name, rank, company/regiment, date of death, age at death, date of burial and grave number. A large number of Civil War soldiers were buried where they fell in battle or in temporary cemeteries, and sometimes that information, along with religious affiliation, can be found in the ledgers.

The collection was posted on the ancestry.com website on Veterans Day 2012. The information can be accessed free of charge by VA personnel as well as by employees of the other federal agencies that maintain national cemeteries, the Departments of the Interior and Defense. Ledger data will also be available for free at all NARA facilities, and at public libraries that subscribe to Ancestry.com. NCA cemetery staff will use the database to answer requests from the public. The general public will have access to the database on their personal devices through Ancestry.com’s regular subscription service.

This partnership between Ancestry.com and NCA supports NCA’s ongoing Civil War 150th anniversary commemoration (2011-2015). For more information on this project, contact Sara Amy Leach (sara.leach@va.gov), NCA senior historian.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. Seventy two of VA’s national cemeteries date from the Civil War. More than 3.7 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict — from the Revolutionary War to the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan — are buried in VA’s national cemeteries on approximately 20,000 acres of land.



2013 Membership Dues only \$25.00
Pay Your 2013 Dues by mail or at our Monthly Dinner.
Membership Dues reduced for 2013 - Renew Now!

CA Assembly Introduces Veteran Drivers License

ASSEMBLY BILL 531: CALIFORNIA VETERANS DRIVER'S LICENSE

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS JIM FRAZIER, KATCHO ACHADJIAN, NORA CAMPOS, SUSAN TALAMANTES EGGMAN, BONNIE LOW-ENTHAL

IN BRIEF

Allows California veterans to apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a "Veteran" designation on their driver's license.

Requires DMV, upon receipt of appropriate proof of veteran status, to issue a license with the word "VETERAN" printed on the front of the card.

EXISTING LAW

Under existing law, through the application process for a driver's license, DMV collects information on veterans and transmits the information to the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). Eligible veterans can then be contacted regarding state and federal benefits they are entitled to. The application includes a check-box for veterans to self-certify that they have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Existing law also requires DMV to print the word "DONOR" on the front of a driver's license for a person who requests to enroll in the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donation Registry.

THE ISSUE

Active duty military are issued a military ID and upon discharge from service are issued a DD-214 – a paper document identifying them as a veteran. The DD-214 contains personal information and as a paper document, like a birth certificate, isn't a practical form of identification to carry around.

There are a number of federal, state, and local benefits and services available to veterans, including assistance with employment, housing, health and counseling benefits, educational opportunities and many more. Many of these services are coordinated through the County Veterans Service Officers, professionals trained by the CalVet to help veterans, their dependents and survivors access benefits.

Allowing veterans to apply for a driver's license with a "Veteran" designation will allow them to quickly and easily identify themselves and access the services and benefits they are entitled to, without having to carry around a DD-214.

THE SOLUTION

AB 531 allows veterans to apply for a California driver's license that clearly identifies them as a veteran. The bill allows a veteran to verify their status by presenting their DD-214 to the Department, or to present a verification of veteran status from a County Veterans Service Officer.

Numerous other states have enacted laws adding veteran's designations to driver's licenses, including Texas, a state with 26 million people, 13 million drivers, and 1.7 million veterans.

SPONSORS

American Legion - Department of California
AMVETS - Department of California
California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
California State Commanders Veterans Council
Vietnam Veterans of America-California State Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Department of California

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to Express Your View...

Lawrence Cooper (916) 319-2011

Lawrence.cooper@asm.ca.gov

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!

New Bill Funds California's County Veteran Service Officers

Contra Costa County Veterans Service Officer Nathan Johnson shared this press release and a copy of SB 296, the CACVSO sponsored legislation for increased local assistance to CVSO's. Nathan indicates - a couple of items you should be aware of. In order to get the bill in print because of a deadline, we went with language that needs to be changed and updated, which we will do. We will also be adding in funding for Veterans Service Organizations, which for new CVSO's is per our agreement with the VFW about 7 years ago. That agreement was that the VFW would support increased CVSO funding, and when CVSO's got to \$ 5 million in Local Assistance, the CVSO's would support VFW's request for state funding. This has been a long standing position and is codified in state law (Military and Veterans Code 699.5 (b) (1).

We will be asking for \$11 million in Local Assistance. Thanks - Nathan

699.5

(b) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that services provided by veterans service organizations play an important role in the department's responsibilities to assist veterans and their dependents and survivors in presenting and pursuing claims against the United States, and that it is an efficient and reasonable use of state funds to provide compensation to veterans service organizations for these services.

(2) The Legislature further finds and declares that paragraph (1) shall not be implemented by using the General Fund until the annual budget for county veterans service officers reaches a minimum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000). This subdivision shall not be construed to preclude the use of federal funding in implementing these provisions.

916-651-1503 CORREA BILL FUNDS CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Sacramento - Today, State Senator Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) introduced Senate Bill (SB) 296, a measure designed to fund appropriately the state's county veteran service officers (CVSOs).

"Our CVSOs are the state's crucial link toward helping veterans and their families receive the important federal and state benefits they have earned through their military service," said Correa, who chairs the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

"CVSO funding is derived from a combination of local and state resources, but CVSOs have been woefully underfunded during the past decade because the state has defaulted on its moral obligation to help counties fund this vital program. As a result, deserving veterans suffer and the state loses an opportunity to draw down federal dollars," said the Orange County senator. "SB 296 will remedy that problem."

Established in 1946 and located at the county level, CVSOs are trained, accredited professionals who help veterans and their families navigate the complex, often frustrating benefit application processes. By law, this service is provided at no cost to the veterans.

The CVSOs partner with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) by acting as the Department's network for claim initiation and development and draw down significant federal dollars annually.

Correa added, "In addition to helping veterans, CVSO funding is a tremendous financial investment for the state. The funding is powerfully leveraged and generates enormous economic returns."

According to CDVA, since 1995, the CVSOs have obtained 3.65 billion dollars in federal veterans' benefits for California veterans and their dependents. At a cost of only 38 million dollars from the State General Fund, that constitutes an approximately 90-fold increase on investment for the state.

During Fiscal Year 2011-2012, California CVSOs set a new-veterans benefits record by garnering \$346,727,459 in benefit payments, which are paid directly to qualifying veterans. That accomplishment beats the previous fiscal year's total by nearly 6%. In addition to improving the lives of families, the dollars veterans benefits bring into the state also help improve local economies.

Currently, the counties provide about 85% of the money to fund the CVSO's. The other 15% is provided by the state through CDVA. The state currently allocates \$2.6 million per year to be distributed among the 56 California's counties that have CVSOs. This "Local Assistance" allocation has remained roughly the same for 18 years and is inadequate to properly fund the CVSO's.

State and federal veterans benefits, may be available to every person honorably discharged from the U.S. military, include disability compensation and pension payments, healthcare, money for education and training, housing, home loans, and many others. Unlike Social Security, veterans' benefits must be applied for individually.

A vast number of the state's veterans are unaware that they are eligible for federal benefits or do not have the knowledge to pursue them because there is no funding for outreach to veterans.

Blue Star Moms provide Memorial Service & Reception for CA Gold Star Parents at Marines Memorial Club

Our Blue Star Moms recently sponsored a special, two-day program for California's *GOLD STAR* Parents who have lost a son or daughter in military service to our country. This moving & very meaningful event gathered these CA families in San Francisco at the **Marines Memorial Club & Hotel**, co-sponsors. The program attended by VNVDV & VSO leaders provided a reception - a time for honoring & remembering with other family members. A Memorial Service was held the following day to pay tribute to these heroes.

VNVDV donates funds for Final Honor to Veterans



President Mike Slattengren is pleased to report on a joint project to provide our veterans with a proper "Final Salute & Honors." The **Warriors Watch Riders** recently notified the *Diablo Valley Flag Brigade* & VNVDV of a need for an "Electronic Bugle" to play "Taps" at the cemetery - when a live bugler is not available. The WWR provides escort - flag detail & honors for our fallen veterans. Spike with the **WWR** indicated, this is not the ideal way to provide the due respect - although, recent situations have found lack of someone to play taps - and this presented a real need for electronic means. The VNVDV was joined by the *Diablo Valley Flag Brigade*, *VietNam Helicopters*, *Sentinels of Freedom*, *FWW Post #75*, *Pleasanton Military Families* & others in providing funds for the VNVDV to purchase this high-quality Bugle, with an electronic insert & case. This bugle can also be played live & will be utilized by the *Warriors Watch Riders* as required in local memorial services.

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.

All Veterans Contact:

Nathan D. Johnson

Veterans Service Officer

Contra Costa County

10 Douglas Dr. Suite 100

Martinez, CA 94553

Tel: (925) 313-1481

Fax: (925) 313-1490

Nathan.johnson@vs.cccounty.us



**Veterans
Services**

VENTURE RESEARCH *Commercial Real Estate Appraisers & Consultants*



Helen S. Reese

PH: 925 / 935 - 4294

E: HReese@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.VentureResearch.biz

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

FOR SALE: 1974 1/2 MGB Roadster



Make an Offer

E-Mail

JGReeseUSN@sbcglobal.net & request details

John at:

Blue Star Moms Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Friday - April 26, 2013

Callippee Preserve Presents

Blue Star Moms Chapter 101 3rd 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!

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."

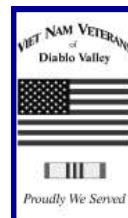
"The DWM is visionary in that it fills a need for a non-valorous combat impact medal," Christensen added.



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

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

VNVDV Salutes & Honors TESORO Golden Eagle Refinery for "Operation Santa"



Support "Wine for Wheels"

Call or email Jeff Behring

jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org

(925) 648-3829

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

VNVDV President Appoints New Representative for VMB Operating Committee

Congratulations to VNVDV Board Member Dennis Giacobelli for his appointment to the Veterans Memorial Building Operating Committee. A member from each of the VSOs (Veteran Service Organizations) have one member to represent & coordinate the overall daily operations for our new Veterans Memorial Building in Danville. Dennis replaces Past President John Estes who resigned after his retirement and recent move to Ft. Bragg, CA. Thank John for serving.

"Proudly We Served"



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 to
Renew your Incoming Ad.

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

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.

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.

Honoring All Military Women ***Past – Present – Future***

Date: March 13, 2013

Time: 9am – 2:30pm

**5253 Business Center Dr. Suite B
Fairfield, CA 94534**

**Hosted by:
Napa & Solano Counties
Collaborative for
Our Military and Their Families**

Military Women & Veterans – March 13th is your day!!!

Join us for a FREE, fun, and informative day designed for women who are currently serving or have served in any branch of the United States military .

Activities and topics include getting the most current information about your military benefits, networking and resources for employment opportunities, a complimentary lunch and an afternoon of being pampered, and the opportunity to meet fellow women veterans of all ages and branches of service.

Please bring a piece of memorabilia from your service years, as we will have a display table for these treasures.

Let us know if you would like to display your beautiful, breath-taking, and innovative art in the "Art Inspired by Women Veterans" exhibit.

**Contact: Lisa Rich
at napasolanocollaborative@gmail.com or 707-365-0545**

VietNam Veterans ready for 4th of July Parade

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley BOD recently approved the purchase of 10,000 U. S. Flags - made in America for distribution to the large crowd expected at the 4th of July Parade in Danville

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

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

Sentinels of Freedom

2013 Dinner Gala and Golf Tournament

Reserve the Date

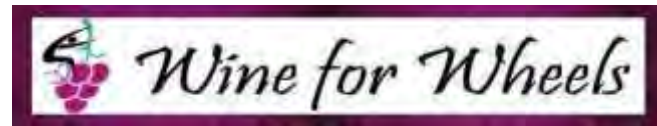
Date:
Dinner: Sunday September 29th, 2013
Cocktails begin at 4 pm. Dinner, Auction and Speaker to follow

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
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 proud to have members who attended & volunteered at the recent Wheelchair Foundation 11th Annual Charity Ball held at the Blackhawk Museum. We thank VNVDV members Ron Lowe, Jerry Yahiro & John Reese donating time to this worthy cause.

A special highlight of this years Annual Ball was a presentation given by **David Behring** on the Wheelchair Foundation distribution trip to VietNam conducted by members of the VNVDV. After David's photo presentation of the trip - he asked Lowe, Yahiro & Reese who participated in the VietNam distribution to come forward & share personal comments about this amazing trip. David prepared an outstanding set of photos taken during our trip.

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.*



Operation Welcome Home

DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE

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

www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com



OPERATION WELCOME HOME!

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

NEVER, EVER AGAIN.

If you know of a military member that is returning home and you would like to surprise them with one of these heart-warming Welcome Home ceremonies, please contact Bryan Weiden of the Diablo Valley Flag Brigade at 925-212-9260 or to see pictures of past Welcome Home ceremonies or to be added to our E-mail list, go to:

www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com

www.warriorwatch.org
spiker592000@yahoo.com

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

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley wants to thank and welcome all those returning along with Diablo Valley Flag Brigade - the Warriors Watch Riders - Blue Star Moms & many support organizations.

To find out how and when these events are in your area and occur - visit the new website of the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** at **www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com**

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

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

Visit the Website & Please Join Us!



HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE AT A WELCOME HOME EVENT?

It is easier than you might think...

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

You will feel good inside...

JOIN US

In 2012



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

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

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



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



**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

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.



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

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.

Registration Now OPEN 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://site.walkofhonor2009.com/>

Your Veteran Resources



County Veterans Service Office

10 Douglas Drive - Suite 100

Martinez, CA 94553

925-313-1481



VA Martinez Outpatient Clinic

150 Muir Road

Martinez, CA 94553

800-382-8387

925-372-2000



Concord Vet Center

1333 Willow Pass Road - Suite 106

Concord, CA 94520-7931

925-680-4526

877-927-8387



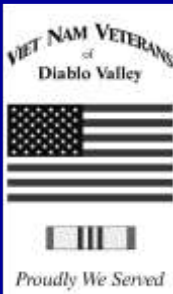
VA Oakland Regional Office

Federal Building

1301 Clay Street

Oakland, CA 94612





Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

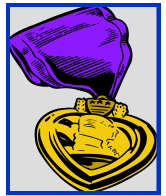
Post Office Box 2079

Danville, CA 94526 - 2079

E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

Web: www.VNVDV.com

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Electronic Edition

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

To:

VNVDV Members & Supporters

John Garfield Reese,
Publisher & Editor
VNVDV Public Relations Director

**Visit Our
Website:**

www.VNVDV.com



The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley was established in 1991 as a non-profit, 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!

March — Chief Simpkins Featured GUEST SPEAKER

1st THURSDAY - March 7th

at CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon

Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815

Don't Miss our great monthly speakers!