

INCOMING NEWS



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

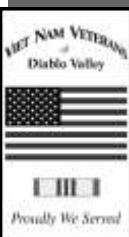
Established in 1991

Sept
2013



**MIKE
SLATTENGREN**
President VNVDV

*I reviewed a
proposed by-law
change with the
Board of Directors
and with
members at our
meeting. We will
vote - "up or
down" in October*



*Every
Saturday ...*

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

*At the Danville
Veterans Memorial
Building*



Walnut Festival "Twilight Parade" - Sept 14th - Join Us! Many Events scheduled for Sept & Oct in Community

Message from the "Prez" - "Slatts"

Welcome to September's **INCOMING**. We've had many activities in the month of August that have kept us busy.

Thank you to the VNVDV members who cooked & set-up the lunch honoring the **Blue Star Moms** and the **Gold Star Families / Parents** held at the **Concord Vet Center** this past week. A great event... paying tribute to those have truly given - and continue to give! The VNVDV is proud to sponsor & provide the lunch for this very special group.

August also gave us another great speaker at our dinner meeting at Crow Canyon Country Club - **USMC Col. Allan Cruz** (ret). He shared with us the year that he and his battalion spent in Viet Nam in 1968. His presentation was a power point presentation of slides he and his men had taken while in Viet Nam. It was accompanied with music from that era that we all knew. And when that iconic song by the **Animals** "We Gotta Get out of This Place" started to play, all the dinner attendees started "singing along" with the music. Col. Cruz just lowered his mike & stared at all of us... *smiling!* Our sincere thanks to another great speaker.

This month September 29 & 30 the **Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation** will be holding their **2013 Dinner Gala and Golf Tournament**. Please see more details on this worthy fund raising effort in their website & our **INCOMING**. Our VNVDV organization is honored again to be a proud sponsor - supporting the 1st and 18th Tees at this worthy event supporting our wounded warriors.

In mid-September the VNVDV membership is honored to be "**invited**" to participate in the annual **Walnut Festival Twilight Parade** in downtown Walnut Creek on the evening of **Saturday - September 14 - kicking-off at 1800 Hrs.** To make our VNVDV entry special - **VP Ray** has invited **AMVETS/Concord Vet Center's UH-1 Huey** to join us - along with the **Warriors Watch Riders** as escorts. We should have some **Scouts & Blue Star Moms** participating with the VNVDV entry this year - assisting in us in distribution of **American Flags** to the children along the 3 to 4 block parade route... as our Military Service Colors proudly wave down Main Street in Walnut Creek. Your "**Prez**" is requesting "**all-hands**" to participate - please come one - and come all... to join with the VNVDV in this year's entry! This is truly an enjoyable, *early-evening* "twilight" parade in downtown Walnut Creek kicking off the **Walnut Festival**.

Board Proposes Minor By-Law Improvements

VNVDV Mike Slattengren continued to experience some of the same issues which faced previous Presidents. To further enhance VNVDV operations & our overall organization, he proposed to the Board of Directors a few minor changes. These revisions were "Approved" by the BoD in Aug. and modifications (in this issue) will now move to our membership & will be voted on at the October General Membership Meeting. The President will discuss at the Sept. General Meeting & answer questions by phone. This is an advance notice of this official vote.

**VNVDV Membership Dues...
only \$25. year! Life - \$200.**

Walnut Festivals Twilight Parade

Downtown Walnut Creek on **SAT.
September 14th at 1800 Hrs.**

Muster for staging at 1700.

President requests "**all-hands**" for
an **American Flag Distribution**

Join Us Monthly

Inside **INCOMING** this month...

**Sentinels - Dinner & Golf
Gala - Sept. 29 & 30**



**Walnut Festival's Twilight
Parade - SAT - Sept. 14th**



**Final All Wars Memorial
Engraving for 2013 being
planned for OCT. - Order Now!**

Continued... on Page Two -

VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter



President's Message

Continued... from Page One -

I mentioned at the August dinner meeting, we are active! The VNVDV is sponsoring a **"veteran swim challenge"** entitled - **"Take the Rock"** an open-water swim in the bay from **Alcatraz to San Francisco's** Aquatic Park on **Sat. - Oct. 12th**. The VNVDV is fortunate to be working with **Nadadores Loco**, a bay-area open-water swim club. VNVDV member Earle Conklin is a member and coordinating the swimmers - informational meetings prior to the swim and the open-water practice / safety & certification for all swimmers. The VNVDV will be providing a high-carbo breakfast for all swimmers before they boat out to Alcatraz for the 1.5 mile swim back to SF. Then while they will be swimming - the VNVDV will BBQ a lunch for all the participants. Earle is looking for additional veteran & military swimmers and I have asked Bill Green to put together a volunteer team of kitchen & cooking assistants/ set-up & clean-up people to help in San Francisco on event day - Saturday - Oct. 12. This will be an early morning event - starting before 0700 - swimmers in the water at 0800. The good news - the swim is usually two hours or less - plus the BBQ & clean-up. This means the VNVDV volunteer team should be out of San Francisco around Noon that day! J

The VNVDV proudly continues to plan for our 2013 **Veterans Day** honors & tributes... A **Parade Sunday - Nov. 3rd** & our annual **San Ramon Valley Veteran's Day Program on Monday - Nov. 11th**

The **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley** is honored to participate in the annual **Veteran's Day Parade** hosted by the **Veterans of Foreign Wars** Post in Pleasanton again this year. The VNVDV will be again parading with our **Organizational Banner / Military Service Colors & MIA / POW Flag** and feature our **VNVDV Parade Truck** with support banners. Due to the large number of military and veteran events scheduled for Veteran's Day (11-11) the Parade in Pleasanton will be held on **Sunday - November 3rd**. Please mark your calendar now - contact Ray La Rochelle and plan to participate with our VNVDV entry.

Our major, local event for **Veterans Day** (Nov 11th at 11 am - remember 11/11@11) to be held again in the beautiful facilities at **San Ramon Valley High School's Performing Arts Theater** in Danville (it's the building where we formed up for the 4th of July parade). 2013 planning meetings are currently underway & being held on the **1st Tuesday of each month** at the Veteran Memorial Building at **12 noon**. All VSO members are encouraged to come - join in and attend - if you'd like to help plan. This is a joint VSO effort - all organizations (VFW, MCL & AL, BSM, MOWW, & the VNVDV). Please - we strongly encourage **all veterans** to give input and suggest ideas for this day honoring us.

In this month's INCOMING are **proposed By-Laws changes** that we want to share with the membership for review and then in the month of Oct we will be voting "Yea or Nay" on these changes. I will speak about them at our dinner meeting in September and will answer any questions our members might have. These have been reviewed by the Board of Directors at their official June BOD meeting - and after discussion & slight modification approved by BOD in July.

Continued... Top of Page -

The SRV Veterans Memorial Building in Danville is open weekdays from 9 am to 3 pm, Monday - Friday. There are a number of VSO docents that serve 3 hour shifts to share the building information and amazing displays with visitors. The VMB Operations Committee is 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.

Time to relax! The various veteran groups who use the SRV Veteran Memorial Building (we being one of them) are having "Saturday morning coffee" gatherings. It's open from 8 - 11AM 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 - leave when you'd like. It's just a nice way to start a Saturday morning.

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. If you are considering this, please let me or our Membership Chairman Bill Chew know.

Finally, don't forget our **Operation Welcome Home** events. As I remind our membership each month, this is another worthy activity of our organization and takes little of your time. To find out more about participating in these, visit the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade "Welcome Home" website** or let PR Director John Reese know you want to be on his 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 hardy 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 want to continue to send our very best to our members and friends who are ill or recovering and those who cannot get out in the evenings. *Please personally communicate with me* - your status allowing me to pass-on your condition to all our members.

We'll see you all at our dinner meeting on Thursday Sep 5, 2013, 6 pm at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon. Social hour starts at 5 pm. *Bring a friend or fellow veteran...*



Michael Slattengren

Michael Slattengren

President 2012 - 2013

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

As VNVDV President, appointed Past VNVDV President & Advisor **Jerry Yahiro** as *Chair* for the **2014 Nominations & Election Committee**. To ALL VNVDV Members: This is your **official reminder** our "ANNUAL MEETING" will be held in November on the First Thursday the 7th @ 1800 - at which time... Election of Officers & Directors will be held at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. Additional Past Presidents are serving with Jerry Yahiro. *Slatts*

Join Us for a Dinner Buffet with "Real History" from those who were there...
at VNVDV Monthly Meetings with featured Guest Speakers! "Open" Dinners.

September 2013 Dinner Meeting - Thursday - SEPT. 5th

World War II Veteran...

Aaron Latkin



Join us **this Thursday** for our monthly dinner meeting ~ **SEPT. 5th** ~ as the **VNVDV** welcomes *featured speaker* **Aaron Latkin** World War II Veteran.

Ohrdruf Concentration Camp was a Nazi forced labor and concentration camp located near the town of Gotha, Germany. The camp supplied forced labor in the form of concentration camp prisoners for railway construction. At its height the camp housed some 11,700 prisoners.

On April 4, 1945 Ohrdruf became the first Nazi concentration camp liberated by the U.S. Army. When the U.S. soldiers entered the camp, they discovered piles of bodies, some covered with lime (to hide the stench) and others partially incinerated on pyres. The ghastly nature of their discovery led **General Dwight D. Eisenhower** to visit the camp along with **Generals George S. Patton** and **Ormar Bradley**. The discovery opened the eyes of the U.S. citizens, military and its Allies to the horrible truth about the rumored Nazi atrocities.

A young army Combat Engineer assigned to the 3rd Army named **Aaron Latkin** was there that day when Ohrdruf was liberated.

Aaron still has a great memory, and has something else. Aaron

carried a camera with him while his battalion fought through France including the "Battle of the Bulge" and on to Germany under **General Patton**. Aaron still has those original photos and will be sharing them and his stories with us.



Thank You to last month's outstanding Speaker



VNVDV Thanks goes to August dinner Speaker...

Col. Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret.)

Viet Nam Vet / Past Commandant MCL #942

Proposed VNVDV By-Law Change for 2013

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley Current By-Laws – Membership Approved – Sept. 2009
VNVDV proposed By-Law changes for 2013 (**changes are bolded**)
Recommended by the President – Approved by VNVDV Board of Directors – Aug. 2013
Presented to VNVDV General Membership at Meeting – Sept. 2013 &
Announced (Included) in *Incoming News* communicating to all Members
Membership Vote – Scheduled for General Meeting – Oct. 2013

3.02.2 – Non Member

Current By-Law (last sentence): Persons who have been accorded Honorary status, are not members – do not pay dues – may not hold office - vote or inure any of the benefits of membership.

Propose correction (typo): ...may not hold office - vote or **incur** any of the benefits of membership.

3.04.B Privileges of Membership

Current By-Law: War veteran members in good standing, who are eligible for the Viet Nam Service Medal, may in addition, hold office or serve on the Board of Directors.

Propose adding sentence to 3.04.B: War veteran members in good standing, who are eligible for the Viet Nam Service Medal, may in addition, hold office or serve on the Board of Directors.
Board of Director positions other than officers may be held by war veteran members in good standing of the VNVDV.

(Note: definition of officers vs. Board of Directors is 6.01 – officers are President, VP, Secretary & Treasurer. This change would allow VNVDV war veteran members who are not eligible for the Viet Nam Service Medal to be eligible for Board of Director positions)

Current By-Law: 10.05.A – Expenditure authorization

All checks issued by the organization in excess of five-hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall require two signatures. Only the Treasurer – President – Vice President and Secretary are authorized to sign the Organization's checks.

Propose to remove 1st sentence: **All checks issued by the organization in excess of five-hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall require two signatures.** Only the Treasurer – President – Vice President and Secretary are authorized to sign the Organization's checks.

Current By-Law: 3.03.4 Life Applications

Any member who has been a member in good standing for a period of five (5) consecutive years or longer and who has held a position on the Board of Directors, served as the Chairperson or Co-chairperson of a VNVDV committee, or in some other way distinguished themselves as a member of the organization, may apply to the Board of Directors for Life Membership. Fee for Life membership shall be a one time sum equal to eight (8) times the annual dues at the time of the conversion.

Propose to remove 1st sentence: **Any member who has been a member in good standing for a period of five (5) consecutive years or longer and who has held a position on the Board of Directors, served as the Chairperson or Co-chairperson of a VNVDV committee, or in some other way distinguished themselves as a member of the organization, may apply to the Board of Directors for Life Membership.** Fee for Life membership shall be a one time sum equal to eight (8) times the annual dues at the time of the conversion



TIME HAS RUN OUT & DEADLINE IS HERE!

"Salutes" (your tribute honoring family veterans) to be included in the Veterans Memorial Building Coffee Table Book **were due September 2nd** - Please submit and/or return you "Salute" application form now with all information & photo – to the Danville VMB. We are going to press next week!

If you have any questions - please contact VMB Coordinator now - Dennis Giacobelli - VMB @ HOUSEWORKS@PACBELL.NET

Thank you for supporting this joint VSO endeavor that we hope will fund the veterans wing "operations" for several years.



If you had planned on obtaining a "SALUTE" & providing a Tribute to someone special & forgot... You must get your information/photo/payment turned-in by Mon. ~ Sept. 9th or you are too late!

Don't be left-out of this Legacy Book.. Act Now!

Final Opportunity ~ Two-Days ONLY to place YOUR "Salute" or "Tribute" in one-time Only VMB Renovation Book.

The Rebirth of the Veterans Memorial Building

Finalize Your "Salute" Now - Deadline has Passed.



Eighty-eight years ago, Danville became home to one of the memorial halls built in Contra Costa County. Treasured and used by veterans with love and respected by thousands, this grand **Veterans Memorial Building for the San Ramon Valley** (VMB / SRV) building deserved to be preserved for those serving now & the future. And so it was.

This book, a glorious, full-color tribute to the rebuilding of the VMB (Vet Hall) and the Veterans it serves, will be available for purchase this Fall at \$45.00 each. All profits from the sale of this coffee table book and your personal "salutes" go directly to the Veterans Wing (front) operating budget. But printing a book like this is expensive, and we hope you will help us defray much of the printing costs by sponsoring a salute. What's a *salute*? A *salute* is your personalized tribute - honoring someone special to you, your unit, ship, military era, family member, whether a veteran or not, or a *Thank You* to the veterans that have served this great country. Similar to the Pavers personally honoring others in the walkway at the *All Wars Memorial*, and your *salute* will live on in perpetuity within this book.

A quarter page *salute* example:



In memory of my Great Grandfather R. J. Williamson (d)
Co. E 3rd New York Infantry -- Mexican Border Service (1916)
Respectfully, your great grandson -- R. A. Williamson of Danville
May we never forget.

Yes, I want my salute to be part of history!

Quarter page salutes	\$150:	Your <u>photograph</u> will be resized to 1¼ x 1½ inches and can include up to four lines of text (roughly 80 words) in tribute.
Half page salutes	\$300:	Your photograph may be up to 2½ x 3½ inches and can include up to ten lines of text (roughly 180 words) or multiple tributes.
Eighth page salutes	\$100:	(<i>text only</i>) Your salute tribute can include up to four lines of text (roughly 70 words) Your unit, ship, military era or military family.
Full page salutes	\$600:	(VSOs only) Your salute must conform to the margins established by the primary book. Your page image should be no taller than 6½ inches & no wider than 9 inches. Other than VSO – contact us

Please fill out this form & include your "salute" text, photograph & check payable to the "**Veterans Memorial Building**" & leave it with the *docent* on-duty at the Veterans Building, weekdays before 3:00pm or Saturdays before 11:00am. We will contact you once your photograph has been scanned and processed. You may pick up your photo when completed. Salutes may not be used for advertisements. Once received, all pledges are final. You may be asked to sign a photo "release." All "**Salutes**" must finalized & be received by **September 2nd for publication**.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Size of Salute: 1/8 1/4 1/2 Full

Address: _____

Veterans Memorial Building - P. O. Box 1092 - Danville, CA 94526
Questions? Call: 925/838-6445 or 925/362-9806

Your "Salute" & payment must be received by 9/09/2013 (NOW)!

9/11 Remembrance Event on Wed. - Sept. 11th @ 1750

All Wars Memorial - Oak Hill Park - Town of Danville



**EXCHANGE CLUB
SAN RAMON VALLEY**

September 11, 2013

"Welcome New Fire Chief Meyer!"

Our Front Line: Yosemite Rim Fire, Alamo Gas Leak,

12:00 Sign in 11:30 Classic Caesar/Grilled Chicken Breast
rsvp coachstepper@yahoo.com \$16 Members/ \$20 Returning Guests

9/11 Ceremony
5:50 Oak Hill Park

9/11 IN ARLINGTON
Through the eyes of a
former Guard of the
Tomb of the
Unknown Soldier



**"WHY DO WE
HAVE A MEMORIAL
PROGRAM ON
SEPTEMBER 11th?"**
Ask a youth to enter the
Exchange Club Essay Awards
srvexchangeclub.org





K. Stepper, R. Price, Joe Combs, M. Remmich, G. Moore
August 14 Meeting

You Are Invited... Uncasing of the Colors

*The Commanding Officer requests the honor of your presence for the activation and
uncasing of the colors*

6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company

FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP

MARINE FORCES RESERVE

At Noon on Sunday, September 29th, 2013

Marine Corps Reserve Training Center

6th ANGLICO

3225 Willow Pass Road

Concord, CA 94519



If more information is required, call
the Inspector-Instructor 1stSgt at:
(925)925-1775 Ext 19

Military: Desert MARPAT
Civilian: Appropriate Civilian Attire

Monte Vista High School Host Football Game ~ Sept. 13 "Honoring our Veterans" ~ FREE Tickets!

FREE tickets for the Monte Vista High School Football Game on September 13 available for our veterans! This is a local tribute to our Vets! Please make every possible effort to attend! Please help pass the word! For Tickets see **"Slatts"** or Lee Halverson at VMB.

The Varsity game starts at **7 p.m.** & It is at **Monte Vista High School** - 3131 Stone Valley Road (next to the "All Wars Memorial") in Oak Hill Park in Danville – so lots of parking is available!

This **"tribute to veterans"** football game is hosted by Monte Vista High School's Mustangs vs. **Pittsburg Pirates**. It should be a great game **Honoring our Veterans...**

Remember... Each Veterans need an "advance" ticket – which includes your: **free admission, free hot dog, beverage, and piece of apple pie (home baked by magret nunes!)**. **Last year great!**

There are tickets available from Lee at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Danville or **VNVDV President "Slatts"** to obtain more tickets... all the tickets your veteran organization will need for this game.

The thought of "will-call" is not feasible at a H.S. Football Game & would be very difficult. This is a local event & they would like to obtain an estimate of attendees (mostly for the amount of baking needing to be completed in time for the game.) **Remember... this is FREE for all veterans! Everyone must have a numbered ticket. Tickets for non-veterans are available at the game. Please support our local high school taking time to honor veterans.**

Magret Nunes has been coordinating these veteran events for the team and we thank her for her efforts and service she provides to all the veterans... including her home-made pies! Hoping for a great turnout! – Please obtain your tickets in advance.

**Contact VNVDV President Mike Slattengren
for your Monte Vista High School FREE Football Game Tickets -
on: Sept. 13 "Honoring our Veterans"**



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



Recognition to Phillips 66 for 5th Year of Support!



Mark Hughes - Senior Manager of Public & Community Relations with **Phillips 66** and Sponsor of the **Walk of Honor** for our Veterans... recently went to lunch with VNVDV President Mike "Slatts" Slattengren & Past President Jerry Yahiro (both accidentally cut from photo by VNVDV PR guy) Mark admires a new recognition plaque from the VNVDV.

Sentinels of Freedom

2013 Dinner Gala and Golf Tournament
September 29th & 30th - See our website

Sentinels of Freedom 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

Members interested in being more active in the VNVDV organization
Please contact Jerry Yahiro ASAP
to find out about various officer &
director positions available for
the new term - assistance provided

Do you have an "All Wars Memorial" PAVER ?

**These solid granite stones set in the walkway at
Oak Hill Park and now limited... Honor a veterans,
friend, neighbor, family member with a tribute
which will last forever... an AWM Paver. \$250.00**



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

Oakmont
Memorial Park & Mortuary

2099 Reliez Valley Road • Lafayette, CA 94549
cell 925.216.4785 • office 925.935.3311 • fax 925.935.0625
COA #B19, FD #875



REAL TIME!
Pain Relief
Relief in Minutes!

Rub it on - Pain is gone!
Promo Code: 2058

Mike Martin
Independent Vendor

1090 B Street, #128
Hayward, CA 94541
925.323.1093

Member - VNVDV & Marine Corps League

www.AskMikeMartin.com | info@askmikemartin.com

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation

America's Wounded Military Heroes Dinner Speaker

Sunday - Sept. 29th

A part of the Golf Classic



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION PRESENTS

★ AMERICA'S WOUNDED MILITARY HEROES' DINNER AND GOLF CLASSIC ★

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Both events will be held at the Diablo Country Club, 1700 Club House Drive, Diablo, CA.
There are many pricing options, depending on if you decide to attend the dinner only, golf only or attend both events.

You can view sponsorship opportunities or register for the event(s) at:

<http://sof.kintera.org/dinner.golf>

AGENDA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

Cocktails, Dinner, Speaker and Auction

- 4:00 – 5:30 pm: Cocktail Hour *(times are approximate; a full schedule will be posted closer to the event. The event order may also change.)*
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm: Dinner/Program
- 7:00 pm: Auction
- 7:30 pm: Speaker Rear Admiral Copeland, USN (Ret.)

GUEST SPEAKER

Rear Admiral Winston Copeland, USN (Ret.)

- ★ Combat veteran with over 300 plus missions
- ★ Top Gun Instructor
- ★ Experimental Test Pilot with over 1300 carrier landings
- ★ Silver Star for gallantry in action
- ★ Bronze Star
- ★ Defense Superior Service Medal (x2)
- ★ Legion of Merit (x3)



Rear Admiral Winston Copeland, USN (Ret.) distinguished career as a naval fighter pilot included duty as an Instructor at the prestigious Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun). He attended the U.S. Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB and served as a Test Pilot at the Naval Air Test Center at Patuxent River, MD, during the initial flight testing of the F/A-18A Hornet. He Commanded the Fighter Squadron 102, Carrier Air Wing One aboard USS America, the food stores ship USS San Diego, and the aircraft carrier USS America. Cope has flown over 300 combat missions with over 1,300 carrier arrested landings, and more than 5,000 flight hours in 30 different types of aircraft, including the F-14, F-15, F-16, F-17, and F-18. He has received the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star, two Defense Superior Service medals, three Legion of Merit awards and numerous other meritorious and commendation medals with the Combat "V". He resides in San Jose, California, with his wife and family.

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Proud Supporters of the Sentinels of Freedom!

A Legend in Veteran Service plans to Retire!



Be careful... he might have something in his pocket for you!

The rumor at the water cooler has it - that good friend & long-time veteran service provider, innovator of Stand Down services and dirty-brown-water Navy vet - **AKA: DENVER MILLS, who serves as the Team Leader at the Concord Vet Center - a location known as a**

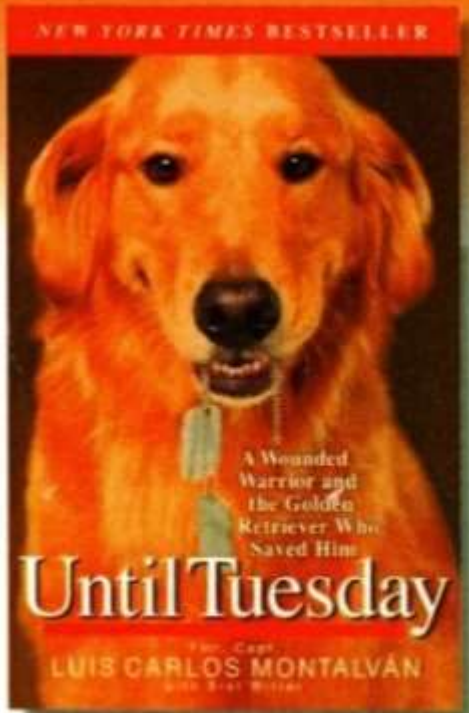
leader in innovative ways to assist veterans. So after **over thirty years of service he thinks he just might “clock-out” & go fishing or something... even camping - imagine that! No details yet on his official last day - we understand “he is on vacation” at this time!**



So many *different* “Denver” photos to choose from... the editor had a tough time with the *type of hair* he liked the best in the 15+ years we have been associated through the VNVDV. :)

**Congratulations to Denver Mills
for Serving our Veteran Community
with Honor & Pride!**

An inspiring story ~ An amazing warrior ~
A great book ~ A worthy cause!
Support & Attend ~ Oct. 4th



Share the inspiring true story of a war veteran, a golden retriever and how they saved each other.

Luis Carlos Montalvan

Author of New York Times Best Seller

Until Tuesday

Gala and book signing to benefit
Bergin University of Canine Studies,
home of The Assistance Dog Institute.



October 4, 2013

Ed Roberts Campus Berkeley

Author keynote, book signing, silent auction,
wine tasting, light fare

Tickets \$55 • online at: <http://bit.ly/12Xzmvo>

For further information:

(707) 545-3647 or info@BerginU.edu



Bergin University of Canine Studies, helping dogs
help people since 1997, advancing the human-canine
partnership through research, education and placement
of service dogs for people with disabilities. Founding
organization of Paws for Purple Hearts.

WWW.BERGINU.EDU

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

VETERANS TAKE THE ROCK

• VETERANS SWIM CHALLENGE •



SWIM TAKES PLACE:

OCTOBER 12TH



SPONSORED BY:
VIETNAM VETERANS OF DIABLO VALLEY
NADADORES LOCOS (open water swim club)
CONTACT: MAURICE DELMER (925)680-4526
MAURICE.DELMER@VA.GOV



[FACEBOOK.COM/THEROCKVETERANSSWIMCHALLENGE](https://www.facebook.com/therockveteransswimchallenge)

Take the Rock veterans swim challenge is sponsored by the *Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley* & the *Nadadores Locos* open-water swim club for the purpose of providing a high quality / low-cost experience - open to all currently serving & all veteran military members - to receive training & participation in an *Alcatraz to San Francisco* bay swim. **Contact Us – Join Us – Support Us!**

**Military Personnel
& All Veterans:**

**You Served With Pride...
Now Take The Challenge -**

TAKE THE ROCK
•VETERANS SWIM CHALLENGE•



October 12th - 0700 - San Francisco

Practice has started... but you are not too late!

Take The Rock Practice meets at - Aquatic Park

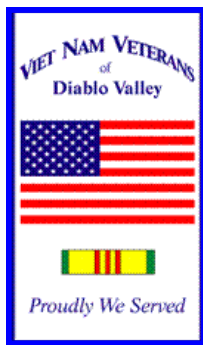
499 Jefferson Street, San Francisco, CA (map)

Find out more on – <http://www.meetup.com/Take-The-Rock-Veteran-Swim-Challenge/event>

Meet our Swim Director, Kirk McKinney, who recently swam Lake Tahoe the long way (22 miles which is why we call ourselves LOCO.) Kirk will give us tips on how to swim in open water, and then we'll practice. After practice we'll re-

view the experience and discuss ways to work on areas we want to improve. Come Early!! See you at the bleachers! Dates vary – check our events page out on [meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com). VNVDV is providing pre-event carb load & BBQ after swim





VNVDV Membership Dues only \$25.00

Pay Your Dues by mail or at our Monthly Dinner. Life Membership Dues - \$200.00!

County VSO Outstation in Danville on Wednesdays

VMB Danville Veteran Service Officer Outstation 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 also features a 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. This is a FREE service!

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 Utilizing Your VA Health Care?



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




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
800-362-6387
Pharmacy(Toll Free)Line
866-600-8279
Martinez, CA 94553

Fax: (925) 372-2804

Martinez ~ OP Clinic



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONCORD VET CENTER

Denver F. Mills
Director / Team Leader
Readjustment Counseling Service

1333 Willow Pine Road
Suite 106
Concord, CA 94520

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

Concord VET Center



Veteran
Coffee
&
Pastries

Veterans Memorial
Building - Danville

Every Saturday

0800 to 1100

All Veterans Welcome

Please Join Us.

Danville's Veteran Memorial Building OPEN weekdays for public visitors. President Mike Slattengren request members interested in volunteering as a Docent for our Historical 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.



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 Website
has been updated.
Your comments to
the President are
encouraged & appreciated.

Speaker's Bureau appreciates your school leads!

Important notice... If you know teachers who would be interested in the assistance of our VNVDV Speaker's Bureau during - ***the next school term...*** please let them know of our program - available to all schools & grade levels. *As a member...* Take time to find out more about this program and others - helping join in and being an active part of our group. Contact **Mike Martin** at (925) **820-1401** or **Bill Green** (925) **820-5918** about your personal school contacts for the next 2013-2014 school term (beginning Aug/Sept 2013).

The **VNVDV Speaker's Bureau** finished an outstanding 2012 - 2013 school term and *has surpassed 53,000 school students reached through our popular supplementary history education program.* report to the membership and our Diablo Valley community they have shared this valuable history of our nation at war during the VietNam period with ***school children*** ! The VNVDV Speaker's Bureau is Chaired by Mike Martin - Director of Speakers and Bill Green - who is a member of the Board of Directors and uses the VNVDV membership to assist in the presentations to school children ranging from elementary schools through college, although the primary audience is high school history classes in the Contra Costa and Alameda County school districts.

The **VNVDV Speaker's Bureau** was recognized a few years back by the state's **California Department of Education** as a community leader in sharing history education with Diablo Valley school teachers and students. ***CONGRATULATIONS*** to both Mike and Bill for another outstanding year of leadership. ***A big thanks*** goes to all the members who volunteered many hours and days to help students learn history first hand from those who were there! A special thanks to the **Vietnam Helicopters** for their ongoing support!

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 & on Wednesdays in Danville 10-2

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
Website: www.VentureResearch.biz

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



Promotive
Performance and Repair

"Veteran Owned"

Richard Rein
Owner operator

1410 Lesnick Lane
Unit E
Walut Creek, Ca 94597

925-247-4268

All Wars Memorial "PAVER" Order Form

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductable 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)~~

**Only
90**

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

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

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation Presents



VETERAN'S VICTORY VELO ANNUAL BIKE RIDE

Join Us...

Routes for the
Novice to Experienced Rider

30 mile ride

60 mile ride

100 mile Devil Mountain Century

Beginning and ending at the
Sentinels of Freedom parking lot

2678 Bishop Drive • San Ramon, CA

COMMEMORATIVE JERSEY AVAILABLE

OCTOBER 12, 2013

ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Your participation in this fundraising ride helps support wounded veterans as they work to gain self-sufficiency and independence.

All registered participants and their family members are invited to join us for food, fun and entertainment at the **POST-RACE FESTIVAL!**

LIVE BAND: KEN COOPER MUSIC'S "AKA"

Tickets to the festival are available for purchase by the general public. Visit our website for more info.

REGISTER EARLY!

Registrations submitted by **JUNE 27** include a free cycling safety clinic with certified instructors. (See website for details)

For Ride and Registration Information
visit our website at:

www.VeteransVictoryVelo.com

Membership Drive... Bring a "veteran" to any event &

Veterans - Join us at our monthly dinner at Crow Canyon Country Club - 1st Thurs/Monthly

VIET NAM VETERANS
of
Diablo Valley



Proudly We Served

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

					DATE:
	Last	First & MI	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Work Phone
NAME:					
Spouse / SO					
	No. & Street		City	State	ZIP Code
Address:					
Home E-Mail:			Work E-Mail:		
Company:			Title:		

Military Service

Branch	Dates of Service	Rank	Specialty	Viet Nam Dates
Viet Nam Units:				
Location(s):				
Medals & Awards:				

PLEASE INDICATE ACTIVITIES/COMMITTEES OF PERSONAL INTEREST

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Welcome Home Events | <input type="checkbox"/> VNVDV Super Sunday Crab Feed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Day Ceremony | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk of Honor for our Veterans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danville Fourth of July Parade - Flag Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> East Bay Stand Down - Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Color Guard & Service Colors/Flag Detail | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Support for Veterans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Day Ceremony | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau - High Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors / Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): |

Please Visit our Website @ www.VNVDV.com for other Activities & Programs

I PLEDGE MY INTENT TO PARTICIPATE WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. TO HELP MAKE IT A SUCCESS AND OFFER ASSISTANCE WHENEVER POSSIBLE. I ACCEPT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY LIABILITY IN ANY ACTIVITY I CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN AND HOLD HARMLESS THE VIET NAM VETERANS OF DIABLO VALLEY, ITS MEMBERS AND ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOULD ANY MISHAP OCCUR. I PLEDGE TO ABIDE WITH THE BYLAWS OF THE ORGANIZATOION.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Please attach a copy of your DD-214 - and a check for Annual Dues: \$25 payable to VNVDV

P.O. BOX 2079 - DANVILLE, CA 94526-2079 - PR/INFO: 925 / 935 - 4859 - E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley is a non-profit organization/corporation (EIN 68-0266369) exempt from Federal (IRC 501a) and State (RTC 23701w) income tax

Please Mail your completed application to our P.O. Box above or Submit at our 1st/Thurs. of Month Dinner. Thank You!

Visit our Website at www.VNVDV.com - Read our monthly newsletter "INCOMING" for our current events!



Operation Welcome Home

DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE

*Dedicated to the Remembrance of 9-11.
Dedicated 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

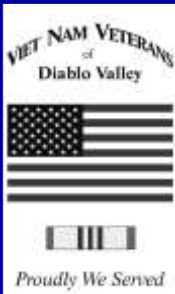
Join friends - family - veterans + the San Ramon Valley Veterans...
VNVDV - MCL - VFW - Legion & Blue Star Moms -
Warriors Watch Riders - Diablo Valley Flag Brigade -
+ many others...

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

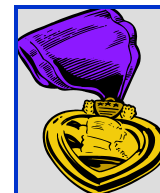
Post Office Box 2079

Danville, CA 94526 - 2079

E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

Web: www.VNVDV.com

SEPT 2013



Electronic Edition

2013 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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Ron Azarcon

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Norm Mahalich

- Est. 1991 -

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

John Garfield Reese,

Publisher & Editor

VNVDV Public Relations Director

**Visit Our
Website:
www.VNVDV.com**



Proudly We Served

To:

VNVDV Members & Supporters

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 Viet Nam Veteran through Community Service & Support of fellow Veterans. The Veteran's Memorial Building for the San Ramon Valley located in Danville is Open daily with Coffee on Saturdays until 11AM. Looking for Docents. - Come Visit!

The VNVDV meets monthly 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 the 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 meeting is social - just dinner & a guest speaker of interest to veterans & military. All meetings are **OPEN**... fellow veterans - active duty military guests - supporters & history buffs welcome! ... **Join us!**

VIET NAM VETERANS of Diablo Valley

OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!

**Sept 5th - Featured GUEST SPEAKER & DINNER
at CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon**
Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815
Don't Miss our great monthly speakers!