

# INCOMING NEWS



**September  
2014**



## Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

# East Bay Stand Down 2014 Sept. 11 - 14

# Volunteer Registration Closes Midnight - Sept. 3rd

Raymond  
"Ray"  
La Rochelle  
VNVDV  
President

Thanks to all those who have signed up for the EBSD 2014.

*Do you know others?*  
More Volunteers are needed!

Register on-line  
Details inside...

**SAT Morning  
VET Coffee...**

Meet with fellow Veterans *every* Saturday from 8 AM until 11 AM at the Danville Veterans Memorial Building

*Pastries too!*

### VNVDV Prez Ray's Notes for September

*The year is moving quickly with two major events for us in September...*

First - thanks to all who attended the **WINE TASTING AT RETZLAFF** last month making this another successful social event with great wine, music & snacks. The organization netted \$247 on the evening! Retzlaff was impressed with the support our members & guests showed for this event as was I. Great job! A special thanks to Gary and Marcia who provided extra snacks for the evening!

### EAST BAY STAND DOWN

The largest community support event for Homeless Veterans is Sept. 11-14 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds & VNVDV is a Major Sponsor since 1999. Be aware of *Extended Deadline for Volunteer Sign-Up is Sept. 3rd*. No "walk-ins" visitors or onsite registration - **All Must Register in advance**. Please report to your volunteer positions at EBSD on time... remember - *You make a difference!*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our Membership Director, **Joe Calloway**, has been doing a great job recruiting new VietNam Vet Members & we are growing in numbers! Do you know other veterans?



**East Bay Stand Down Volunteers  
Needed for September 11-14  
at Alameda County Fairgrounds**

On-line Volunteer Registration for EBSD will **CLOSE** Sept. 3rd. *You must register "in-advance" to enter camp!*

**EBSD Web: [www.Eastbaystanddown.org](http://www.Eastbaystanddown.org)**  
or **<http://ebsd.ivolunteer.com/ebsd>**

*Many volunteer positions still open!  
Please help pass the word to friends*

### September Guest Speaker

**Frank Jordan** is very passionate and extremely knowledgeable about **World War I**. He leads yearly battlefield tours of the old **Western Front in France & Belgium**. This May, Frank led a tour to commemorate the centennial of the start of the **"Great War"**. Frank will be reporting on this trip as well as enhancing our knowledge of World War I.

**Join us on Sept. 4th**

For Dinner & Guest Speaker



**This Newsletter  
is also On-Line at:  
[www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)**

**2014 President Ray La Rochelle**



(Continued from Page One)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Our Membership Director, **Joe Calloway**, has been doing a great job recruiting new VietNam Vet Members & we are growing in numbers! Do you know other veterans? To our new members: please take the opportunity to participate in one or more of our many events. They are rewarding and fun.

**ALCATRAZ SWIM EVENT PLANS TAKING SHAPE**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alcatraz Swim is Sunday, September 28, 2014. Make plans now to be there to show support for these veterans and, if you're able, contact Earle to join the swim. We are still in need of volunteers to assist in this event. Only registered volunteers will share breakfast & lunch. Spectators are welcome but your food is your responsibility. See additional information inside this newsletter edition.

**VETERANS DAY 2014**

Jerry Yahiro, our Director of Events, is wrapping up details for this event. It will again be held at the San Ramon Valley High School Performing Arts Center on November 11th and doors open to the public at 10:00 AM with the formal program starting at 11:00 AM. This year's theme a *Special Tribute to Pearl Harbor Survivors*. Plan on being at this great event.

Danville Veterans Memorial Building Library & Historical Collection Committee (LHCC) will be hosting a three-day Open House featured special displays of military memorabilia & vehicles for the weekend prior to Veterans Day. *More details next month.*

*Please join us at our 1st Thursday Dinner Meeting on Sept. 4th at Crow Canyon Country Club. Look forward to see you.*



**Raymond F. La Rochelle**  
President - Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley



**Volunteers Needed for  
East Bay Stand Down -  
September 11-14 at**

**Alameda County Fairgrounds**  
Last opportunity to be a Volunteer  
at EBSD - Volunteer Registration  
is **closing** at midnight on **Sept.  
3rd** - Register now... No on-site  
registration or walk-in visitors  
are authorized this year.

Contact: [www.Eastbaystanddown.org](http://www.Eastbaystanddown.org)  
or <http://ebsd.ivolunteer.com/ebsd>

To volunteer - Scroll the volunteer function areas with job descriptions - see the days & number of volunteers needed - select the hours you are available. Your information remains in the form until you have registered for all days desired... multiple days - shifts or stay all-day. Meals served to volunteers after homeless vets. Join us - volunteer!

**Encampment Set-up and Take-down  
is still in need of additional volunteers -  
this is Mon-Tue-Wed prior to Stand Down  
& Sunday afternoon - Mon & Tue after.**

**All Duties defined on the website.**

**EBSD Thanks our VNVDV Members**  
EBSD Logistics Director **Mike Weber** put out a special call for a **Work Party** to take trucks to **Dixon** for pick-up of the Large Tents / Poles & **very heavy** kitchen oven equipment needed for our EBSD. The first to volunteer were **STEVE MAZAIKA & DENNIS PETERSEN**... & joining them immediately after the notice were **DENNIS GIACOVELLI & BILL LAVIGNE**. This was a big job with **four** very dedicated VNVDV members answering the call. Many Thanks for their personal efforts on behalf of **East Bay Stand Down**.



**East Bay Stand Down — VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED... you can pick your days & times to volunteer on-line & register before Sept. 3rd. Contact: Eastbaystanddown.org or <http://ebstd.ivolunteer.com/ebstd>**

### Immediate Release

#### **East Bay Stand Down 2014 needs volunteers**

#### ***Homeless Veteran Support Event has urgent need for community volunteers for Sept. 11 – 14***

*Pleasanton* – Organizers of the **East Bay Stand Down** are in the final stages of a major community initiative to help end homelessness by assisting displaced veterans and their families. **Additional community volunteers are still needed!** Advance registration of over two thousand volunteers to help extended until midnight on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. This large-scale support program takes place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton from September 11 through September 14, a four-day / 24-hour encampment. Concerned citizens, community organizations, clubs, non-profit groups and business organizations are needed to assist in supporting through volunteering to assist the VA & Military in establishing and operating a "tent city" for 450 homeless at the fairgrounds. Volunteers make a major difference in this program.

"Stand Down" is a term used during war to describe the practice of removing combat troops from the field and taking care of their basic needs in a safe area. This same concept has been successfully used at EBSD to provide assistance to veterans who are on the streets or close to losing jobs, family connections, and housing.

Volunteers & support is needed in all areas. Jobs include preparing & serving meals, full-time tent leaders, escorting veterans to appointments, advance camp set-up & post break-down of camp - and many other key support functions are needed throughout the four-day event. In addition to volunteers, *East Bay Stand Down* is also looking for additional financial support, loan of equipment and services. Major Sponsorship & Tent Sponsors may also be available for businesses & non-profits at EBSD 2014.

The **East Bay Stand Down (EBSD)** is the only four-day homeless events of its kind in the nation, serving up to 450 men & women veterans and their families. Advance screening ensures eligibility & verifies need; new participants are bussed-in from various points throughout the Bay Area and transported to the event site. Once checked-in, the participating Veterans will receive food, clothing, shelter, showers, haircuts and other basic necessities. VA and Military Health Care providers will be available to assist with physical, dental, and mental health needs & counselors are present to address substance abuse issues, housing and employment options, veteran's benefits, legal issues and spiritual concerns.

Since the first EBSD in 1999, these **non-profit, all volunteer** events have continued on a bi-annual basis, and have proven to be uniquely effective in helping to break the cycle of homelessness among some Veterans. The objective of the EBSD is to place 30 percent of the eligible participants directly into follow-on programs. Opportunities that can lead to direct employment are provided. Participants connect directly with community agencies during the event - helping with stabilization of the participants' lives, helping these Veterans to come-in off the street & again become productive.

According to Jerry Yahiro, Director of the *East Bay Stand Down*, "**volunteers are the lifeblood of this program & extend the ability of the program to work with the maximum number of veterans on a limited budget.**" "**Many of our volunteers come back year after year**" - he said, "**There is a great sense of accomplishment, camaraderie, & team spirit among those who volunteer to work the event.**" For those who would like to become involved in the September 2014 event visit the East Bay Stand Down website & register to Volunteer **prior** to Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> - all volunteer positions are posted on the website - and registration is required in advance..

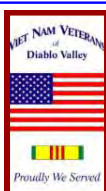
#### **VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION:**

We are in the final registration of volunteers for our 2014 event. Registration will close on-line at the EBSD website on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Website - <http://www.eastbaystanddown.org>

#### **DONATIONS / SPONSORSHIP:**

Check contributions may be sent to: **Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation – EBSD - c/o: (DVVF/EBSD) - P.O. Box 2133 - Danville CA 94526.** DVVF is a non-profit 501(c)3 Foundation - *directly supporting East Bay Stand Down.* We encourage you to visit our website: [www.EastBayStandDown.org](http://www.EastBayStandDown.org) for additional information and to volunteer.

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Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Maria R. Reclin  
2014 Photo: Maria Reclin



John Morgan and his dog, Lady, wait to be admitted to East Bay Stand Down at Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, Calif., Aug. 5, 2014. The first day Stand Down is part of a plan to eradicate homelessness among veterans. More than 100 attending members of the San Francisco Bay Area Area (left) were interviewed by AP/AMNS.

# East Bay Stand Down for Vets

## Eradicate Homelessness, Enable New Opportunities

**PLEASANTON, Calif.** — The rising sun burns off the cool Bay Area fog while bringing the August heat with each passing minute. A line forms inside the Alameda County Fairgrounds, where a heat of hearty laughs and generous gabble can be heard. Before John Morgan, a homeless veteran, can join the group, he is intercepted by Soldiers armed with clipboards and boxes.

In order for him to gain access and join the more than 400 East Bay Stand Down participants, he is told he must turn over his worldly possessions. In Morgan's case, he needed some extra assurance that his one worldly possession, a Chihuahua named Lady, would be well cared for.

Once inside, Morgan, along with all of the participants, was given access

to showers, clothing, and shelter. A few more, legal counsel, and medical care were also part of this first-day event designed to bring homeless veterans and resources together in one place.

Part of the support provided was made possible by the Innovative Readiness Training program, which allows Reserve Soldiers to maintain their military job

specialties while serving on alternate duty using their particular skill.

In his instance, the Army Reserve Medical Center's Women Medical Area Readiness Support Group (WE-MARSG) provided care that would otherwise have been virtually unavailable. The Army Reserve Soldiers attend the homeless encampment through the IRT program in many ways. Medical

from WE-MARSG assisted 45 vets in three days prior to the Stand Down before they began taking the veterans' vital information and providing them with dental, mental, and general health care as well as physical therapy.

"We take a brief history, we review their vital signs, their medications they have with them, and we make sure the information is channeled back to the medical provider," said Capt. Charlene Richardson, an Army Reserve Soldier with the WE-MARSG. She hopes the training will leave a lasting impression on the Soldiers as well as the participants. "I think a lot of the time we forget that we do have veterans out there who don't have a place to stay," she said. "I am very pleased and I am proud to be in this uniform and proud to be here."

The military presence "makes it feel like a real military operation that is the positive part of a lot of these people's lives," said Bert Puchner, executive board member of East Bay Stand Down. "That is the same spirit that you can feel in this camp."

The event has already made a difference for some of the veterans. Charles Hopkins, a vet leader coordinator, was once an East Bay Stand Down participant. "It was a very pivotal time," he said. "It was what people call the crossroads in your life." He credits the East Bay Stand Down for enabling him to choose the right path. "I was able to turn my life around because I was able to keep my job and get back on track."

Help and understanding comes from people organized to address the camp

through their stand between these veterans and their hope for a different future. Clinicians, mental health specialists, and social workers were readily available. More than 2,000 volunteers, both military and civilian, assisted.

The aim of East Bay Stand Down is "to set up a pathway for (veterans) to break free from the problems that they have found themselves in," said founder Denver Mills.

That's what Morgan hopes is in store for him and Lady, who was cared for by the local Humane Society for the duration of their stay. After arriving on the streets of San Francisco for the past 30 years, he hopes the East Bay Stand Down can give him a new chance in life and an opportunity to be better than what he was. ☐

**East Bay Stand Down 2014 is scheduled for September 11 to 14**

Your VSO - Group or Organization can Sponsor a Tent or be a donor in many areas!

**Sponsoring a Tent - \$500.00** for non-profit & veteran groups and **\$1000.00** for corporate business. Major Sponsorships are available - contact Director Jerry Yahiro for more information. Please see the Volunteers needed for a wide variety of support roles at EBSD. You may be the perfect volunteer for these much needed slots or you may know someone who is also available and would like to make a difference in the lives of our homeless veterans. We need volunteers **prior to EBSD** for set-up of the encampment & **after EBSD closes**.



## Antioch Veteran receives assistance from East County Veterans Organization - Sentinels of Freedom - the Wheelchair Foundation & Boy Scout speedy response

Brandon Del Fiorentino, a Marine injured in Iraq 2004, survived a drive-by shooting and is now recovering. Brandon's Iraq injuries include spinal, brain & eye damage. He has been through a successful but difficult recovery complicated with PTSD.

Brandon is the father of five children - including an infant daughter. He had been working in San Jose with a film and video production company.

The picture to the right is **Brandon Del Fiorentino** with **Boy Scout Chris Behring**. Mike Conklin, Sentinels of Freedom founder was informed that one of the items needed to secure quickly for Brandon was a wheelchair & Mike thought this would be a great mission for a local Danville Boy Scout named **Chris Behring**.

From the time Mike made the call to Lisa Behring (Dave was out of town) to the time Chris delivered the new wheelchair at the hospital from the Wheelchair Foundation with me, it was only 7 hrs. Chris got home from school at 3 pm, changed into his Scout uniform and off we went. What a kid! Our congratulations & thanks to Chris for his efforts.

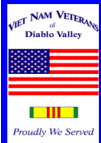


Brandon is facing a difficult recovery & **DONATIONS** are greatly appreciated. Donations for the family can be made to the Mechanics Bank on Railroad Avenue in Pittsburg, Account 041921267, or through East County Veterans - 708 West Second Street - Antioch, CA 94509. Online donations for Brandon also being accepted [www.gofundme.com/cgfwwh](http://www.gofundme.com/cgfwwh).

## Boy Scout Christopher Behring will be leading a team of Scouts at East Bay Stand Down to record interviews for the Library of Congress "Veteran History Project"

A special Eagle Scout Project honoring veterans being conducted at this year's East Bay Stand Down has developed into a major sponsorship effort for **Boy Scout Christopher Behring**. Chris planned a multiple approach to helping veterans—first by collecting funds to purchase \$3000 worth of sleeping bags for the homeless veteran program. Due to his dedicated efforts speaking about his project to many service organizations including Rotary Clubs - Chris raised enough funds to purchase all the sleeping bags for the EBSD 2014 event. Chris raised near \$10,000 - as of the recent planning meeting, far exceeding the amount required for the needed 450 sleeping bags. **Congratulations to Boy Scout Chris Behring.**

Chris exceeded his goal and requested EBSD to use additional funds to help these veterans reconnect. This request developed into the purchase of a special event **photo printer** which will be used as part of an **EBSD Photo Booth** taking **photos** of participating displaced veterans during the four-day encampment. This effort is being combined for the first time with efforts by a law firm volunteering *PeopleMap* software to assist in locating contact information on family members. The objective is to allowing them to make a **phone call home** helping to reconnect & follow-up with a personal letter home including a current photograph in each letter helping them reconnect with family. Primary focus of Chris on-site will be leading a team of Boy Scouts in video interviews of veterans & be sent back to the **Library of Congress**. These interviews will be entered as part of the permanent collection in the **"Veterans History Project"** as the major effort of his Eagle Scout project. **East Bay Stand Down 2014 is honored to have Chris Behring as a volunteer & major sponsor.**



# Veterans Lost in August

## Jon Robert Cavaiani

August 2, 1943 - July 29, 2014

It is with deep regret the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley inform our members - friends & supporters of the passing of our good friend - fellow Viet Nam Veteran member - Prisoner of War and

Congressional Medal of Honor recipient

### SGM. JON R. CAVAIANI (U.S. Army-Ret.) (MOH)

Jon passed today July 29th in Stanford, CA after battling against a prolonged illness & by his side was his wife Barbara.

Our thoughts & prayers are with her during this difficult time.

Funeral services are pending.



### Colonel Bernard "Bernie" Fisher, USAF (Ret) - previous Memorial Day guest speaker for VNVDV.-----

#### MOH Recipient "Bernie" Fisher - Gone West

Some of you may recall that Colonel Bernard "Bernie" Fisher, USAF (Ret) was one of the three (3) Key Speakers at the 2002 VNVDV/ Danville Annual Memorial Day Observance.

After battling a long illness Col. Bernie Fisher flew West this last Saturday, 16 Aug 14 to what lies ahead and beyond his time on planet earth. To all of his family and friends we send our prayers and a final salute.





# TAKE THE ROCK

## • VETERANS SWIM CHALLENGE •



**SUNDAY - Sept. 28th**

- \* **Costs Sponsored by Nadadores Locos & VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley**
- \* **Includes Open Water Swimming Training Program**
- \* **Veterans - Active-Duty Military - Reserves and Spouses / Children eligible to participate**
- \* **Volunteers needed / escort kayaker / boat captain / swimmers**

**Contact – Swim Director EARLE CONKLIN  
for further information at: [alamoearle@gmail.com](mailto:alamoearle@gmail.com)**

Swim Director **Earle Conklin** is still recruiting interested Active-Duty Military & Veterans to complete the training & certification in time for the Sept. 28 swim. Help pass the word. Bob Musor is looking for additional Boats to provide support & safety for the swim. Dennis Petersen is coordinating all the Shore activities at the Swim & Jerry Yahiro our Event Director is handling all Food for swimmers.

*Additional support is needed - contact one of these coordinator to help in their area at swim event.*

# What is going on with VNVDV Members

Contra Costa Television (CCTV) starts a new feature program—**“VETERAN VOICES”** and on Monday evening Aug. 18, **Joe Callaway, VNVDV Membership Director** and Bob Whitworth, both Viet Nam Veterans joined **Nathan Johnson**, County Veterans Service Officer and Kevin Graves of CALVET on the live broadcast of Veterans Voices of Contra Costa County. Joe and Bob were interviewed about their Viet Nam experience. Training, deployment, in-country Infantry assignments and stateside adjustment after leaving the Army were featured topics. Joe and Bob both were assigned to Infantry Units that trained and deployed as units. Both Joe and Bob entered intensive OJT programs and quickly learned to deal with fear, control, survival and learning. Bob returned to Central California, married and readjusted. Joe returned to Fort Devens, 10<sup>th</sup> SF near Boston prior to entered College in Boston after leaving the Army. Bob experienced nightmares and Joe expressed some anger and their experiences brought them to the VA where they benefited from a program designed to deal with their PTSD. Joe is the author of **“Mekong First Light”** and Bob authored **“Through My Eyes”** and Joe and Bob felt the books were a positive experience. Reruns of the 18Aug County **Veterans Voices TV** show are **Mondays @ 7pm - Wednesdays @ 11pm - Saturdays @ 9am - COMCAST 27 & others**

**A reminder ...** the VNVDV is a local, grass-roots non-profit Veterans Service Organization and is **Non-Political** (part of our non-profit status). Please refrain from **“politics”** of any kind at dinners.



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

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# Welcome to New **VNVDV** Members

**Ed Meshinsky—Army**

**Don Baker—Navy**

**Julian Mathews—Navy**

**David Turner—Navy**

**Larry Ashlock—Army**

## **Sentinels of Freedom in the News**



**Ryan Sykes (pictured on left) Sentinel Graduate** received Danville's "TOWN CHOICE" award presented by the MAYOR Robert Storer at Danville Hot Summer Nights car show. Ryan put a lot of work into his Chevy Camaro and his efforts were rewarded & recognized as tops!

Ryan also participated in the "**Tough Mudder Los Angeles 2014**" with the support of Team Silent Predators, including officers of the San Ramon Police Department and his own indomitable spirit, Ryan & the team banded together to test their grit on the 10-12 mile obstacle course listed *as one of the toughest events on the Planet.*

**In a third accomplishment Sentinel Ryan Sykes USN has taken the oath at as an Honorary Volunteer at the San Ramon Police Department on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the San Ramon Police Department Headquarters.** We congratulate Ryan for another accomplishment.

Ryan has been working there for almost a year now and has become a very productive support member for the San Ramon Police Department. He is very active in our community.

Ryan has come a long way in his recovery since being injured in Afghanistan and had a lot of help from many outstanding organizations, according to Sentinels founder Mike Conklin. Ryan's story of overcoming the odds is nothing short of incredible. Equally incredible is the story of how so many people of the San Ramon Valley stood up & accepted the mission of welcoming Ryan to our community and assisting him maximize his potential. ***Thanks to all...***

**VNVDV OFFER CONGRATULATIONS TO RYAN SYKES**

# "Sentinel" RYAN SYKES

Recognized by San Ramon Police Department

**CONGRATULATIONS** to "Sentinel" RYAN SYKES Sworn-in the San Ramon Police Department - **Honorary Volunteer.** The **VNVDV** "Salutes" You!

\*\*\*

This morning I was sworn in as a **Honorary Volunteer** with the **San Ramon Police Department.** What an upstanding and talented group of people to "work" with. All of the hard work is paying off but why stop now??



**Congratulations again Ryan... you are a major asset to our Community.**



# Veterans Day on the Delta

## Saturday, September 6th

9:00AM @ Discovery Bay Marina

5901 Marina Road, Discovery Bay, CA

**VETERAN**  
**APPRECIATION**  
**PERFORMANCE BOAT RUN** **2014**  
**DISCOVERY BAY CALIFORNIA**

POWERBOAT RENTAL.COM

CP

RED LINE

BOARDWALK GRILL

Ameson SURFACE DRIVES

dlb

BOATMASTERS

Some Gave All  
The Joey Graves Foundation  
www.somegaveall.us

PLAN-IT INTERACTIVE

## RSVP by August 30, 2014

or for additional information contact

[Kevin@SomeGaveAll.us](mailto:Kevin@SomeGaveAll.us)

**VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley**  
**"INCOMING NEWS"**



**General Anthony Zinni** author of "*Before the First Shots Are Fired: How America Can Win or Lose Off the Battlefield* " **will speak at the Marine's Memorial Club in SF on Sept. 18 at 6:30PM - Cost for veterans is \$12.00 (\$10. off reg. price)**

UPCOMING EVENT

**General Anthony Zinni: Before the First Shots Are Fired**

**THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 – 1830 HRS.  
(6:30PM)**

**GENERAL ANTHONY ZINNI, USMC (RET.);**

**SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE MIDDLE EAST (RET.);**

**AUTHOR - BEFORE THE FIRST SHOTS ARE FIRED: HOW AMERICA CAN WIN OR LOSE OFF THE BATTLEFIELD**

THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE U.S. SHOULD ACT AS THE WORLD'S POLICE FORCE HAS BEEN DISPUTED FOR DECADES — SHOULD THE U.S. RESPOND TO ISSUES ABROAD WITH MILITARY FORCE? **RETIRED FOUR-STAR GENERAL TONY ZINNI** EXAMINES THIS QUESTION AND BREAKS DOWN THE PROCESS OF HOW THE U.S. DECIDES TO GO TO WAR IN HIS LATEST BOOK. DRAWING ON HIS EXTENSIVE MILITARY CAREER SPANNING SEVERAL DECADES, GENERAL ZINNI ANALYZES AMERICA'S HISTORY OF MILITARY ACTION, THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE MILITARY PROCESS AND THE NECESSARY SHIFTS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE DECISION TO GO TO WAR A MORE TRANSPARENT PROCESS.



**LOCATION: LAFAYETTE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING  
3780 MT. DIABLO BLVD. — LAFAYETTE, CA**

**TIME: 5:45 P.M. CHECK-IN -**

**6:30 P.M. PROGRAM -**

**7:30 P.M. BOOK SIGNING -**

**COST: \$22 NON-MEMBERS • \$12 MEMBERS • \$7 STUDENTS —**

**SPECIAL VETERAN DISCOUNT AVAILABLE**

SEE MORE AT: [HTTP://WWW.COMMONWEALTHCLUB.ORG/EVENTS/2014-09-18/GENERAL-ANTHONY-ZINNI-FIRST-SHOTS-ARE-FIRED#STHASH.DHSABHZ0.DPUF](http://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2014-09-18/general-anthony-zinni-first-shots-are-fired#sthash.DHSABHZ0.DPUF)  
SEE MORE AT: [HTTP://WWW.COMMONWEALTHCLUB.ORG/EVENTS/2014-09-18/GENERAL-ANTHONY-ZINNI-FIRST-SHOTS-ARE-FIRED#SELECT-TICKETS](http://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2014-09-18/general-anthony-zinni-first-shots-are-fired#select-tickets)

**General Anthony Zinni** author of "*Before the First Shots Are Fired: How America Can Win or Lose Off the Battlefield* " **will also speak for BSM SEPT. 15th at Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building at 7PM, & its FREE.**



# Marines' Memorial Association Fall Programs



As summer draws to a close and September quickly approaches, don't forget to celebrate Labor Day Weekend and the final days of the season at [Marines' Memorial Club](#) where you'll find an elegant setting for memorable occasions in San Francisco.

Home to the 49ers, days of endless California sunshine, and a vibrant downtown, our convenient location is an ideal place to host special occasions when you take advantage of our [Meeting Planner Special](#). This exclusive offer combines our elegant event space with continental breakfast, Starbucks Coffee service and extra perks like 15% off of A/V rentals.

After your meeting is over, don't miss some of the most exciting upcoming events taking place at Marines' Memorial Club and surrounding Union Square! The [Annual Ghirardelli Chocolate Festival](#) returns for its 19th year, transforming into a true San Francisco staple and benefiting the non-profit Project Open Hand. Located in the heart of San Francisco's waterfront, festival goers enjoy decadent samplings, beautiful weather, and take with them an unforgettable experience!

## Spotlight on: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year is Rapidly Approaching

Holiday cheer spreads quickly and as the season is soon approaching, you'll want to be sure to plan memorable festivities for friends, families and colleagues. Whether you're planning an intimate affair or a grand holiday celebration our [Union Square event space](#) is an ideal setting for holiday celebrations of every size. Hosting special occasions is easy when you take advantage of our flavorful catering options and event packages to impress your guests in our downtown San Francisco location



Launch of "Operation Light at the end of the Tunnel"—Thur. Sep. 4, 1024



San Francisco Opera at Sharon Meadow—Sep. 7, 2014



Ghirardelli 19th Annual *Chocolate Festival*—Sun-Mon Sep. 7-8, 2014

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# Outstanding Featured Guest Speakers Monthly

## Speakers for 2014

**August 7th**

**Thanks to August Speaker Bert Upson**, Author of “**On a Clear Day**” was in the South Tower when the North Tower was hit-and he escaped, mere minutes before United #175 would obliterate his conference room. You will be hearing about 9/11 from someone who was in the tower and has a more complete and personal side to the story.

**September 4th:**

**Frank Jordan** is very passionate and extremely knowledgeable about World War I. He leads yearly battlefield tours of the old Western Front in France and Belgium. This May, Frank lead a tour to commemorate the centennial of the start of the “Great War”. Frank will be reporting on this trip as well as enhancing our knowledge of World War I.

**October 2nd:**

**John Bryan** - CEO of 680 Recovery in Alamo, whose company goal is to give every person the confidence to make it through a crisis situation. Their team consists of former military personnel, firefighters, policemen and women and emergency medical first-responders with over 150 years of combined experience in emergency services.

## The VMB / SRV Renovation Book



## VMB Renovation Coffee Table Book **Reduced Price** Special Available at Danville VMB

Books sell for \$45.. & **now reduced to \$35.00**  
All proceeds go directly to pay for the operating expenses of the Veterans portion of the VMB for the San Ramon Valley

## *YOUR VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING in Danville*

The Danville's Veteran Memorial Building is **OPEN** every SAT. AM from 0800 to 1100 for *free coffee & pastry... a social get-together.* Stop by for a few minutes, an hour, stay as long as you desire ~ leave when you want. Meet in our new lounge ~ enjoy the outdoor patio porch ~ see the museum displays ~ *bring a friend or fellow veteran.*

The VMB Museum is Open Monday thru Friday 9 to 3 for public visitors. Past President Mike Slattengren is looking for any members interested in volunteering a few hours each month as a VMB Docent for our Historical Military Museum tours. Easy Training is provided ~ 3Hr shift. Contact “*Slatts*”

**Tell others about our Veteran & Military Museum!**

***Special Displays planned for Veterans Day Weekend a three-day Open House to share Military History.***





# Participate in a Unique Opportunity



## Committee for Commissioning USS AMERICA (LHA 6)

April 2014

### Honorary Chairs

- Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator
- Honorable Bill Horn  
Supervisor, County of San Diego
- Honorable Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor, City & County of San Francisco
- Captain James A. Lovell, Jr., USN (Ret)  
NASA Astronaut
- General Peter Pace, USMC (Ret)  
Former Chairman Joint Chiefs
- Honorable William J. Perry  
Former Secretary of Defense
- Honorable George P. Shultz  
Former Secretary of State

### Commissioning Chair

RADM Thomas F. Brown III, USN (Ret)

### Committee Chairs

- RADM Douglas Moore, Jr., USN (Ret)  
Deputy Chair
- Thomas Creedon  
Social Events
- Captain Hanford Lockwood, USN (Ret)  
Logistics
- Captain Michele Lockwood, USN (Ret)
- Captain Anilio Serafini, USN (Ret)  
Treasurers
- Lou Lozano, NLUS  
Crew Events
- Jeanne Sharkey, NLUS  
Development
- Captain Kris Carlock, USN (Ret)  
Invitations
- Colonel Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret)  
USMC Liaison
- Don Hale, NLUS  
Gifts
- Captain Thomas Snyder, MC, USN (Ret)  
Webmaster

### Committee Members

- RADM Vincent Anzilotti, USN (Ret)
- Carey & Carrie Barnecut, NLUS
- Angus Blackwood, NLUS
- CMDCM Julio Blea, USN (Ret)
- Captain Stanley Ellerson, USN (Ret)
- Darrell Fike, NLUS Region President
- Mark Flegel, NLUS
- Ms. Terry Garrison, NLUS
- Ms. Virginia Gibson, NLUS
- RADM Russell Gorman, USN (Ret) Emeritus
- Captain John Hassenpflug, USN (Ret)
- Ms. Tami Jenkins, Blue Star Moms
- Ms. Renee Martin, Port of SF
- Captain Martin McNair, USN (Ret)
- Thomas Mistele, USNA (P-'16)
- Michael Nerney, Port of SF
- Carl Nolte, SF Chronicle
- Ms. Sidonie Sumom, Port of SF
- CDR William R. Sharkey III, USN (Ret)
- Gregory Vistica, NLUS Emeritus

Dear Navy and Marine Corps Supporters,

**USS America (LHA-6)** will be commissioned in San Francisco in early October 2014. She will be the fourth U.S. Navy vessel named after our country and will showcase the strength, resolve and commitment of our great nation.

**The America Class LHAs** will replace the LHA-1, Tarawa Class of amphibious assault ships, and will have the flexibility to operate in the traditional role as the flagship for an Expeditionary Strike Group. She is characterized as an aviation-centric amphibious assault ship designed to accommodate the next generation of Marine Corps aircraft, the MV-22 Osprey and the F-35B (VTOL) Joint Strike Fighter across the full spectrum of military operations. These amphibious warships are uniquely designed to support the U.S. Marines' Aviation Combat Element (ACE) philosophy including assault from the sea against defended positions ashore and Sea Control Air operations using enhanced numbers of strike fighters. The air assault role is optimized for conducting larger air assault operations from much further out, allowing the Ground Combat Element (GCE) to arrive on scene more quickly and the America-class ship to be better protected from its station farther out to sea.

**We are asking you to be part of something special.** The Department of the Navy has asked that a committee be established to sponsor the commissioning of this new amphibious assault ship. Our sponsorship responsibility includes raising a significant amount of funding. The Department of the Navy, the ship and its crew are counting on us to make this commissioning a success.

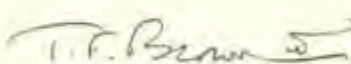
**Your attendance** will help assure that success. **Your dollars** will support the time-honored and traditional events associated with a ship's commissioning that the Department of the Navy is not allowed to fund. Your donations will create and sustain the crew's morale, welfare and recreation fund. When **AMERICA** sails off to join the fleet we want the crew to know that they are supported and valued by **all Americans**.

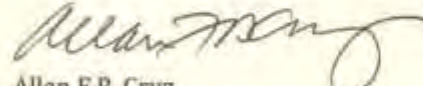
**BE PART OF THIS IMPORTANT EVENT!** Take an ownership interest in the first day of the life of the **USS America** by providing financial support. Please see the enclosure for details. All donations are appreciated, are tax-deductible and will be listed in the donor's brochure. **Your financial donation will help make this happen.**

Please send your contribution today. Do your part to make the **USS America** the newest and finest ship in the fleet.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution.

Semper Fidelis,

  
 Thomas F. Brown III  
 Rear Admiral USN (Ret.)  
 Chair, Commissioning Committee

  
 Allan F.P. Cruz  
 Colonel USMC (Ret.)  
 Chair, Marine Liaison

# Participate in the Commissioning During Fleet Week OCT. 11



**Donate to be a “Plank Owner” of**

## USS AMERICA



*USS AMERICA (LHA 6) after her launch, June 4, 2012*

*Builder:* Huntington Ingalls Industries

*Sponsor:* Lynne Pace

*Launched:* 4 June 2012

*Christened:* 20 October 2012

*Commissioning (planned):* early October 2014 in San Francisco, California

### General Characteristics

*Class & type:* America class amphibious assault ship

*Displacement:* Approx. 45,000 long tons (45,700 metric tons) full load

*Length:* 844 feet (257.3 meters)

*Beam:* 106 feet (32.3 meters)

*Propulsion:* Two marine gas turbines, two shafts, 70,000 total brake horsepower,  
two 5,000 horsepower auxiliary propulsion motors

*Speed:* 20+ knots (37+ km/h)

*Complement:* 65 officers, 994 enlisted, 1,687 Marines (plus 184 surge)

*Sensors and processing systems:* AN/SPQ-9B fire control; AN/SPS-48E air search radar

*Electronic warfare & decoys:* AN/SLQ-32B(V)2; 2×Mk53 NULKA decoy launchers

*Armament:* 2× Rolling Airframe Missile launchers; 2× Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile launchers;  
2× 20 mm Phalanx CIWS mounts; 7× twin .50 BMG machine guns

*Aircraft carried:* MV-22B Osprey, F-35B Lightning II, CH-53K Super Stallion; UH-1Y Venom;  
AH-1Z Viper; MH-60S Seahawk

*Ship's Crest & Motto:*



**"BELLO VEL PACE  
PARATUS"**

**"PREPARED IN WAR  
OR IN PEACE"**

**Commissioning is Privately Funded through Your Donations**



# ALL SERVICE WOMEN VETERAN'S LUNCHEON

## 2014

### ALL SERVICE WOMEN VETERAN'S LUNCHEON

San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon

NOVEMBER 1, 2014  
1130 AM ~ 3 PM

~Educational Opportunities for  
Service Members and Veterans.~

Come join your sister veterans  
and currently serving service women  
For Northern California's 29th Annual Luncheon

Celebrate our past

Honor those who have gone before us

Find out what is available to women veterans today

Looking into the future

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY ZIP  
E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

ERA SERVED: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
I use a wheel chair \_\_\_\_\_ I use a walker \_\_\_\_\_ (information needed for seating arrangements)

#### MENU CHOICES

Chicken Alfredo Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon Alfredo Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Coffees & Iced Tea, Cash Bar

IF BRINGING A GUEST, PLEASE INDICATE THEIR MENU CHOICE

**\$36 PER PERSON**

MAKE CHECKS OUT TO

Jo Lawrence

Note ASWVZ 2014 on memo line

MAIL TO: Jo Lawrence

140 Ghormley Ave., Oakland, CA 94603

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 24TH

Sorry, NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 27TH

BRING A RIFFLE PRIZE!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR  
TO VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST AT THE CHECK-IN TABLE,  
SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS, ETC. CONTACT

JO LAWRENCE AT 510-568-6076 / jall40@aol.com  
FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS WITH SISTER VETERANS

## ALL SERVICE WOMEN VETERAN'S LUNCHEON

San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583  
Discounted Flat Fee Parking of \$3.00 per vehicle

Key Note speaker, LtCol Jannett N. Jackson, USAF, ret.



Dr. Jackson received her doctorate in Educational Administration at The University of Texas at Austin, and holds a Master's in Education emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from California State University, Fresno.

Dr. Jackson is the newly appointed Chancellor of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. She served as President of College of Alameda (COA) Peralta Community College District. Prior to her presidency, Dr. Jackson was Vice President of Instruction at COA, and an Instructional Dean, at Fresno City College.



#### DIRECTIONS

From Sacramento: Exit I-80 at Cordelia onto I-680 South. Continue over Martinez Bridge toward San Jose. Exit at San Ramon/Bollinger Canyon Rd. Go over the freeway and at the first light, turn left onto Summit Dr. Turn Left at Bishop Dr. Hotel is just past the Target store on the left side of the street. We encourage car pooling.

Flat Fee Parking of \$3.00 per vehicle.

From Oakland and San Jose:  
I-680 North, exit Bollinger Canyon Rd. Turn Right off exit ramp. Follow the above directions to Hotel.

2014

## ALL SERVICE WOMEN VETERAN'S LUNCHEON

San Ramon Marrio.  
2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon

**NOVEMBER 1, 2014**  
**11:30 AM ~ 3 PM**

~Educa onal Opportuni es for  
Service Members and Veterans.~

Come join your sister veterans  
and currently serving service  
women

For Northern California's 29th  
Annual Luncheon  
Celebrate our past

Honor those who have gone be-  
fore us

Find out what is available to  
women veterans today  
Looking into the future

See attached flyer for Lunch-  
eon Reservation Information

Please clip reservation form and return it promptly. Please share with all service women you know, even if you THINK they might have gotten this flyer—they may not have. In order to keep the cost per person as low as possible, you will note a change in the menu choices. In order to keep cost at a minimum, it is important to have valid e-mail addresses—please print clearly. If you know of someone who has passed away, please tell us.  
**PLEASE NOTE: NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 27.** By that time, all the meals will have been ordered and need to be paid for.



# Job & Resource Fair ~ OCT. 22nd ~ Concord Hilton

## About the Event

This Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet™ event was established to share knowledge and provide services to veterans.

## Participating Organizations:

- Employment Development Department
- California Conservation Corps
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- Customs and Border Protection
- Apprenticeship, Standards and Industrial Relations
- Tesla
- CalTrans
- Shell
- AC Transit
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Safeway
- Bay Ship & Yacht
- Michael's Transportation



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

EDD, an equal opportunity employer/program, is a partner in this event. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made prior to the event by calling 800-735-2922 (voice). TTY users, please call the California Relay Services at 711.

DE 6194HREG Rev. 5 (3-11)

GA 895 D



OPEN TO ALL JOB SEEKERS

State of California

**Honor a Hero Hire a Vet™**

**JOB and RESOURCE FAIR**

Wednesday October 22, 2014  
Concord, CA



A job and resource fair for Veterans, National Guard, and Reservists returning from active duty.

October 22, 2014

Concord, CA

### WANTED:

Businesses that have job openings in Contra Costa, Alameda and surrounding counties.

If you are looking for job candidates who are trained, educated, and have leadership skills, it makes sense to hire a vet. Veterans have the skills that will immediately add value to your business.

- Meet candidates face-to-face
- Showcase your business
- Advertise open positions
- No fees to participants

Community organizations and service providers are invited to join other federal, state, local, and private organizations to highlight their services at the job fair.

For additional information, please contact

**Shawn Hansen at 925-602-0115**  
**Dan Kennerk at 510-794-3681**

In partnership with the Employment Development Department, California Community Colleges, California Department of Veterans Affairs, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Department of Industrial Relations-Apprenticeship Standards, Local VEC, Local EAC, One-Stop Center, and various federal, state, local, and private organizations within Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

Registration Form - Register by Friday, September 5, 2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Large Display: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Chairs \_\_\_\_\_

Other Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Shawn Hansen  
Employment Development Department  
4071 Point Chicago Hwy, Ste 250  
Concord, CA 94520  
925-602-3881

Tables and chairs are available for two participants. Please let us know if you need accommodations for a large, free-standing display. Please bring your own signs and table decorations. Advance registration is required. Send or fax your completed registration to:



**A reminder ... the VNVDV is a local, grass-roots non-profit Veterans Service Organization and is Non-Political (part of our non-profit status). Please refrain from "politics" of any kind at dinners.**

**CHECK - OUT & FOLLOW MONTHLY SOME OF OUR SUPPORTERS WEBSITES:**

All "Operation Welcome Home" event updates can be found at: [www.DiabloValleyFlagBrigade.com](http://www.DiabloValleyFlagBrigade.com) for upcoming events.

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

Information on All Wars Memorial and obtaining AWM Pavers at Oak Hill Park - visit: [www.AllWarsMemorial.org](http://www.AllWarsMemorial.org)

East Bay Stand Down FINAL monthly meetings - August 12th - visit: [www.EastBayStandDown.org](http://www.EastBayStandDown.org) for location of monthly meeting

Marines Memorial Association / Hotel / Club in SF - Visit their website at: [www.MarineClub.com](http://www.MarineClub.com)

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation - visit: [www.SentinelsOfFreedom.org](http://www.SentinelsOfFreedom.org)

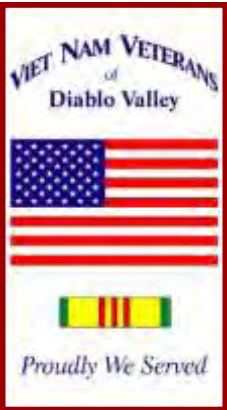
Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels - Support our those in need of mobility - Visit: [www.WineforWheels.org](http://www.WineforWheels.org) & see VNVDV

Blue Star Moms #101 website: [www.bluestarmoms.org](http://www.bluestarmoms.org) & Blue Star Moms #20 website: [www.cdbluestarmoms.org](http://www.cdbluestarmoms.org)

**Get involved in "Take the Rock" - Veteran Swim Challenge for Active-Duty Military & Veterans**

**See other websites listed inside this edition of the INCOMING News & on our website.**

For details and information on our new Veterans Memorial Building visit: [www.srvVeteransHall.org](http://www.srvVeteransHall.org) - You can still make a "pledge" over a three to five year period... have your name on the donor wall and YOU will "make a difference in the future"



*Please Join Us the First Thursday each Month!*

**You can Help the VNVDV \$\$\$**

**by Paying by CHECK or CASH at Dinners**

**Checks payable to the "VNVDV"**

**Monthly Meeting Chef's "All-you-can-eat" Buffet Dinner is \$25. members / guests**

**Social Hour begins at 1700 Hrs. - Buffet Dinner begins just after 1800 Hrs.**

**Yes - we also take Major Credit Cards...**

**However - on the back-end the VNVDV is charged a percentage - for "a processing fee"**

**VNVDV Membership Dues Now only \$25.**

**Life Membership in VNVDV for only: \$200.00!**

**Membership in continues to Grow - Bring a Viet Nam Vet to Dinner!**

*J. Rockcliff*



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MIKE WEBER  
Realtor ®

4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle  
Danville, CA 94506  
CalBRE#00441586

direct: 925.736.1500  
mweber@rockcliff.com

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**FASTSIGNS #48**

2551 San Ramon Valley Blvd. #113

San Ramon, CA 94583

ph. (925) 820-2202

fax. (925) 820-8911

Email: 48@fastsigns.com





Department of  
Veterans Affairs

**Affordable Care Act & Veterans**  
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.



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

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

**Veterans... Are You Utilizing Your VA Health Care Benefits?**

The VNVDV encourages all Veterans to Enroll in VA Health Care coverage & utilizing trained professional advocates at our Contra Costa County VSO. The VA Health Care System is the Best - get help Visit our VNVDV Website for more Benefit details.



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  
800-382-8387  
Pharmacy(Toll Free)Line  
866-600-8279  
Martinez, CA 94553

Fax: (925) 372-2804

**FLU IS CAUSING SERIOUS ILLNESS & DEATH!**  
**Please visit one of our VA Clinics in Martinez**  
**- Oakland or other locations now to obtain your**  
**FLU shot - available to all Veterans! Don't Wait!**

**Watch a New TV Show "VETERAN VOICES" on CCTV**

Featuring Nathan Johnson - our Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer & Guests

**Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office**  
**is a FREE service for all Veterans!**

Find out about all the Veteran Benefits  
You earned through your Military Service  
Visit the County VSO Office NOW...

for your FREE "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](mailto: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](mailto:HReese@sbcglobal.net)

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

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



**Promotive**  
Performance and Repair

**"Veteran Owned"**

Richard Rein  
Owner operator

1410 Lesnick Lane  
Unit E  
Walnut Creek, Ca 94597

925-247-4268





# Serious Problems?

**VA - Mtz**


**OFFERS**

**"Same Day"**

**Appointments**

**If Required!**

California's Veteran Benefit Book Available - See CCC VSO



The latest edition of the **Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents** booklet is now available. It provides a comprehensive list of federal benefits available, along with a complete list of VA facilities by state.

To get your free copy, go to:  
[http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current\\_benefits.asp](http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp)  
or call 1-800-827-1000.

Martinez VA Outpatient Clinic  
150 MUIR ROAD  
MARTINEZ CA 94553

Phone: (800) 382-8387  
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Web: <http://http://www.northerncalifornia.va.gov/>

**Check VA's MyHealthVet or the VA online for details**

**Call VA's "Advise Nurse" for answers!**

**The VA Northern California Health Care System - operating Mare Island - Oakland & Martinez - Fairfield are providing Outstanding VA Health Care.**

**FLU SHOTS available beginning in October at VA Mtz and watch for "Drive-In Shots" at Martinez!**

**We THANK the VA Northern California Health Care System for their solid support of EBSD 2014**

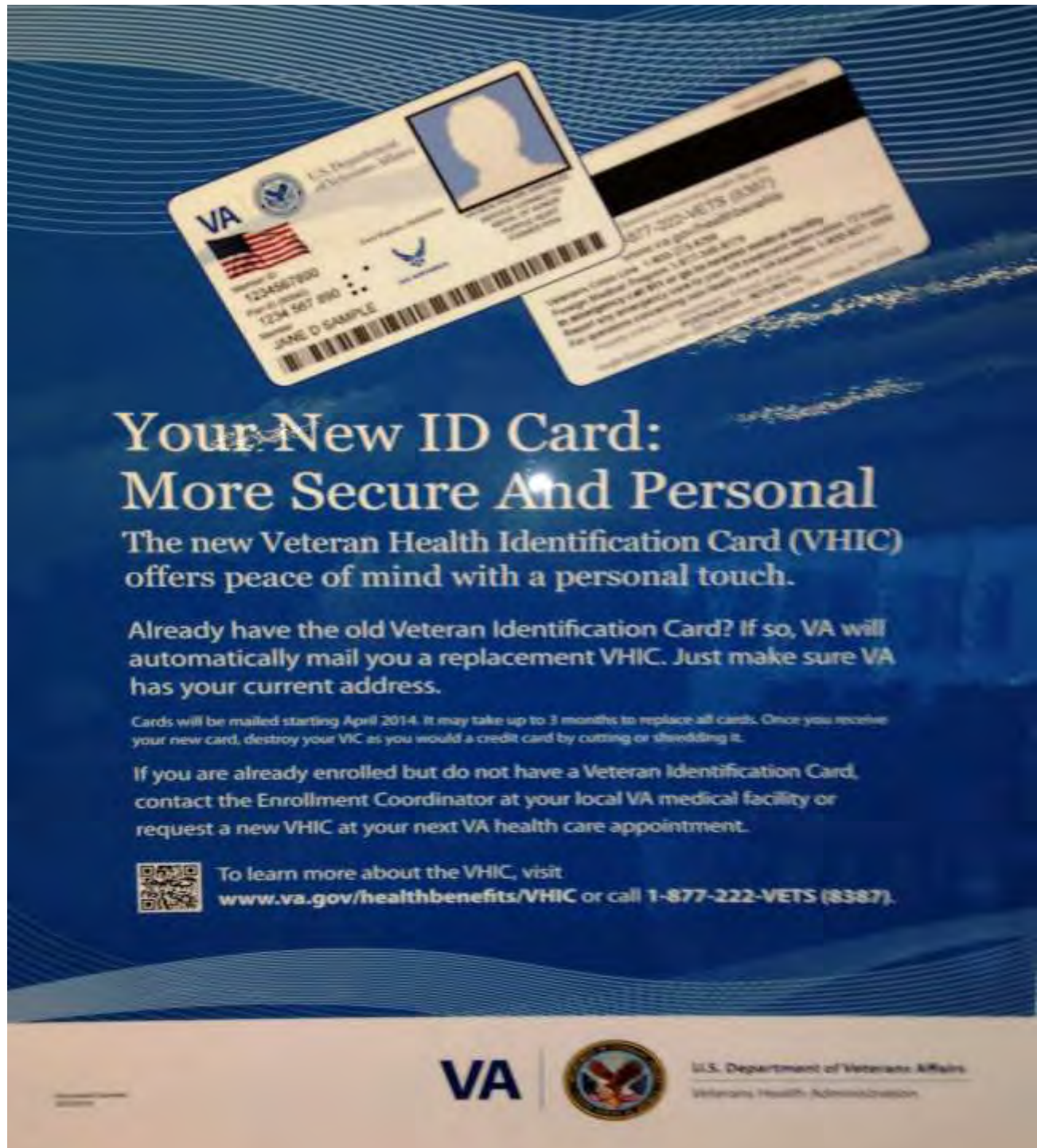
## More Take the Rock News

Swim Director **Earle Conklin** is still recruiting interested Active-Duty Military & Veterans to swim Sept. 28. Help pass the word. Bob Musor our Fleet Director is looking for additional Boats to provide support & safety for the swim. Dennis Petersen is our Shore Director coordinating all beach activities at Swim. Jerry Yahiro - VNVDV Event Director is coordinating the food for both breakfast & lunch for swimmers. Additional volunteer support is needed - please ask one of the coordinators to help in specific area.

TAKE the ROCK Swim Director Earle Conklin said, "You'd be proud to see how our guys are doing. They have such heart. They have such fight in them. (I guess you've heard me say this before.) It so inspires me and renews my faith in humanity to help these young people struggle, face their fears and their own limitations, stand up to the cold water and say I Will Do This Thing! I am so proud to be there, so privileged. And, our Coaches keep coming back as well, even though they are mostly non-veterans. They see the same thing I do and they share the sense of personal victory and pride. *These veteran swimmers are "our" soldiers now. They are truly and fully ours. Earle Conklin*

**Support our Military & Veteran Swimmers**

# VA More Secure Health Care ID - Have Your Received Yours?




**Your New ID Card:  
More Secure And Personal**


The new Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) offers peace of mind with a personal touch.

Already have the old Veteran Identification Card? If so, VA will automatically mail you a replacement VHIC. Just make sure VA has your current address.

Cards will be mailed starting April 2014. It may take up to 3 months to replace all cards. Once you receive your new card, destroy your VIC as you would a credit card by cutting or shredding it.

If you are already enrolled but do not have a Veteran Identification Card, contact the Enrollment Coordinator at your local VA medical facility or request a new VHIC at your next VA health care appointment.

 To learn more about the VHIC, visit [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/VHIC](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/VHIC) or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

**VA**  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration

## *Because You Chose To Proudly Serve*

Oakmont Memorial Cemetery in Lafayette is offering assistance to all Veterans and Veteran Spouses on both Traditional and Cremation Property.

Contact: **Thomas Corbett**, Veteran Liaison Officer

(925) 935-3311, (925) 216-4785 or  
[TCOAK8@gmail.com](mailto:TCOAK8@gmail.com)





# **VietNam Veterans Killed-in-Action from Contra Costa - Photos still needed for those fallen - *Names on the Wall***

The first time Janna Hoehn visited Washington, D.C., she went to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Its simple power -- a black granite wall etched with the 58,286 names of U.S. service members killed in the Vietnam War -- left her in tears.

"As you're standing there, you realize your reflection is in this wall," said Hoehn, 58. "You're in there with the soldiers. It made me cry because it's so massive, so many names."

Now she's part of a project that aims to intensify the emotional experience by adding faces to the names. The Faces Never Forgotten project has collected photos for more than 33,000 of the names on the wall, via online submissions from family and friends and through the work of volunteers directed by the nonprofit Vietnam Veterans Fund in Washington, D.C.

The project is the brainchild of Jan Scruggs, a Vietnam veteran who founded the wall. Now he seeks to build an underground education center on the Washington Mall in which to display the photos. (Photos that have been collected are displayed at [www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces](http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces).)

Legislation authorizing construction of the \$100 million education center was signed in 2003 by President George W. Bush. Scruggs said he has raised approximately \$15 million to date. Recently, Congress granted the project a four-year extension -- through 2017 -- to raise the additional \$85 million.

"We're talking to the right people in the corporate world," said Scruggs, an Army veteran who earned a Purple Heart in Vietnam. "We'll get it done. It will be powerful. We really want this to be done in a tasteful manner to inspire people to appreciate those who have given everything for their country."

Hoehn, a florist on the island of Maui in Hawaii, was part of the Faces Never Forgotten project before she knew it existed. Five years ago, on her visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, she traced a random name -- MIA Gregory Crossman -- on a piece of paper. After returning home, her curiosity piqued, she searched online for any information she could find about her mystery service member. Her cousin was able to locate a photo. "I put his picture in a scrapbook," Hoehn said, "and put the scrapbook away."

Then she heard about Faces Never Forgotten. She sent Crossman's photo to Scruggs, who wrote back asking if Hoehn would be willing to locate photos for the 42 dead or missing from her home island. She calls them the "Maui boys." "What I thought would be a simple project was not," she said. "After six months, I had them."

Hoehn then volunteered to find pictures of casualties from Riverside County, where she grew up. Now she's searching Bay Area counties. She uses a number of tools. She started tracking down the "Maui boys" with a phone book. She visited high schools, scanned microfiche in libraries and pored through yearbooks. She got the final photo by knocking on a door in her neighborhood.

Now she works remotely, scouring the Internet and asking local newspapers to write about the project. Her cousin helps, using [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). For her work in Contra Costa County, Hoehn enlisted the help of the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley.

"I think we'll get most of the photographs," Scruggs said. "By the time we have the center built, we'll probably be in the 80 to 85 percent range. Once it's operational, and people come to see it, that's when we'll get the rest. There's probably one-half of 1 percent you can never get."

The photo Andy Holt cares most about is the one of his older brother, Raymond, who was killed in combat in the Binh Duong province of South Vietnam in 1970, two days after Christmas and 10 days after his 22nd birthday. Andy, Raymond and their three siblings grew up in Antioch.

Andy Holt, who enlisted in the Army with two buddies who were killed in Vietnam, likes the concept of Faces Never Forgotten.

"That sounds great," he said. "The men and women who served in Vietnam, and those who didn't make it back, had a (crummy) deal. It's not like our soldiers today, who come home to a warm welcome. It was just bad all the way around. This is a long time coming."

**\* See the list of names for Photos Needed for Fallen VietNam Veterans from your County on website: [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)**

**This article was written by Bay Area News Group's [Gary Peterson](http://GaryPeterson.com) at 925-952-5053. Follow him at [Twitter.com/garyscribe](https://twitter.com/garyscribe).**

**To contribute a photo—see our [VNVDV website](http://VNVDV.com) for a list of names for photos...**

If you have a photo of a friend or family member who was lost in Vietnam and wish to contribute it to the Faces Never Forgotten project, email it to [Janna Hoehn](mailto:JannaHoehn@neverforgotten2014@gmail.com) at [neverforgotten2014@gmail.com](mailto:neverforgotten2014@gmail.com).

**Janna Hoehn was the VNVDV featured dinner speaker on JUNE 5th - support this volunteer project. Remember... do some research - You can make a difference!**

Membership Drive... Bring a VietNam Veteran friend to our next monthly dinner!

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: \_\_\_\_\_

	<i>Last</i>	<i>First &amp; MI</i>	<i>Home Phone</i>	<i>Cell Phone</i>	<i>Work Phone</i>
<b>NAME:</b>					
<b>Spouse / SO</b>					
<b>Address:</b>	<i>No. &amp; Street</i>		<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP Code</i>
<b>Home E-Mail:</b>			<b>Work E-Mail:</b>		
<b>Company:</b>			<b>Title:</b>		

### Military Service

<i>Branch</i>	<i>Dates of Service</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Specialty</i>	<i>Viet Nam Dates</i>
<b>Viet Nam Units:</b>				
<b>Location(s):</b>				
<b>Medals &amp; Awards:</b>				

### 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](http://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](http://www.VNVDV.com) - Read our monthly newsletter "INCOMING" for our current events!



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley "INCOMING"

SEPTEMBER 2014

Use Purple Heart Stamps

Official Mailing Address:

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Post Office Box 2079

Danville, CA 94526 - 2079

E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

Web: www.VNVDV.com

Electronic News



2014 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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Danville, CA 94526
News E-Mail: VNVDV.News@gmail.com

Keep your e-mail address current please!

Visit the VNVDV Web Often - our latest news is online at:



To: VNVDV Members & VIPs

The Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley - established in 1991 as a local, non-profit, Veteran Service Organization (VSO) to promote & enhance the image of the Viet Nam Veteran through Community Service & Support of our fellow Veterans, value & maintain a high level of dignity & respect for the young men & women currently serving our nation today in all branches of our military services. Danville has a new Veteran's Memorial Building for the San Ramon Valley - designed for the next 100 years - to serve our veterans now - those returning & our future veterans - while serving as a lasting reminder & Memorial for all those who served before us in the name of Freedom... leaving a "legacy"

The VNVDV meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at the Crow Canyon Country Club, in Danville. Our Board of Directors Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Building - Library / Board Room at 1800 Hrs. in Danville. To find out "details" & more about programs we support & events we sponsor... visit our website at www.VNVDV.com. All veterans & guests are welcome to attend our "open" membership meetings. We are a casual - "fun" - social veterans group - always looking for new members who enjoy friendship & the special bond as military veterans. We are Proud of our Military Service... & of our continued contributions to fellow veterans & community. Our dinner meetings consist of a social dinner & guest speaker of interest to veterans & military. All dinner meetings are OPEN - bring fellow veterans - active duty military - history buffs - friends - supporters... & Join us each month.

OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS with SPEAKER!

VIET NAM VETERANS of Diablo Valley

MONTHLY SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS with FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS

1st THURSDAY of each Month - Every Month

at CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in Danville, CA

Social Hour starts at 1700 - Buffet Dinner at 1815 - Join Us!

Featuring "Chef's Choice Special Buffet Dinner" - \$25. RSVP NOT Required!

the "INCOMING" - Official Newsletter of the VNVDV

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