

SEP 2019



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley Will conduct a special donor drawing at the VNVDV 2020 Super Sunday Crab Feed 02FEB2020 to select one out of 300 for luxury fishing trip in Canada during 2020

KING PACIFIC LODGE

Trip for Two – 4 Day/3 Night Luxury Rooms feature soaker tub & panoramic window views! Roundtrip transportation from Vancouver, Canada [South Terminal] to Lodge



Fishing Trip of a Lifetime! ½ Day guided each day 5hrs/day Self-guided unlimited hours of fishing

VETERAN 's

SAT Morning

Social Coffee...

Join fellow

Veterans each Saturday

8AM until 11AM

In Danville at the

Veterans

Memorial

Building

Pastries too!











Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley VNVDV SUPPORT TWO WELCOME HOME RECOGNITION CEREMONIES 9-11 Remembrance ~ VNVDV Support this Special Event

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Well here it is August already.

Well here it is August already. School is in session and the summer is almost gone.

Bill Green was our speaker in July and his presentation was very interesting. I know you all have been enlightened by the presentations by some our members. Steve Burchik has been able to convince some of us to retrieve from our memory old photos and experiences that have faded with age and in some instances suppressed.

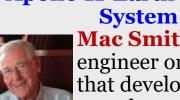
Steve has been after me now since at least April. I am very sorry to announce that there will be another delay in the account of my military exploits with the U.S. Marines in the U.S. Far East War Games (Vietnam War) where my experience entitles me to a second -place ribbon [Enough of the glibness, Gary]. The reason you have to wait for my presentation again is I finally have a date for a medical procedure that makes my attendance at the September 5th meeting not possible. Not to worry though I am supposed to be back to duty status in a week to 10 days.

9/11 Remembrance...

a Community Ceremony at the All Wars Memorial in Danville to remember & honor. Featured speaker -FBI John F. Bennett Special Agent in Charge -SF "PENTTABOM -9/11/2001" 9/11 Patriot Day is a Public / Community Ceremony on - WED Sept 11 at 5:30 -6:30 PM in Oak Hill Park 3500 Stone Valley Road Danville Next to Monte Vista High Please Share this Event & Bring the

Family - FREE Ice Cream after One-Hour program Join us!

SEPTEMBER 5th SPEAKER Apollo 11-Earth Landing



Mac Smith was an engineer on the team that developed the parachute system that allowed Apollo 11 to

safely return to earth. Join us!

President's Message (Continued from Page One)

As I have told many of you, getting old is not for the weak or quitters. As an aside, I have pretty much completed the work on my presentation so you shouldn't have to wait too long for my story. Additionally, it gives our Vice President the opportunity to run the meeting as he was cheated at last months meeting because I showed up when I wasn't supposed to.

In September we have the 9-11 event at Oak Hill Park, Danville. This is an event that we all should be attending. In the past, we have had a great showing and this year we are promised a very memorable program.

We are coming up to the last quarter of the year which means Officer elections are coming up. This is your chance to step up and take leadership opportunity. We have a great Board that is the envy of many organizations. If we were horses, some would say we are getting a little long in the tooth. Interpret that to mean that you do not have as long as you think to make your mark on humanity.

Mike Martin and Bill Green have noted that with the beginning of the school year, opportunities for the Speakers Bureau will start to ramp up. Mike is looking for contacts at the local schools and colleges. We need to reach out now and let them know of our Speakers Bureau. Our program is a great way to make sure the historical record of the Vietnam War is presented in a non-distorted context. Since most of us are too old to have children in the local grammar and high schools, we might have grandchildren in these schools where there is a possibility for our Speakers Bureau to make a presentation. If you have the name of a history teacher, please give it to Mike or Bill.

Due to the Vietnam Trip in October the Veterans Day Celebration in Danville is up in the air. As of this writing no program has been finalized. More will follow by FLASH messages. In any case, Veterans Day falls on a Sunday and I am sure there will be plenty of opportunity for us to show our colors. owed up when I wasn't supposed to.

Gary Estrella President PH: 925 / 962-9552 E: gamastar6@aol.com





President Announces Nomination Committee for 2020 Officers & Directors!

President Gary Estrella selected our 2019/2020 Nomination Committee. Gary selected the very experienced Past President Rich Lambert Chair to include additional **VNVDV** Past President to seek out new & future leaders & potential Board Members & Committee Chairs. President Estrella selected Past President Mike Weber, We encourage all VNVDV members to find out more about the organization and the various positions available. VOLUN-**TEERING** in a leadership position can be EX TREAMNLY REWARD-**ING PERSONALLY!** Find out more... if you have any questions about any position or the duties of any Board Positions please contact Rich or Mike. Elections are held at our Annual Meeting in the month of November by Ballot.

> YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFENENCE!





Dedicated to the Remembrance of 9-11, Devoted to the Support of our Troops, www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com

Operation Welcome Home!

We will never, ever again let our military heroes be treated like they were when they came home from the Vietnam War, when our Soldiers, Airmen, Seamen and Marines were spat on when they got off the plane Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley along with the Diablo Flag Brigade - Warriors Watch Riders - Blue Star Moms - & our fellow VSO organizations.

Welcome Home Celebrations US Army Maj. Beth Hultgren

USMC GySgt Greg Larson



9~11 Remeberance ~ VNVDV Support this Special Event

9-11 COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE

5:30-6:30 WEDNESDAY September 11 Oak Hill Park

OHN F BENN ent in Charg

"PENTTBOM-9/11/2001 Largest FBI Investigation Ever

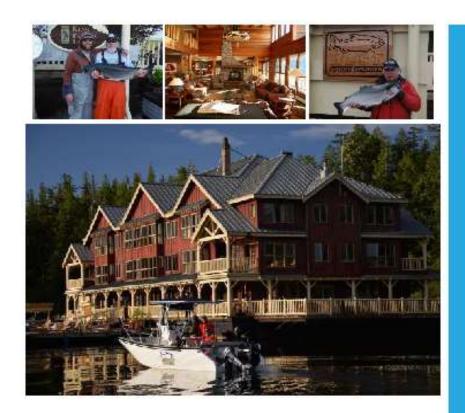
Scouts-MVHS Choir-Honor Guard-Fre





PGGE Constant Procession States State





KING PACIFIC LODGE TRIP FOR THE 2020 SEASON

An iconic luxury lodge to stay in while you fish...

West Sport fishing King Pacific Lodge is a luxury floating lodge, designed in the spirit of a modern and efficient fishing lodge; where understated elegance meets the wilderness with many quality details and finishing touches catering exclusively to 34 guests. This trip is currently valued at \$9590 CDN/\$7112 USD.

For more information on the lodge go to http://kingpacificlodge.com/

Dates will be determined upon availability at King Pacific Lodge. Reservations available after 5 Feb 2020. All-inclusive from Vancouver. Gratuities not included.



The fishing trip of a lifetime!

Major VNVDV Fundraiser!

Trip for 2 for a 4 day/3-night stay

% Bay guided each day 5hrs/day, Self-guided unlimited hours of fishing

Luxury rooms feature a soaker tub with panoramic window views!

RoundIrip transportation from Vancouver, Canada South Terminal to Lodge

\$50 PER OPPORTUNITY

Maximum 300 tickets to be sold

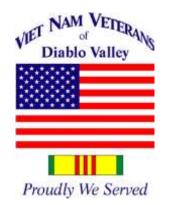
Contact Bill Green 925.683.3293 or Jerry Yahiro 925.683.2541 for tickets

Winner will be drawn 2/2/2020 at the VNVDV

Your "donation" will support VNVDV projects & programs benefitting Veterans & those serving in 2020-2021

Your "donation" will support VNVDV projects & programs benefitting Veterans & those serving in 2020~2021.







VNVDV 2020 King Pacific Lodge Fishing Trip A VNVDV Fundraiser

An iconic luxury lodge to stay in while you fish...

West Sport fishing King Pacific Lodge is a luxury floating lodge, designed in the spirit of a modern and efficient fishing lodge; where understated elegance meets the wilderness with many quality details and finishing touches catering exclusively to 34 guests. *See Bill Green - Jerry Yahiro or Mike Slattengren for tickets* –

\$50/opportunity/ticket - maximum 300 - opportunities /tickets

For more information on the Lodge go to the <u>King Pacific Lodge</u> website Here is the <u>flier with more information</u>

For more information and details on this outstanding fishing opportunity visit: **http://kingpacificlodge.com**

To donate for opportunities - Contact VNVDV Treasurer Mike Slattengren available at VNVDV Dinner Meeting "<u>Check-In</u>" at Crow Canyon Country Club

Drawing at VNVDV annual 2020 Super Sunday Crab Feed – 02FEB2020

Feb 2th – Sunday at the Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley in the Town of Danville *Need Not be present to Win*

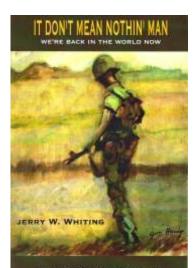






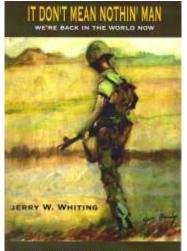
August Dinner Meeting - 2019





JERRY WHITING's new book about the VNVDV "It don't Mean Nothin' Man We're back in the world now"

Do YOU have your personal "autographed" copy of



STORIES FROM VIETNAM

STORIES FROM VIETNAM

VNVDV RETURN TO VIETNAM OCT 2019

VIETNAM

GOING BACK TO VIETNAM SIX YEARS OF FUND RAISING AND 7823 MILES OF TRAVEL THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF DIABLO VALLEY HEAD BACK TO VIETNAM



It was a dark and stormy night... We find ourselves in Hue, Vietnam. A group of five of us have trekked to a local watering hole known as "The DMZ Bar." We are midway through our 15 day journey across Vietnam, distributing wheelchairs in partnership with Oakland, California, based East Meets West Foundation, and visiting old haunts. There are 17 of us in our group, but for a few of us the DMZ Bar holds fond memories of an evening we shared there during our last trip to Vietnam, in 2006. It was a night of laughter and tall tales (all prefaced by the words "True story...!") accompanied by beer and an endless supply of coconut peanuts. It was the night we all wrote our names on the wall with magic marker, some of us leaving messages for other travelers who would grace the same space long after we had left.



However, this visit would wind up somewhat bittersweet. Our memories of a dimly lit, rundown dive bar with no indoor plumbing and a single surly local bartender, supplanted by the revelation that the DMZ had been remodeled and modernized. Oh sure, you were still allowed to write on the walls with magic marker, but everything that had been there six years earlier had been changed in the "great remodel of 2008." The new had replaced the old, and we were reminded that our memories of Vietnam of the past were no longer valid today.

This message would serve as an underlying theme for many on this trip. For those among us returning to this country for the first time since the late 1960s and early 70s, this trip was the opportunity to experience modern Vietnam and gain understanding of the life that has evolved since the Vietnam war (or "the American war," depending which side you had been on). Of course, it was wrought with the apprehension and trepidation of not knowing how we might be received, or how we might remember what we had forgotten, intentionally or otherwise.



Several in our party set out on side trips to visit locations familiar to them from their time of service in their respective branches of the military (we had Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard represented among us). Again and again, a similar story was repeated "I found the place where our camp / airfield / base had been, but now it's just a Vietnamese War Memorial / shopping center/ highway, etc..." This is the face of progress in Vietnam. >

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: >>> The Gang assembles outside the White Hotel in District 1 in Ho Chi Minh City, on day one. Many thanks to Ann Tours and Mr. Truc Vole, our excellent interperter and fixer. >>> In Can Tho we provided wheelchairs to swimmers with Olympic aspirations. >>> Pictured Left to Right: Jerry Yahiro, John Reese, David Behring and Richard Lambert with one of the many teamis wheelchairs donated to East Meets West's INSPIRE SPORTS programs throughout Vietnam.

wheelchairfoundation.org

SAVE THE DATE! (October 11 - 12 & 18 - 19)





Grand National Livestock Expo, Horse Show & Rodeo

Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19: Discounted Tickets for Veterans Oct. 11 & 18: Fridays - FREE for all Active Military with ID "limit (4) tickets per ID"

Oct. 19: Military Appreciation Day - opening ceremonies to acknowledge our Military and be sure to check out our Military/Veterans' service booths.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

We want as many active military and Veterans to join us and "Fill The Palace." Please help us spread the word by forwarding this invitation.

Join in the Fun:

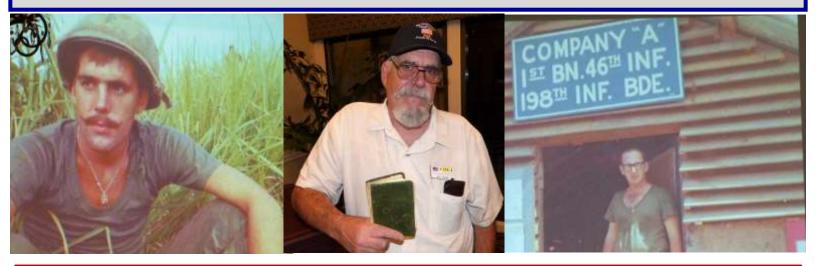
- Nightly Rodeo Performances at 7:30PM
- Shopping at our Marketplace
- Live Music and Entertainment
- Veteran Services on-site (Oct. 19)
- Fantastic Food ontions and Reer Garden



VNVDV Member September Birthdays

Tom Hutchings	Navy	Michael Hurder	Army				
Bill Tharp	Army	Nathan Greene	Air Force				
Fred Granados	Army	Bob Miller	Navy				
Don Loeffler	Army	Lawrence Ames	Air Force				
Dave Smith	Army	John McPartland	Marine				
Bart Gilbert	Army	Julian Mathews	Navy				
Keith Harrigan	Army	Dan Young	Army				
John Sullivan	Air Force	Dennis Nead	Marine				
George Coughlin Army							

Thanks to the August Speaker Bill Green for his presentation on his Vietnam experience as recorded in his tour diary.





REALTORS

4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle Danville, CA 94506 CalBRE#00441586



MIKE WEBER Realtor*

direct: 925.736.1500 mweber@rockcliff.com



DANVILLE HOT SUMMER SUNDAYS AUGUST 18TH CAR SHOW FEATURED UH~1 HUEY





ALL WARS MEMORIAL

GRANITE PAVER ORDER FORM

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the All Wars Memorial Foundation or purchase an AVM Paver To honor the service or contribution made by an Individual Serving -Veteran or Patriot with a Paver - or Honor your 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

Please provide Contact Phone & E-Mail Address (utilize separate sheet & attach, if needed to clearly provide requested information.

INDIVIDUAL Paver - Granite 8" x 8" @ \$300.00 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)

O Organization / Unit Paver - Granite 8" x 8" @ \$300.00 each

PAYMENT METHOD:

Enclosed Check for: \$

⇒ Payable to: ALL WARS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION - (AWMF) Mail to Post Office Box 158 - Danville, CA 94526

Charge my: Visa - MasterCard (Please Print)

#

Card Number

Expiration Date

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

www.AllWarsMemorial.org

	THE 13TH ANNUAL JOEY GRAVES WEMORIAL GOLF OV R N & MENT	Sep		er 16, 2019 Country Club	Player 1	Shirt Size
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Dinner & Awards Dinner & Awards Horowing the mand	1600	2 STAR MAJOR GENERAL • Ore (1) Ten/Hole Sign • Two (2) Ten/Hole Sign	\$ 1500	Jony Graves Memorial Golf Tournament P.O. Box 1215 Discovery Bay, CA 94505	Id	
Our nation's military is comprised of choose to serve, often in the face of	danger, to protect our	One (1) Future fearmone at DBCC				
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Your participation in the 13th Annual Golf Tournament and your generous the year have allowed resources to	donations throughout.	CALL 925-513-1313			Email	
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What greater legacy could long have than for his memory to continue to be of service to his fellow veturians?		SCALL GAVE ALL - DIR JOOP CRAWN, HIS RIC	NOW.	Territoria Statistica Contraction Statistica		
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Flu Clinics Times and Locations Start Date is October 15, 2019

Redding Clinic: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 0830 to 1100 and 1330 to 1600. Also by Appointment. Walk- in Welcome

Chieo Clinic: Monday through Thursday 0900 to 1100 and 1300 to 1600 Walk in Welcome

McClellan Clinic: Monday through Friday 0800 to 1130 and 1300 to 1530

Yuba City Clinic: Tuesday and Thursday 0900 to 1100 and 1300 to 1400 Wednesday 0830 to 1130

Sacramento / Mather: Monday through Friday 0830 to 1130 and 1230 to 1530. Flu Clinic located in Primary Care Section B Room 1C 403

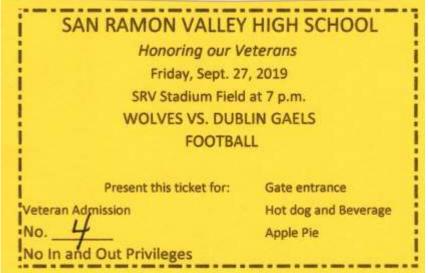
Fairfield Clinic: Monday through Friday 0900 to 1200 and 1300 to 1600

Mare Island Clinic: Monday through Friday 0900 to 1200 and 1300 to 1600

Martinez Clinic: Monday through Friday 0930 to 1430. Drive Through Flu Clinic 10.19.19 from 0930 to 1430

Oakland Primary Clinic: Monday through Friday 0900 to 1130 and 1300 to 1530 Walk in Welcome. Scheduled patients will receive immunizations 0800 to 1630

HONORING VETERANS FRIDAY SEP. 27 SAN RAMON VALLEY FIELD TICKETS AT THE VMB CONTACT: LEE HALVERSON



Buitar Fundrai AURURN





COME JOIN US

What: Fundraiser

Who Benefits: Veterans Guitar Program, Concord Vet Center

Where: Auburn Lounge, 321 Hartz Avenue, Danville

When: Monday October 7th. Doors open at 4PM close at 9PM

Enjoy a fun evening of food and beverage while supporting the Concord Vet Center and its Veterans Guitar Program.

The mission of the Veterans Guitar Program is to share the healing power of music with Veterans dealing primarily with PTSD. The Guitar Program provides guitars and instruction in a ten week one-on-one lesson format focused on each Veteran's special needs

AUBURN LOUNGE, in the heart of downtown Danville, is a wine, liquor and smailplates speakeasy with indoor and outdoor seating. The Concord Vet Center will receive all tips and a share of the food and beverage tab. While at Auburn, you can chat and maybe sing along with Veterans who have completed the program.

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! Just show up and enjoy.

200001 Donation of \$50.

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley Will conduct a special donor drawing at the VNVDV Super Sunday Crab Feed 02FEB2020 to select one out of 300 for luxury fishing trip in Canada during 2020



Fishing Trip of a Lifetime! 1/2 Day guided each day 5hrs/day Self-guided unlimited hours of fishing

200098 Donation of \$50.

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Fishing Trip of a Lifetime! 1/2 Day guided each day 5hrs/day Self-guided unlimited hours of fishing

Veterans can now schedule optometry and audiology appointments without a referral from their Primary Care Doctor.

For more information or to schedule an appointment today.

Call 1-800-382-8387



After visiting the VA - Can no longer tell her I did not see you... also using the 'I can't hear you' won't work either!

CHRISTY'S DONUTS

436 Diablo Rd. Danville, CA 94583 (925) 820-3394 Weekdays 5:30-2:00 Weekends 6:00-1:00



- Donuts Coffee
 - Pastries
 - Bagels

More Than 2 Dozen: Please Call Ahead (Special Discounts) Church • School • Scouts • Party Orders • Club Organizations



FASTSIGNS #48 2551 San Ramon Valley Blvd. #113

San Ramon, CA 94583 ph. (925) 820-2202 fax. (925) 820-8911 Email: 48@fastsigns.com



PSYCHARMOR[®] INSTITUTE OFFERS A LIFELINE

PsychAmor Institute, with the generous support of the NFLToundation, lounches this week the first 2 courses of its 15-course portfolio on "Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Pastvention" for people who work with, tive with or usine for Military Service Members, Veterons and their families.

Courses to watch





Barners to Treatment

Postventon: Healing after Suicide

Shareable Content for Social Media & E-Newsletter



Social Post for Barriers to Treatment

Join Dr. Shoane Springer Rom BTAPSorg as alle helps Jonness encounger Wentes in need to seek mental health tracment is OfhyckAnno's new onlive course "Somess to Tractment". The course is part of a new portfolio on "Sociale Resentors, Intervention, and Pratwestion" aportaced by The NUL Foundation. #Befleers To weldthill course. Specific Rese

E-blast

PsychArmor Institute Lounches Online Courses on Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvertion

Workh the Fort of 15 upcoming online courses "Borreen to Teacherer" and "Rostwertoor: Hearling Alex Suiccide" on Version suiccide, including shit factors, warring signs and hearling Dr. Stouro Springer families that and the Suiccide Rogram for Survivors documes having the Survivors documes having a well as actions following a suiccide find comteely promote hearling. The courses are part of TypicAlemon Institute is new profession on "Sociole Revention, Intervention, and Postvention" sponoenal by The INR Francholan. To wartch full courses, <u>Register here</u>.

Social Post for Postvention: Healing After Suicide

F

San Dr. Shourd: Springer form @TAPSong on the document how to support someone who has but a lowed one to subole in @PsychAmer's new online course "Tostreetics: Healing Alter Succide." These sources are both part of a new portfolio on "Succide Research, Interaction, and Respectives, "sponsored by Tee NH Enandoctors, @Bethere To worth Mill course, Register, hore.



Gr. Shauna Springer ogedy Asiatonice Program for Sunnices

D: Springer serves as the Servor Develor at TAPS and has helped underla of service members recorrect with their families, values, and lives.

The NFL Foundation funded a series of Suicide Prevention courses that will be produced by PsychArmor for broad dissemination. I was the author and SME for the first two courses. both of which just went live. Both courses are extremely relevant to our shared suicide prevention mission and to the goal of advancing veterancentered care (especially the "Barriers to Care" course). I wanted to send the link so that you can review and share them out (they were specifically funded for dissemination without limit). I particularly want to get these into the hands of key people in the veteran support space (like you) who can share them out as widely as possible in the service of our common goal. PsychArmor created a social media kit which is attached here to this email if you can help.

The "Barriers to Care" course was scoped out very specifically to help providers engage veteran patients in care - and some of what I say is not applicable to Active Duty contexts. The point that needs to be made is that AD Psychologists and clinicians have a different role to balance with the mission of troop readiness (which is appropriate for the AD context) and this shapes Service members' perceptions of what mental health care is about. I have nothing but respect for providers who serve in roles in the military - especially the kind of "Docs" who build the level of trust with warfighters that is essential to keeping them in the fight at times.

PET HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS' PETS



Free Vaccines & Exams for Veterans' Pets at the Martinez VA

July 12 • July 26 • August 9 August 23 • Sept. 13 • Sept. 27

ARF's Mobile Clinic will be on-site to perform wellness exams, give vaccinations, and answer questions about basic pet wellness.

Time:Check-in begins 9am (No check-ins will be accepted before 9am)
Check-ins accepted until noon or FULL
First come, first servedLocation:150 Muir Road, Martinez CA 94553

Contact: Gary (925) 370-4790 or Karri (925) 372-2000 x6044

Cats and dogs only; limit 2 per veteran. Services are provided at no cost to veterans presenting military ID. Dogs must be on-leash and under control at all times. Bring pet's prior vaccination history with you. Cats must be in carriers. Please clean up after your pets.

Wait times may vary; please wear comfortable clothes. Water will be provided for people and pets. Please visit **arflife.org/mobile-clinic** at least 24 hours before the event in case of last-minute cancellations.

Print out your VA Welcome Kit

Whether you're just getting out of the service or you've been a civilian for years now, the VA Welcome Kit can help guide you to the benefits and services you've earned.

Based on where you are in life, your VA benefits and services can support you in different ways. Keep your welcome kit handy so you can turn to it throughout your life—like when it's time to go to school, get a job, buy a house, get health care, retire, or make plans for your care as you age.

Download your VA Welcome Kit

Feel free to share this guide with friends or family members who need help with their benefits too. You can print out copies for yourself and others:

Your VA Welcome Kit in black and white (PDF)

Your VA Welcome Kit in color (PDF)

VA Benefits List - Suggest go through Local VSO office Download guides to VA benefits and services

For Veterans

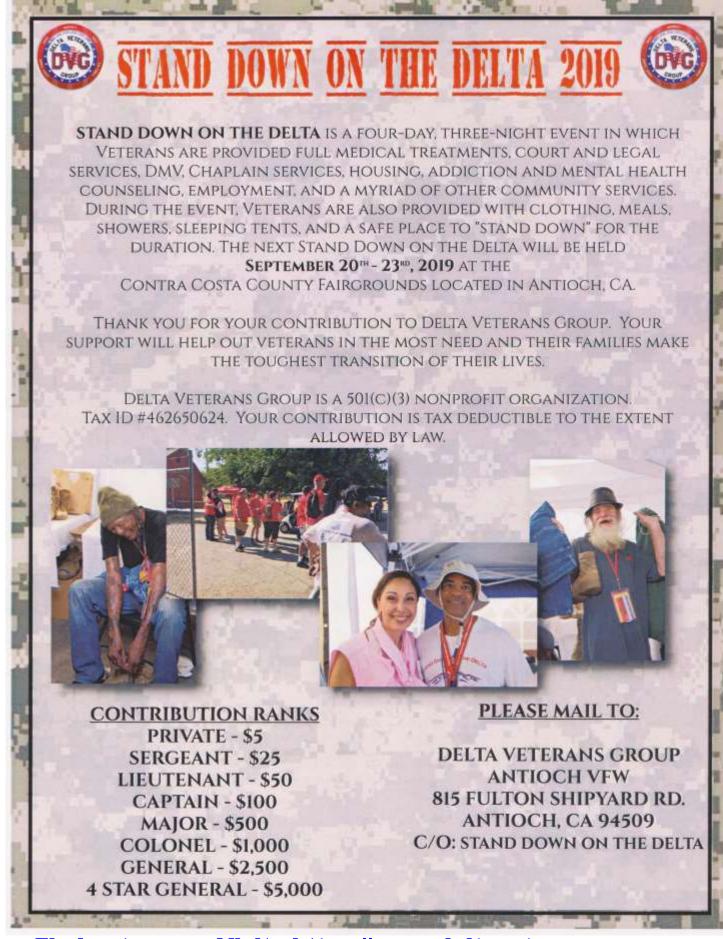
Apply for VA health care (PDF) Get started with mental health services (PDF) Apply for a disability rating (PDF) Apply for education benefits (PDF)

For family members

Get started with caregiver benefits (PDF) Apply for survivor benefits (PDF)

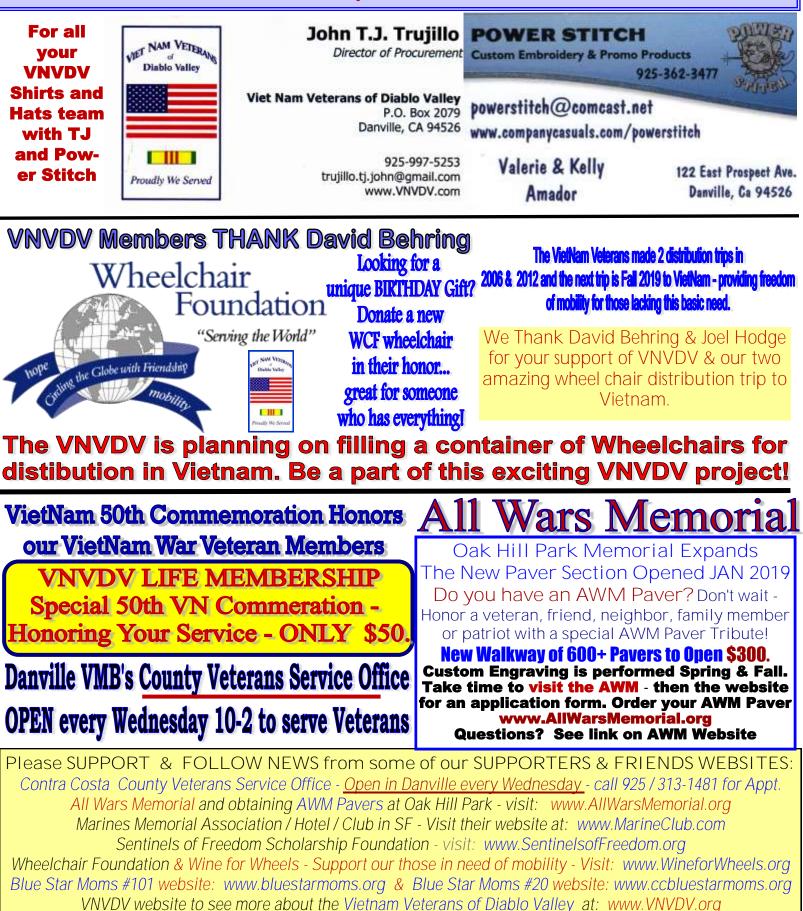
*** <u>IMPORTANT NOTE</u>: When needing to complete & submit any of the above official veteran VA benefit documents – our organization strongly encourages you & your family members to ALWAYS seek professional advice - counsel & assistance completing these documents prior to submitting from our Contra Costa County Veterans Service Officer Nathan Johnson & his CCCVSO Team Members [925] 313 - 1451

During the uneven years THE STAND ON THE DELTA 2019 supports Veterans – check to see where you can help



Find out more - Visit: https://www.deltaveteransgroup.org

Thanks to Procurement Director John "T.J." Trujillo for his monthly display of VNVDV Hats and Shirts. Order your VNVDV NAME TAGS contact "T.J."



VISIT THE VMB/SRV's WEBSITE - for the VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING at: www.VMBSRV.org



SB-562 Property taxation: exemption: principal residence: veterans and their unmarried surviving spouses.(2019-2020)

<u>Veterans, WE NEED YOUR HELP, Please call Assemblywoman Autumn Burke at her Assembly Appropriation Committee office (highlighted below) and use the script to let the committee know you support this bill to support our California disabled veterans.</u>

SB 562: Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemptions

BILL SUMMARY

SB 562 would increase property tax exemptions for disabled veterans, in order to keep up with the rising cost of housing in California.

BACKGROUND

California has granted property tax exemptions to disabled veterans since the 1980s, however, the value of exemptions has only risen by \$34,706 dollars in nearly four decades. The increasing exemptions are failing to meet the needs of disabled veterans who are now paying significantly more for houses and taxes than the veterans of the 1980s. This bill contains two different exemptions, to address the majority of veterans as well as low-income veterans.

The Basic exemption would be increased from \$134,706 to \$200,000 and the Low Income exemption would increase from \$202,060 to \$250,000. Both rates would keep up with inflation moving forward. These exemptions are only available to veterans with a 100% disability rating, blind veterans, and veterans missing two or more limbs.

PROBLEM

Housing prices in California are continuing to rise, and property taxes rise with them. Many of California's disabled veterans are living off of small pensions and are losing the ability to keep up with a mortgage payment and the associated property taxes. This problem is having a greater impact on the more recently separated veterans, from the post-9/11 era who are looking to return to California after their service and purchase a home. However, this does not mean that the Vietnam era veterans are not struggling to keeping up with the cost of housing.

The permanently and severely disabled veterans who would benefit from this bill are completely unable to work after their time in service. Their incomes rely solely on the small pensions they receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs. These pensions do not keep up with the rising cost of living, especially in California. California needs to ensure that disabled veterans do not have to worry about losing their home because they cannot keep up with their property taxes.

SOLUTION

SB 562 would ensure that disabled veterans will be able to maintain the cost of housing in California by increasing the amount of property tax exemptions granted to disabled veterans.

SUPPORT

Homes for the Troops

BILL STATUS

Introduced - 2/22/2019

<u>Call to Assemblymember</u> <u>Autumn Burke</u> <u>Chair, Assembly Committee</u> <u>on Revenue and Taxation</u> <u>Capitol Office: (916) 319-2062</u> <u>Committee Office: (916) 319-2098</u>

Call to Assemblymember Autumn Burke Chair, Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation

> Capitol Office: (916) 319-2062 Committee Office: (916) 319-2098

"Hi my name is _______ and I am calling to urge Assemblymember Burke to pass SB 562 out of her committee. This bill will serve the needs of California's disabled veterans. Thank you."

> Call to Assemblymember Autumn Burke Chair, Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation

> > Capitol Office: (916) 319-2062 Committee Office: (916) 319-2098

"Hi my name is _______ and I am calling to urge Assemblymember Burke to pass SB 562 out of her committee. This bill will serve the needs of California's disabled veterans. Thank you."





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