

# INCOMING NEWS



OCT 2020

**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley  
VNVDV HAVE ARRANGED A VIRTUAL ANNUAL  
MEETING FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5TH - 6 PM  
BALLOTS FOR ELECTION OF 2121 OFFICERS**

**WILL BE AVAILABLE AND VOTING METHODS WILL BE DISCUSSED**



Gary Estrella  
VNVDV  
President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is a big month for veterans. In fact, it is National Veterans and Military Families Month. On November 10<sup>th</sup> the Marine Corps will celebrate its 245<sup>th</sup> birthday. And, Veterans Day is November 11<sup>th</sup>. According to the most recent statistics from the US Census, there are 17.4 million veterans in the United States. The number of veterans aged 65 and older in 2016 was 9.2 million. At the other end of the age spectrum, 1.6 million were younger than age 35.

The number of Vietnam Era veterans in 2016 was 6.7million. Moreover, there were 7.1 million who served during the Gulf War (representing service from August 1990 to present), 768,263 who served in World War II, 1.6 million who served in the Korean War, and 2.4 million who served in peacetime only. And, finally around 1.6 million veterans are women.

**VIRTUAL MEETING DECEMBER 3RD WILL BE THE RECOGNITION MEETING TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR ORGANIZATION PHOTOS FROM OCT. VIRTUAL MEETING**



### November Virtual Speaker

**Bill Hodges** has been involved with the Potomac Association for twenty years, as docent, narrator, speaker and crewman. Bill will discuss the USS Potomac (AG-25).



The number of veterans with a service-connected disability rating in 2016 was 4 million. Of this number, 1.3 million had a rating of 70.0 percent or higher. A "service-connected" disability is one that was a result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Severity of one's disability is scaled from 0.0 to 100.0 percent, and eligibility for compensation depends on one's rating.

The above statistics are from the U. S. Department of Commerce. Saying thanks to a Veteran is easy. Verbally, in a letter or card say:  
'Thanks for Your Service'  
'You're my hero. ' ...  
'I have my freedoms because of you. ' ...  
'Your service made it possible for all of us to be the country we are today. ' ...  
'Thinking of you today. ...  
'We miss you at home, but we know you're giving the ultimate sacrifice.

Finally, please use the Ballot in the Nov. Newsletter to vote for 2121 Officers. Print the Ballot page and mail per the instructions on the Ballot. CHECK THE COVER LETTER FOR VOTING BY E-MAIL INSTRUCTIONS.

Stay safe and be well.

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



**"A BIG SHOOT OUT" to VNVDV**  
MEMBER MG RON LOWE (Ret.) for his SELECTION TO THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT of the UNITED STATES ARMY



Monday, September 28, 2020

By Order of The Secretary of the Army, Major General Ronald Lowe U.S. Army Ret. has been Awarded the High Honor of "Distinguished Member of the Civil Affairs Regiment of the United States Army".

I had the High Honor of presenting his award to him Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September at his home in Danville California with his lovely wife Lindsay and his great son Will.

Major General Lowe has been an unwavering, tireless supporter of all good things in our community and sits on several organization's Board of Directors. He is also one of the Founders of Sentinels of Freedom and has been on the Sentinels Board of Directors since 2007. His business professionalism, strong moral and ethical compass and his military service to our nation has been invaluable to our organization's successes.

His generosity in mentoring to many of the wounded and injured veterans Sentinels of Freedom serves also points to a lifetime legacy of service above self.

The Sentinels of Freedom Board of Directors and our community send Major General Lowe our profound gratitude for his service above self and congratulations on receiving this very prestigious award from the Secretary of the Army and the Army Civil Affairs Regiment.

Mike Conklin



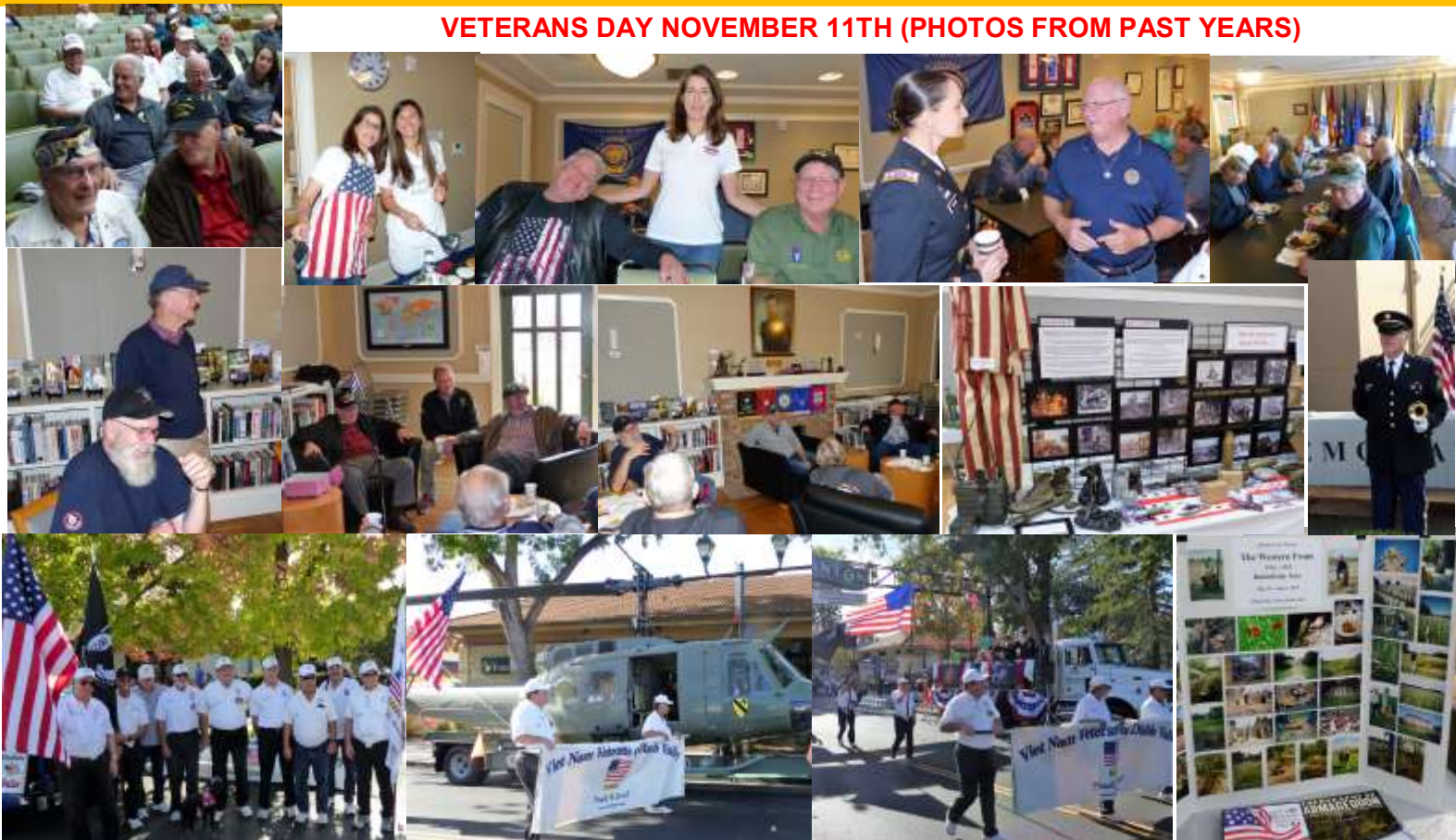
# CANCELLED EVENTS INVOLVING THE VIET NAM VETERANS DIABLO VALLEY

NOV 5, 2020 VNVDV MONTHLY MEETING (VIRTUAL)

PHOTOS FROM (OCTOBER 2019)



VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11TH (PHOTOS FROM PAST YEARS)



**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley**  
**Official Ballot for 2020 ELECTION of OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**  
 Term: JANUARY 1, 2021 to DECEMBER 31, 2021

**PRESIDENT**

Dennis Giacovelli \_\_\_\_\_

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Steve Burchik \_\_\_\_\_

**TREASURER \***

Mike "Slatts" Slattengren \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRETARY**

Clifford "Cliff" DeCuir \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR of MEMBERSHIP**

Jim Murphy \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR - at - LARGE**

Jim Hill \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR of EVENTS \***

Jerry Yahiro \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR of SPEAKERS BUREAU**

William "Bill" Green \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR of INFORMATION \***

Jonathan "JON" Robbins \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR of PROCUREMENT**

John "T. J." Trujillo \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR of PUBLIC RELATIONS**

John Garfield Reese \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FINE PRINT:** The beginning of the VNVDV election process takes place at our official "Annual Meeting" in November of each year. The Nov. 2020 meeting is VIRTUAL and members will vote with the ballot in the Nov. Newsletter. Mail the Ballot to our official Post Office Box 2079 in Danville, CA 94526.

**Member's Instructions:** Mark your "Official Ballot" by an "X" or "✓" on the line across from the candidate or "circle the name." The lines below each position are for "write-in" candidates who have accepted & agreed to run for the selected office. This ballot is distributed to all members through the Nov Newsletter or the VNVDV Website. Members should vote by mailing a copy of this ballot so that it is post-marked no later than close of the election - Nov 15<sup>TH</sup> deadline.

The Election Committee *must be able to confirm* all ballots received against our **current VNVDV membership** roster. This requires all VNVDV members to "PRINT & Sign Your NAME" on the bottom of this official ballot - for it to be **counted & valid**. All "mailed ballots" - according to our by-laws must be "post-marked" no later than 15NOV2020 (official close of the election). Please MAIL your completed ballot to: VNVDV c/o "Elections" - P.O. Box 2079 - Danville, CA 94526-2079. FYI - only the Past Presidents who are members of the "Nomination & Election Committee" will collect - open & tally ballots. \* If you desire information on any of the Board Positions contact our President (Gary Estrella 925-963-9552). Final election results are officially announced at the December VIRTUAL Recognition Dinner. **Note:** all address - contact & e-mail changes or updates - include these on a separate sheet of paper with your ballot - allowing the committee to pass along just this current information to our Director of Membership.

PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE COMPLETED ALLOWING ELECTION COMMITTEE TO MATCH AGAINST OUR MEMBERSHIP ROSTER.

## VOTING OPTIONS

### MAIL IN BALLOT:

1. IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER PRINT PAGE 4 CONTAINING THE BALLOT FOR 2121 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
2. COMPLETE AND MAIL THE BALLOT TO: VNVDV, PO BOX 2079, DANVILLE, CA 94526

### E-MAIL BALLOT

1. GO TO THE WEBSITE: [VNVDV.ORG](http://VNVDV.ORG)
2. USE THE LINK <https://vnvdv.org/2021elect/elect-form.php> (THIS LINK IS IN THE COVER LETTER)
3. SUBMIT YOUR BALLOT



### Contra Costa County

County Administrator's Office • 1025 Escobar Street • Martinez, CA 94553 • [www.contracosta.ca.gov](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov)

NEWS RELEASE  
October 29, 2020

Contact: Nathan Johnson, 925-313-1481  
[Nathan.Johnson@vs.cccounty.us](mailto:Nathan.Johnson@vs.cccounty.us)

### Board of Supervisors Honors Veterans and Invites You to Veterans Day Celebration November 10, 2020

(Martinez, CA) – Contra Costa County's Board of Supervisors honors veterans and invites the community to a virtual live-stream of our Annual Veterans Day Celebration on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 11:00 am. The [Social Distancing Order](#) of September 14 prevents a public gathering to ensure public safety.

The keynote speaker is a Vietnam Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Congressman Mike Thompson. Thompson served in combat with U.S. Army as a staff sergeant and platoon leader with the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. He also served as an instructor at the Army's Airborne School.

The Board of Supervisors thanks all veterans and their families, recognizing these heroes who protect the ideals of freedom and democracy," said Board Chair, Supervisor Candace Andersen. "Our Veterans did not let us down during difficult times, and that is why it is so important during the COVID-19 pandemic that we continue our annual tradition of honoring them."

The celebration event will also feature a color guard ceremony by De Anza High School JROTC, California Poet Bill Nelson, and guest speaker Mike Hoffschneider. Hoffschneider retired from Contra Costa County as a Veterans Service Representative on October 1, 2020, and had over 43 years of combined federal and County public service.

The public can watch the virtual live-stream at [www.contracosta.ca.gov/6086](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/6086) or [www.contracostatv.org](http://www.contracostatv.org). The celebration will also broadcast live on Contra Costa Television (CCTV) channels: Comcast Cable 27, ATT/U-Verse Channel 99, and WAVE Channel 32.

Please contact Contra Costa County Veterans Service Officer Nathan D. Johnson at (925) 313-1481 for any questions about this year's event.



**Thanks to October Virtual Speaker Tom Graves**, an historian of the Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association, where he leads the effort to name a Navy warship for Iwo Jima flag raising photographer Joe Rosenthal. Tom provided background information on Joe Rosenthal and his photos from Iwo Jima.



Joe Rosenthal and Iwo Jima  
"I took the picture, but the Marines took Iwo Jima."

For his place in history and his courage under fire Joe deserves his name on a US Navy warship, the USS Joe Rosenthal.

Help honor Joe as he has honored America!  
 Sign the petition, ask your friends to sign, and tell others about this presentation.

Sign online at [www.USSJoe.org](http://www.USSJoe.org)



**VNVDV MEMBER SCOTT RANDLE FORWARDED DATA ON VIETNAM VETERANS - THIS IS THE FIRST INSTALLMENT**

**Only 31.4% of Vietnam Vets are still alive.**

*In case you haven't been paying attention these past few decades after you returned from Vietnam, the clock has been ticking. The following are some statistics that are at once depressing yet in a larger sense should give you a HUGE SENSE OF PRIDE.*

*"Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest American Vietnam veteran's age approximated to be 60 years old."*

*So, if you're alive and reading this, how does it feel to be among the last 1/3rd of all the U.S. Vets who served in Vietnam?! I don't know about you guys, but this gives me the chills, considering this is the kind of information I'm used to reading about WWII and Korean War vets. For the last 14 years we have been dying too fast, only a few will survive by 2025... if any. If true, 390 VN vets die each day. In 2190 days from today, lucky to be a Vietnam veteran alive... in only 6-10 years.*

*These statistics were taken from a variety of sources to include: The VFW Magazine, the Public Information Office, and the HQ CP Forward Observer - 1st Recon April 12, 1997.*

**STATISTICS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY VIETNAM VETERANS:**

- \* 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).
- \* 8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (Aug 5, 1964-March 28, 1973).
- \* 2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam. This number represents 9.7% of their generation.
- \* 3,403,100 (Including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the broader Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).
- \* 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965 - March 28, 1973). Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
- \* Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.
- \* 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
- \* Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1968).
- \* Agent Orange is taking a huge toll on Vietnam Veterans with most deaths somehow related to Agent Orange exposure. No one officially dies of Agent Orange, they die from the exposures which causes Ischemic Heart Disease and failure, Lung Cancer, Kidney failure or COPD related disorders.

# THE SENTINELS OF FREEDOM COORDINATE WITH AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF DONERS TO MAKE A HOME FOR THE CHINN FAMILY

## WELCOME HOME THE CHINN FAMILY

### KEY CEREMONY

Friday, October 23rd, 2020  
Faria Preserve



Sentinels of Freedom Foundation  
assists severely wounded or injured veterans.

Today we honor retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant  
Joshua Chinn who suffered extensive injuries in Iraq  
and will live rent-free in San Ramon while he and his  
family save to buy a home of their own.



LENNAR



## THE CHINN FAMILY

- Joshua Chinn    - Joshua Jr. Chinn  
- Jennifer Chinn   - Joseph Chinn

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Chinn of the 10th Special Forces Group, Special Operations Command, served for eight years in the U.S. Army Special Forces. He was wounded in Najaf, Iraq on July 25th, 2008 when the vehicle he was traveling in was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Staff Sergeant Chinn suffered numerous broken bones, gunshot wounds, and shrapnel injuries. He underwent 50 surgeries as a result and spent over a year at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

After returning to civilian life and retired, Staff Sergeant Joshua Chinn and Mike Conklin, Chairman and CEO of Sentinels of Freedom, were connected while Joshua was doing an internship with Homeland Security. This was a one-year program for wounded, ill, and injured service members training as computer forensic analysts. This internship soon led to Staff Sergeant Chinn's current position with Google, where he works in the company's cyber protection unit.

Today we welcome the Chinn Family to our city and community of San Ramon.

Mike Conklin, Chairman & CEO Sentinels of Freedom



"Sentinels of Freedom has given me peace of mind as I transitioned into a new career in the Bay Area. They constantly reached out to make sure I was doing ok and that my goals were being met. I couldn't have made this transition without them."

- Sentinel Joshua Chinn

## SPEAKERS

"People power made this possible, these veterans are a great investment in our community."

MIKE CONKLIN  
Chairman & CEO  
Sentinels of Freedom

BRIAN OLIN  
Lennar  
President  
Bay Area Division



## SPECIAL THANKS

We thank you all for playing a vital role in this project!

- Mayor Bill Clarkson - City of San Ramon
- San Ramon City Council Members
- San Ramon Planning Department
- San Ramon Valley Unified Fire Dept.
- San Ramon Police Dept.
- Bishop Ranch
- Chevron
- AT&T
- PG&E
- Homesite Services
- San Ramon Valley Unified School District
- Candace Anderson  
Contra Costa County Supervisor
- American Airlines
- TCV
- Paramit
- Lincoln Financial
- Wells Fargo
- Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post
- American Legion Post
- Marine Corps League Detachment
- Blue Star Moms Chapter 101
- Veterans Memorial Building Foundation
- All Wars Memorial Foundation
- Association of the United States Army
- San Ramon Rotary
- Dougherty Valley Rotary
- San Ramon Regional Hospital
- Workday
- Wings of Freedom Foundation
- Knights of Columbus
- Blackhawk Auto Museum



# VNVDV Member *November* Birthdays

Michael Karl	Navy	Bud Eckert	Marines
<b>“TJ” Trujillo</b>	Army	Lorrie Sammons	Navy
Tom Holstrom	Navy	Gary Pforr	Marines
Steve Mazaika	Army	Donald Parker	Navy
Phil Stage	Army	Slatts Slattengren	Navy
Kasey Warner	Navy	Dave Corozza	Air Force
Steve Shirley	Army	Charles Gibson	Army
Bob Poirier	Navy	Jim Bell	Army
Tom Eager	Army	Bud Eckert	Marines

**THE BLUE STAR MOMS, CHAPTER 20 AND CHAPTER 101 HAVE DEVELOPED A PROGRAM TO HONOR FALLEN VETERANS. MEMORIALS HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO BE LOCATED AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OF THE VETERAN. EACH MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED WITH A CEREMONY THAT PERMITS THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR LOSS. VNVDV SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM AND ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**

**THE MEMORIAL DEDICATION FOR SSG DANIEL SCHEILE AND SGT JOHN ARAGON SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 4TH AT ANTIOCH HS HAS BEEN CANCELLED. NOTIFICATION OF THE RESCHEDULE DATE WILL BE IN THE NEWSLETTER.**



*J. Rockcliff*  


REALTORS



MIKE WEBER  
 Realtor \*

4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle  
 Danville, CA 94506  
 CalBRE#00441586

direct: 925.736.1500  
 mweber@rockcliff.com



**VENTURE RESEARCH**  
 Commercial Real Estate  
 Appraisers & Consultants

Helen S. Reese  
 PH: 925 / 935 - 4294

**New E-Mail: HSReese@att.net**

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

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





Next Show: Monday, November 9 @ 7:00 PM

Show Topic: **“Student Veterans”**

Watch on: Comcast Channel 27

-or- Facebook: **veteransvoices1**



Nathan Johnson, Co-Host

*VA Palo Alto Health Care System Research/Partnership with  
Sentinels of Freedom*

## **Understanding Gaps in Home-based Services from Informal Caregivers**



**You may be eligible for this study if:**

You are a relative or friend who cares for a veteran.

**This research study involves** filling out questionnaires and participating in a 1 hour telephone interview. We will ask about your experiences using home and community resources for veterans and their caregivers, and get feedback to improve VA resources.

You will be compensated up to \$50 for your time.

Participant's rights questions, contact: 1-866-680-2906.

**Contact: Rashmi Risbud  
650-614-9997 x 23434  
VHAPALCaregiverCoE@va.gov**





U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Email Updates

Good afternoon, Northern California Veterans. Below are several steps we've taken to ensure your access to VA health care is as smooth as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### VEText

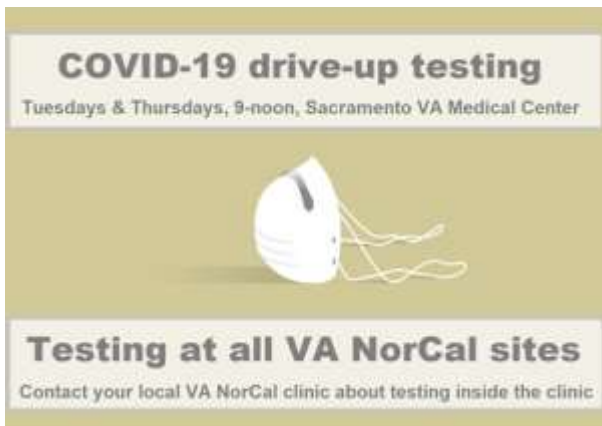
Beginning this Friday, June 26, VA NorCal will implement a new check-in procedure using VEText. This new feature allows Veterans with scheduled appointments to notify their care team when they arrive at the facility for further instruction (to use this feature, Veterans must have a text-capable cell phone number on file with us; contact your care team if you're unsure).

The process is simple!

Once you arrive on campus, text "HERE" to **53079** to alert your care team you're at the facility and waiting to be called to your appointment.

You will receive a text acknowledging your check-in status.

When your care team is ready for you, you will receive a text instructing you to proceed to your appointment.



The Sacramento VA Medical Center in Mather now offers drive-up, elective COVID-19 testing to Veterans registered as VA patients from 9 a.m. - noon each Tuesday and Thursday. Other VA NorCal sites also offer COVID-19 tests to Veterans inside their clinics, with plans to establish drive-up testing in the near future.

**CONTACT [JONATHANROBBINS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:JONATHANROBBINS@HOTMAIL.COM)  
TO RECEIVE ACTUAL E-MAIL FOR THE TESTING**

### Fast-Track Screening



To speed up the COVID-19 screening process for VA NorCal Veteran patients and staff, we have created a QR code to help you fast-track your way through our screening stations. Just scan the QR code with a smartphone before leaving home, answer several questions about possible COVID-19 symptoms, and show your phone's green screen to our screeners when you arrive. No more waiting as you answer same questions at each and every appointment - show the green screen, get your wristband, and move on with your VA day!

### Appointment Arrival and Departure

To discourage foot traffic and reduce risk of COVID-19 exposure at our sites, VA NorCal is asking all patients to arrive no earlier than 30 min. prior to your appointment and to leave as soon as possible after your appointment is complete. We appreciate your cooperation.



## National Vietnam War Veterans Day

On March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump, signed into law [The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017](#), designating every **March 29** as *National Vietnam War Veterans Day*

National Vietnam War Veterans Day joins six other military-centric national observances codified in [Title 4 of the United States Code §6](#) (i.e., Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, Veterans Day).

March 29 is a fitting choice for a day honoring Vietnam veterans. It was chosen to be observed in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished and also the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. In addition, that same day Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war.

[The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration](#) honors all U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time from [November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975](#), [regardless of location](#).

**November 1, 1955** was selected to coincide with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V); **May 15, 1975** marks the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are more than **6 million U.S. Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad**, along with **9 million families of those who served** during this time frame. We make no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve and none could self-determine where they would serve.

**Additional Background:** U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975.

This national commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President to thank and honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.



**Bill Lavigne**  
President & CEO

Cell: (510) 368-4441  
Toll Free: (866) 369-4446  
Office: (877) 668-3677  
(877) MOVE-677  
Fax: (707) 644-2294  
[integritymoving@yahoo.com](mailto:integritymoving@yahoo.com)

**Eliz. C. A. Johnson**  
Attorney at Law

**JLF**

A Law Firm

Post Office Box 8, Danville, CA 94526  
T.925.382.1010 F.925.362.1015  
[elizabeth@johnsonestateplanning.com](mailto:elizabeth@johnsonestateplanning.com)

[johnsonestateplanning.com](http://johnsonestateplanning.com)

**FASTSIGNS**  
More than fast. More than signs.™

**FASTSIGNS #48**

2551 San Ramon Valley Blvd. #113  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
ph. (925) 820-2202  
fax. (925) 820-8911  
Email: [48@fastsigns.com](mailto:48@fastsigns.com)

# Veterans: Call before visiting your VA facility

Medical appointments possible at home via VA Video Connect

## VA APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE UPDATE

Got a fever, cold, cough or flu-like symptoms? Are you worried that you have a viral illness?

The last thing you want to do is get out of the house to see the doctor, exposing yourself (and others) to more potential bugs and viruses.

VA can make it easier and safer to get back to health with virtual care through My HealtheVet and the VA Video Connect app on your smartphone, tablet or computer.

What is virtual care? Virtual care means you can contact your VA provider (and health care team) through [secure messaging](#) or receive treatment by telephone or video. Last year, Veterans had over 20 million virtual engagements with VA.

Any Veteran who qualifies to receive VA care and lives in the U.S. is eligible to use virtual care.

---

### [Long Description](#)

*Staying home – easier for you, safer for the community.*

Virtual care is personalized and can connect you with your providers more effectively than ever. Ask your health care team if virtual care can help meet some of your health care needs. Options include in-home health monitoring with tailored technologies, connection to specialists, or even remote scans and data.

Cold and flu care made easy

Virtual care is **safe and effective**. **Imagine the benefits to you and to your fellow Veterans if you don't have the hassle of going to the hospital or clinic with a cold, flu or other viral illness. You can stay at home and avoid battling for a parking spot and spending time in a waiting room. Most importantly, you won't put other Veterans at risk of a highly contagious illness. Staying home can be easier for you AND safer for the community by helping contain the spread of infectious diseases.**

You probably already know [My HealtheVet](#) is a great way to manage your care – with online Rx Refills, VA Appointments, and your labs and tests, radiology reports, and images.

With secure messaging and video appointments, reaching your providers while at home can be easy, too. While not for use in emergencies, a secure and private session begins with a simple request with a Secure Message for a video appointment. [Sign in](#) and request one next time you need to see your doctor or other providers.

Your health care team can also set up an in-person appointment, if needed. Call your VA health center if you have symptoms.

For more information, visit:

[VA Video Connect](#) (*allows you to test your equipment compatibility*)

[Reach Your VA Care Team Over Live Video](#) (*YouTube*)

[VA Telehealth Services](#)

# Veterans can search free resources through **Code of Support's PATRIOTlink**

## Find vetted, direct, cost-free services

---

*Code of Support's PATRIOTlink*<sup>®</sup> platform is a free online resource database that includes thousands of programs tailored to the military and Veteran community.

Through **PATRIOTlink**, users can search vetted, direct, cost-free services specific to their needs. **PATRIOTlink** was recently redesigned to make it even easier to use. Now, users can complete searches by entering less information and they can view events and job opportunities in their area through a news feed feature.

### Working together, a partnership with VA

With over 40,000 Veteran Service Organizations offering resources, both VA and Code of Support recognize that collaboration is a key to ensuring military and Veteran families find the right help. This partnership between *Code of Support* formally started in December 2018 when VA's Veterans Experience Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding with *Code of Support*.

Through its ongoing collaboration with **VA**, Code of Support's **PATRIOTlink** database includes a list of VA resources along with program information for each resource. Listed resources include suicide prevention coordinators, Vet Centers, domiciliary units, and caregiver support services. Including these resources in **PATRIOTlink** makes it easier and more efficient for Veterans to access VA resources, which improves outcomes. The VA collaboration also ensures that awareness of available resources extends to more suicide prevention coordinators and caregivers across the nation.



[Long Description](#)

Together, VA and Code of Support hope to improve the access to and navigation of resources in local communities to best serve Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors. Code of Support provides case coordination, education and engagement, and a navigation platform that allows service providers to reduce the amount of time it takes to find resources to meet their client's needs. VA cannot do it alone, and partnerships like Code of Support help to augment and supplement VA services and benefits where needed.

VA is providing Code of Support the most up to date resource and contact information to access and navigate VA services and benefits that includes caregiver support services, suicide prevention and homeless coordinators, Vet Centers and domiciliary units. One of VA's goals is to ensure that access to services and benefits is easy, efficient, and creates positive experiences in receiving care and support where they live.

Veterans and their families should not have to struggle with finding resources and services, so VA encourages Veterans and their families to use the free services from partners like the Code of Support Foundation for easier access and navigation support.

### How do I join?

To get started, simply login at [www.patriotlink.org](http://www.patriotlink.org), enter a few keywords or select a service need, and filter the results by your specific eligibility criteria. You can then see a list of unique resources customized to your needs.

To learn more, visit [Code of Support Foundation](#) or [PATRIOTlink](#).

To request additional information, email [patriotlinksupport@codeofsupport.org](mailto:patriotlinksupport@codeofsupport.org).

# REAL ID REQUIREMENT IS OCTOBER 1ST 2020



## Now is the time to consider a REAL ID!



REAL ID is the next generation of identification recognized across the country.

Starting **October 1, 2020**, you will need a REAL ID, valid passport, or other federally approved form of ID to travel by plane within the U.S. or to access federal facilities and/or military bases.

If you decide not to get a REAL ID, your California driver license or identification card will display the phrase "Federal Limits Apply" while a REAL ID will display a California bear with a star.

DL 1400 (REV. 9/2019)

## Add "VETERAN" to your license!



## How to get a REAL ID

To convert your California driver license or identification card renewal to a REAL ID you must visit a field office. Beat the rush by making an appointment early, or check wait times online to visit as a walk-in.

You will need to bring:

1. **Proof of identity** (such as birth certificate, valid U.S. passport, or permanent resident card)
2. **Proof of Social Security number** (SSN card, W-2 or paystub with full SSN)
3. **Proof of CA residency** (2 documents, such as home utility bill, vehicle registration, property tax bill, or mortgage or lease agreement)
4. **Proof of name change** (if the name on your identity document is different than the name on your application)

Find out when, how and the best way to get your REAL ID at [REALID.dmv.ca.gov](http://REALID.dmv.ca.gov) or **1 (800) 777-0133**.

DL 1400 (REV. 9/2019)

## Access VA Services When You Need Them



ChooseVA is your one-stop for all the choices you have for VA benefits and services.

- Explore and apply for VA health care
- Learn about home loans, educational help and other assistance
- Access health resources

Learn more at [www.choose.va.gov](http://www.choose.va.gov).



Your go-to for all VA services. Call this 24/7, toll-free number for all your VA needs: **1-844-698-2311**.



Confidential chat online at [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to 838255.



Sign up for a My HealthVet (MHV) account at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov).

- Access your personal health information and keep records of your health services.
- Order VA prescription refills.
- Send nonurgent messages to your VA health care team.
- Get email reminders of upcoming VA medical appointments.



Learn about your health conditions, medications, medical tests, and more at [www.veteranshealthlibrary.org](http://www.veteranshealthlibrary.org).



Reach your VA Care Team over live video with this convenient and time-saving app you can download at [mobile/va.gov/app/va-video-connect](http://mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect).

# ALL WARS MEMORIAL

## Expanded Walkway - 600 New Pavers Now Available!

Thank You to the patriotic community for Honoring their



Application On Next Page



## Engraving Completed - Visit Oak Hill Park & see new Pavers



# ALL WARS MEMORIAL GRANITE PAYER ORDER FORM

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



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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PAYMENT METHOD:**

Enclosed Check for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Mall to** →

Charge my: Visa - MasterCard (Please Print)

# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number

**CV Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

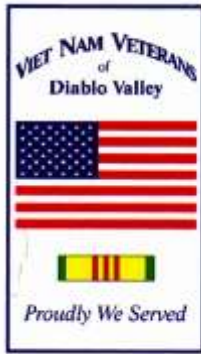
\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

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

[www.AllWarsMemorial.org](http://www.AllWarsMemorial.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."**

**For all your VNVDV Shirts and Hats team with TJ and Power Stitch**



**John T.J. Trujillo**

Director of Procurement

**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley**  
P.O. Box 2079  
Danville, CA 94526

925-997-5253

trujillo.tj.john@gmail.com

www.VNVDV.com



**VNVDV Members THANK David Behring**

**Wheelchair Foundation**

"Serving the World"



Looking for a unique BIRTHDAY Gift?

Donate a new WCF wheelchair in their honor... great for someone who has everything!

The VietNam Veterans made 3 Wheel Chair distribution trips, 2006, 2012 and the Fall 2019 to VietNam. Wheel Chairs Provide freedom of mobility for those lacking this basic need.

We Thank David Behring & the Wheel Chair Foundation for the support of VNVDV & our three amazing wheel chair distribution trips to Vietnam.

**The VNVDV participated in the distribution of 460 Wheelchairs during the NOV 2019 trip to Vietnam. Thanks to the support of the Wheelchair Foundation & Supporters**

**VietNam 50th Commemoration Honors our VietNam War Veteran Members**

**VNVDV LIFE MEMBERSHIP Special 50th VN Commeration - Honoring Your Service - ONLY \$50.**

**Danville VMB's County Veterans Service Office OPEN every Wednesday 10-2 to serve Veterans**

## All Wars Memorial

Oak Hill Park Memorial Expands The New Paver Section with 600 Pavers Do you have an AWM Paver? Don't wait - Honor a veteran, friend, neighbor, family member or patriot with a special AWM Paver Tribute! **1st ENGRAVING COMPLETED—Hopefully 1 in May!** Custom Engraving is performed Spring & Fall. Take time to visit the AWM - then the website for an application form. Order your AWM Paver [www.AllWarsMemorial.org](http://www.AllWarsMemorial.org) Questions? See link on AWM Website

Please SUPPORT & FOLLOW NEWS from some of our SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS WEBSITES:  
[Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office - Call the County VSO Office for Assistance - call 925 / 313-1481 for Appt.](#)  
[All Wars Memorial](#) and obtaining [AWM Pavers](#) at Oak Hill Park - visit: [www.AllWarsMemorial.org](http://www.AllWarsMemorial.org)  
[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)  
[Blue Star Moms #101 website](#): [www.bluestarmoms.org](http://www.bluestarmoms.org) & [Blue Star Moms #20 website](#): [www.ccbluestarmoms.org](http://www.ccbluestarmoms.org)  
VNVDV website to see more about the [Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley](#) at: [www.VNVDV.org](http://www.VNVDV.org)

**VISIT THE WEBSITE for the VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING at: [www.VMBSRV.org](http://www.VMBSRV.org)**

**SUPPORT OUR BLUE STAR MOMS "DROP-OFF" LOCATIONS**



Department of  
Veterans Affairs



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



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.  
Martinez Primary Care Clinic  
150 Muir Road, Martinez, Calif.94553

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

Fax: (925) 372-2804

Remember CALL VA's Prior to  
ANY Appointment or Urgent Care Need!  
At the VA - all Veterans will be  
Screened prior to entering Clinic!

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.

**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!

Are You Watching CCTV "VETERAN VOICES" on 2nd Monday?

Monthly Show Topics IMPORTANT to VETERANS & Recently Discharged/Returning VETS  
SUPPORT Nathan Johnson - our Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer

Watch 7pm Mondays

**VETERANS' VOICES**

Watch 7pm Mondays

**A Live, Interactive TV Show for Vets by Vets!**

Join us live on the 3rd Monday of every month to discuss relevant issues facing our veterans. Veterans' Voices provides a platform for all veterans, their family, and their caregivers to get support and learn about valuable resources and events in the community.

Hosted by:  
Nathan D. Johnson, County Veterans Service Officer  
Kevin Graves, CalVet LINC & Gold Star Parent

Watch live every 2nd Monday at 7 pm on CCTV  
www.ContraCostaTV.org/VeteransVoices  
Call in Live: (925) 313-1170

facebook @VeteransVoices

cctv

Contra Costa TV is channel 22 on Oakland, channel 27 on Concord, and channel 91 on AT&T U-verse.  
Episodes Re-Run: Mondays @ 7pm, Wednesdays @ 11pm & Saturdays @ 9am

"VETERAN VOICES"  
on SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH

TUNE-IN AND ASK YOUR  
QUESTIONS ABOUT VETERAN  
SERVICE OR VETERAN ISSUE.



**Because You Chose To Proudly Serve**

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

Pre-Planning Lifts the Burdens Off Your Loved Ones

Contact: Thomas Corbett, Veteran Liaison Officer, LIC# 44629  
(925) 935-3311, (925) 216-4785  
TCOAK8@gmail.com



**REAL TIME PAIN RELIEF**



To purchase call: Mike Martin - 925.323.1093



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley **"INCOMING"**

**NOV 2020**



**Official Mailing Address:**

**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley**  
**Veterans Memorial Building of SRV**  
**400 Hartz Avenue**  
**Post Office Box 2079**

**Danville, CA 94526 - 2079**

**E-Mail: [VNVDV1@gmail.com](mailto:VNVDV1@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.VNVDV.org](http://www.VNVDV.org)**

**Electronic News**

**2020 OFFICERS &  
BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT -**

**Gary Estrella**

**VICE PRESIDENT -**

**Dennis Giacovelli**

**TREASURER**

**Mike Slattengren**

**SECRETARY**

**Clifford DeCuir**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Jim Murphy**

**DIRECTOR - at - LARGE**

**Steve Burchik**

**DIRECTOR of  
EVENTS**

**Jerry Yahiro**

**SPEAKERS BUREAU**

**Mike Martin**

**INFORMATION**

**Jon Robbins**

**PROCUREMENT**

**John "T. J." Trujillo**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**John "Jgr" Reese**

**WEBSITE**

**Chelle Clements**

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

**William "Bill" Green**

**Ray La Rochelle**

**Michael Slattengren**

**Jerry Yahiro**

**John Estes**

**Del Loewe**

**Tim Hart**

**Mike Weber**

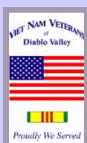
**Mike McDaniel**

**Rich Lambert**

**Ron Azarcon**

**Bill Picton**

**Norm Mahalich**



*Established 1991*

**Jonathan "JON" Robbins**

*Director of Information*

*Editor / Publisher "INCOMING" News*

*News E-Mail: [VNVDV.News@gmail.com](mailto:VNVDV.News@gmail.com)*

*Keep your e-mail address current please!*

**Visit the VNVDV Web**  
**Past Newsletters & our**  
**latest news on-line**



**To:**

**VNVDV Members & VIPs**

**The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley** - established in 1991 as a local, grass-roots, non-profit, & all-volunteer Veteran Service Organization (VSO) to promote & enhance the image of the Viet Nam Veteran through Community Service & Support of our fellow Veterans, and 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's Veteran's Memorial Building for the San Ramon Valley** is home for the VNVDV and 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 monthly on the **1st Thursday** of every month at the **Crow Canyon Country Club** in Danville.

VNVDV monthly Board of Directors Meetings are held on the **3rd Thursday** each month at the Veterans Memorial Building in the Library / Board Room at **1800 Hrs.** in Danville. To find out more about programs & projects the VNVDV supports & events sponsored... visit the website at: [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com). All veterans & guests are welcome to attend our **"open"** membership meetings. This VNVDV is 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. Please join us... All dinner meetings are **OPEN** - bring fellow VietNam veterans - active duty military - history buffs - friends - community supporters... *see what a difference volunteering makes in the lives of others. All veterans welcome!*

**OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!**

**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley**  
**DINNER CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**

**MONTHLY SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS with FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS**

**1st THURSDAY of each Month**

at **CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB** in Danville, CA

Social Hour at 1700 - Dinner at 1815 - Guest Speaker - **Join Us!**

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

**"INCOMING" News** - Official Newsletter of the VNVDV