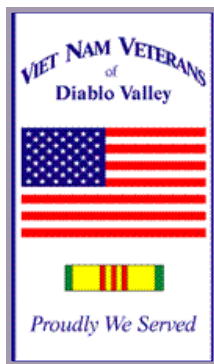


# INCOMING NEWS



FEB 2022

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

**VNVDV ZOOM DINNER MEETING FEB 3RD**

**ZOOM LINK IN THE COVER LETTER**



Dennis Giacovel II  
VNVDV  
President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

YES, IT'S A ZOOM MEETING AGAIN.

I am hoping it is the last.

We have also decided to **postpone this year's "Luau" fundraiser** (formerly crab feed). We will be keeping our options open and perhaps have it later in the year. Since this is half of our yearly fundraisers, **lets all plan on participating in the other half, at this year's "The Walk of Honor" which is on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> in Crockett.**

I am deeply saddened to inform you that one of our long-time members and all-around great guy, **Dick Seavey** has passed. Please keep him, Georganne and the rest of the Seavey family in your prayers.

President's Message (Continued on Page Two)

**ZOOM MEETING JANUARY 6TH  
WELL ATTENDED**



**FEBRUARY ZOOM Speaker  
JUDGE LAUREL S. BRADY** will



**speak on Restorative Justice Programs Offer Veterans a New Mission. Veterans surrender to a personal mission thanks to a growing number of Veterans Courts.**

In addition to Dick, VNVDV member Ron Azarcon informed me of the passing **DENNIS MARGUET**, a founding member of VNVDV. Ron remembers "Dennis who had an office down the hall from me in Pleasanton, invited me to one of the first VNVDV meetings in 1991. Turned out he lived just around the corner from me, in the same model house and our daughters were classmates in high school. Dennis was a great guy and true American hero".

Not much happens in January and February, but one notable exception is the new "Shadow Box Program" that Steve Burchik is spearheading. The program was discussed at our January meeting and also on the Veterans' Voices show that aired on January 10<sup>th</sup>. You can watch the show anytime on YouTube. Just go to YouTube and type in "veterans voices shadow box" and you can watch the whole show. The box could hold all your metals, ribbons, rank insignia, unit patch, name tag, dog tag, etc. It is not really for yourself, but for your children and grandchildren. A reminder of your service for generations to come. And perhaps a chance to start a long overdue conversation.

If all goes well, the Veteran Memorial Building will be having its **Corned Beef and Cabbage Fundraiser on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>**. See enclosed flyer for details.

Stay safe, hang in there and we will all be together soon.

**Dennis Giacovelli**  
President  
PH (925) 383-6455  
houseworks@pacbell.net



## VETERANS' VOICES JAN 2022 BROADCAST FEATURED A DISCUSSION ON "SHADOW BOXES"



**NATHAN JOHNSON INTERVIEWED VETERANS WHO DISCUSSED THEIR SHADOW BOXES.**

**DENNIS GIACOVELLI DISCUSSED THE VNVDV SHADOW BOX PROGRAM**



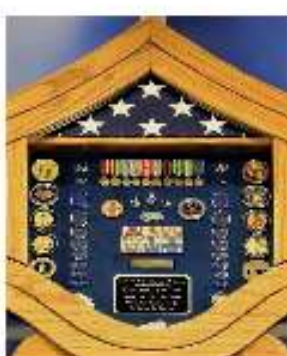


Starting in January 2022 VNVDV members are encouraged to build their own SHADOW BOX to display various medals and awards.

There is an additional incentive: Complete a Shadow Box by March 31, 2022 and receive a FREE DINNER TICKET (\$30 Value) to one of our VNVDV Dinner Meetings.

**Start the NEW YEAR off right with a resolution to  
BUILD YOUR OWN SHADOW BOX.**

**-Just visit a DOCENT at the Veterans Memorial Building in  
Danville and they will assist you in 3 Easy Steps.**



Learn where to find your medals. How to identify missing awards & medals. Where to get a basic Shadow Box.

**SPECIAL INCENTIVE: Complete your Shadow Box between now  
and MARCH 31, 2022 and receive a FREE DINNER TICKET.**

**(\$30 VALUE)**

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

**SUPER**

**LUAU**

Join us at our Annual Fundraiser

**VNVDV LUAU FUNDRAISER FEB  
13TH HAS BEEN CANCELLED  
DUE TO COVID CONSIDERATIONS**

Doors Open at 1:00 PM

**Hawaiian Luau Dinner ■ Silent Auction  
Raffle ■ Door Prizes ■ Tiki Lounge**

**TICKETS \$60.00 PER PERSON**

To purchase tickets contact Michael Slattengren  
(925) 216-7139 or Email: [slattengren.vnvdv@gmail.com](mailto:slattengren.vnvdv@gmail.com)

▼▼▼ **DONATIONS** ▼▼▼

**We need your support. Please donate to our silent auction.**

Contact: Jim Murphy • 925 858-2618  
[jimmurphycreative@yahoo.com](mailto:jimmurphycreative@yahoo.com)

Contact: Jim Hill 925 858-2618  
[jamauihill@yahoo.com](mailto:jamauihill@yahoo.com)



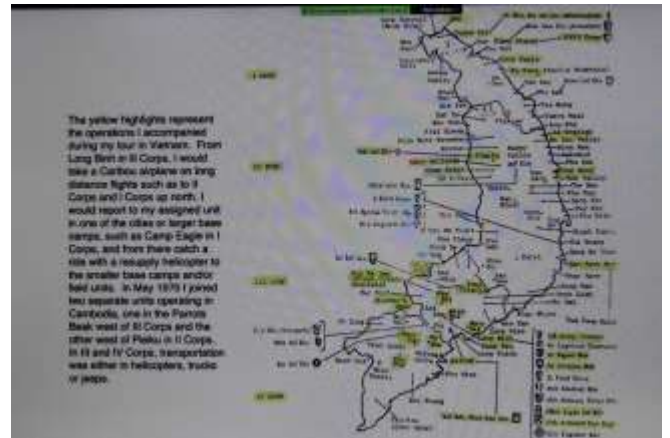


**THANKS TO *JIM HARDY* THE VNVDV JANUARY SPEAKER. JIM PROVIDED SKETCHES, PHOTOS AND NARRATIVE BASED ON HIS UNIQUE ASSIGNMENT IN VIET NAM AS A COMBAT SKETCH ARTIST. HIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY CAPTURED THE FACES, SURROUNDINGS AND STORIES OF SOLDIERS OPERATING ON THEIR DAILY MISSIONS.**



**SKETCHING**—Third Brigade artist, Private James Hardy, sketches his 20th Army comrade, Private Joseph Hardy, inside one of the base's many temporary shelters of canvas and cable and hopes to be a combat illustrator (left). U.S. Army photo by SP4 Long (right).

**Aspiring Trainee Artist: Army of a Rich Landowner**



The yellow highlights represent the operations I accompanied during my tour in Vietnam. From Long Binh in II Corps, I would take a C-119 airplane on long distance flights such as to I Corps and II Corps up north. I would report to my assigned unit, some of the closer or larger base camps, such as Camp Eagle in I Corps, and from there catch a site with a resupply helicopter to the smaller base camps and/or field units. In May 1970 I period two separate units operating in Cambodia, one in the Parrot's Beak west of II Corps and the other west of Pleiku in I Corps. In II and IV Corps, transportation was either in helicopters, trucks or jeeps.



10/22/70  
 Journal of the Red Beach  
 Station 10/22/70  
 Went out to the beach to  
 check on the w/...  
 C-119 left 5:30 PM  
 With heat, got up about  
 2:00 PM and went to the  
 with C-119. Found out  
 with some trouble  
 to get out about 12:45  
 returned to the Red Beach  
 saw many fresh  
 (smell?) and pushed  
 up a canyon into a  
 the Red Beach



**FOLLOW UP ON THE VNVDV 30TH ANNIVERSARY RECIPIENTS OF DONATIONS**

- Veterans First—Los Positas**
- Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office**
- Concord Vet Center**
- Gold Star Moms**
- Gold Star Moms Chapter 20**
- Gold Star Moms chapter 101**
- Operation Santa**
- Sentinels of Freedom**
- Elks Club Walnut Creek**
- GWOT Retreat**
- Judge Laurel Brady Veterans Program**
- VNVDV Scholarship Fund**
- Huey Repair Fund**

# OPERATION SANTA CLAUS 2021 UPDATE

This year, while observing Covid Protocol, our Operation Santa Claus was held at US Coast Guard Base Alameda. On December 11, 2021, seventy-two (72) families with over 80 children attended the event. Operation Santa Claus is our way to say, "Thank You" to those currently serving, or who have served, and Gold Star families, for their service and ultimate sacrifice, while in the Armed Forces of the United States.



*The Langevins, Gold Star Family, Roxane (far left) and Jessica Langevin (far right) with children/grandchildren, left to right, Zoe (13), Malory (12), Alyvia (14), and Riley (5)*

Marathon Martinez Renewable Fuels, the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley (VNVDV), Fremont Bank, and the Blue Star Moms, Chapters 20 and 101, were the primary sponsors of this special event.

Employee Elves at Marathon collected and donated 35 bicycles and 35 scooters for Santa, so every child could choose one or the other, with a helmet included. Additionally, Santa invited each child, to select 2 items, toys / \$25 - Target gift cards, from his "Isle of Misfit Toys". VNVDV Members had donated 70, of these Target Gift Cards, while Blue Star Moms donated an additional 52. The VNVDV also purchased an additional 50, Target Gift Cards.

One Gold Star Family, the Langevins, who have attended Operation Santa Claus for many years sent this text message to thank all those who made the event possible.

"It was WONDERFUL! missed the snow hill for sure. But it was soooooo nice to see everyone and just be in the presence of military and blue star Moms! It's a sense of camaraderie and family that you don't get with other people.

The kids ended up playing outside on the grass for at least 2 hours we were talking with Natalie and Greg. They played hide and seek and freeze tag. It was a beautiful day. Couldn't have asked for more.! We came home with not one bike but TWO! That was fun trying to fit those in the car. But seriously from the bottom of our hearts, Thank you so much. Please tell everyone how much we just adore and love you all and are so thankful and grateful for your kindness and generosity! This event really is one of our favorites throughout the year. Take care, and Merry Christmas! Thanks again!!!!!!"

By all accounts, Operation Santa Claus 2021, was a huge success and so much appreciated by our Veterans, active-duty families, and Gold Star Families.

Thank You, All, for your support of this special Holiday event!!!



# VNVDV **FEBRUARY** BIRTHDAYS

Russ Kennedy	Air Force	Alex Giouis	Army
Alvin Webb	Navy	Eric Ardell	Navy
Harold Griggs	Army	Tom Corbett	Marine
Bob Musor	Army	Jim Kuhn	Air Force
Ray Hill	Air Force	Pete Garcia	Navy
Dick Harrow	Navy	Tim Hart	Marine
Don Love	Marine	Jim Hardy	Army
Mike Speakman	Navy	Dave Brown	Army
John Rehnberg	Air Force	Wayne Rice	Army
Steve Burchik	Army	Rudy Rodriguez	Navy

**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.**



If you have any questions or would like to schedule a viewing, call or email me.

**Mike Weber**  
925.487.7609  
mike@mikeweberrealtor.com



**Bill LaVigne**  
President & CEO

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

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# Community Friends & Supporters...

Help us celebrate again and enjoy our annual  
*combined*

**Veterans Service Organization**

## **CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER**

**Fundraiser**

**Tickets \$50.00**

**Saturday March 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM**

**Veterans Memorial Building Main Hall**

**400 Hartz Ave Danville, CA**

**GOOD FOOD, GOOD PEOPLE,**

**SILENT AUCTION, LIVE AUCTION,**

**RAFFLE, DOOR PRIZES**

All funds collected go directly to the Veterans Memorial Building  
Operating Committee to pay for the operating expenses of the  
Veterans Wing of the building

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE VMB IN DANVILLE**

Or Contact Dennis Giacovelli at [houseworks@pachell.net](mailto:houseworks@pachell.net) or

Lee Halverson at [lhazmateer@aol.com](mailto:lhazmateer@aol.com) for tickets







**VETERANS'  
VOICES**

Next Show: Monday, FEB 14 @ 7:00 PM

Show Topic: "Benefits of National Parks"

Watch on: Comcast Channel 27

-or- Facebook: **veteransvoices1**



# A NEW MOVIE REVIEW ~ A 1968 FILM YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

**Movie Review by:  
FORWARD OBSERVER**

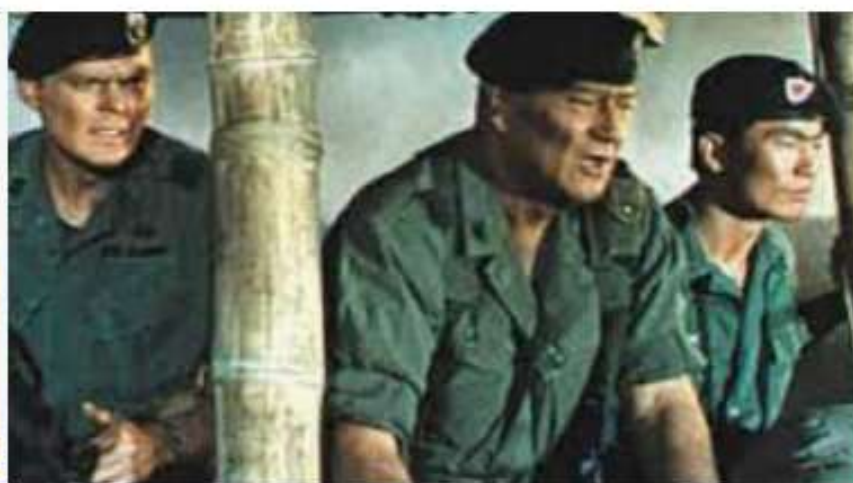


## **“THE GREEN BERETS”**

This controversial film was one of the first major films that attempted to portray a “gung ho” American fighting unit in Vietnam as a reflection of many WWII films that had the universal support of the American public. Unfortunately it was released in 1968 when the country was hopelessly divided on the direction of the war and the rising casualty count. This was a personal project of John Wayne who co-directed and starred in it along with David Janssen and Jim Hutton. The movie was filmed in 1967 at Fort Benning, GA where the Army provided uniforms, choppers and full cooperation. A set of a Vietnamese village was constructed for the film and was left intact afterward for the training of soldiers at the base.

The script is uneven and the acting is stilted. It is this reviewer's opinion that the film does a disservice to the real life members of the Green Berets who served with valor and steadfastness. While the film was a financial success, it was universally panned by most critics at the time.

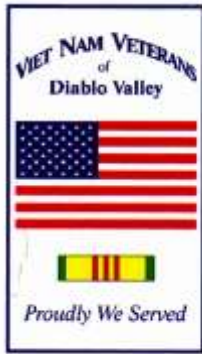
Reviewers Rating (Out of 5 Stars) ★★ ★





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



POWER STITCH MOVED TO 3195 DANVILLE BLVD, ALAMO - 925-362-3477

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**  
**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** | Defining  
**HEALTH CARE** | **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

**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!**

**VA is now offering Covid  
vaccines to non-veteran  
spouses and veteran caregivers**

**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.**

**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 Astoria, 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.**



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

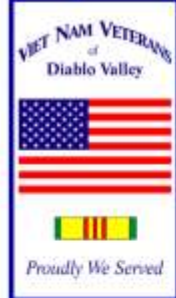
VNVDV  
uses FASTSIGNS

**REAL TIME PAIN RELIEF**



To purchase call: Mike Martin - 925.323.1093





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**

**To:**

**VNVDV Members & VIPs**

**2021 OFFICERS &  
BOARD MEMBERS**

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**VICE PRESIDENT -**

**Steve Burchik**

**TREASURER**

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**DIRECTOR of  
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**Jerry Yahiro**

**SPEAKERS BUREAU**

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**INFORMATION**

**Jon Robbins**

**PROCUREMENT**

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

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**John "jgr" Reese**

**WEBSITE**

**Chelle Clements**

**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**



**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!*

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

Gary Estella

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*

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

**DINNER MEETING FEBRUARY 3RD, 2022  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

**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" - **\$30** **RSVP NOT Required!**

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