

INCOMING NEWS



JAN 2022

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley VNVDV DINNER MEETING JAN 6TH HAS BEEN CANCELLED

AND REPLACED WITH A ZOOM MEETING



Dennis Giacovel II
VNVDV
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Due to the rise of covid cases and the many recent holiday gatherings, in an effort to keep everyone safe, we have decided that we will go back to Zoom meetings for January and February. Hopefully by March we can get back to getting together at the Club for dinner meetings. We will keep watching month to month so check the newsletter for updates.

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.

One of our long-time members and great human being, **Dick Seavey is in Hospice Care at his home**. Please keep him in your prayers.

O.K., that was the bad news. Now for the good news.

I hope you all were able to get together (safely) with family and friends over the holidays.

VNVDV 30TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DECEMBER 2021



VNVDV
30TH
ANNIVERSARY
CHALLENGE
COIN



JANUARY Speaker VNVDV Member **JIM HARDY** discussing his experience as a **Combat Artist**.



Jim would select his schedule and join various units while conducting their normal operations. When embedded with the 199th ID he sketched members of a squad and years later created balsa carvings of the squad which have been displayed at numerous veterans events.

For those of you who did not attend our December recognition/anniversary dinner, you missed a great night. We gave recognition to several people, both within our organization and in our community. Congratulations to all and they were all well deserved. See Jon's recap for all who were honored. **We had a cake with our logo on it and "Congratulation VNVDV 30 Years" on it.** We also had a slide show of members and events over the years, especially the early years.

And because it was our 30th anniversary, we gave away \$30,000 dollars to organizations and causes that we support. Donations ranged from \$1000 in gas cards to \$5000 to the Sentinels of Freedom. We also donated funds to the Wheelchair Foundation for 30 wheelchairs. They were in honor of our first President, Norm Mahalich and our last President, Gary Estrella. When David Behring accepted our donation, he promptly matched it.

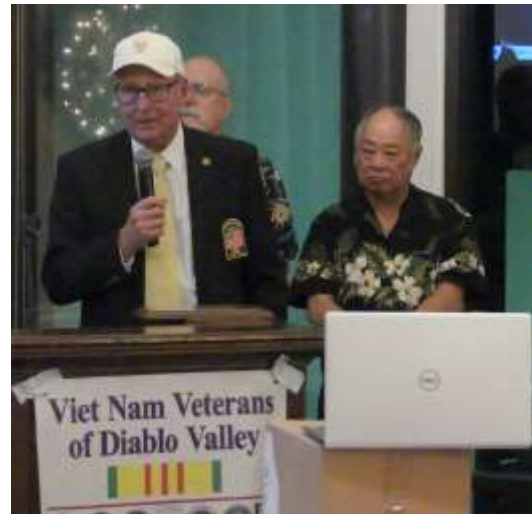
Not much happens in January, but one notable exception is **the new "Shadow Box Program" that Steve Burchik is spearheading. The program will be discussed at our January meeting and also on the Veterans' Voices show on January 10th.** The box could hold all your metals, ribbons, rank insignia, unit patch, 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.

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

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



VNVDV AWARDS DINNER DECEMBER 2ND, 2021



STEVE BURCHIK - GARY VILLALBA AWARD



JIM HILL - VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



DENISE SILVA CHAPLIN WALNUT CREEK
ELKS CLUB - VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
HONORING DENISE FOR HER PROGRAM
THAT PROVIDES VETERANS WITH FURNI-
TURE FOR NEW HOUSING

DECEMBER AWARDS DINNER/GALA AT CCCC

ADDITIONAL AWARDS DURING THE VNVDV RECOGNITION DINNER

*Newell Arnerich, Karen Stepper and Marcia Estrella
Made Honorary Life Members*



Newell Arnerich Karen Stepper

Marcia Estrella

*VNVDV DONATION TO THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION
30 WHEELCHAIRS IN HONOR OF NORM MAHALCIK AND GARY ESTRELLA*



Chad Mahalcik

**David Behring
Wheelchair Foundation**

Marcia Estrella

RECOGNITION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORTERS



Blue Star Moms

**Nathan Johnson
VSO**

**Scott Carr
Huey Transport**

**Valarie Amador
Power Stitch
VNVDV Apparel**

DECEMBER AWARDS DINNER/GALA AT CCCC



OPERATION SANTA CLAUSE 2021



VNVDV member Jerry Yahiro and Marathon Oil returned OPERATION SANTA after missing 2020 due to Covid. The Coast Guard offered a new venue for this event which assists families of enlisted active duty personnel in the East Bay.

WREATHS across AMERICA
 ALAMO CEMETERY, 130 EL PORTAL, DANVILLE, CA 94526 (CAAACA)
 PLEASE TRIP TO BARRHETT, HOSPITAL AND TRAGEDY ON
 DECEMBER 18, 2021 AT 10:00 AM BY SPONSORING A WREATH,
 VOLUNTEERING OR INVITING FRIENDS TO HELP.



ARMY/NAVY GAME 2021 SHOWED HOW NAVY CAN FIGHT A GROUND CAMPAIGN BY PREPARING SPECIFIC PLAYS TO BE USED IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS TO UPSET ARMY



For more than a century, they've been at it. The Black Knights against the Midshipmen. Army vs. Navy.

The Greatest Rivalry In Sports. Army/Navy Game

December 11, 2021
Game starts 12:00

Come join your fellow Veterans downstairs in the main hall in Your Veterans Memorial Building For hot dogs, chili, nachos, Camaraderie, and The Game! Bring a side dish or refreshment



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

▼▼▼ **DONATIONS** ▼▼▼

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

Contact: Jim Murphy • 925 858-2618
jimmurphycreative@yahoo.com

Contact: Jim Hill 925 858-2618
jamauihill@yahoo.com

VNVDV **JANUARY** BIRTHDAYS

Ron Allen	USMC	Bill Kiper	Navy
Alan Perry	Navy	Arthur Gaoiran	Army
Joseph Roberts	Army	Ray La Rochelle	Navy
Bill Hawkins	Army	Rich Lee	Army
Jerry Carlson	Army	Gerald Raver	Army
Tim Sammons	Navy	Mike Feddersen	USMC
Tom Crews	Navy	Cary Battersby	Army
Thurman McCormick	Army		



THE TOWN OF DANVILLE HONORS VNVDV MEMBER LORRIE SAMMONS

VNVDV member Lorrie Sammons was presented the 'Town of Danville 2021 Award of Merit' at the 40th Annual Mayor's Installation and Community Service Awards event on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 in the Village Theatre. Pictured receiving the Award are Lorrie and Council member Dave Fong, who congratulated Lorrie for "her passion and commitment" serving our Veterans Service Organizations, their families, and the community.



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

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(877) MOVE-677
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55 Springstowne Ctr. #301 - Vallejo, CA 94591

Community Friends & Supporters...

Help us celebrate again and enjoy our annual
combined

Veterans Service Organization

**CORNERED BEEF AND
CABBAGE DINNER**

Fundraiser

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday March 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM

**Veterans Memorial Building
400 Hartz Ave Danville, CA**

**GOOD FOOD, GOOD PEOPLE,
SILENT AUCTION, LIVE AUCTION, RAFFLE,
DOOR PRIZES**

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN JANUARY

**VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
OF SAN RAMON VALLEY
HONOR • COMMUNITY • SERVICE**



A NEW MOVIE REVIEW ~ A 2005 FILM YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Movie Review by:
FORWARD OBSERVER



“JOYEUX NOEL”

Released in 2005, this French production (with subtitles and English language) tells the story of soldiers from France, Germany and Great Britain fighting in the trenches of Europe on December 24, 2014. This movie is based on a true event. Soldiers from all 3 armies had paused the fighting on Christmas Eve, when a German tenor from the Berlin Imperial Opera starts singing a solo. The French soldiers who hear him applaud and Scottish bagpipers join in as the officers agree on a one night truce. The soldiers from each army meet and share greetings for a short time. The truce concludes as a priest says a mass in Latin which was the common language for Catholics of all nations. The aftermath went poorly for all participants as their senior officers punished them for fraternizing with the enemy.

This film can be especially meaningful for each of us *as we remember where we were on Christmas Eve in a combat zone*. Perhaps it was a special meal, a gift from home or the quiet of the night while standing guard in a remote outpost. Happy Holidays to each of you.

Reviewers Rating (Out of 5 Stars) ★★★★★



Available on NETFLIX, AMAZON.



Next Show: Monday, JAN 10 @ 7:00 PM

Show Topic: "SHADOW BOX-SHOWING YOUR SERVICE "

Watch on: Comcast Channel 27

-or- Facebook: **veteransvoices1**



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.**



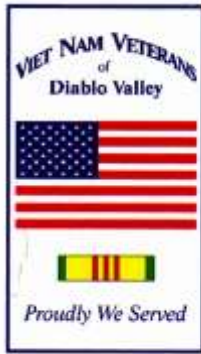
Learn where to find your medals. How to identify missing awards & medals. Where to get a basic Shadow Box.

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

(\$30 VALUE)

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 Commemoration - 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](http://www.cccountyvet.org) - call 925 / 313-1481 for Appt. All Wars Memorial and obtaining AWM Pavers at Oak Hill Park - visit: www.AllWarsMemorial.org Marines Memorial Association / Hotel / Club in SF - Visit their website at: www.MarineClub.com Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation - visit: www.SentinelsofFreedom.org Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels - Support our those in need of mobility - Visit: www.WineforWheels.org Blue Star Moms #101 website: www.bluestarmoms.org & Blue Star Moms #20 website: www.ccbluestarmoms.org VNVDV website to see more about the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley at: www.VNVDV.org

VISIT THE WEBSITE for the VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING at: 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.**



FASTSIGNS
More than fast. More than signs.™

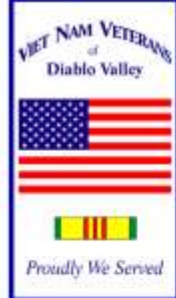
VNVDV
uses FASTSIGNS

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

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

Web: www.VNVDV.org

Electronic News

To:

VNVDV Members & VIPs

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VICE PRESIDENT -

Steve Burchik

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Mike Slattengren

SECRETARY

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Chelle Clements

Jonathan "JON" Robbins

Director of Information

Editor / Publisher "INCOMING" News

News E-Mail: 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. 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 JANUARY 6TH, 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