

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to all of you who helped set-up, tear-down and/or attended this year's Memorial Day ceremony. **Jim Taylor** was fantastic. It was a great success and wonderful day. Good to be able to gather again. And to top it off, for the first time, the Mt. Diablo Beacon was lit that night It will also be lit on Veterans Day evening for the first time this year. From now on, It will be lit three times a year.

A special thanks to VNVDV members who participated in the City of San Ramon Memorial Day Ceremony.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Danville is this Monday. Please come carry a flag, the banner, or give out flags to the crowd. Meet in front of the San Ramon Valley High School at 8:00. After the Parade, it is our tradition to gather at Luna Loca for a Margarita and then to the Veterans Memorial Building for the VFW lunch BBQ.

We have a really great **speaker** for this month's meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Crow Canyon Country Club. **Jon Dunphy**, a Tri-Valley native, who enlisted in the Navy in 1993. He served as a platoon medic, radioman, and sniper at Seal Team Eight and Seal Team Two. He was assigned to various locations, including Bosnia, Albania, and multiple trips to Western Africa. Please come and hear his fascinating stories.

President's Message (Continued on Page Two)

#### FOURTH OF JULY PARADE WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY JULY 4, 2022

680 NORTH OR SOUTH EXIT EL CERRO WEST. DANVILLE BLVD ONLY RIGHT TURN ALLOWED. LEFT DEL AMIGO TO LEFT VERONA TO LEFT LOVE LANE TO HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT UNDER SO-LAR PANELS.

PARADE START 0900 MUSTER 0800.

VNVDV WHITE COLLARED JERSEY SHIRT, DARK SLACKS OR SHORTS, WHITE VNVDV CAP.

FLAGS TO HAND OUT TO SPECTATORS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.



JUL 7TH DINNER MEETING SPEAK-ER, JON DUNPHY will discuss his ex-



periences when he served as a platoon medic, radioman, and sniper at Seal Team Eight and Seal Team Two.

#### President's Message (Continued from Page One)

As I stated at last month's meeting, we recently lost Blue Star Mom, Docent, Quilter and VMB staple, Marilyn Steichen. A Celebration of Life will be on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at the Veterans Memorial Building.

We also recently lost 102 year old **Mickey Ganitch**, WWII Navy Veteran and Pearl Harbor Survivor, and all around ambassador. His Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> on the USS Hornet: arrive for boarding and seating at 9 AM, the Service starts at 10 AM. **If you plan to attend notify JIM HILL: E-MAIL jamauihill@yahoo.com or sign-up at the July 7th meeting. JULY 7TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP.** 

Last week we lost **Pat Behring**, mother of member David Behring. Pat was a huge supporter of Veterans and the Veteran Memorial Building. A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 at the Blackhawk Museum.

Also last week, we lost our friend Alex Jefferson, Tuskegee Airman. Alex lived in Detroit, Michigan, but came west on several occasions to speak to us and party with us. He made it to 100 years old and gave back every day.

Please join me in celebrating Independence Day 2022 on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, by participating in the Danville Parade and the VFW BBQ.

Please enjoy your summer, get out, see friends and visit family but please do it safely.



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



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#### Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley Color Guard for the 4th of July 2019 Parade



# JUNE Dinner Meeting - 2022



# **30th Anniversary Memorial Day Remembrance** Sponsored by Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley



# San Ramon Memorial Day Remembrance at Memorial Park VNVDV Color Guard



# LTC ALEXANDER JEFFERSON, TUSKEGEE AIRMAN AND PAST VNVDV SPEAKER, PASSED AWAY ON JUNE 22, 2022.

# **Tuskegee Airman tells POW tale**

Ex-fighter pilot visits East Bay to talk about capture by Germans

#### By Eric Louie

DANVILLE - Alexander Jeffersion was in southern France, attacking radar sites, on his 19th mis-sion during the thick of World War II, when a 20-millimotor shell went through his plane.

"I look up and there's a (exple-tive) hole in the earnopy," said Jef-ferson, a retired Air Force liouten-ant. He looked down, siw more damage and ejected. As he climbed down from the

trees, he was captured by German soldiers, making him part of an even more select group — not just one of the first black pilots to emerge from America's segregated military, but one of 32 who were captured. Jefferson, 88, of Southfield,

See AIRMAN, Page 90

### Airman

Mich., is the author of a book on his experiences: "Red Thil Captured, Red Thil Free: The Memoirs of a Tuskegee Air-man and POW."

He shared his story of being a Tuskegee Airman on Thursday with fellow veter-Veterans of the Diablo Valley.

His talk at the Crow Canyon Country Chib was part of a circuit of visits to schools, veterans groups and to youths at the Alameda County juvenile hall. The trip was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Castro Valley and the American Legion in Castro Valley, said Mike Martin, co-director of the Vietnam veteran group's

Jefferson said the Tuskegee Institute, named after the Alabama town where it was located, trained about 1,000 black pilots during World. War II. About half went overseas for combat, where 66 were killed in action and 32 became prisoners of war, Jef-

In 1943, Jefferson entered the institute - which had its first graduating class in 1942 and its last in 1946 — leaving as an Air Corps lieutenant

Jefferson suid he joined the service, not whiting to be

drafted. For blacks at that time, he said, being drafted meant being assigned to loading ships or other "heavy, nasty, dirty work."

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Alexander Jefferson, left, is given a plaque Thursday by Danville resident Dennis Giacovelli of the Vietnam Veterans of the Diablo Valley. Jefferson was in town to talk about his POW experience.

After graduation, he was sent to Europe, where he escorted B-17 and B-24 bomb-ers in his P-51 Mustang.

He never had to face German fighter planes, but there were dangers. On his 19th mission, in August 1944, he and other planes were on a mission in southern France to knock out radar in Toulon when he was hit with anti-aircraft fire.

Jefferson spent nine months in a POW camp in Germany. It was liberated by Americans as the war ended. He recalled, en route home, seeing the results of the Holocaust firsthand at the Dachau concentration camp. The smell of burning bodies wafted far, he said. When they reached the camp, the ovens were still warm. Pliers, which had been used to remove the gold teeth of victims, were nearby.

Jefferson talked about racism and prejudice in Europe. After being captured, he recalled a German soldier saluting him after recognizing him as an officer. After that, he said, he was treated well despite a lack of food and poor conditions, recalling that Russian prisoners had it worse

But he was used to racism and prejudice in America.

lots. And he saw prejudice in how fellow Americans were treated during the war. He said he asked why German-Americans were not deemed a threat and sent to intern-Americans were.

his captivity, he met Germans who had lived and had been educated in America, including an interrogator who had graduating class portraits from the Tuskegee Institute in his office; he recognized Jefferson in one. The interrogator, Jefferson said, talked about places in America that he knew, and about where he went to college.

When he came home after the war, Jefferson recalled getting off the boat in New York and being greeted by a soldier who told him: "Whites to the left, (expletive) to the right.'

He recalled having a hard time finding a job after the war, and how he and his wife saved \$4,000 to put down on a \$12,000 house, but that as a black man, he still had a hard time being approved for

Jefferson, who became a teacher and administrator, said he often speaks to young people and encourages them to value the "greatest coun-









# VIET NAM VETERANS DIABLO VALLEY JULY BIRTHDAYS

Gary Villalba	Army	Dick Sperling Army
Mike Weber	Army	Earl Conklin Army
James Hill	Army	John Schafgans Army
Alex McElee	Navy	Frank Luna Army
Wayne Norwood	Army	Daniel Harrington Navy
Joe Cardinale	Army	Steve Cochran Army
Larry Ashcock	Army	Marty De Venuta Air Force
Ron Huesman	Marines	John Willing Marines
Jeff Wagner	Marines	Billy Rogers Army
Sandra Johnson	Air Force	Jeremy Bonelle Army
	John Prentice	Marines

**THANKS TO JUNE SPEAKERS** Jean E Johnstone Executive Director and Staff Members of the Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center.







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

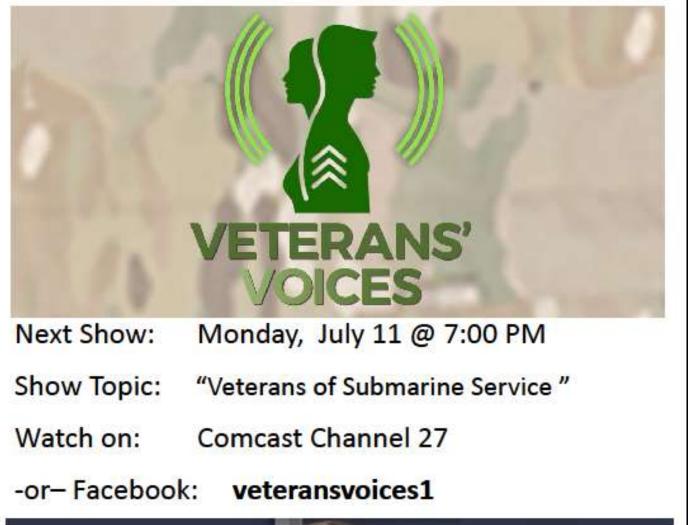
Mike Weber 925.487.7609 mike@mikeweberrealtor.com



Bill LaVigne President & CEO

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

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# SAVE THE DATE MONDAY AUGUST 22, 2022



SKILLS CHALLENGE



SPECIALTY COCKTAIL BARS PARTICIPANT THANK YOU DINNER



CONCESSIONS AND MUCH MORE!

Phone : (925) 736-8234

WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG

Wheelchair

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley Proud Supporters of the Wheelchair Foundation

# VA HEALTH CARE in MARTINEZ

#### **VA NCHCS Call Center**

1-800-382-VETS (1-800-382-8387)

Answers to your health and eligibility questions are just a phone call away through our toll-free telephone care program.

For eligibility and benefits questions, or to schedule or cancel an appointment or to message your provider, please call center number. Our call center agents are available Monday - Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, excluding federal holidays.

Speak with an Advice Nurse if you have health care questions, or need help understanding your options or deciding what to do next. Advice nurses are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

#### PHARMACY ADVICE AND REFILLS

1-866-600-VARX (1-866-600-8279)

Consult with an Advice Pharmacist if you have questions about your medications. Available from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Order Refills or obtain information about pending prescriptions through our automated prescription refill system. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may also order refills at one of our Patient Education Kiosks or on-line at www.myhealth.va.gov



#### **HEALTH CARE**

The Martinez VA Outpatient Clinic offers a wide range of outpatient health care services to veterans in Contra Costa County and surrounding areas.

Out team of dedicated, compassionate and caring health care professionals work together to provide you with high quality health care services close to where you live and work.

We want to improve your health and well being. As part of our commitment to you, we provide personalized health care services based on your individual needs. Patients requiring health care services that are not available at this location may be referred to another VA facility for treatment.



#### FINDING US IS EASY

Martinez VA Outpatient Clinic 150 Muir Road Martinez, CA 94553 (925) 372-2000

Hours of Operation 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (Excluding Federal Holidays)







#### **OurHealthyHome**

www.northerncalifornia.va.gov

Enrolling is fast and easy. Stop by today

and complete an Application for Medi-

cal Benefits, VA Form 10-EZ. Please

discharge certificate to help us verify

Call VA NCHCS Call Center

(1-800-382-8387) to speak with a

Health Benefits Advisor, Monday

6:00 p.m., exluding federal holidays

· Visit the VA Health Eligibilty Web

Site at www.oa.gov/elig

SCHEDULING

ment only. This helps us

provide our patients with

Medical visits are by appoint-

timely and convenient access

to care. If you are not feeling

well and need to schedule an

appointment, or if you have

questions about your care,

please call us.

through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to

Number at 1-800-382-VETS

your eligibility. You can also complete

the form on-line or mail us a copy of the

bring a copy of your DD-214 or

ELIGIBILITY AND

ENROLLMENT

completed form.

For more information:

## MARTINEZ VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC



"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." ABRAHAM LINCOLN

#### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Ambulatory Surgery Audiology Cardiology Day Treatment Program Dermatology **Diagnostic Imaging** including CT and MRI Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Enviornmental Exposure Program Gastroenterology General Surgery & Surgical Subspecialties Home Based Primary Care Homeless Outreach Program Hematology/Oncology Infectious Diseases Laboratory Mental Health

Nephrology Nuclear Medicine Nutrition Ophthalmology Optical Shop Optometry Orthopedics Pain Clinic Pharmacy Physical Therapy Podiatry Post Traumatic Stree Disorder Primary Cars **Pulmatory Medicine** Research Rheumatology Social Work Services Speech Pathology Substance Abuse Urgent Care Urology Women's Health Services including Mammography

#### The Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care (CREC) offers a wide

range of geriatric and extended care to veterans who require in patient care to address specific needs. For more information call the Admissions Coordinator at (925) 370-4704



APPOINTMENTS AND

To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." ABRAHAM LINCOLN



# **VA National Cemetery Honors Veterans**

The National Cemetery Administration honors Veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our Nation.

n July 17, 1862, Congress enacted legislation that authorized President Lincoln to purchase "cemetery grounds" to be used as national cemeteries "for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country." Fourteen cemeteries were established that first year.

By 1870, the remains of nearly 300,000 Union dead had been buried in 73 national cemeteries. Most of the cemeteries were located in the southeast, near the battlefields and campgrounds of the Civil War.

The National Cemetery Administration has evolved slowly since the initial period of great challenge related

to the Civil War. All honorably discharged Veterans became eligible for burial in 1873.

In the 1930s, new

national

Fort Logan National Cemetery, Colorado

cemeteries were established to serve Veterans living in major metropolitan areas such as New York, Baltimore, Minneapolis, San Diego, San Francisco and San Antonio.

In 1973, Congress transferred 82 national cemeteries from the Department of the Army to the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These were added to the 21 VA cemeteries at hospitals and nursing homes to comprise 103 cemeteries in what was then the National Cemetery System. On November 11, 1998, the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act was signed, changing the name of the National Cemetery System to the National Cemetery Administration.



Tahoma National Cametery, Washington

Today, there are a total of 147 national cemeteries. The National Cemetery Administration is responsible for 131 of them, while the National Park Service maintains 14 and the Department of the Army maintains two cemeteries – including Arlington National Cemetery.

In the midst of the largest cemetery expansion since the Civil War, VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico. VA's newest national cemetery, Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Pennsylvania, opened in January 2010.

More than 3 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict – from the

Revolutionary War to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan - are buried in VA's national cemeteries.



Chattandoga National Cemetery, Tennessee

Visit us on the web at: www.cem.va.gov

For additional information on your benefits ~ Contact: County Veterans Service Office in Martinez or Danville. Call 925/313~1481 for an Appointment

# Movie Review by: FORWARD OBSERVER



# "MIDWAY- 2019 Version"

This newer version of MIDWAY, released in 2019 is a technically accurate production starring Patrick Evans and Luke Wilson. It is an expansive production covering Pearl Harbor, Doolittle's raid on Tokyo and the Battle of Midway itself. One of the interesting details is the "Walk-down" where crew members form a line and walk the length of the carrier deck while picking up loose nuts, bolts and debris. One distracting person in the casting, however, is Woody Harrelson who plays Admiral Chester Nimitz. It is difficult to take the goofy bartender from Cheers seriously.

While this reviewer still prefers the 1976 version with Charlton Heston and Henry Fonda, Director Roland Emmerich does a fair job of depicting one of the biggest battles in naval history.

Reviewers Rating (Out of 5 Stars)





Available on NETFLIX, AMAZON.

## <u>Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (Veterans' Clinic)</u> Wellness Clinic for Veterans' Pets

Free veterinary wellness care is available through our in-house clinic on Wednesdays, *by appointment only*. For information or to schedule an appointment, Veterans may call (925) 296-3125 (option 7) and leave a message. Clinic staff will call you back for scheduling.

Clinics are open to dogs and cats belonging to Veterans of any era (up to two pets per visit). No non-military civilians will be accepted. Clients must furnish valid military identification at the time of check-in. Acceptable forms of military identification include military I.D. card, VA health identification card, discharge paperwork with matching photo identification, or Department of Defense Form 214 with matching photo identification.

#### Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (Veterans' Clinic)

2890 Mitchell Drive Walnut Creek, CA 94598 United States (925) 296-3125 (option 7)

Wellness Clinic FAQs

How do I Make an Appointment to Receive Services?

Our wellness clinics for Veterans' pets are by appointment only. For information or to schedule an appointment, Veterans may call (925) 296-3125 (option 7) and leave a message. Clinic staff will call you back for scheduling.

#### What Services Does ARF's Clinic Offer to Veterans?

Complimentary services provided include:

- Annual wellness exam
- Vaccines
- Heartworm testing for dogs
- FeLV/FIV testing for cats
- Year-round flea, tick, and parasite preventative products

• Spay and neuter (by appointment, clients must visit our wellness clinic for exam first)

Where do I Go for My Appointment?

Our Veterans clinic entrance can be found past the main adoption entrance and spay/neuter clinic entrance,

#### What Can I Expect from My Appointment?

If you are a new client, your Veterans' ID will be checked, and you will be given an information form to fill out about your pet(s). Dogs must be on leash and under control at all times. Cats must be in carriers.

Are There Limits on How Many Pets Can be Seen?

In order to serve as many Veterans as possible, we limit services to two pets per household per clinic and we provide services to a lifetime maximum of six pets per veterans' household.

Schedule of Events for Veterans - Wellness Clinics for Veterans' Pet at ARF Headquarters in Walnut Creek on Wednesdays <u>Appointment Required</u>

Wednesday - July 13 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Wednesday - July 20 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Wednesday - July 27 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

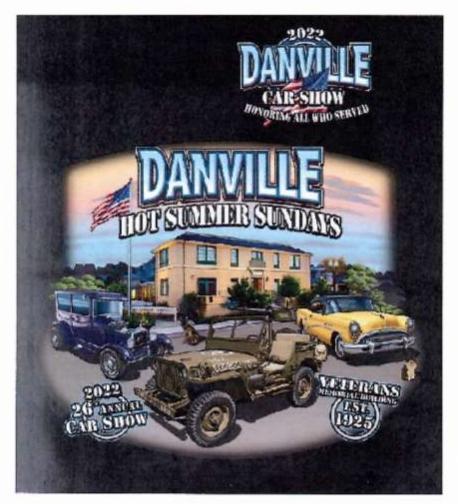


<sup>Tony La Russa's</sup> Animal Rescue Foundation

Each month ARF will publish a schedule for the new month on ARFlife.org website.



# SINDAYS, JULY 17 & AUGUST 21



A CROWD-PLEASING FAVORITE RETURNS TO DANVILLE UNDER THE SUMMER SUN. THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY IN DOWNTOWN DANVILLE AT THE 26TH HOT SUM-MER SUNDAYS CAR SHOW, FOR HOT RODS, CLASSICS AND CUSTOMS TO EXOTICS AND FOR-EIGN COLLECTIBLES. 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."



SUPPORT OUR BLUE STAR MOMS "DROP-OFF" LOCATIONS



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

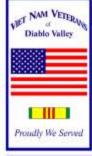


"VETERAN VOICES" on SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH

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



REAL TIME PAIN RELIEF



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley *"INCOMING"* 

**Official Mailing Address:** 

Post Office Box 2079

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley Veterans Memorial Building of SRV 400 Hartz Avenue

Danville, CA 94526 - 2079

E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

Web: www.VNVDV.org

2021 OFFICERS &

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To

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"* 

**VNVDV** Members & VIPs

JUL 2022

Electronic News

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 <u>OPEN</u> - 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!** 

# DINNER MEETING JULY 7TH, 2022 CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB

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

