





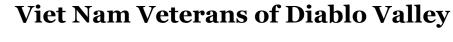








OCT 2023



Steve Burchik VNVDV President **CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had another excellent attendance level for the September Dinner Meeting with more than 70 people showing up for a great dinner. A year ago, the Board was concerned about attendance with less than 50 members. This year we have been averaging 70 members in spite of summer vacations and other events. Thank you all for making a commitment to keeping our group vital and active. It's a tribute to the camaraderie of Viet Nam veterans.

October is a relatively quiet month for public events for VNVDV, but get ready for a burst of events in the first 12 days of November. Here is the run down.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 The San Ramon LIGHTED PARADE

takes place at 6:30 PM and will feature a **VNVDV** Lighted Float covered with hundreds of holiday lights. Veterans Day Parade Pleasanton - Sun. Nov 5

Need vol unteers for Fl ags

Contact Mike SI attengren

925 / 216-7139

Muster 11:00 Veterans BI dg. Main Street <mark>PI easanton</mark>



SPEAKER for the SOCTOBER 5TH MEETING, JOHN MINDERMAN will



discuss his novel "In Pursuit", a gripping tale of a defining moment in American history—the Watergate scandal. This event does not require a lot of manpower during the parade, so feel free to bring your family to watch the event on the sidelines and cheer loudly when our float passes by.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 The **Pleasanton Veterans Day Parade** kicks off at 1:00 PM and will include our full-size Huey Helicopter along with our own color guard. All members are encouraged to participate. It's not a long parade and ends up at a welcome spot with fresh brews on tap.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7 The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors hosts a Veterans Day recognition in the Board Chambers at 11:00 AM. The theme this year is especially important for our group "50 the ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE VIET NAM WAR". A special highlight is the fact that our own Vice President, JAMES HILL will be the Keynote Speaker for this event. Let's show up in large numbers to support him. A light lunch will also be served in the same building at the end of the event.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10 This is the start of the **3 Day Pop-Up Museum** on Veterans Day weekend. The theme is space and will feature a variety of space-related exhibits and talks as well as traditional military exhibits. The Huey will be parked in front of the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville, so be sure to stop by with family and friends.

The new Slate of Officers for the 2024 Year will be announced shortly. Dennis Giacovelli and Dave Smith are finalizing commitments from various members. Voting takes place in November. A reminder: Our next **Dinner Meeting is on October 5th.** Please try to make a point of participating at this gathering of fellow veterans.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the October 5th Dinner Meeting.

Steve Burchik President PH (925) 998-9433 Info@steveburchik.com



VETERANS DAY 2023 CEREMONY



Thank you for your service, Veterans! Contra Costa County's Board of Supervisors honors Veterans & their families at the Annual Veterans Day Celebration on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers at 1025 Escobar Street, Martinez.

This year, the ceremony will feature a special recognition for the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. VNVDV member Jim Hill guest speaker.

Watch online at <u>www.contracostatv.org</u>. The celebration will broadcast live on Contra Costa Television channels: Comcast Channel 27, AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, and Astound Channels 32 and 1027.

SEPTEMBER 2023 VNVDV DINNER MEETING - GREAT ATTENDANCE CONTINUES



Exchange Club Remembers 9/11 at AWM





VNVDV's dinner of the year... Christmas Holiday Appreciation & Recognition Dinner Gala, DECEMBER 7TH,

Social at 5 - Sit-down Dinner at 6

RSVP will be required

SAVE THE DATE

MEAL SELECTION AND COST INFOR-MATION WILL FOLLOW



2024 VNVDV Crab Feed Sunday - Feb. 11th "Help Sell Tickets"

"Donations Needed"

For the Feb. 11 Crab Feed donations don't fall from the sky. For this 2024 event Jim Murphy and Jim Hill need everyone's help to make the Auction successful. Contact them to discuss ways to contribute to the success of this fund raiser.

Top: JIM MURPHY, 925 858 2618 jimmurphycreative@yahoo.com Bottom: JIM HILL, 510 410 1040 jamauihill@yahoo.com



VIET NAM VETERANS DIABLO VALLEY OCT BIRTHDAYS

| Jim Murphy | Navy | Jon Robbins | Army |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| James Handlin | Army | Bob Sada | Air Force |
| John Reese | Navy | Patti Wernet | Army |
| Jerry Yahiro | Army | Phil Butler | Navy |
| Gary Slattengren | Navy | Henry Fanger | Navy |
| David Behring | Honorary | y Robert Mitchell | Marine |
| Pat Leary | Army | Les Chakurian | Army |
| Mike Huntsman | Navy | Roy Warner | Navy |
| Joe Callaway | Army | Patty Chew | Army |
| Juan Kelly | Army | Dave Smith | Air Force |
| Jeff Jewell Air Force | | | |

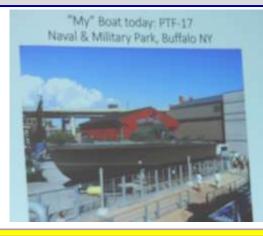
Thanks to the August speaker *TIM SAMMONS* for his discussion of the history of PTF boats and their operation in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam.



Military Assistance Command Vietnam "Studies and Observations Group"

- The <u>CIA</u> was running covert ops in SEA, including maritime ops, in the late 1950's, early 60's.
- Civilian & FT Boat Ops were run from Dalkang with <u>Vietnamese</u> RVN Navy crews when <u>north</u> of the DMZ.
- MACVSOG took over direction of these operations in the Tookin Gulf from the CIA in January 1964.
- PTF's were involved in the Tonkin Gulf Incident(s) during coastal raids, Jul & Aug 1964.

+I wasn't THERE __(I caught up with them later)





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

55 Springstowne Ctr. #301 + Vallejo, CA 94591

The Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley and The Town of Danville Present the Veterans Day (weekend) Pop-up Museum SPACE & ROBOTICS

Including: Space Force NASA exhibits Working Droids Star Wars reenactors Models of America's Rockets USS Hornet F-8 Crusader Cockpit Presentation by former Astronaut Local High School robotics team robots And of course the "Huey" will be out front

Entire Family Event – Free Admission Friday November 10, 2023 from 9:00 – 5:00 Saturday November 11, 2023 from 9:00 – 5:00 Sunday November 12, 2023 from 10:00 – 3:00



Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley corner of Hartz and Prospect, Danville







FOR TICKET INFORMATION: VISIT BLACKHAWKCHORUS.COM





SAVE THE DATE



SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 8th (a) 7:30pm | Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church

Saturday, December 9th @ 4pm | Dougherty Valley High School

Sunday, December 10th @ 6pm | Blackhawk Country Club

MARTINEZ VA FLU SHOTS



Get your Flu Vaccine

Escape the weekday traffic!!!!!

Come on Saturday Oct 14, 2023

or

Saturday Oct 28, 2023

From 9 am to 3 pm

Location: Martinez Vaccine Clinic Building AB6

*Accommodations for those with mobility issues will be provided



VETERANSCRISISLINE, NET/SPREADTHE WORD



SUICIDE PREVENTION: VA'S INTEGRATED APPROACH

Enhanced Care Delivery:

Identify and manage Veterans at high risk of suicide.

Access and Referral:

- Follow-up on all calls to the Veterans Crisis Line from East Bay Service Area.
- Expedite medical and mental health treatment for Veterans at high risk of suicide.

Memos, Directives and Admin Items:

- Implement National Office directives regarding suicide prevention practices at a local level.
- In conjunction with other departments in the East Bay Division, assists in developing standard
 operating procedures of best practices in working with Veterans at high risk.

Outreach and Awareness:

- Assist Veterans in dealing with crisis by increasing awareness of the Veterans Crisis Line and its services.
- Reach out to Veterans informing them about the medical and mental health services available.

Training:

- Train all VA staff in all departments on suicide prevention practices and suicide risk assessment.
- Offer training to community mental health providers on suicide prevention, risk assessment and how to refer Veterans to the VA for treatment.

Evaluation and Research:

 Participate in nation-wide research effort; reporting, analyzing and interpreting data related to suicide prevention from NCHCS to our national office in order to develop more effective suicide prevention efforts.



<u>Animal Rescue Foundation (Veterans' Clinic)</u> Wellness Clinic for Veterans' Pets

Free veterinary wellness care is available through our **in-house clinic** on Wednesdays - <u>by appointment</u> <u>only</u>. For information or to schedule an appointment, Veterans may call (925) 296-3125 (option 7) and leave a message – Name, Pet name, type, & your contact information. 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 photo card, discharge paperwork with matching photo identification, or Department of Defense Form 214 with matching photo identification.

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

ARF conducts Wellness Clinics for Veterans' Pet at ARF Headquarters in Walnut Creek on Wednesdays. <u>Appointment Required. NOTE</u>: Currently ARF is <u>not</u> conducting their Mobile Clinic for Veterans' pets at the **Martinez** VA Medical Centers.

ARF is conducting their Mobile Clinic for Veterans' pets at the Livermore Medical Center on the second Wednesday each month.

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

Nominations Open for Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley 2024 Officers & Board of Directors Election at November 2nd Meeting

Nominations are OPEN for 2023 Officers & Directors - as announced at the September Membership Dinner Meeting & mentioned in the INCOMING News. President Steve Burchik appointed Past President Dennis Giacovelli as Chair of the Recruitment & Nomination Committee for 2023. He also appointed Dave Smith to serve as official member of the 2023 committee for the Election of Officers & Directors for the VNVDV. Past President Dennis Giacovelli expressed he is *looking for a few good men...* to serve on the Board in 2024. The President needs a solid team behind him... so all members are encouraged to find out more about these positions from any of these Past Presidents... Jerry Yahiro - Mike Weber or Rich Lambert. The Official Ballots will be distributed at the November 2nd dinner meeting with the names of those nominated to-date. You can nominate yourself - or members can nominate other current members in good standing. Any election questions about the "responsibilities" of each office should be directed to any of these three members of the election committee. **Elections/Voting (turning in your written ballot)** will be held at the General Membership Meeting on **Thursday** - **November 2, 2023**. Ballots may also be returned <u>by mail</u> to the VNVDV official mailing address. All "mailed ballots" must be "completed in full" and received no later than **November 16, 2023** to be counted in the final results. <u>Election results</u> will be announced by the President & Election Committee at the **December meeting** & announced in the final electronic newsletter.

The 2023 Election is for the VNVDV Officers & Board of Directors positions listed:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Director of Public Relations

Director of Membership

Director of Events

Director At Large

Director of Information

Director of Procurement

Director of Speakers

The Election Committee has received nominations for each position and encourages members to find out about each leadership role and become involved in our Board of Directors meetings. All positions are OPEN and we encourage members to run for whatever position they desire by notifying the Nomination Selection Committee by e-mail (please copy Election Committee members). The duties & responsibilities of all "Officers & Directors" positions listed above are outlined in our organizational by-laws. We encourage new members - as well and those now with time available - to attend our October Board of Directors meetings this month on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Danville Veteran's Memorial Building at 1800. This is a good way to find out what each position is responsible for and gives you a better understanding and background of the organization. All members are welcome to attend any Board meeting. If you have questions about the positions speak one of the members of the nomination/election committee. Co-Chairs and Assistants are "*appointed*" by the President - and are needed in most areas. This is a great way to learn about the duties - help in a significant way - and keep our organization strong & active in helping fellow veterans - those serving and our community. **Past President Jerry Yahiro noted...** "*The quality of an organization depends on its current leaders' and the members' willingness to participate in the administration of the organization."* We encourage all members to "strongly consider" becoming <u>more active & involved</u> in "the program of your choice" in our organization.

President Steve Burchik previously indicated there are many enjoyable positions to serve - making a difference in the direction of this amazing organization and he strongly encourages all members to consider joining the 2024 team which he promises will be another fun & exciting year. Our events & activities are so varied... there is truly something for everybody! You can make a difference. Join the team.

<u>5 Year Transition Plan-**VNVDV**</u>

OBJECTIVE: Plan for an orderly transition of VNVDV organization and activities as age and medical issues impact member's abilities to maintain current levels of activity.

TRANSITION PLAN: The general transition plan is to change our legal status from the current IRS 501 (c19) organization to a strictly social organization of Vietnam Veterans.

TIMING OF CHANGE: The transition to a social organization does not have a specific date. It will occur when we no longer have enough volunteers to conduct fundraising activities; manage the administrative activities of the group; and provide the manpower for public events such as Memorial Day gatherings or Parades.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The IRS rules require that a nonprofit organization must transfer all remaining assets to another nonprofit organization at the time of dissolution. No decision is being made at this time, but there is some interest in transferring any remaining funds to the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville. The VNVDV Board that is in office at the time of this change will make the decision on what group(s) receive these funds.

MONTHLY DINNER MEETINGS: Since the monthly Dinner Meetings are the most widely attended activity by VNVDV members the plan is to continue to conduct these meetings as long as members are willing and able to attend. A recent poll of the members indicated that the majority prefer to continue meeting at an evening event. That, however, could change in the near future as more members find it difficult to drive at night and the meeting could move to a lunch time event. As it becomes more difficult to meet the minimum attendance requirements of catered venues, we may move to a conventional restaurant with a group room that has no fixed rental charge.

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS: Our operating funds currently come from two sources: Crab Feed and the Walk of Honor. Both events are at risk in the near future. The Crab Feed requires a great deal of manpower, especially in the solicitation and management of donations. New Volunteers are not stepping up in the numbers that are needed to make this event worthwhile in the coming years. The Walk of Honor depends on the manpower and financial support of Phillips 66 which is a publicly traded corporation. Corporations can change their priorities quickly based on market conditions and their support can shift to some other community project on short notice. Also, we are in need of New Volunteers to make this event successful.

COMMUNITY MANPOWER SUPPORT: We need large numbers of Volunteers for public events such as Parades, Memorial Day events, Veterans Day events etc. The average age of our members is currently 78 ¹/₂ years old. Will you still be willing to carry a flag for one or two miles in two years or four years?

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT: We support various community groups financially, such as Blue Star Moms, Wheelchair Foundation, Sentinels of Freedom, Veterans Service Office, etc. The funds we disperse depend on the funds we raise. As our fundraising ability diminishes, our disbursements will also have to shrink.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: This program is off to a great start and we would like to keep it going as a "Legacy" project. We will consider making a contribution to some type of trust to provide funds for the future depending on the advice of an attorney.

TRANSITION TO YOUNGER VETS: Attempts have been made to attract younger Veterans, but without much success. They find it hard to relate to us and don't see a connection between Iraq and Vietnam. We are working actively to develop a stronger Veterans Group at Diablo Valley College and will continue to do this while we still have some funds to support them.

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





Established 1991

Norm Mahalich

"INCOMING" News - Official Newsletter of the VNVDV