

INCOMING



**JAN. 2011
Edition**

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

HAPPY NEW YEAR

CRAB FEED NEXT BIG EVENT

Membership Dues increases at the Feb 2011 Crab Feed... you can still renew or join for the current rate if you act now!



**"HAPPY NEW YEAR" from
President Jerry Yahiro**

President's January Message

This past year, I have been fortunate to participate in many Welcome Home ceremonies, for returning men and women, serving in our armed forces. These ceremonies are organized by Bryan Weldon, Lafayette Flag Brigade, and occur quite regularly throughout the East Bay Area. The Warriors Watch Riders motorcycle unit, led by "Spike" Schau, escorts these service men/women to their home, after surprising them, most often at a local restaurant or meeting at airport.

Upon arrival at their home, they are met (and surprised) by a cheering crowd of family, friends, locally elected officials, veterans/veterans organizations, Blue Star Moms, military families, support

neighbors and well wishing civilians. As President of the VNVDV, I am there to represent the San Ramon Valley Veterans, (comprised of the VNVDV, San Ramon Valley VFW Post 75, Diablo Valley American Legion Post 246 and the Mount Diablo Marine Corps League Detachment 942), and to present each returnee with a certificate of appreciation, thanking them for their service and welcoming them home.

On Monday evening, Dec. 27, Mike Conklin, of the Sentinels of Freedom, organized the annual Operation Welcome Home for 10 young men of the San Ramon Valley. They are currently serving in the US Army, US Navy and US Marine Corps, and were on leave, home for the Holidays. These young service men - our veterans of tomorrow, were very grateful for the recognition ceremony held in their honor.

This Welcome Home was well attended by the local media, with coverage of the event appearing later on almost all of the Bay Area's 11:00 pm, TV newscasts.

As a result, Leslie Hall, former resident of Livermore, and mother of Marine, LCpl. Nathan Hall, called Mike Conklin the following day, to ask if a Welcome Home could be arranged for her son. She was visiting him in San Francisco, and had seen the news broadcasts. Leslie told Mike that her son never had a Welcome Home.

On Wednesday, December 29, Mike Conklin, Bryan Weldon, along with a contingent of East Bay Veterans, held a Welcome Home, at the Marine's Memorial Club in San Francisco, for Lance Corporal Hall. According to Bryan, "It was a great welcome home/send-off for our marine, USMC LCpl. Nathan Hall.

Continued... on Page Three -

Crab Feed - FEB. 6

Our only fundraiser we conduct is a month away and we do need your support once again to make it a success. We of course want you to attend and purchase your tickets now. We are also in need of items for our silent auction and raffle. If you can donate items personally, or know of businesses who will support our non-profit, charitable event with a gift certificate, merchandise - please contact event chair John Estes at: 925 / 227 - 6000 x1375

"Super Crab Feed Sunday" Fundraiser is Sunday - Feb 6th... make your reservations now - only 150 will be sold.

HELP NOW

Please Support our "Super Crab Feed"



Please Make Your Reservations Now
for our Sunday - FEB. 6th Crab Feed

Contact Treasurer Gary Estrella @ 925 / 820-2557

Tickets are only \$40. each - Sample Donation Letter are in this newsletter.

All Funds Raised at our "Charity Crab Feed" support our 2011 Veteran & Community Service Projects. Please Help.



We are in need of members & friends obtaining "DONATIONS" -
Merchandise & Gift Certificates for our "Super Crab Feed" Silent Auction!



We are BUYING YOUR OLD GOLD this Year! Clean out your drawer & find out what it is worth.

ALL Donations should go to SKIP GEORGE Items for Silent Auction - Raffle - Door Prizes

Skip has arranged to have a "professional gold dealer" on-site during our Sunday Crab Feed. BRING YOUR OLD GOLD JEWELRY THIS YEAR... Get an estimate and sell your broken & old pieces of gold

We need community support & attendance at our major once-a-year event for it to be a real success!

Contact **JOHN ESTES - Crab Feed Chair** for assistance or questions
at: 925/227-6000 x1375 or Carroll.Estes@unisourceworldwide.com

Help is needed NOW in ALL areas for the **February 6th CRAB FEED**. Chair **John Estes** is looking for help from members and supporters in selling advance tickets to our event - only **\$40. each**.

John Estes is also requesting members and supporters to help in obtaining merchant donations or gift certificates for our silent auction and raffle. John will pick them up from you if you cannot get them to Donation Chair **Skip George** - SGeorge895@aol.com. John Estes is organizing all volunteers for the event. We need loan of *three* large flat-screen TVs + a projection TV & receiver + appetizers on event day + loan of crock pots + donations for the bar (beer-water-soda-other) + and lots of set-up & clean-up help. John has a "detailed list" of needs - talk with him about how you can help *before* the event or on the day of the event. Help is needed in all areas. We have a *new* location since the Veteran Building is being remodeled for the next 12 months. Our Crab Feed will be at the Community Center on 420 Front Street next to the Danville Public Library. It is still on the FIRST Sunday in February - the **6th**. Tickets are still \$40. Only 150 tickets will be sold and everyone needs a ticket in advance. No ticket sales at the door. Make your Crab Feed Reservations with Treasurer Gary Estrella at 925/828-2557 or gamastar6@aol.com.

President's January Message

Continued... from Page One -

I'm honored to have had the chance to attend."

I encourage everyone to attend a Welcome Home. For us, the Vietnam veterans, who never got a Welcome Home, this will insure that these men and women, serving today, will never be treated like many of us were treated upon our return.

Our Public Relations Director, John Reese, will usually send out a "FLASH" message informing all in the area of a scheduled Welcome Home. Sometimes these are on short notice, although it's really easy to attend one in your local area. I guarantee that you will "feel good" after attending and honoring those currently serving our Country.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL AND MAY 2011 BRING YOU GOOD FORTUNE AND JOY!



John Reese



It is part of what we are all about - Remember when we came home...



WELCOME HOME OUR RETURNING MILITARY VETERANS!

Join fellow veterans & the community...

along with the Blue Star Moms - MCL - VFW - Legion Warriors Watch Riders - Lafayette Flag Brigade - military groups & their family to Thank them for serving

Tri-Valley Welcome Home held in Dublin



January Dinner we are recognizing and honoring the U. S. Marine Detachment Join Us!

USMC NCO of the Year presentation will be made during our January 6, 2011 Dinner Meeting.

Don't miss it.

**Feb. 6th - 5PM social
6PM (1800) Dinner
\$25. Buffet**

Help thank them for Serving.



Welcome Home LCpl Hall at Marine's Memorial

**Dues Increase
Effective at Crab Feed...**

\$20 to \$40

Now is the time to PAY your 2011 Dues.

YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE ONLY \$20.

If you pay now... this is your last month at the old rate!

YOU CAN PAY AT DINNER - SAVE TIME AND POSTAGE

YOU CAN ALSO PAY BY CREDIT CARD OR CHECK.

2011 DUES ARE NOW DUE

Your Membership is Important to Us!
Every Member Makes a Difference and we
Appreciate Your Support even if you
live a distance away... join us again!

Maybe now is the time to consider a Life Membership!

Speak with Membership Chair Bill Chew or Treasure Gary Estrella for details.



Color Guard Volunteers Needed



VNVDV MEMBERS: WE HAVE A CONTINUAL NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS YEAR-ROUND FOR OUR MILITARY SERVICE COLORS GUARD TEAM FOR VARIOUS EVENTS - PARADES AND OTHER OCCASIONS. IN THE PAST WE LIKE TO MAINTAIN BETWEEN 16 TO 24 NAMES OF MEMBERS ON A VOLUNTEER ROTATING LIST, WILLING TO PARTICIPATE OCCASIONALLY WHEN AVAILABLE. YOUR PERSONAL EFFORTS WOULD HELP OUR PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS PROGRAMS. PLEASE CONTACT FRED GRANADOS OUR COLOR GUARD COORDINATOR IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP OUT IN THIS ON-GOING NEED. FRED CAN BE E-MAILED AT: FLGRANADOS@YAHOO.COM.



Wheelchair Foundation 9th Charity Ball

*Please Support the
Wheelchair Foundation -
The VNVDV is going back
to Viet Nam!*

During the new year
if you have a gift
to purchase for
someone who is
hard to shop for...
or has everything -
a perfect gift - is
giving a
"new WCF wheelchair"
in their name!

When you go
on-line to
donate your
WCF wheelchair,
In addition to
gifting it to
your friend -
Please note to
also give

"credit to the VNVDV"
to fill our container.

Thank You.

Join us and Attend the...

Fijian Breeze

Dan Ashley, ABC7 News Anchor, will Emcee for the
..... 9th Annual Wheelchair Foundation Charity Ball
on **February 19, 2011**

at the Blackhawk Museum, Danville, CA.

The **VNVDV's** favorite party band is playing...

Music and dancing to David Martin's House Party...

loved by everyone last year...

special performance by

Favia 'o Polinisia Production, Inc.

as well as special reserve wine tasting and wine auction.

If you would like to donate a wine item, etc. for the auction
please call **Jeff** at (925) 890-9883.

\$150 - Per Person General Admission

\$250 - Gold Circle & VIP Pre-Party Per Person

(Black Tie Optional)

For Ticket Information Call - 925 / 648-3829

E-Mail: jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org

Or buy online at: <http://www.wineforwheels.org/eventdetails.php?id=52>

Can't go but want to Donate

Go To: https://www.wineforwheels.org/memberpages/add_donation.php

Non profit ID #94-3353881

The "Wine for Wheels" has an event posted on-line for the VNVDV
Scheduled for November 8, 2011 to support our trip to VietNam helping us
fill our next container of wheelchairs. Take a look at the WCF site & the
"Wine for Wheels" website to see the VNVDV donation link... *try it!*

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley are Proud Supporters of the
Wheelchair Foundation & "Wine for Wheels"

"Sentinels of Freedom" Military "Welcome Home"

This year's Annual Tri-Valley Holiday Sentinel of Freedom Military "WELCOME HOME" Program hosted by the City of Dublin at the Dublin Library Community Room was a great success. Covered heavily by the local media it ran on most all the major stations at the 10:00 and 11:00 news, and was in the local papers and the on-line publications. The Town of Danville honored six residents home for the holidays. Jerry Yahiro recognized each with a certificate from all the major VSO in the San Ramon Valley area. This is an annual holiday **Welcome Home** event conducted in the later part of December in the Diablo Valley to recognize and honor those who are serving. City of San Ramon - Dublin - Town of Danville and the unincorporated areas hosted this event. This was a great opportunity for those who are serving to let them know the community is behind them 100%. Most other **Welcome Homes** are "Short Notice" - if you are available... attend - *Honor them!*

Tri-Valley Military Welcome Home



Thank You
for Serving



Welcome Home

Thank You for attending our "Appreciation Dinner"

THANK YOU to all of our members, friends, supporters, sponsors and guests who once again **joined us** and attended our festive annual December **Holiday Appreciation Dinner**. *Crow Canyon Country Club* was decorated for the holidays and dinner was served. We had many members attend that we only see once a year and thank them for coming the distance to be with their fellow veterans. It was a special night of many guests including both our incoming and outgoing *Contra Costa County Sheriff* who joined us for dinner. Many thanks to both for attending. After presenting the *San Ramon Valley Holiday Chorus* with a donation towards their School's music fund, President Yahiro told them - "the chorus had been performing at our annual dinner for the past twenty years" - and said, "This was before you were born... longer than you have been alive!" I'm surprising most of the students! As our organization approaches the twenty-year anniversary later this month and all that we have accomplished - WOW... *that is a long time Jerry!*

We did celebrate and give thanks - as our organization demonstrated once again... we "*Continued to Serve*" our fellow veterans in need, our community and those who are proudly serving in uniform today. At the dinner, Jerry also publically recognized all of the VNVDV Officers and 2010 Board Members for their service the year and thanked them for volunteering and serving. We were also honored to have many of our out-of-town members present especially - Life Member Gary Villalba who came up from Santa Barbara for our dinner.

Of course one of the evenings highlights is appreciation of the members and recognizing them for all they did in 2010 to continue to improve the VNVDV and help maintain our active role in the community serving veterans. We also thank those who were not able to attend the annual dinner, and also contributed in other ways to the organization during the year. Everyone plays a role and without the members it would not get done. *Remember... You make a difference.* Thank you.

The presentation of "**Veteran of the Year**" went to **Budd Primrose**, WW II Airborne Veteran for his active role in our many parades throughout the year and monthly participation in our activities. It was clear Budd put more of himself into the VNVDV this year than others that might at half-his-age! Bravo-Zulu to **Budd Primrose Veteran of the Year**.

The recognition for "**Volunteer of the Year**" went to **John Reese**, Director of Public Relations. This award and presentation definitely caught John by surprise that evening. Busy taking photos, He said, "he did not think he was *eligible* for the award... because he was already recognized in the middle of the year for his continuing volunteer efforts. Congratulations again to our **Volunteer of the Year... John Reese**.

The highest award and honor given by the VNVDV to "anyone who serves our veterans" is the perpetual recognition and honor of receiving the "**Gary Villalba Veteran Service Award.**" **This honor was established** at Gary's retirement dinner in Lafayette and has been awarded three times. This year the fourth award of this high honor went to **Denver Mills, Team Leader at the Concord Vet Center** for his service to all veterans - his leadership and dedication establishing the East Bay Stand Down - developing the *Concord Vet Center* into the premier veteran service center office in CA - and his dedicated twenty-five years of service to our veterans. Gary presented the award personally to **Denver Mills**, recipient of the **Gary Villalba Veteran Service Award** for 2010. Denver received his award and commented that "he was very honored to receive this and actually wondered if he ever would"... and "will make room for this one - proudly in his office." Congratulations Denver. This perpetual plaque is in the custody of Phil Munley our VSO... proudly handing in the *Contra Costa County Veteran's Service Office*. Gary also has the same award at his home with the recipients names. Jerry Yahiro summed it up... "It was a great evening for everyone!" He thanked everyone for their support during the year and looks forward to 2011.



Annual VNVDV "Operation Santa" Report

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS - from the North Pole

On Saturday, December 11, 2010, more than 80 families and 200 children, participated in **Operation Santa Claus**. The event was held to thank serving members of our Armed Forces for their service and sacrifices. Members of the US Coast Guard, US Army Reserve, California National Guardsmen/women, veterans and Gold Star Families attended the event, held in 2 sessions, at the **First Christian Church, Concord**. Once again, **Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery**, Martinez, CA, was the primary sponsor in this year's "**Operation Santa**". The Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley (VNVDV), the Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation (DVVF) and the Blue Star Moms, Chapters **20**, Concord and Chapter **101**, Danville, helped plan and execute this fun filled, special day, serving as Santa's elves.

The day's festivities included a visit with Santa, with a gift for each family and child, electronic video games, build a bear workshop, face painting, Solomo the clown (in real life a US Coast Guardsman), and the Bubble Man. **Englund's Café & Catering** of Concord provided the delicious Holiday lunch and treats. To enhance the holiday spirit even further, an artificial ice skating rink was set up, complete with artificial snow, blowing over the rink. Even though the day was sunny and warm, seeing kids ice skating, seemed to give a sense of a winter's day at the nearby pond...

Even though the day was dedicated to the invited guests, Santa's helpers seemed to enjoy themselves even more. While the grateful families thanked everyone, the volunteers held back their emotions, knowing that they had made the Holidays an enjoyable one for many who otherwise might not have the opportunity.

The 2010's event was the third **Operation Santa Claus**, held to honor those who serve/served our Country. Thank you, once again, **Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery** for enabling us to honor them. Thanks also go to the members and staff of the **First Christian Church, Concord**, for sharing their facilities. Thank you also to all the volunteers that made **2010 Operation Santa Claus** a memorable one for many families.

Jerry Yahiro



THANK YOU - TESORO GOLDEN EAGLE REFINERY



Some of the volunteers who hosted **Operation Santa Claus** - includes members of Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery, First Christian Church, Concord Blue Star Moms - Chapter 20 and East Bay Blue Star Moms - Chapter 101 - and the Viet-Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley.

Yes - that is our President, - Jerry Yahiro in the front row.

Thanks to our members & guests for bringing toys to our annual holiday dinner

Honoring Our Valley Veterans: "Heroes in Defense of Freedom"

Museum of the San Ramon Valley Exhibit

Don't forget the opening of the outstanding museum exhibit, "**Honoring Valley Veterans - Heroes in Defense of Freedom**" at the **Museum of the San Ramon Valley** from **January 18 through March 5, 2011** at the **Railroad Depot in Danville**. There are to be displays focusing on **WW I, WW II, Korea, VietNam and the Persian Gulf wars**. We would like to have a variety of special collections, awards and medals of local veterans, models of ships, planes and military vehicles & more. **This is a special broadcast to ALL VETERANS in the East Bay - especially the Diablo Valley - Tri-Valley - San Ramon Valley areas to assist the Museum of the San Ramon Valley with this very special exhibit.** if military veterans in the area do have specific items to contribute to the exhibit. If you can help or know someone who can help on this project - please contact **Dr. Bob Sada, DDS (Ret) at (925) 820-4882** or **Linda Schardt at the new Veteran' Memorial Building Remodeling / Campaign Office at (925) 362-9806**. There will be several programs in conjunction with the exhibit and we will be getting publicity out in an effort to ensure good attendance. The Museum is planning on having a pre-exhibit promotions—watch for details in the local newspapers. They hope to have military vehicle and other exhibits at additional "Welcome Home" programs events during the period of the museum exhibit. Grand Opening day for the museum exhibit will be **January 22 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm..** John Place will have a sampling of his military vehicles on display during the opening. We encourage all veterans to take part in this special museum exhibit and if possible provide materials to augment the displays. Remember - the *new* Veteran's Memorial Building is for those who have served and those who are serving now and will serve in the future. Make a pledge for the future.

Leave a Legacy! Remember to participate in this veteran museum exhibit.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 6 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon.... First Meeting of 2011 - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- JAN 18 - MAR 5... in Danville... Museum of the San Ramon Valley - Honoring our Valley Veterans - Heroes in Defense of Freedom Exhibit
- JAN 20 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- JAN 22 - Saturday @ 1800 in Danville... VFW Crab Feed at the Danville Community Center—420 Front Street - Contact Nathan Greene
- FEB 3 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon.... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Open to all - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- FEB 6 - Sunday @ 1300 in Danville... Annual Charity Crab Feed Fundraiser - Community Center - Front Street - Next to Library
- FEB 11 - Friday @ 1800 in San Francisco... Marine's Memorial Valentine's Sweetheart Dinner and Dance - benefiting the Gold Star Parents
- FEB 17 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAR 3 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon.... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAR 17 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- APR 2, 2011 Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV "**20th ANNIVERSARY**" **DINNER MEETING** @ Crow Canyon Country Club
- MAY 21 2011 - Saturday @ 0900 in Crockett... Annual "WALK OF HONOR" presented by ConocoPhillips in Rodeo - be a Sponsor
- MAY 30 2011 - Monday @ 1000 in Diablo Valley... Memorial Day - Oakhill Park - Danville... *the annual remembrance for the east bay*

Note: Many other meetings - events - crab feeds by fellow veteran organizations and of course welcome home events we encourage you to attend. Watch for more announcements & only wish we had time and space to list everyone's event and program.

Our Calendar is not a complete listing of all our friends and supporting organizations. Please check their websites also to see postings of their latest calendar events. Thanks.

**BLUE
STAR
MOMS -**

Support Our Blue Star Moms

You can support the Blue Star Moms with a donation...

VietNam Veteran of Diablo Valley - Proud Supporters of the Blue Star Moms

Congratulations to Ryan & Mandy!

Sentinel & Friend RYAN SYKES gets Married.



Navy Special Operator **Ryan Sykes** and **Mandy Bennett** were Married in The **Sentinels** office Dec. 30th 2010. *They have a Baby on board - for July, and Ryan will start at DVC Jan 22.*

Our good friend and regular attendee at VNVDV meetings - Naval "Spec War" Special Operator **Ryan Sykes** "snuck-up on us"... **SEAL like...** and got married! Congratulations

**Interested in Being More Active?
Involvement in Community Service?
Investigate One of our many Committees
Find Out More at our "Business Meeting"**

YOU can make a difference! Your involvement - personal activity and participation makes it all work. We thank those who are active and enjoy the many programs - projects & events our organizations participates in throughout the Diablo Valley. We cannot do it alone and thank the many wonderful organizations who partner and work with us in most all of our events. The teamwork and joint effort benefits us all and those we serve in our great community. Together we have make efforts very *successful!* New membership is encouraged. Join us! If you are already a member - join a committee of interest and get involved - you will enjoy it! *You'll be glad you did - it could change your life!*

**Learn More about our organization
Attend a Board of Directors Meeting
Crow Canyon Country Club**

3rd Thursday of the Month

If you'd like to buy a gift for Ryan and Mandy, a couple things to keep in mind, one is that they have a two bedroom apartment with very little storage and they also have a baby on the way. Some gift cards to various stores can be very beneficial as they can then purchase what they'd like, when they need it. Dinner out for the two of them is also great.

YEAR-ROUND DISCOUNTS FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY

HOME DEPOT STORES offer a 10% Discount to ALL Veterans EVERYDAY if you let them know you are a veteran when you check-out. Your VA Health Benefit Card comes in handy again or other veteran ID card. A good reason to see our County VSO.



VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS for 2011

President **JERRY YAHIRO** thanks the membership for their support and looks forward to serving... In 2011.

2011 OFFICERS

2011 President: **JERRY YAHIRO**
Vice-President - 2011 **MIKE SLATTENGREN**
Treasurer - 2011: **GARY ESTRELLA**
Secretary - 2006: **CLIFF DE CUIR**

2011 DIRECTORS

Director-at-Large: **Dennis Giacovelli**
Director of Public Relations: **John Reese**
Director of Procurement: **Gene Ghio**
Director of Membership: **Bill Chew**
Director of Information: Currently OPEN
Director of Speakers: **Bill Green**
Director of Events: **Ray LaRochelle**



Director of Information

Are YOU Interested in Joining the "Incoming" Newsletter Team?

Do you have computer skills... and some time each month?

The position of "Information Director" is vacant and the Board is looking for interested members.

The President has an opportunity to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors with an interested VNVDV member who has computer skills or is willing to learn and has the desire to learn more about our group. We do have the position of "Director of Information" - which is responsible for gathering information on various events going on in our group during our Board Meetings and obtaining regular internet communications and responding if required. Monthly the *Information Director* puts together our organization's monthly newsletter which is sent to all membership *internally*. The style has changed every time the editor has changed. A simple Word format can be used or templates from on-line. The counterpart to this position is the Public Relations Director who is responsible for all *external* communications and both positions work closely with the President and other Board Members. Computer knowledge is necessary - although, software is provided and training or assistance / coaching is available as required, or requested. Interested in joining the team. Contact President Jerry Yahiro for a discussion about what is involved in the position and attend one of our Board Meetings on the 3rd Thursday at Crow Canyon Country Club at 1800 to find out more. It is actually a great deal of fun and you meet great people - join us! You will be glad you did! Please let others know in our group who may have the skills for this position.

Thanks to our Web Mistress "Chelle" for all her work for the VNVDV!



Support Your Local Veterans



By Supporting our new Veteran's Building



Honoring Our Veterans who are serving NOW!



**MAKE A PLEDGE TO
LEAVE A LEGACY
FOR THE FUTURE.
SUPPORT THE
NEW VETERAN'S
MEMORIAL BUILDING.**



The funding campaign for the Veterans building renovation continues. For more information or to make a pledge, see Linda at our meetings or at the Veterans Memorial Building office in Danville - Phone 925 / 362-9806 or log on to www.srvVeteransHall.org.



Your reason for making a pledge & supporting the New Veteran's Memorial Building is really simple!



**Please renew your ads in the Incoming for 2011 -
Your Support is appreciated by our Members & Readers!**



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Thanks from the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley for your Support!

Museum of the San Ramon Valley Exhibit



Museum of the San Ramon Valley

Presents

Honoring Valley Veterans ★Heroes in Defense of Freedom★

January 18 – March 5, 2011

Grand Opening

Saturday, January 22, 2011
10:00am – 2:00pm



Uniforms with gear, military memorabilia and artifacts

** Kids' Korner **

Saturday Programs at 11:00am

January 29: Paula Boswell, Author, No Ordinary Life
February 5: Joe Callaway, Author, Mekong First Light
February 12: Aaron Mattia, Concord Vet Center
February 19: Veterans Nate Greene and Doug Aitken

Whistle Stop Presentation at Village Theater

February 2, 7:00pm

- ★ Mr. Chuck Kohler, Pearl Harbor Survivor
- ★ Mr. Michael Stella, Update of the Veteran Hall Construction Project



Museum Hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 1 – 4pm
Saturday: 10 – 1pm

Underwritten by:



205 Railroad Ave
PO Box 39
Danville, CA 94526
(925) 837-3750
museumsrv.org

ConocoPhillips

Your Organization or Group
Should Sponsor a Team of Walkers
in the 2011 Walk of Honor . . .



Gold Sponsor \$1000

15 complimentary participant packages
Company Logo on promotional materials



Silver Sponsor \$500

10 complimentary participant packages
Name on promotional materials



Bronze Sponsor \$250

5 complimentary participant packages
Name on promotional materials



Join Us on MAY 21st

Honoring the Men and Women
who Served Our Nation



Sponsorship Opportunities

ConocoPhillips SFR Rodeo Refinery and Carbon Plant invites you to partner with us and become a corporate sponsor of

Be a part of a very special local community event in West Contra Costa and join us in the May 21st "Walk of Honor" for our Veterans.

Following the "Walk" across the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge, all registered participants are invited to gather together for a barbeque luncheon and celebration. Many local veteran service organizations will be on hand providing information regarding their services. There will also be a Huey helicopter for you to view and, other military artifacts on display.

We hope you will join with us in support of the men and women who have given so much to protect the freedom we all enjoy.

*Walk "In Honor" of a Veteran
Your grandfather - brother - sister -
father - son - daughter or a friend.*

2011 "Walk of Honor"
Plan NOW to be an
"Individual"
WALK of HONOR
Walker!

Phone: 510-245-5130
Fax: 510-245-4617

Email:
aimee.lohr@conocophillips.com

Sponsorship Includes -
"Participant - Walker
Team Packages"

ConocoPhillips
"WALK of HONOR"
SAT. MAY 21st - 8AM
Special Veteran Benefit
Information Available
Before - During - After!

Custom Ball Caps Available!

The "Walk of Honor" benefits the Crockett Community Foundation enhancement of the Veteran's Memorial Building & aids the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley help fellow veterans in the East Bay.

YOUR COMPANY CAN BE A SPONSOR

Contact "ConocoPhillips" NOW to be a "Walk of Honor" Sponsor this coming May.

Be a Sponsor of the 2011 Walk of Honor

New 2011 VA Calendar is available at Martinez

Before you register with the VA

Get help & advise:

Go see our County

Veteran Service Office

FIRST - Learn about your

VA Benefits - then go to

the VA and Register.



Flu Shots available
at the Martinez VA



Welcome Home MSgt Ford Jacobs

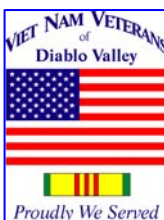
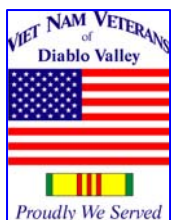


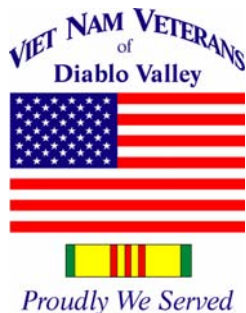
**The following pages contain
two "sample donation request letters"
members can use to obtain
donations for
our Crab Feed Silent Auction & Raffle.**

Also included is a
listing of some of our projects to
attach to your donation letter
if necessary.

Or use it for your own knowledge.

Can be forwarded in MS Word if requested.





January 2011

Dear Business Owner / Manager -

The **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley** (VNVDV) proudly announces their annual fund-raiser, and respectfully requests your support for this event. On **Sunday, February 6, 2011**, we will hold our annual Crab Feed, at the Community Center Building, in Danville, CA.

The VNVDV are an independent, “grass-roots”, *non-profit, tax-exempt*, 501(c)(19), veteran’s organization, comprised primarily of Viet Nam veterans. We **“proudly continue to serve”** our community, through a variety of programs and events.

The money raised through this Crab Feed, supports our various veterans, serving military and community-related events and programs, throughout the year. These include:

- The East Bay Stand Down
- Memorial Day Program at Oak Hill Park
- Danville’s 4th of July Parade
- Danville Veteran’s Day Program
- The VNVDV School Speaker’s Bureau
- Operation Welcome Home
- New Veteran’s Memorial Building Program
- The Blue Star Moms
- The Sentinels of Freedom
- Lafayette Flag Brigade
- All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park
- The Wheelchair Foundation
- Operation Santa Claus
- The Holiday Toy Drive

We respectfully request your business support for this event, through a discount on goods purchased for this event, “monetary sponsorship”, ticket purchase, donated items, or gift cards /certificates for your goods and services. Your donated items will be used in our Silent Auction or Raffle held during the Crab Feed, to raise the necessary funds to continue these and many other worthwhile projects for our community.

For more information on the VNVDV, its programs, events, membership, or how you can contribute to the Crab Feed, visit our website or e-mail us at the address below.

We look forward to you joining us in support of the Crab Feed and are grateful for your generosity to our veterans, serving military, and community programs. Thank you.

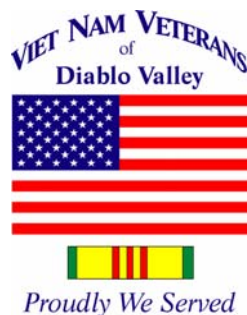
Sincerely,

Jerry Yahiro

President

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Telephone: 925 / 743-8850



January 2011

Dear Business Owner / Manager:

The **VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley** is a non-profit organization comprised mostly of combat veterans who proudly served our nation... and continue to serve our community providing a variety of programs to veterans - those less fortunate - school children and worthy local community projects. Your donation makes a difference... and our community is a better place due to your efforts - allowing us to assist others. We would appreciate your support for our February 6th Charity Fundraiser in Danville at the Community Center on Front Street, while our new Veterans Memorial Building is under construction (scheduled for completion in late 2011).

What we are looking for in the way of support is a **donation** from your business? This could be in the form of Gift Certificates - Gift Cards - Award Letters for Diners, Tickets for Events, Golf Foursomes, Merchandise, Overnight Accommodations, Air Travel, Wine Set, Sports or Military memorabilia, a selection of your products, a "Gift Basket" assembled by your employees - any other unique or different items which you normally could not just go out and purchase. All donated items will be used in our *silent auction* to raise necessary funds to support the many community-based programs the **VNVDV** sponsors.

What is in it for you and your business -besides feeling good about helping others? Your charitable donation will be recognized during the event and we request you provide us with business cards or brochures regarding your business we would display next to your donation to advertise & promote your business or services. We announce sponsors by name at the event and we published all donations received prior to printing deadline in our event program. We publish a listing of all sponsors and donors in our monthly newsletter and advertise all on our website: www.VNVDV.com for the entire year - again promoting your firm. Since your donation is to a **501(c) non-profit organization**, your business will also receive written confirmation of your **charitable donation for tax purposes**. Please "state the value" of your donation on the back of one of your business cards and attach / include with your donation which will also provide us with your business information & mailing address. The **VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley** respectfully request you as a business leader in our community... to help us... allowing us to help others - with a donation from your business.

How do we use your donations? This is important to share with you how the funds raised from your donation will help in supporting our broad community service... assisting veterans and military in need and our community projects. In addition - our **Speaker's Bureau** has currently reached over 25,000 students in local schools and is recognized by our State Board of Education. We are the originators & first sponsors of the **East Bay Stand Down** program for homeless veterans - we originated and designed the **All Wars Memorial** in Oakhill Park - we sponsor & conduct the *Town of Danville's* public **Memorial Day** program annually - and are one of the original supporters & mentors for the "**Sentinels of Freedom**" program helping the severely-wounded warriors currently returning to our community and work closely with the **Blue Star Moms** & other organizations on "Welcome Home" programs for those serving today - and we volunteer at many **Wheelchair Foundation** events. These are just a few examples of how we use our funds... and we have included a partial list outlining these and other 2010 programs this past years donations helped support.

Who and what is the **VNVDV**? We are independent, grass-roots, local, non-profit; tax-exempt veteran's organization - primarily VietNam "*combat veterans*"... We proudly served our nation - and "*continue to serve proudly*" in our community. We are all volunteers and a bay area "*grassroots*" - veteran's organization and not affiliated with any *national veteran's organization*. We receive no other funding - other than annual membership dues and funds from this annual fundraiser... so we are totally depend on local business and community support! We are a hard working - fun - social & civic minded group - using our funds wisely... and we are proud to say we are one of the most active veteran's organizations in the East Bay! We are always looking for other VietNam veterans to "join us" as members. Our success is primarily due to businesses - such as yours - that have strongly supporting our efforts and our energetic members volunteering. We respectfully request your help for our **Feb 2011** event - allowing us to continue our volunteer efforts.

Gift certificates and award letter may be sent to our official mailing address listed below on our letterhead, or if donating a gift basket or merchandise - one of our members can pick-up your donation at any time. Remember... we cannot continue our success in 2011 with programs and projects without the business community's help! If you require additional information - visit our website or e-mail us at the address below. We look forward to your generous support for our upcoming **Feb.6th VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley** charity fundraiser.

Sincerely...

C. John Estes - Past President 2008 - 2009

Crab Feed Fundraiser Committee Chair

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

P. O. BOX 2079 - DANVILLE, CA 94526 - 2079 - VOICE MAIL: 925 / **355 - 8051** - E-MAIL: VNVDV1@gmail.com - WEBSITE: www.VNVDV.com

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley is a non-profit veterans organization / corporation (EIN 68-0266369) exempt from federal (IRC 501c) and state (RTC 23701w) income tax



Your Support of our 2011 Charity Fundraiser – allows the VNVDV to continue to support these - and many other worthwhile projects...

A partial listing of VNVDV's non-profit programs includes:

- **Operation Welcome Home** – Sponsor & support ongoing welcome & recognition programs for current, active-duty, military personnel. Work with local city governments - *Blue Star Moms* and others to provide recognition & *proper welcome home* to recognize their honorable military service. Recipient receives certificate of appreciation – proclamations & flag.
- **Memorial Day** – Sponsor & organizer of large observance & ceremonies at Oak Hill Park, in Danville. Honoring our nation's fallen military veterans annually with a patriotic memorial program, at the beautiful "*All Wars Memorial*."
- **Fourth of July Parade** - Support and participation in *Danville's Patriotic Family Parade* – VNVDV members lead off the parade with the USMC and 191st Army Band & *distribute 12,000 American Flags* annually to all the children along entire parade route; coordinate & provide lunch for the military color guard – military band & JROTC in all our annual parades.
- **Sentinels of Freedom Program** – Support a special mentoring & scholarship program for *severely wounded* (amputee *injuries*) military personnel after medical rehabilitation at *Walter Reed Medical Center* & other military medical centers. Assist in recognition for their military service & support. The scholarship which includes: housing, special-adapted vehicles, employment, education & mentoring program for selected military recipients relocating in the *East Bay Tri-Valley*.
- **All Wars Memorial** – VNVDV members developed the concept & original design for the *All Wars Memorial*, and provided funding for the *primary bronze sculpture* for the East Bay's *first major memorial honoring all military* from all wars & conflicts, and their families at Oak Hill Park, in Danville. AWM Pavers are still available to honor veterans & family members.
- **School Speaker's Bureau** – Volunteer VNVDV members speak educating youth on historical topics - provide materials, & presents information currently to over **25,000** East Bay school children – from elementary, junior & high school, through college. Only veterans group recognized by: *California Department of Education* for - *outstanding volunteer achievement*..
- **East Bay Stand Down** – *Original Sponsor* of four-day *homeless veteran* program – recently held in AUG 2010 at *Alameda County Fair Grounds*, helping over 400 *hundred* of Bay Area *homeless veterans* obtain basic, fundamental services at one central location: food, showers, clothing, haircuts, VA medical care, legal aid, counseling, housing, community services, jobs & support in a safe, non-threatening environment. *Providing a "hand-up-not a hand out."*
- **Wheelchair Foundation** – Sponsored & delivered 2 containers (560) of new wheelchairs in late 2006 for disabled children in VietNam. VNVDV members are currently raising funds to fill containers for another distribution by the VNVDV in late 2011.
- **Blue Star Moms** – Support & conduct events throughout the East Bay which assist *current active-duty* military personnel. VNVDV participates in and supports *Blue Star Moms* events, collections & drives to support and welcome our U.S. troops.
- **Parades** – VNVDV members participated in 4 patriotic community parade with our military service colors – vehicle & flags.
- **Veteran's Day** – Co-sponsors & participants in annual Veteran's Day programs – ceremonies & parades *throughout* the Diablo Valley & the greater Bay Area to promote VietNam Veterans *honorable* military service.
- **Holiday Food and Gift Drive** – Donations collected & given by members for needy Bay Area veterans, military and their families. Support & collect for the USMC's "**Toys for Tots**" Foundation annual toy drive & *many other events*
- **Operation Santa** – Provide a "special Christmas Party" for Military Command-selected personnel & deployed families – during the holidays including dinner, toys, games, entertainment, music, gifts, a visit from Santa, and much more. 3rd year.

Thank You in advance for supporting our 2011 Crab Feed Fundraiser with your donations. We appreciate your ongoing support at our once a year charity fundraiser event... supporting many worthwhile community projects.

The Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley - say... Thank You

P. O. BOX 2079 - DANVILLE, CA 94526 - 2079 - VOICE MAIL: 925 / 355 – 8051 - E-MAIL: VNVDV1@gmail.com - WEBSITE : www.VNVDV.com

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Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Post Office Box 2079
Danville, CA 94526 - 2079
PH: 925 / 355 - 8051
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JANUARY 2011
Electronic Edition



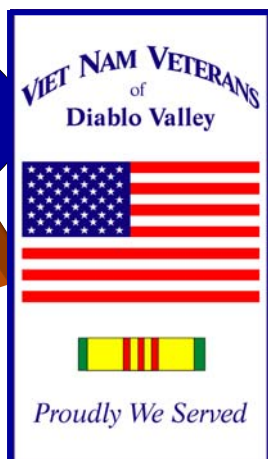
To:

VNVDV Members & VIPs

VIET NAM VETERANS - SERVED WITH PRIDE... and VNVDV IS STILL SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE & HONOR

WE ARE ON THE WEB

www.vnvdv.com



The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley was established in 1991 as a non-profit Veterans organization to promote and enhance the image of the VietNam Veteran through Community Service and Support of fellow Veterans.

The VNVDV meets each month on the **1st Thursday** of every month in the Diablo Valley @ **Crow Canyon Country Club**. Our Board of Directors Meetings are held on the **3rd Thursday** of each month also at Crow Canyon country Club. To find out more about some of our programs we support... visit our website at www.VNVDV.com. *All veterans are welcome to attend our membership meetings.* We are 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... and of our continued contributions to fellow veterans and our community.* *Our dinner meetings consist of social - dinner and a guest speaker of interest to veterans and military. These are OPEN meetings. Join us.*

OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!



VIET NAM VETERANS
of
Diablo Valley



Proudly We Served

HOLIDAY DINNER & OPEN SOCIAL MEETING

THURSDAY - January 8th

At CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon

Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815

Featuring "Chef's Special Buffet Dinner" - \$25.

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

"Special YEAR-END Edition of INCOMING"