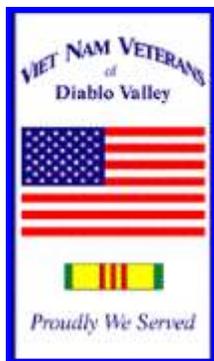


INCOMING NEWS



MAY 2019

REGISTER www.SFRWalkofHonor.com
Memorial Day - Monday May 27 - Oak Hill Park - Danville
VNVDV July meeting will be July 11th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VNVDV JULY MEETING JULY 11TH

President's Message May 2019

Well April has come and gone. May has a lot of stuff to keep us busy. We start off with the **Walk of Honor on May 18th**. There shouldn't be any need to explain the importance of this event to any of us Vietnam Veterans. If you have not purchased your ticket yet, I am sure our Incoming Newsletter has all the ways for you to get your ticket, which includes a colorful T-Shirt. John Reese has worked very hard in getting exhibitors and sponsors. ***Even if you don't care to walk across the Bridge, you can still come and enjoy the lunch and program.***

Sunday May 19th is the Swearing In at the Memorial Building for those entering the service or the Military Academies from our community, hosted by American Legion and VFW. We have supported this event in the past and it has always been one to remember. Let's show these young people our gratitude and support for their decision to answer the call to duty. Attendance should be a no brainer. *Remember - we distribute flags on July 4th meet July 11th*

President's Message (Continued on Page Two)

Honor Veterans
 Walk in their Honor
 at the *Phillips 66*
"WALK of HONOR"
 SAT - May 18, 2019
 Guest Speaker
Mickey Ganitch
 Pearl Harbor Survivor



UPCOMING EVENTS:



Danville
 4th Of
 July
 Parade

March with VNVDV to distribute Flags to the kids enjoying this event

Check with TJ if you need a White VNVDV Hat and White VNVDV Short Sleeve Shirt

*Community
 Event*

***A Reminder... The
 East Bay's Largest***

MEMORIAL DAY
 REMEMBER-
 ANCE

Monday - MAY 27
 ALL WARS
 MEMORIAL
 Oak Hill Park
 3005 Stone Valley
 Road
*(Next to Monte
 Vista High School)
 in the Town of
 Danville*
 FREE & OPEN
 to the PUBLIC -
 A FAMILY
 EVENT

MAY SPEAKER BART GILBERT



will discuss his Vietnam tour with the 1st Infantry Division. Bart's Army career started in the enlisted ranks till as a SFC Bart received a Commission. Bart served as a Captain with the 1st ID and continued till he reached the rank of Brigadier General and was a member of the Army Chief of Staff at the Pentagon

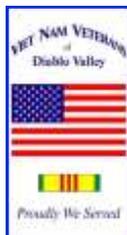


A couple of Saturdays ago I attended a public **WELCOME HOME** for a soldier returning from his active duty tour. The **SWEARING IN** ceremony is the beginning of a soldier's career and a Welcome Home is the bookend to the adventure of serving one's country. As all of us know the Vietnam Veteran didn't experience what we are doing for our veterans today – the reason many us participate in these events.

On Monday, May 27th, we have our annual **MEMORIAL DAY** remembrance. Plans are well under way and the event will feature two speakers... **David Behring of the Wheelchair Foundation and Captain Kris Conklin, U.S. Army Ranger & Gulf War Veteran.** Program starts at 10:00 with music. **Members Only Family BBQ** & fallen remembrance - in the parking lot "after" the program.

In conclusion I would be remiss in not honoring a fallen hero of WWII. U.S. Army Air Corps Lieutenant Dick Cole's passing on Tuesday, April 9th, raised barely a ripple of interest. But Lt. Cole was a genuine American hero. Today's youth display scant knowledge, interest or patience with the history of the blood that has been shed to raise them to their current sheltered existence, of which they do much complaining. It is men and women of such courage and dedication to freedom that has assured them that privilege. Lt. Cole was the last surviving member of an elite group of 80 Airmen under the command of Colonel James Doolittle who, in one of our country's darkest hours, gave it hope that by courage and dedication, America and our allies would prevail against the axis forces. This small band struck the first American offensive blow of the war against Japan, shocking that nation and its leaders to know that America had just begun to fight. Our nation needs more men like Lt. Cole. We thank you for your service and I know my fellow Vietnam Vets will not forget you.

Gary Estrella
President
PH: 925 / 962-9552
E: gamastar6@aol.com



WALK of HONOR
for our Veterans Sponsored by
PHILLIPS 66
Armed Forces Day Saturday
May 18th
Bridge Walk / BBQ & more in
Crockett, CA
Crockett Community Center
650 Pomona - Crockett 8-1PM



BBQ



Bridge Walk

REGISTER FORM FOR WALK OF HONOR



Rodeo Refinery and
Carbon Plant



Crockett
Community
Services
District



Sign up today for the 11th Annual Walk of Honor event on Saturday, May 18, 2019!

Enjoy a memorable leisurely walk across the "Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge" and share a delicious BBQ lunch at the Crockett Community Center – 850 Pomona St., Crockett. Invite your family, friends and neighbors; and enjoy yourself while honoring the service of loved ones who honored us by their service to our country.

Check-in 8:30 am - 9:30 am at the Crockett Community Center/ Walk will begin at 10:00 am

Tear along dotted line, keep top portion for your records

Registration Form

Early Registration \$25.00, after May 1, 2019 Registration is \$30 (T-shirt and BBQ included)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address City, State, Zip

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Walking in honor of: _____

Veterans Name(s)

T-Shirt Size: S / M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL (Please circle one)

Please make checks payable to: SFR Community Fund, (Tax ID#45-2483804). Mail registration form along with check to:

Phillips 66, Attn: Aimee Henry, 1380 San Pablo Avenue, Rodeo, CA 94572

Register online at www.SFRWalkofHonor.com

Participant Waiver

Participation waiver must be filled out completely. Application deadline is May 14, 2019.

I, _____, do hereby agree that I will indemnify and hold harmless Phillips 66, its subsidiaries and affiliates, successors, assigns, agents, representatives, directors, officers, and employees, from any and all liability or claims of injury of whatsoever nature which may be incurred by me as a result of my voluntary participation in the Walk of Honor for our Veterans event sponsored by Phillips 66 on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

I further represent and certify to Phillips 66, its officers, employees, agents and assigns that I am physically able to do the various things enumerated above without limitation, and that I have no disabilities which might prevent me from doing the same.

All banners, flags, or apparel worn or carried in the WALK are subject to the approval of the Walk of Honor Committee. Non-compliance with this policy will subject offenders to eviction from the WALK or banquet and forfeiture of their application fee.

I certify that either I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, or that my parent or court-appointed guardian has full knowledge of my participation in this event and has given me permission to participate, as evidenced by his/her signature below.

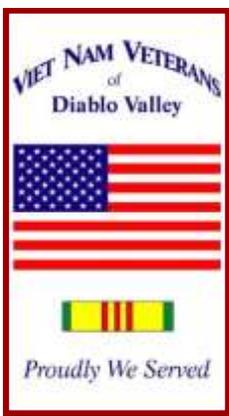
PARTICIPANT (if not age 18 or older, parent/guardian must co-sign below.)

PARENT/GUARDIAN (Undersigned has read the above and understands this waiver.)

Date

For additional information, please contact Aimee Henry at 510.245.5130 or Adrienne Ursino at 510.245.4400
Thank you for your support!

**COMPLETE WITH CHECK & MAIL TO PHILLIPS 66
or TURN FORM & PAYMENT OVER TO TREASURER
"REGISTER" ~ EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND**



Memorial Day Remembrance

Mon. May 27th

Oak Hill Park in Danville

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley are working with the All Wars Memorial Foundation, Town of Danville & fellow VSOs to present another successful Memorial Day at Oak Hill Park.

Plan to join us and attend

The VNVDV will need **VOLUNTEERS** to help set-up cammo & chairs beginning at **0730** at Oak Hill Park on **Monday May 27th** prior to the arrival of community guests beginning at **10AM** for seating. **The Danville Community Band play at 10:30 & the Program will start at 11:00.** **This year's one-**hour program will feature Two Guest Speakers. **David Behring** and **CPT Kris Conklin**. David has been a member of the All Wars Memorial Foundation since inception and also has a wealth of Military History study and travel. Chris is currently assigned to the Post Graduate School in Monterey. Please join us at Oak Hill Park/All Wars Memorial, next to MVHS on Stone Valley Road.

This is the largest traditional Memorial Day Remembrance program in the east bay & it is Open to the public. Please invite friends, neighbors & community members to take two-hours out of the weekend to honor **FALLEN WARRIORS** whose sacrifice made it possible for us to enjoy the freedom we have.

We will also need **VOLUNTEERS** again to assist in taking-down the cammo & **chairs... and following the clean-up** - we will have our annual **Members Only Family BBQ** & fallen remembrance - **in the parking lot "after" the program.**

REMEMBER - all members need to bring **"something to share"** - a side dish - **salad or dessert "enough for their family plus extra** - to **share with members."**

Everyone is also responsible for **"bringing their own"** favorite beverage. Furnished by the organization: **HOTDOGS** - condiments - plates/silver wear/napkins. Bring your own chairs or picnic blanket, sun-screen.

Jerry Yahiro continues to share the travel schedule for the VNVDV's fall 2019 wheelchair distribution trip to Vietnam in conjunction with the Wheelchair Foundation. The itinerary is provided and days are specifically provided for the distribution of wheelchairs. The trip cost is estimated at \$4,000/person and please note this does not include airfare. Flights are available from \$900-1,000.

Any VNVDV Members wishing to join this humanitarian trip to Vietnam should send a \$1,000. deposit check made out to VNVDV and indicate in the memo that the check is for the Vietnam trip. Cut-off date is SOON. Please contact Jerry Yahiro (926-683-2541) to reserve a place on this trip.



October 28th SAIGON - ARRIVAL

October 30th CAN THO - MISSION DAY - SAIGON

October 31st SAIGON - CU CHI - TAY NINH



November 1st SAIGON - HUE

November 2nd HUE - MISSION DAY

November 3rd DMZ QUANG TRI - DONG HA

November 4th, 2019 HUE - CITY TOUR



November 5th, 2019 HUE - HANOI

November 6th, 2019 HANOI - MISSION DAY

November 7th, 2019 HANOI - HA LONG BAY

November 8th, 2019 HA LONG BAY - HANOI

November 9th, 2019 HANOI - DEPARTURE

**Cut-off date is SOON.
Contact Jerry Yahiro 925-683-2541**



NOTE: DETAILED TRAVEL SCHEDULE AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE: WWW.VNVDV.ORG VIETNAM VNVDV 2006 DISTRIBUTION TRIP



VIETNAM VETERANS OF DIBBLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA HELP A WHEELCHAIR RECIPIENT WITH HIS NEW WHEELCHAIR. VIETNAM VETERANS OF DIBBLE VALLEY RECEIVE THANKS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE VIETNAM FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE NEAR SAIGON. WHEELCHAIR RECIPIENT HEARD HOME WITH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

Written By John Essex, U.S. Marine Corps, 1965

Healing the Past and Delivering Hope for the Future
Vietnam Veterans of Dibble Valley, California

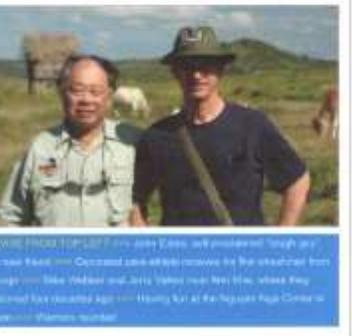


The plane touched down at 10:15 a.m. on November 26th, 2006 at Tan Son Nhut Airport in South Vietnam. "We're back..." in all I could come up with to say. It was hot and humid and slightly overcast and Ho Chi Minh City was abuzz with activity. "Looks the same to me," said "WIM BIFF" LaVigne (U.S. Army). "It's already better! Last time I saw the capital as we were coming in," was Jerry Yahiro's (U.S. Army) take. "Seems okay," chimed in Tim Hart (U.S. Marine Corps). "I agree with Bill." "I don't know what to say yet..." commented John Reese (U.S. Navy diver). These were the first words spoken by five of us upon arrival in Vietnam for the "second" time. We are all members of the Vietnam Veterans of Dibble Valley, California, and we are returning to Vietnam with our wives and friends on a mission far removed from the one that brought us here the first time, some 35 to 42 years ago. An "adventure" which, over the next 13 days, would deeply affect each one of us. Through our Past President, Mike Weber (U.S. Army medic) and the Wheelchair Foundation, our group was able to raise enough

money to send 560 wheelchairs to Vietnam. It had taken us two years to raise the funds for these wheelchairs, and now we had come back to Vietnam to distribute them. We brought with us \$3,300 dollars to donate to a number of children's schools and orphanages and we had also brought along, thanks to the work of John Reese and the generosity of the V.A. Hospital in Martinez, California, over 60 pounds of medicine. Our first wheelchair distribution came on our third day in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Joel Dodge, our Wheelchair Foundation liaison, walked us to The Friendship House in the center of Ho Chi Minh City where a very formal ceremony would take place. Over the next hour, many wheelchairs were given out. I think that most of us were not prepared to see such physical and mental need among these people, and our first tears were shed. But this was just the beginning. We flew to Quy Nhon the next day, and over the next two days we all began to realize what we were doing and got to see first hand how our helping hands affected the daily lives of those in need of a wheelchair. We met the local individuals face-to-face and felt their friendship and caring. Whole families were there to see their children, grandmothers, and mothers and dads receive something that would completely change their lives for the better. They cried and we cried with them. They laughed and we laughed with them. And we helped them load up their new wheelchairs, as many as four stacked on the back of a family motor scooter, and marvelled at their ability as they drove away. In Quy Nhon we met a wonderful woman named Nguyen Nga who, with the help of some of her handicapped students, educates, feeds and cares for nearly 200 orphaned disabled children every day. She was so proud of her kids and introduced us to her staff. It was here that I was struck by the enormity of the needs of the Vietnamese as I reached down to shake the hand of her office helper and saw that she did not have a hand. I noticed, and did not know what to say.

At Kids First Village in Dong Ha on Day Nine, we saw the "new", "modern" Vietnam being built. We gave away more wheelchairs and we donated John Reese's 60 pounds of medicine to Kids First Clinic. I watched as Wild Bill helped a beautiful young girl into her new wheelchair and made her smile. And then I saw him and Rich Ventrone (U.S. Navy Retired) begin to weep. We left Kids First Village and went into town and gave away four more wheelchairs to people in their homes. At the home of one wheelchair recipient, a decorated para-olimpic swimmer, Skip George (U.S. Army Special Forces) assembled a wheelchair and then gently lifted the young man into it. All the while his mother made sure that the neighbors and everyone else saw what had just happened to her son. He was nearly 20 years old and it was the first wheelchair he had ever had. We continued on our way. Hanoi, our last leg of the trip, Day 11. We visited the Vietnam Friendship Village today - Dennis Margett, U.S. Marine Major, U.S. Marine Corps, quiet throughout most of the trip, let some of his emotions show. It's hard to explain the condition that some of these children are in, but I will say this, it is something most of us never see and you would not be human if it did not affect you. When you see their smiles and the warmth that they give, you know within them there is hope. One of the most emotional moments of our entire trip happened here at the Friendship Village. Along with disabled children, they

care for some old soldiers, those who have fought in the many wars Vietnam has had over the past 50 years. Here, 40 years later, we came face-to-face with some of our fellow warriors, men whom we fought in combat so long ago. Through circumstances, we told each other stories, we hugged and we shook hands and years passed. We laughed and we surely cried and found out just how much we were alike. We parted with a promise to come back. As we were leaving the Friendship Village, a little disabled boy waddled up to me and sprang into my arms, and in his excitement, he pum-pum me. I hugged him and I had never seen more joy expressed on someone's face in all my life. With his disabled body he kept saying "Number one! Number one!" and giving me the thumbs up sign, and he did not want to get down. This moment will stay with me forever. On our last day in Vietnam, Skip George said, "There are two kinds of people in this world, those that do and those that don't." Well, with the help of those at the Wheelchair Foundation, our group "did." We came, we saw, we laughed and we cried. We gave some, but we got back much, much more. And, we changed. I, for one, am going back.



GOING BACK TO VIETNAM

SIX YEARS OF FUND RAISING AND 7823 MILES OF TRAVEL

THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF DIABLO VALLEY HEAD BACK TO VIETNAM



It was a dark and stormy night... We find ourselves in Hue, Vietnam. A group of five of us have trekked to a local watering hole known as "The DMZ Bar." We are midway through our 15 day journey across Vietnam, distributing wheelchairs in partnership with Oakland, California, based East Meets West Foundation, and visiting old haunts. There are 17 of us in our group, but for a few of us the DMZ Bar holds fond memories of an evening we shared there during our last trip to Vietnam, in 2006. It was a night of laughter and tall tales (all prefaced by the words "True story...!") accompanied by beer and an endless supply of coconut peanuts. It was the night we all wrote our names on the wall with magic marker, some of us leaving messages for other travelers who would grace the same space long after we had left.



However, this visit would wind up somewhat bittersweet. Our memories of a dimly lit, rundown dive bar with no indoor plumbing and a single surly local bartender, supplanted by the revelation that the DMZ had been remodeled and modernized. Oh sure, you were still allowed to write on the walls with magic marker, but everything that had been there six years earlier had been changed in the "great remodel of 2008." The new had replaced the old, and we were reminded that our memories of Vietnam of the past were no longer valid today.

This message would serve as an underlying theme for many on this trip. For those among us returning to this country for the first time since the late 1960s and early 70s, this trip was the opportunity to experience modern Vietnam and gain understanding of the life that has evolved since the Vietnam war (or "the American war," depending which side you had been on). Of course, it was wrought with the apprehension and trepidation of not knowing how we might be received, or how we might remember what we had forgotten, intentionally or otherwise.



Several in our party set out on side trips to visit locations familiar to them from their time of service in their respective branches of the military (we had Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard represented among us). Again and again, a similar story was repeated "I found the place where our camp / airfield / base had been, but now it's just a Vietnamese War Memorial / shopping center/ highway, etc..." This is the face of progress in Vietnam. >

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: >>> The Gang assembles outside the White Hotel in District 1 in Ho Chi Minh City, on day one. Many thanks to Ann Tours and Mr. Truc Vole, our excellent interpreter and fixer. >>> In Can Tho we provided wheelchairs to swimmers with Olympic aspirations. >>> Pictured Left to Right - Jerry Yabiro, John Beese, David Behring and Richard Lambert with one of the many tennis wheelchairs donated to East Meets West's INSPIRE SPORTS programs throughout Vietnam.

Support our Wheelchair Foundation distribution trip to Viet Nam in 2019

VIETNAM

The VNVDV's positive 2006 Wheelchair Foundation distribution trip, was followed by a successful distribution trip in 2012 - now VNVDV returns to VietNam in 2019



TOP LEFT >>> Tran Nghia was 17 years old when David Behring presented her with her first wheelchair in 2003. This past Fall, the two were reunited in Hanoi, as Nghia and her mother joined us for a wheelchair distribution in the city. David and Nghia have remained in touch via the internet. David says of the relationship, "It is always a joy to give someone a wheelchair and it is an even greater joy to personally watch and hear how that wheelchair improved their life." >>> LOWER LEFT >>> Three Cheers for everyone involved in distributing wheelchairs throughout the country of Vietnam! Everyone gives a thumbs up for a job well done!

Our partners on the ground, East Meets West Foundation, had worked closely with the Vietnamese Paralympic Committee and others to arrange opportunities for us to distribute wheelchairs all along our route. We gave away wheelchairs in Can Tho, Ho Chi Minh City, Quang Tri, Hai Phong Harbor and Hanoi. We donated tennis and basketball wheelchairs to sports clubs and training centers through EMW's Inspire Sports program, allowing para-athletes to develop their skills, train and compete in a peer environment. Along the way we met swimmers, javelin throwers, weight lifters, track athletes, basketball and tennis players and one tough tug-of-war team whose single armed competitors easily toppled our crew on multiple occasions.

Vietnam is now a country of young adults. It is a country undergoing rapid change, and the impact of having access to modern technology is visible almost everywhere. There are fewer dirt roads and more skyscrapers, fewer bicycles and more motorbikes and cars. There is also an ever increasing demand for modern services, like clean drinking water, sanitation, medical care for newborns, internet access, and goods and services. And yet, with all of this rapid advancement, there still exists a very large need for wheelchairs for the disabled.



"Getting to go back to Vietnam, and to help people get wheelchairs, often the very first one they have ever owned, was awesome! Aside from getting married and having children, I think this is most significant thing I have done in my lifetime."

-John Garfield Reese - U.S. Navy Diver
on his second wheelchair distribution trip to Vietnam.

For the Veterans on this journey, our 15 days pass in what seems like no time at all. Soon we are speaking to one another about our trip in the past tense, where we had once been talking about it in the future tense for what seemed like such a long time. We were able to help Vietnamese in need of mobility by providing 260 brand new wheelchairs and 60 new sports wheelchairs. The Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley were able to witness first hand how their continued support of numerous orphanages, schools and rehabilitation facilities has had a positive and lasting effect on the people of Vietnam.

VIETNAM FAST FACTS

POPULATION: 91,519,289 (JULY 2012 EST.)
NUMBER OF MOBILE PHONES: 127.3 MILLION (2011 EST.)
MEDIAN AGE: 28.2 YEARS
AVERAGE INCOME: \$9.60 PER DAY
POPULATION LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE: 14.5%
WHEELCHAIRS DONATED BY WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION: 14,476
ESTIMATED NEED: GREATER THAN 2,745,579
PERCENTAGE OF DISABLED POPULATION REACHED: 0.527% OR 1:190

Since the VNVDV 2012 trip to VietNam - we have gained many new members - we are now in the planning stages for a VNVDV trip in the fall of 2019
The full detailed schedule has been posted on our organizational website at: www.VNVDV.org along with articles from the Wheelchair Foundation regarding the VNVDV distribution trip to VietNam.



Walk of Honor

Honoring the Men & Women who Served Our Nation

The [Phillips 66 Refinery and Carbon Plant](#) invite you to join with us in honoring and celebrating the service of our military veterans on **Saturday, May 18, 2019**. The 11th Annual "Walk of Honor for our Veterans" will be a short walk across the [Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge](#) and back. Last years event was a huge success. Over 400 employees, contractors, local residents and volunteers participated in the celebration and together we raised in excess of \$41,000. We are working hard to surpass last years fundraising and attendance milestones, and with your help we are sure to succeed! We promise you a fun, exciting and fulfilling day honoring the men and women who have valiantly served our nation.

Saturday, May 18, 2019
Armed Forces Day
8:30-9:30am - Check-in at the [Crockett Community Center, 850 Pomona Street - Crockett](#). Transportation provided to and from the bridge.
10:00am - "Walk" begins.
11:45am - Luncheon Ceremony.

Following the "Walk" all registered participants are invited to join us for a luncheon ceremony. There will also be by the John Swett High School Band & a raffle.

Many local government agencies & veterans service organizations will be on hand providing information regarding services - programs & benefits for Veterans

100% of all contributions will be divided evenly between the [Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley \(VNVDV\)](#) & the [Crockett Community Services District \(CCSD\)](#).

The VNVDV is dedicated to present & former members of the Armed Forces of the United States, through the support of local community activities, which recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Veterans. The CCSD is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the [Crockett Veterans Memorial Building](#).

Phillips 66 is proud to be the Lead Sponsor of American Jobs for America's Heroes, a national nonprofit campaign coordinated by the Center for America to encourage employers to post jobs for 60,000+ unemployed National Guard members. Register at: www.CenterforAmerica.org to post jobs at no cost.

2018 Sentinels of Freedom Gala with Guest of Honor General Paul J. Selva Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff



April Dinner Meeting - 2019

VNVDV JULY MEETING JULY 11TH



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

Monday 10:30 - MAY 27

ALL WARS
MEMORIAL

Oak Hill Park

3005 Stone Valley Road, Danville

THE LAST OF THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS IS GONE

By Laura Hillenbrand

Lt. Dick Cole stood over the open escape hatch of a B-25 bomber, gripping his parachute cord and looking down into 9,000 feet of seamless black. It was the night of April 18, 1942, and the plane, bucking in a roiling storm, had just led one of the most audacious and unlikely missions of World War II—the first Allied bombing of Japan. Now, out of fuel over China, the bomber was doomed. Cole dived out headfirst and vanished.

The Doolittle Raid was a pivot point of the war. Cole survived, and would outlive all his 79 fellow raiders. When he died Tuesday at 103—"it feels a little slower than 102," he told me in October—an epic chapter of living history closed.

The raid began with an outlandish idea. With no base from which to strike Japan and avenge Pearl Harbor, military planners opted to hoist 16 land-based B-25s, which normally needed thousands of feet of runway for takeoff, onto the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, sail them to Japanese waters, and attempt to fly them off the Hornet's roughly 500-foot runway. Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle would lead the mission, with Cole as his co-pilot.

Cole learned of the operation from a bulletin-board notice. "WANTED: VOLUNTEERS FOR DANGEROUS MISSION." He signed up. After weeks of strange, unexplained training in B-25s so stripped for weight their tail guns had been replaced by broomsticks, he joined his fellow airmen on the Hornet. There, they finally learned their objective.

The day before the planned

launch, Cole was walking to breakfast when speakers blared. Japanese sailors had spotted the task force, and the strike had to launch some 300 miles prematurely, in a bruising storm. The mission was now virtually suicidal: The planes would not have enough fuel to reach Chinese landing fields. Doolittle had stressed that the men could withdraw without consequences. None did.

Dick Cole was one of 80 pilots who set out April 18, 1942, on the first bombing of Japan. He lived to 103.

With seawater crashing over the deck, Doolittle and Cole gunned their plane off the carrier, hung on the verge of stalling, then rose. One by one the bombers followed, some barely making it into the air. In four hours, they reached Tokyo. Cole watched civilians, mistaking the planes for friendly aircraft, waving to them. Buffeted by flak, they dropped incendiaries to light paths for the remaining bombers, then headed for China.

Their fuel was running out. At dusk, they crossed over China. Cole watched the gas gauge sink. Doolittle ordered the bailout.

Cole had no parachute training. He was terrified. Leaping from the roaring plane, he was instantly in silence, falling. He yanked the cord so hard he punched himself in the face, causing a black eye. "They don't give the Purple Heart for that," he said.

He landed in a tree. At dawn, he walked west, following his plane's path. Deep in Japanese-occupied territory, he skirted roads, clutching his .45, until he saw a building flying the Nationalist Chinese flag. A Chinese soldier led him in. On a table sat a drawing of a B-25 and five parachutes. He was taken to a dark room, a candle was lit, and there was Doolittle.

The crew was soon reunited. With the Japanese in close pursuit, a harrowing escape began. The Chinese sheltered the pilots, feeding them chicken feet and smuggling them by bus, boat and horse. After 10 days, they reached safety in the Nationalist controlled city Chungking.

The mission initially seemed a failure. Fifteen of the 16 B-25s crashed (one landed in Russia). Three men were killed in action. Eight pilots were captured; three were executed and one died in captivity. The bombing did little damage. But the raid shocked the Japanese, prompting them to contract forces and aim for Midway Atoll. In winning the ensuing battle there, America began to win the war.

At each raider reunion, there were 80 silver goblets, one for each airman. They'd drink toasts to those who'd died in the previous year, then overturn the lost men's goblets. The final goblet will soon be turned for Lt. Col. Dick Cole, the last of the young men whose courage, on a storm-swept day in 1942, helped turn the course of history.

Mrs. Hillenbrand is author of "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption."



Veterans can now schedule optometry and audiology appointments without a referral from their Primary Care Doctor.

For more information or to schedule an appointment today.

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ph. (925) 820-2202

fax. (925) 820-8911

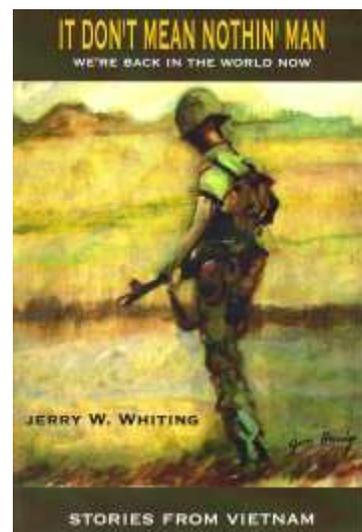
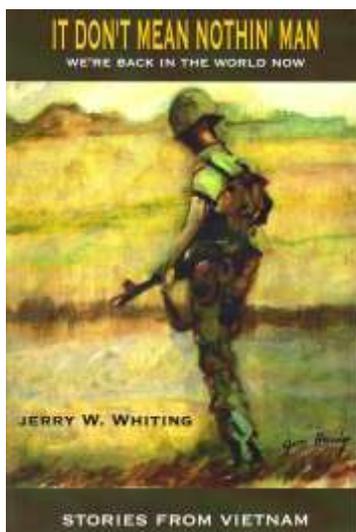
Email: 48@fastsigns.com

OPERATION WELCOME HOME HONORED SPC5
RAYMUNDO RICARDO LARA, U.S. ARMY MILITARY
POLICE, APRIL 7, 2019



Do YOU have your personal "autographed" copy of

JERRY WHITING's
new book about the VNVDV
"It don't Mean Nothin' Man
We're back in the world now"



VNVDV Member *May* Birthdays

Bob Moore - Army

Mike Stalcup - Army

Gary Estrella - Marine

Norm Mahalich - Marine

Jim Morrill - Navy

Ron Azarcon - Air Force

Dennis Stogner Army

Steve Mick - Navy

Gene Ghio - Army

Esteban Ramirez - Army

Jim Oram - Army

Mark Connors - Air Force

Skip George - Army

Shelly Hansen - Navy

Chris Mezzapelle - Air Force

Alan Kalin - Army

John Domde - Army

Mike Houston - Air Force

John Cahill - Army

Mike Stalcup - Army

**REMEMBER
VNVDV JULY MEETING JULY 11TH**

Thanks to the April Speaker Jim Hill for his presentation on Pathfinder history/operations that prepared the way for Infantry Unit helicopter insertions while serving with the 25th ID.



Military Appreciation Night with the Oakland A's - JULY 3rd vs. Minnesota Twins - 6:00 PM at the Colesium

Wednesday, July 3rd vs. Minnesota Twins

Military Appreciation Night, presented by Chevrolet, will be held on Wednesday, July 3. A portion of each ticket is donated back to Military non-profits. Following the game will be a Patriotic Firework Show. If we have a group of 15+, we can qualify as a group. Ticket prices are \$40 each Plaza Level.



J. Rockcliff

REALTORS


MIKE WEBER
 Realtor *

4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle
 Danville, CA 94506
 CalBRE#00441586

direct: 925.736.1500
 mweber@rockcliff.com

VENTURE RESEARCH
 Commercial Real Estate
 Appraisers & Consultants



Helen S. Reese
 PH: 925 / 935 - 4294
 New E-Mail: HSReese@att.net
 Website: www.VentureResearch.biz
 "Experience the Quality Difference... over 30 years serving California and beyond with Excellence"

HAVE SOME FUN - JOIN OTHER VETS

ABOUTFACE

SELF-UNDERSTANDING THROUGH SELF-PORTRAITS

NO COST PAINTING WORKSHOPS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



REGISTER at

RETURNINGVETSOFDIABLOVALLEY.ORG



CONCORD VET CENTER

1333 WILLOW PASS RD, CONCORD, SUITE #106

12PM - 3PM

**MARCH 2 & 9
MARCH 30 & APRIL 6
MAY 11 & 18**

DVC

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

321 GOLF CLUB RD, PLEASANT HILL, ROOM: ART 301

12PM - 3PM

**MARCH 16 & 23
APRIL 13 & 14
APRIL 27 & MAY 4**

2019



DANVILLE HOT SUMMER SUNDAYS CAR SHOW



July 21 and August 18, 2019
Registration Opens May 1st
\$25.00 Online | \$30.00 Day Of
Registration

Event Time 11:00a - 4:00p

Day of Event Registration Begins at 8:00 am

No Cars Admitted After 11:00 am

During the uneven years THE STAND ON THE DELTA 2019 supports Veterans – check to see where you can help



STAND DOWN ON THE DELTA 2019



STAND DOWN ON THE DELTA IS A FOUR-DAY, THREE-NIGHT EVENT IN WHICH VETERANS ARE PROVIDED FULL MEDICAL TREATMENTS, COURT AND LEGAL SERVICES, DMV, CHAPLAIN SERVICES, HOUSING, ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, EMPLOYMENT, AND A MYRIAD OF OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES. DURING THE EVENT, VETERANS ARE ALSO PROVIDED WITH CLOTHING, MEALS, SHOWERS, SLEEPING TENTS, AND A SAFE PLACE TO "STAND DOWN" FOR THE DURATION. THE NEXT STAND DOWN ON THE DELTA WILL BE HELD **SEPTEMBER 20TH - 23RD, 2019** AT THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS LOCATED IN ANTIOCH, CA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO DELTA VETERANS GROUP. YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP OUT VETERANS IN THE MOST NEED AND THEIR FAMILIES MAKE THE TOUGHEST TRANSITION OF THEIR LIVES.

DELTA VETERANS GROUP IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION. TAX ID #462650624. YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.



CONTRIBUTION RANKS

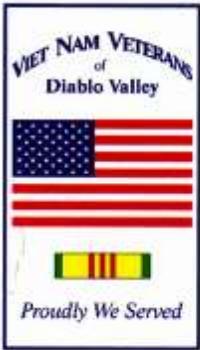
PRIVATE - \$5
SERGEANT - \$25
LIEUTENANT - \$50
CAPTAIN - \$100
MAJOR - \$500
COLONEL - \$1,000
GENERAL - \$2,500
4 STAR GENERAL - \$5,000

PLEASE MAIL TO:

DELTA VETERANS GROUP
ANTIOCH VFW
815 FULTON SHIPYARD RD.
ANTIOCH, CA 94509
C/O: STAND DOWN ON THE DELTA

Find out more - Visit: <https://www.deltaveteransgroup.org>

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."



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



"T.J." has the new VNVDV Coffee Mugs that have been prepared for the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley... **Nice! Order your set from TJ**

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 Viet Nam Veterans made 2 distribution trips in 2006 & in 2012 to Viet Nam - providing freedom of mobility for those lacking this basic need.

We Thank David Behring & Joel Hodge for your support of VNVDV & our two amazing wheel chair distribution trip to

The VNVDV is planning on filling a container of Wheelchairs for distribution in Vietnam. Be a part of this exciting VNVDV project!

Viet Nam 50th Commemoration Honors our Viet Nam 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 Opened JAN 2019
Do you have an AWM Paver? Don't wait - Honor a veteran, friend, neighbor, family member or patriot with a special AWM Paver Tribute!
New Walkway of 600+ Pavers to Open \$300.
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 - Open in Danville every Wednesday - 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 VMB/SRV's WEBSITE - for the VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING at: www.VMBSRV.org

This Thing Called *Love*
May 5, 11 & 17, 2019

BLACKHAWK CHORUS

OVER 600 NEW AWM GRANITE PAVERS BEING INSTALLED THIS MONTH

ALL WARS MEMORIAL

to Expand Paver Walkway

Thank You to the patriotic community for Honoring their Heroes & Patriots - Engraving all 1,127 All Wars Memorial Pavers in the walkway

ALL WARS MEMORIAL PAVER APPLICATION



ALL WARS MEMORIAL



DEDICATED TO ALL WHO SACRIFICED TO PRESERVE OUR FREEDOM

www.AllWarsMemorial.org

**A New ALL WARS MEMORIAL
Expanded Walkway & Panel Sections with an
Additional 600+ New Pavers
will be Completed in Summer of 2018**

Please Note: The AWM Foundation schedules our outside Professional Engravers - "Bras & Mattos Monument Company" for on-site Paver Engraving Only Two Times a Year. Questions: Visit the AWM Website

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the **All Wars Memorial Foundation (AWMF)** for purchase of an AWM Paver to honor the service or contribution made by an Individual Serving - a Veteran or Patriot with a Paver - or an **Organizational Paver** to Honor a Military Unit or Veteran Service Organization - **IN MEMORY** are only for those who died (KIA) in the service.

PURCHASER INFORMATION: (If paying by credit card use information on billing statement)

Name of Purchaser _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Contact **PHONE & E-MAIL** Address (Please utilize separate sheet & attach - to clearly provide all requested information - please **PRINT** clearly all information... Thank you)

INDIVIDUAL AWM PAVER - Granite 8" x 8" @ \$300.00 each

___ **IN MEMORY** (Only for those who died / killed while serving their country / KIA)

___ **IN HONOR** (On first line of all AWM pavers)

NAME (to be shown on Paver) _____

Can add **RANK** for those who served in the military (Rank optional - only if desired - not required. Up to two - lines available for Rank - Full Name- **maximum** of 15 characters on each line - including spaces. Visit Memorial to view Pavers for engraving ideas. **Please PRINT all letters.**

BRANCH of SERVICE: (circle one)
U. S. Army - USMC - U. S. Navy - USAF - USCG - Army/Air Corps - Merchant Marines - National Guard or **PATRIOT** (for non military) SVC Branch is engraved on bottom line.

Organizational PAVER - Granite 8" x 8" @ \$300.00 each (Please attach sheet

PAYMENT METHOD:
Enclosed Check for: \$ _____
Payable to: **ALL WARS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION - (AWMF)**
Post Office Box 158 - Danville, CA 94526

Charge my: Visa - MasterCard (Please Print clearly)
\$ _____
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature and Date... & MAIL completed application to: **AWMF** - (address above)

All Pavers Ordered will be Engraved in the New Walk of Honor.

View AWM Pavers on-line at: www.AllWarsMemorial.org

at: www.AllWarsMemorial.org



Update Information on VETERANS' VOICES.



VETERANS' VOICES

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 3rd Monday at 7pm on CCTV, or streaming:
www.ContraCostaTV.org/VeteransVoices
 Call in Live: (925) 313-1170

facebook @VeteransVoices

cctv

Contra Costa TV is channel 32 on Astound, channel 27 on Comcast, and channel 99 on AT&T U-verse
 Episodes Re-Run: Mondays @ 7pm, Wednesdays @ 11pm & Saturdays @ 9am



Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office TV Show

Watch VETERANS' VOICES on CCTV Every Month on 3rd Monday

Veterans' Voices - our VSO TV Show Airs Live Every 3rd Monday at 7PM.

WATCH every month and call in, text or live chat with the hosts & guests. Be a part of the conversation and you can help other vets who are struggling with the same issue. New topics every month - 3rd Monday!

Veterans' Voices will be broadcast live/online on CCTV every third Monday, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The show is a joint production of the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office & Contra Costa Television (CCTV.) It is underwritten by a grant from the California Department of Veterans Affairs. "Veterans' Voices" airs the third Monday every month at 7:00 p.m. on CCTV. **"VETERANS' VOICES" highlight Veteran programs & events at the end of the show.**

CCTV and Veterans' Voices can be found on Comcast Channel 27, Astound Channel 32 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99 throughout Contra Costa County. If you missed this edition... Catch it and all other prior shows or watch the show live online by visiting: <http://www.contracostatv.org/veteransvoices>. **All previous shows are on-demand 24/7 & If your organization can help support an episode of Veterans' Voices - contact Nathan Johnson our County VSO for more info.**

If you know non-profit Foundations supporting "education" - "history" - "military issues" - Veterans, or other - please advise County Service Officer Nathan Johnson - Funding support is needed to continue these CCTV "Veterans' Voices" special monthly TV shows to provide this valuable information for returning veterans & their family members. If you have any TV or production skills or are willing to learn - stop by the CCTV studios on the 3rd Monday prior to the live broadcasting of Veterans' Voices... YOU may be able to help or learn to help & reduce production costs of shows.

Veterans' Voices provides information on important Veteran Events in the East Bay



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

Eliz. C. A. Johnson
 Attorney at Law



A Law Firm

Post Office Box 8, Danville, CA 94526
 T.925.362.1010 F.925.362.1015
elizabeth@johnsonestateplanning.com
johnsonestateplanning.com



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's FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE - DROP-IN
ARF Mobile Veteran Pet Exam Van Monthly!
Get your Veteran Certification for DMV License

**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 3rd Monday?

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

Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office
is a FREE service for all Veterans!

Find out about all the Veteran Benefits
You earned through your Military Service
Visit the County VSO Office NOW...
for your FREE "Benefit Check-Up" - You Earned it!

Our Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office is "the place" to have all of your VA
paperwork completed - by a qualified, experienced service rep. & this service is for all
veterans **FREE** & available **M - F** in Martinez & **on Wednesdays in Danville 10-2**

Veterans Benefits Contact:

Nathan D. Johnson
Veterans Service Officer
Contra Costa County

10 Douglas Dr. Suite 100
Martinez, CA 94553

Tel: (925) 313-1481

Fax: (925) 313-1490

Nathan.johnson@vs.cccounty.us



**Veterans
Services**

Because You Chose To Proudly Serve

Oakmont Memorial Park Cemetery in Lafayette is offering
major financial assistance to all Veterans and Veteran Spous-
es on both Traditional and Cremation Property.

Pre-Planning Lifts the Burdens Off Your Loved Ones

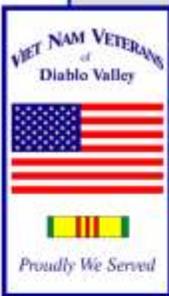
Contact: Thomas Corbett, Vet-
eran Liaison Officer, LIC# 44629
(925) 935-3311, (925) 216-4785
TCOAK8@gmail.com



REAL TIME PAIN RELIEF



To purchase call: Mike Martin - 925.323.1093



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley **"INCOMING"**

MAY 2019



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

**2019 OFFICERS &
BOARD MEMBERS**

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VICE PRESIDENT -

Dennis Giacovelli

TREASURER

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Michael Slattengren

Jerry Yahiro

John Estes

Del Loewe

Tim Hart

Mike Weber

Mike McDaniel

Rich Lambert

Ron Azarcon

Bill Picton

Norm Mahalich



Established 1991

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**



To:

VNVDV Members & VIPs

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!*

OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!

VIET NAM VETERANS
of
Diablo Valley

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" - \$25. RSVP NOT Required!

"INCOMING" News - Official Newsletter of the VNVDV