

INCOMING NEWS



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

AUG 2024



JIM
HILL
VNVDV
President

AUG 1ST VNVDV DINNER MEETING

BRIDGES GOLF CLUB SAN RAMON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to the large membership participation at the July Dinner Meeting held at Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon. This is a great start for this new venue. Continued attendance greater than 60 insures the future success of the VNVDV dinner gatherings. Dennis Giacovelli hosted the meeting and also provided a very informative presentation covering the History of the Brown Water Navy.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Yolanda Vega, Friday August 9th, 4-7 PM at the Veterans Memorial Building. Please RSVP to: Patty Harris @ (925) 989-2960 or Roxane Langevin @ (925) 788-5281

I want to thank all our members who participated in the July 4 parade. **We had three contingents: Huey Crew, Color Guard and members plus member families who passed out 10,000 flags.**

The crowd appeared to be one of the largest and they appeared to appreciate the presence of Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE LARGE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD



SPEAKER for the AUGUST 1ST DINNER MEETING, VNVDV member KAREN BORN will speak about her experiences as a Navy Nurse stationed on the USS Sanctuary while operating off the shore of I Corps in support of the Marine Corps.



Please note the VNVDV Group Picture on page one of the Newsletter. The 4th of July Parade is a special opportunity for members to gather. This 2024 post parade photo was taken at Luna Loca in Danville.

Please note that the **GIANNI'S TIPS FOR CHANGE FUNRAISER FOR THE** Veterans Memorial Building operations fund has been **cancelled**. Gianni's Restaurant management has changed and there will be a two-month shutdown for renovation. An alternative funding program is being developed.

Monday August 12th VNVDV will support the **21st Annual Drive Fore Mobility Golf Tournament** to raise funds for **The Wheelchair Foundation**. This event is essential in providing the resources for the VNVDV Wheelchair Distribution trip to Vietnam in October 2024.

A reminder: Our next **Dinner Meeting is on August 1st**. It is important that we maintain attendance at the monthly Dinners. A number of our members travel during the summer so it is even more important that you make a special effort to join us at the dinner. Information on Bridges Golf Club is included in the Newsletter.

Thank you for your support and see you on August 1st at Bridges.

Jim Hill
President
PH (510) 410-1040
jamauihill@yahoo.com



VNVDV HONORS THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARADE SUCCESS WITH THEIR PERSONAL EFFORTS



JIM ORAM PREPARED THE "HUEY" HELICOPTER FOR THE PARADE. EXTENSIVE CLEANING WAS REQUIRED AFTER OUTDOOR STORAGE AT BUCHANAN AIRFIELD



VNVDV MEMBER COLOR GUARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Please Join Us for a
Celebration

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
In Loving Memory of
Yolanda Vega

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Friday, August 9, 2024: 4 - 7 pm

We will be gathering to share some of our favorite memories,
to laugh, to cry and remember
a very special person who is greatly missed.

Veterans Memorial Building
400 Hartz Avenue
Danville, CA

Kindly RSVP to:
Patty Harris @ (925) 989-2960 or
Roxane Langevin @ (925) 788-5281

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
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**Patty Harris @ (925) 989-2960 or
Roxane Langevin @ (925) 788-5281**

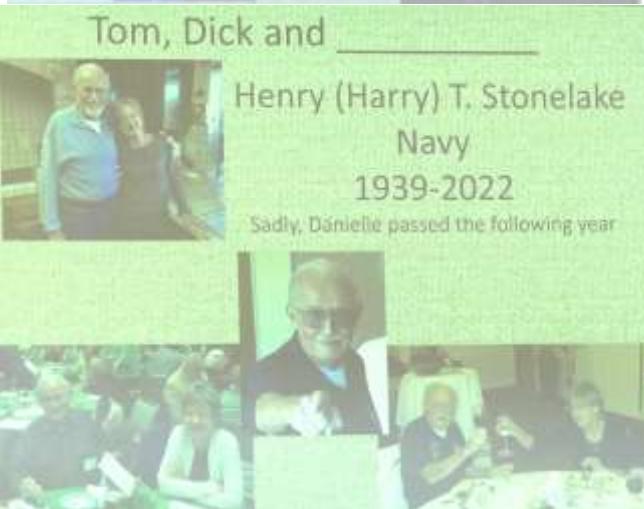
FOURTH OF JULY PARADE 2024



JULY 2024 VNVDV DINNER MEETING



**RECENTLY PASSED VNVDV MEMBERS WERE
HONORED AT THE JULY 2024 DINNER MEETING
THANKS TO DENNIS GIACOVELLI FOR THIS
PRESENTATION**



James A. Hart
Marine Corps
1936-2024



Born in San Francisco, he moved to Walnut Creek in 1966. Graduate of Alameda High School class of 1954. He attended Stanford University and graduated from the United States Naval Academy Class of 1961, with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

After decades of service in the United States Marine Corp, he went on to have several careers as a mission engineer with Pacific Bell.

He was a champion at the discus and discus from his years in high school through his late 60s. Ranked No. 4 in the world in 1960 at the World Masters Track & Field Championships at age 45. He won numerous gold medals at the Senior Olympics in discus, discus, and hammer throughout his 40s, 50s, and 60s.

Christian J. Miller III
Army
1937-2023



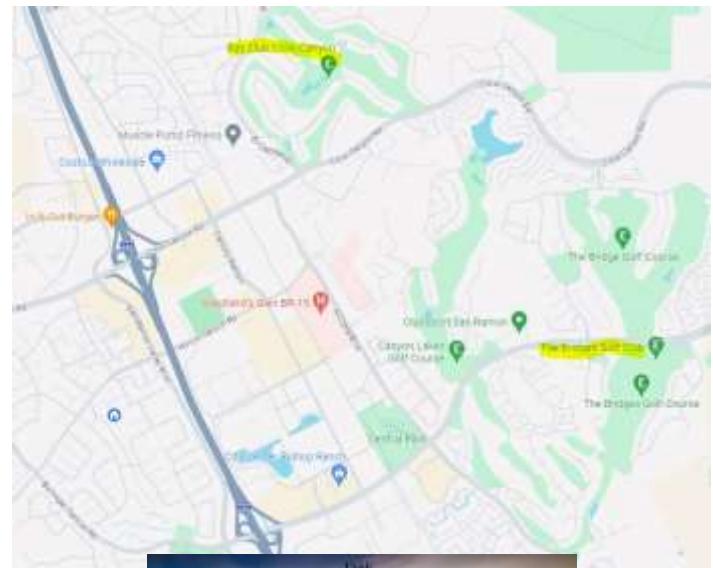
Chris loved having his birthday on July 4th. Very apropos since he was an patriotic. After earning his Bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh while also participating in the ROTC program, Chris entered the U.S. Army Reserve and soon discovered a love of flying. He would go on to serve 22 years in the military, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1987.

Bill Picton
Marine Corps
1944-2024



**AUGUST 1ST
BRIDGES GOLF CLUB
SAN RAMON**
9000 S. Gale Ridge Rd.
San Ramon, CA 94582
5 PM MEET AND VISIT
6 PM DINNER

**With the change of venues
the dinner cost is now \$35**



VIET NAM VETERANS DIABLO VALLEY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jack Enright	Army	Denver Mills	Navy
Ed Meshinsky	Army	Carl Swanson	Army
James Hart	Marine	Bill Picton	Marine
Mike Martin	Navy	Doyle Sivils	Army
Gary Sponseller	Army	Trey Blum	Marine
	Marcia Estrella	Honorary	

Thanks to the July VNVDV Member Dennis Giacovelli for his presentation on the history of the Brown Water Navy and his personal experiences with Strike Assault Boats operated in the Mekong Delta.



The STABs were the fastest boats in the Brown Water Navy and they delighted in out running SWIFT boats, LSSCs and literally running circles around the PBRs in the Mekong River.



STABs performed multiple roles in Vietnam including: Part of Operation Barrier Reef on the Grand Canal, The May 1970 Cambodian Invasion, Operation Tran Huong Dao EIGHT out of Dong Tam, Shipping protection on the 25 mile long Tan shipping channel, Night Ambushes (Water Bound Guard Posts), Search and rescue on many waterways.

The brown-water Mobile Riverine Force was a joint venture between the Navy and the Army, modeled after the earlier French Riverine and coastal patrols. The soldiers and sailors in the brown water units were soon called "river rats" and their uniform included a black beret.



Their main mission was to disrupt Vietcong movement of arms and munitions, transport Vietnamese forces and insert SEAL teams for counterinsurgency operations.

STAB

STRIKE ASSAULT BOAT (STAB)

CREW: 4

LENGTH: 26 feet

BEAM: 10'-4"

DRAFT: 2 feet

DISPLACEMENT: 7 tons

PROPELLSION: 2 Chevrolet 427

gasoline engines, 325 hp ea, with 2 Mercruiser stern drives

SPEED: 40+ kts (46 mph+)

MATERIAL: All aluminum

Note: a total of 22 were built- 20 in service 1970, 2 remained in U.S.



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

Mike Weber
925.487.7609
mike@mikeweberrealtor.com



Bill LaVigne
President & CEO

Cell: (510) 368-4441

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21st Annual
**DRIVE FORE
MOBILITY**
TO BENEFIT THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION
A DIVISION OF BEHRENS GLOBAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION



MONDAY AUGUST 12, 2024




Blackhawk
COUNTRY CLUB



Title Sponsor


Wheelchair
FOUNDATION
HOPE • MOBILITY • FREEDOM



Danville Hot Summer Nights Car Show

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024



Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage (FVSO) Kontum, Vietnam

Donations are tax deductible with 100% going to the kids, providing support for over 800 Montagnard children who live in 8 Vinh Son orphanages in the Kontum/Pieku area of Vietnam. For over 20 years, FVSO donors have supplied food and medicine, dental care, education, clean water, housing and more.

Patrick Leary
FVSO PRESIDENT AND LIFE MEMBER OF VSO



PLANTING RUBBER TREES:
this is just one way the children of Vinh son meet the
long term challenges facing them



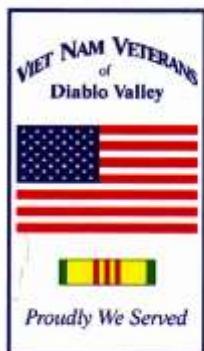
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Auburn, CA 95604-9322



Thanks to Procurement Director John "T.J." Trujillo for his monthly display of VNVDV Hats and Shirts. Order your VNVDV NAME TAGS contact "T.J."

**For all
your
VNVDV
Shirts and
Hats team
with TJ
and Pow-
er Stitch**



John T.J. Trujillo
Director of Procurement

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
P.O. Box 2079
Danville, CA 94526

925-997-5253
trujillo.tj.john@gmail.com
www.VNVDV.com

VNVDV Hats and Shirts
Supplier: Power Stitch 3195
Danville Blvd, Suite 2
Alamo, 925-362-3477,
powerstitch@comcast.net

VNVDV Members THANK David Behring

**Wheelchair
Foundation**



**Looking for a
unique BIRTHDAY Gift?
Donate a new
WCF wheelchair
in their honor...
great for someone
who has everything!**

**The VietNam Veterans made 3 Wheel Chair distribution trips,
2006, 2012 and the Fall 2019 to VietNam.. Wheel Chairs
Provide freedom of mobility for those lacking this basic need.**

We Thank David Behring & the Wheel Chair Foundation for the support of VNVDV & our three amazing wheel chair distribution trips to Vietnam.

**The VNVDV participated in the distribution of 460 Wheelchairs during the NOV 2019 trip to Vietnam.
Thanks to the support of the Wheelchair Foundation & Supporters**

**VietNam 50th Commemoration Honors
our VietNam War Veteran Members**

**VNVDV LIFE MEMBERSHIP
Special 50th VN Commemoration -
Honoring Your Service - ONLY \$50.**

**Danville VMB's County Veterans Service Office
OPEN every Wednesday 10-2 to serve Veterans**

All Wars Memorial

Oak Hill Park Memorial Expands
The New Paver Section with 600 Pavers
Do you have an AWM Paver? Don't wait -
Honor a veteran, friend, neighbor, family member
or patriot with a special AWM Paver Tribute!

**1st ENGRAVING COMPLETED—Hopefully 1 in May!
Custom Engraving is performed Spring & Fall.
Take time to visit the AWM - then the website
for an application form. Order your AWM Paver
www.AllWarsMemorial.org
Questions? See link on AWM Website**

Please SUPPORT & FOLLOW NEWS from some of our SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS WEBSITES:

Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office - [Call the County VSO Office for Assistance](#) - call 925 / 313-1481 for Appt.

All Wars Memorial and obtaining AWM Pavers at Oak Hill Park - visit: www.AllWarsMemorial.org

Marines Memorial Association / Hotel / Club in SF - Visit their website at: www.MarineClub.com

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation - visit: www.SentinelsofFreedom.org

Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels - Support our those in need of mobility - Visit: www.WineforWheels.org

Blue Star Moms #101 website: www.bluestarmoms.org & Blue Star Moms #20 website: www.ccbluestarmoms.org

VNVDV website to see more about the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley at: www.VNVDV.org

VISIT THE WEBSITE for the VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING at: www.VMBSRV.org

SUPPORT OUR BLUE STAR MOMS "DROP-OFF" LOCATIONS



Department of
Veterans Affairs



VA
HEALTH
CARE | Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
Martinez Primary Care Clinic
150 Muir Road, Martinez, Calif. 94553

Advice Nurse-Appointment Line
800-382-8387
Pharmacy(Toll Free)Line
866-600-8279
Martinez, CA 94553

Fax: (925) 372-2804

FLU IS CAUSING SERIOUS ILLNESS & DEATH!
Please visit one of our VA Clinics in Martinez
- Oakland or other locations now to obtain your
FLU shot - available to all Veterans! Don't Wait!

VA is now offering Flu shots at the Martinez Clinic

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.**

"VETERAN VOICES" THE SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

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

VETERANS' VOICES

A Live, Interactive TV Show for Vets by Vets!

Join us live on the 2nd Monday of each month to discuss relevant issues facing our veterans.

facebook @VeteransVoices

CCCTV

7:00 PM CCTV, Hosted by the Veterans Service Office Contra Costa County

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

"VETERAN VOICES"
on **SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH**

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



REAL TIME PAIN RELIEF



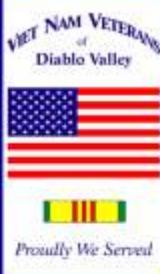
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VNVDV
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Danville, CA 94526 - 2079
E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com
Web: www.VNVDV.org

2023 OFFICERS & BOD**PRESIDENT**

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Dennis Giacovelli

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Ed Baffico

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Mike Weber

Mike McDaniel

Rich Lambert

Ron Azarcon

Bill Picton

Norm Mahalich

Established 1991

Electronic News**To:****VNVDV Members & VIPs****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**

www.VNVDV.org



Proudly We Served

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!

**DINNER MEETING
 AUGUST MEETING
 THURSDAY AUGUST 1ST
 BRIDGES GOLF CLUB SAN RAMON
 DINNER COST WILL BE \$35**

"INCOMING" News - Official Newsletter of the VNVDV