



LZ FRIENDLY

Never Again Will One Generation Of Veterans Abandon Another

U C BERKELEY TOWERS



A Salute to all our Men and Women in Uniform
Thank You for Your Service!



EAST BAY ESTUARY



JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017

ISSUE 2 VOL I



PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

"WHEW!

Chapter 400 has just completed a very busy (and productive) month of May!

Bill Hodges

First, we had the Veterans Outreach table set up on Alameda's Park St for the Spring Street event, then the brain-child idea from Arnold Dos Santos to see that the 100 KIA from Oakland's contribution to the Vietnam War were recognized.

The monument that Arnold had made is a wonderful recognition of those who epitomize the true meaning of Memorial Day. It was their supreme sacrifice that we honor.

Finally, Chapter 400 (with an assist from American Legion and DAV) hosted the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Park in Alameda.

We're seeing our membership grow, with the addition of two new members, Manuel Sanchez and Jack Brennerman, and we say to them, "WELCOME ABOARD!!"

Please, always be on the lookout for new prospective members, as we've just barely scratched the surface. Our membership chairman, John Di Lillo will be putting together a package that we can hand out to new and prospective members.

Also, we've devised a nice looking VVA 400 business card, and if you'd like to have some for handing out, please let me know. The cost is very minimal, about \$20 for 250.

I'd like to give a shout-out to our former VP Steve Rogers, who left the Bay Area for quiet and sedate Oakdale, which it on the way to Yosemite. Steve reports that his blood pressure has dropped since he got out of the rat-race that we live with.

Steve came down to help out with all three events already mentioned.....This man is DEDICATED!

John Di Lillo came up with an idea for all of us to better understand our fellow Chapter 400 members' experiences during the Vietnam War.

At each of our monthly meetings, one person will give a brief story of their experiences, funny and not so funny.

I, personally, as one who was several thousand miles away from action, have learned a great deal of what many have faced under less than ideal circumstances.

I'd also like to acknowledge the jobs) that Roberto Rocha is doing for Chapter 400. Going back always, Roberto volunteered to edit and publish **LZ FRIENDLY**, which is the Chapter's quarterly newsletter.

The newsletter can be a pain-in-the-butt to do, as there are only so many pages to fill with all the essential reporting of goings-on, but also getting individuals (like myself) to get something submitted in a timely matter and sent off to Roberto.

Aside from that publication, he sends out timely reminders and bulletins that we need to see.

On top of that, I asked Roberto to step in as VP when Steve left. Then, he had the responsibility of putting together the programs for the events we just finished with.

A nice round of applause for Roberto!!

Finally, thanks to everyone who participated in the great stuff that Chapter 400 does!!

One more item of interest. I have been appointed to the VVA California State Council Finance Committee.

Chapter 400
Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1830 (6:30pm).
The meetings are at the Alameda Veterans Memorial Bldg.
2203 Central Avenue
Alameda CA 94501

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Oakland CA 94612-0208
www.vvachapter400.org

A Non-Profit 501(c)(19)



Sgt. R. A. Rocha

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

It has been very busy this last quarter for the Chapter. We have attended three events for which you all should feel proud of. And let us not forget we all are part of the Chapter and need to step-up.

At right you will see a collage of photos of the events attended. And yes, that is Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer from Alameda at the Oakland event. There was ONE Oakland City Councilmember who arrived how showed up. A bit late, but there none-the-less the other elected city councilmember of Oakland were noticeably absent, nor the 3 county supervisors who represent Oakland. Followed by the wreaths at Alameda Veterans Memorial Park, Bagpiper Sgt. Jim Marsh, Members Ch400, Park Street Spring Festival and in the background the POW/ MIA table at Alameda Veterans Memorial Park.

I urge you not to become one of those elected officials who don't care about the Chapter. It does take many man-hours, resources and financing for each event. Therefore, in order to continue to

Continued on page 6



YOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THIS QUARTER

JULY 2017			AUGUST 2017			SEPTEMBER 2017		
T	4	Fourth of July City of Alameda Mayor's Parade	M	14	10am Veterans Affairs Commission	M	4	LABOR DAY
M	17	No Meeting for the Veterans Affairs Commission. The next one is in August.	T	15	6:30pm Chapter Meeting	M	11	PATRIOT DAY
T	18	6:30pm Chapter Meeting	W	23	10am Veterans Employment Committee	F	15	POW/MIA RECOGNITION
F	21	VVA CSC QTR MTG FRESNO				M	18	10am Veterans Affairs Commission
Sa	22	VVA CSC QTR MTG FRESNO				T	19	6:30pm Chapter Meeting
Su	23	VVA CSC QTR MTG FRESNO				W	27	11am-2pm Veterans Employment Committee Career Fair
W	26	10am Veterans Employment Committee						

- **Fourth of July** City of Alameda Annual Mayor's Parade call 510-444-5235 if you want to participate as a member of Chapter 400
- No meeting in **JULY** for the **Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission**
- Meetings in **August & September** for the **Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission** meets at the **San Leandro Main Library** at 300 Estudillo Avenue
- **Alameda County Veterans Employment Committee** meet at the **San Leandro Veterans Memorial Building** at 1105 Bancroft Avenue
- **PATRIOT DAY** is the day the Twin Towers in New York City came down in 2001
- **POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY** is not a Federal, State nor Local holiday, which it should be. **THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.**

Open your wallet and if moths fly out or there cobwebs it means it is time to consider making a donation to your VVA Chapter 400. Just write a check payable to "VVA Chapter 400" for \$20...\$40...\$60 or ...\$ That wasn't so hard to do after all or was it? Support Ch400!!

NOW HEAR THIS ... ! NOW HEAR THIS ... !

The Chapter wants to establish a "Go To List" assist Veterans with their repair needs (i.e. electrical work done or plumbing or painting or mechanical car work, etc.) If you are the person the Chapter is looking for, please contact us. However, must be licensed to perform any work. There is an issue of liability for you, and for most the safety of those you help. **DO YOU WANT TO HELP?** E-mail us or fax the information.

WRITE INS ... ?

Do you have any comments or want to air out some issues? Please feel free to e-mail or write to us. See at the top of this page for the information to get in touch with Chapter 400.

NOTE: Submission should not be any longer than 300 words w/picture or 440 words with out it. **Space is limited.**

EDITOR'S CONTACT:

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REMINDER ... ! REMINDER ... !

We still have monthly meetings on the third (3rd) Tuesday of the month at 1830 (6:30p.m.) at the

Alameda Veterans Memorial Building
 2203 Central Avenue Alameda CA 94501-4421

Friendly Fire: Oakland's 100 Vietnam Veterans KIA Memorial Dedication

Director Dos Santos is traveling through Portugal, the land of his ancestors, and Spain, who at one time Portugal as part of. YES, it is Arnold Dos Santos standing by the black granite stone Honoring Oakland's 100. It is the end of a long and at times frustrating enterprise to accomplish such a project, more when the City of Oakland officials were to demanding or not ready available to sit down and talk. It had to be done, as it was a shame a city like Oakland did not have a memorial for Vietnam Veterans KIA.



American Legion Honor Guard

As always, when asked to Honor our fallen, the American Legion Honor Guard is there to show Respect and Honor for them. To Guard it does not matter if it is a grave site or a dedication. It is just their duty to perform such an Honorable ceremony.

Honor. Respect.

Is what this etched black granite stone monument stands for. It speaks louder than words. It all started by a simple question as to why did Oakland not have a way to remember the gallant few young citizen-soldiers who gave it all so the greater citizenship could enjoy their freedom. Other townships had done it, Honor their losses to the Vietnam War. No longer will that be Oakland as after a long research and drafts to create the monument, it now stands tall and proud to show them to the public.



Standing by the monument is none other than our Chapter 400 President Bill Hodges.



Not a great picture, but it will do. It is none other than Chapter 400 Past-Director Steve Rogers. Do need to give credit to Steve as the photos shown here were provided by him. Thanks Steve.



President Dos Santos accepting from Hon. Rep. Barbara Lee's staff representative a plaque with the House of Representative Resolution in memory of Oakland's 100 Vietnam Veterans KIA.



Standing to the left is Director Dos Santos. At the lecture is Vice-President and LZ Editor Sgt. Roberto Angel Rocha who at the dedication gave the Invocation and the Benediction.



The Invocation, Benediction & Roll Call

Standing is Sgt. R A Rocha, Chapter Vice-Pres. who gave the Invocation & Benediction, a former Chaplain Assistant "in-country and back in the world." Seated are Miranda Dos Santos, Chapter President's daughter and Raymond Will, son of a WWII KIA, Chapter Treasurer & Nam combatant. They had the Honor to read the names of Oakland's 100.



The Keynote Speaker & The Bagpiper

Col. Conway Jones, Jr. (USA, ret.) spoke as to what the Vietnam War was for and its cost of lives. Sgt. Jim Mash played Amazing Grace and during the Posting and Retreat of the Colors and at the placing of wreath.

YOUR CALL...When was the last time you attended a Chapter's meeting? If you can't remember it's not due to dementia or the other mental diseases. It's most likely memory lost, as it has been a very long time. There must be several reasons why you don't attend. Could it be you just joined to make your buddy feel good? Or did you do it just to get a mouth full of saying "I am a member for the Vietnam Veterans of America?" It's time to take inventory by jotting down in two columns, PROS & CONS, the real reason for not attending and what are you missing by it. We would say some of the positive (PROS) for attending is the knowledge you acquire; the opportunity to vent your frustrations within the VA system or other entity. On the other side of the coin (CONS) it is not participating at different events the Chapter is involved with, which assure people are aware we are Vietnam Veterans and are here to help others. And not attending the California State Council quarterly meetings, were a lot of beneficial information you can use for yourself and other Veterans.

PENCIL your calendar with the Chapter's meeting dates so you wouldn't forget to attend...!

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Settlements With Vietnam Veteran's Charity And Its Founder For Squandering Millions In Donations

Investigation Found That The Charity Spent The Majority Of Its Millions In Contributions On Paying Professional Fundraisers And Insider Expenses

Charity To Permanently Close And Pay Damages; President And Founder Returns Severance, Pays Damages, Issues Apology, And Is Banned Nationwide From Handling Charitable Assets

Schneiderman: This Organization Took Advantage Of The Good Will Of Millions, Yet Failed To Fulfill Nearly All Of Its Promises To Help Those Who Have Sacrificed For Our Nation

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that his office has reached settlements resolving investigations into the National Vietnam Veterans Foundation, which also operated as the American Veteran Support Foundation (the "NVVF"), its former President and Founder, John Thomas Burch, Jr. ("Burch"), and its Vice President, David Kaufman ("Kaufman"). NVVF has operated nationwide since 1992 and began soliciting in New York in approximately 2008. By 2014, NVVF was collecting nearly \$9 million nationwide from its fundraising campaigns, soliciting small dollar donations from the public through direct mail and phone calls -- purportedly to help Vietnam Veterans. Nearly all of the money raised through its direct mail campaigns was instead used to pay its fundraisers. For example, in 2014, \$7.7 million of the \$8.6 million raised was used to pay NVVF's fundraisers. The fraction that actually made it to NVVF was further reduced by a pattern of abuse, mismanagement and mis-spending by NVVF's former President, Burch.

"There is nothing more shameless than exploiting military veterans in order to enrich oneself. The actions of this charity and its founder are appalling," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "This organization took advantage of the good will of millions, yet failed to fulfill nearly all of its promises to help those who have sacrificed for our nation. This settlement sends a clear message that charities will not

get away with fleecing donors in New York."

"VA employees are held to high standards and are afforded a special public trust to execute their duties properly for the benefit of veterans and the American people," said Michael J. Misal, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General. "The VA OIG's investigation found that Mr. Burch engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Government, and misused his position and government equipment for his own personal enrichment. As a lawyer for VA with ethical, fiduciary, and professional obligations, his conduct is particularly disturbing and repugnant."

As part of the settlement, Burch paid \$100,000 to the Attorney General, most of which will be re-directed to charities actually helping veterans. Burch also repaid his severance pay received from NVVF and will cooperate with ongoing investigations into others associated with NVVF and its fundraisers. Burch will also be subject to a permanent nationwide bar on access to charitable assets or decision-making.

Burch issued an apology to donors of NVVF and to Vietnam Veterans whom he exploited in order for fundraisers to collect money. Burch also admitted that NVVF had paid 90% of its donations to its fundraisers and admitted to deceptively marketing how solicited money would be spent. In the settlement, Burch admits to the Attorney General's findings and to his miscon-

duct, including the following:

- Burch used NVVF funds to pay for foreign and domestic travel, frequenting night clubs in the Baltimore area on a nearly weekly basis, ordering excessive and expensive food and drink at the country's top restaurants and lavishing gifts on women;
- Burch financed this lifestyle with his own credit cards and then submitted receipts to NVVF's bookkeeper for reimbursement. Burch's expense reimbursements to NVVF describe fictitious meetings or NVVF business with individuals that were not present or did not exist. For example, in 2012 Burch spent approximately \$800 in one night frequenting night clubs and hotels in the Baltimore area. Burch described the nature of these expenditures on the Foundation's expense reimbursement form as "work on homelessness" and "veteran issues";
- Burch, who was in charge of the NVVF's discretionary "Emergency Assistance Program," awarded significant amounts of cash to a handful of women, all of whom were born after the Vietnam War ended. Six of those women received over \$10,000 and one over \$20,000; and
- In addition to Burch's salary at NVVF, Burch reimbursed himself for life and medical insurance, pharmaceutical and medical expenses, parking for his two private automobiles in downtown Washington, D.C., where he worked, telephone, fax, internet, and building security services at his home, memberships, conference fees, and subscriptions.

Continued from page 4 ...A.G.

For its part, NVVF will cease fundraising in New York as of June 2016 and will cancel its registration to solicit donations in New York and initiate steps to dissolve in its home state by the end of this month.

Kaufman, NVVF's Vice President, will be subject to a permanent nationwide ban on handling charitable assets going forward and agreed to cooperate with the ongoing investigation into those associated with NVVF. Kaufman will remain as Vice President only to assist with NVVF's orderly dissolution and distribution of the NVVF's assets subject to the Attorney General's approval.

The Foundation and Kaufman admitted that NVVF had made false filings with the Charities Bureau, including failing to disclose the identity of the fundraisers that operated on its behalf in New York, all fees associated with its fundraising activities, and the Foundation's top independent contractors. NVVF and Kaufman also admitted that much of NVVF's money was not spent in the way NVVF described in its solicitations – to immediately provide Vietnam Veterans in need with fundamental benefits such as food, shelter, hygiene and money for phone calls. Instead, thousands of dollars were spent by NVVF on purported consultancies and studies to be performed by friends or relatives of NVVF directors which work product was never released to the public, and on travel for its board of directors, including a trip to Normandy, France, in 2014.

Agreements can be found here and here.

The full text of the Foundation, Kaufman and Burch's admissions are available here and here. The full text of Burch's apology is available here.

This investigation into NVVF highlights the importance of AG's Charities Bureau's annual *Pennies for Charities* report, which reveals that charitable donations obtained by many professional fundraisers are largely spent on fundraising and administrative expenses, with only a small fraction left for charitable work. The latest *Pennies for Charities* report may be accessed here.

The A.G.'s Tips for Charitable Giving are available here.

This case is being handled by Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth Ann Fitzwater, with the support of Charities Bureau accountant Cintia Brown-Felder, and Legal Assistant Carolyn Fleishman. James Sheehan is the Charities Bureau Chief. Alvin Bragg is Executive Deputy Attorney General for Social Justice.

More information about the Attorney General's Charities Bureau and organizations regulated by the Bureau may be found at www.charitiesnys.com.

AMG Comment: Justice long overdue, and shameful. Most of you won't remember this far back, and I'd prefer not to, but it is about time J. Thomas Burch was found out and received deserved punishment.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
[703-465-7432](tel:703-465-7432) www.pow-miafamilies.org

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

"DYING FOR FREEDOM ISN'T THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN.... BEING FORGOTTEN IS"
SUSIE STEPHENS-HARVEY
powmia1967@gmail.com

REGION 2 COORDINATOR
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES
5673 COLUMBIA PIKE, SUITE 100
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041
[703-465-7432](tel:703-465-7432)
www.pow-miafamilies.org



Understand the weight of this image. This soldier lost both of his arms. The feeling of a handshake is lost to him.

Trump realized this, and thus, touched his face so he can feel the human connection.

This is what I see when I think of Trump's motives. He gave up a billionaire lifestyle so he could be insulted, dragged through the mud, and lied about on a daily basis.

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THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET

WASHINGTON, DC—DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) and the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) have released *The Independent Budget (IB)* for FY 2018 recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, calling for an 8.3 percent increase in veterans medical care funding. The IB report includes detailed recommendations for funding levels to support programs, services and benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The report also includes recommendations for advance appropriations for medical care for FY 2019. The Administration has not yet released its budget request for FY 2018, which is normally presented the first week of February, but such a delay is not unusual in the first year of a new Administration.

Highlights from The Independent Budget report includes the following recommendations:

- \$88.9 billion in overall discretionary budget authority for VA, approximately a 10 percent increase over FY 2017;
- \$76.9 billion for veterans medical care funding for FY 2018, a \$5.9 billion, or 8.3 percent increase over FY 2017;
- \$82.8 billion for veterans medical care for FY 2019 advance appropriations, a 7.6 percent increase over the IB's FY 2018 recommendation;
- \$3.1 billion for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), a \$278 million, or 9.7 percent increase over FY 2017;
- \$2.5 billion for VA construction programs to repair, renovate, expand and replace VA's aging infrastructure, a \$1.5 billion increase over FY 2017;
- \$713 million for medical and prosthetic research, a \$38 million, or 5.6 percent increase over FY 2017, as well as an additional \$75 million to support the Million Veteran Program.

The IB report warns of a potential funding crisis that could arise before the end of FY 2017, and will exist in FY 2018 if VA does not address the new community care demand it has fostered without necessary resources. Last year's advance appropriation request for FY 2018 medical care, which was approved unchanged by Congress, remains woefully inadequate to meet the ever-increasing demand for services both inside and outside the VA health care system, a fact acknowledged by VA officials.

Additionally, the effects of sequestration and arbitrary budget caps are beginning to have a significant negative impact on VA's ability to adequately provide veterans services and benefits, which would be further complicated if the hiring freeze is not lifted for all VA positions. The IBVSOs call on Congress to eliminate or provide exceptions to these measures to ensure that VA, and the veterans it serves, have access to the resources necessary to meet all their needs.

One budget area of grave concern to the veterans groups is the Major, Minor and State Home Construction programs that have growing backlogs of critical infrastructure projects. VA currently has more than 24 Major constructions projects that are either partially funded or funded through completion, but in which construction is incomplete. Of those, VA will need to invest more than \$3.5 billion to complete them all. There is also a backlog of State Home Construction Grant priority group 1 requests that now tops \$650 million, but only about \$90 million is available in the current fiscal year to address them. Congress has made significant reforms to how VA's construction programs will be managed, however without significant new investments, veterans will begin to lose access to critical medical and long term care services they have earned and deserve.

The IBVSOs are also focusing on addressing the backlogs of claims and appeals. Although pending claims for disability compensation have gone down significantly over the past four years, the claims backlog started creeping back up last year and the appeals backlog has grown alarmingly. The IBVSOs recommend an increase of \$278 million for VBA to hire additional personnel to focus on the claims and appeals backlogs, as well as to improve delivery of vocational rehabilitation services. While continued emphasis on automation and reform are necessary, unless VBA is provided additional resources, veterans will continue to wait too long to get their earned benefits.

The IBVSOs also called for greater investment in VA's medical and prosthetics programs, as well as supporting VA's Million Veteran Program of longitudinal research. The new funding would be used to expand research on emerging conditions prevalent among newer veterans, as well as continue VA's inquiries into chronic conditions of aging veterans from previous wartime periods, with focus on research into post-deployment mental health concerns, including PTSD, depres-

sion, anxiety, and suicide; gender-specific health care needs of women veterans; and advancements in prosthetic systems to replace lost limbs or activate paralyzed nerves, muscles, and limbs. VA's medical research programs are absolutely critical to delivering the highest quality of care, in the safest manner, which is vital to the health of our nation's veterans.

For more than 30 years, the three *Independent Budget* co-authors have presented budget and policy recommendations to Congress and the Administration. These recommendations—which are supported by 27 other health, family, military, and veteran service organizations—are meant to inform Congress and the Administration of the needs of all veterans, and to offer substantive solutions to address the many health care and benefits challenges they face. This independently-developed budget serves as the veterans groups' benchmark for properly funding the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the timely delivery of quality health care and accurate and appropriate benefits.

To view the full budget report, please visit www.independentbudget.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

DAV: Ashleigh Byrnes, 202-314-5214, abyrnes@davmail.org

Paralyzed Veterans: Tracey Shifflett, 202-416-7670, traceys@pva.org

VFW: Joe Davis, 202-608-8357, jdavis@vfw.org

About DAV:

DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. DAV does this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; assisting them with employment; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a non-profit organization with nearly 1.3 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U. S. Congress in 1932. Learn more at www.dav.org.

About Paralyzed Veterans of America:

Paralyzed Veterans of America is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit and representation of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. For 70 years, Paralyzed Veterans has ensured that veterans have received the benefits earned through their service to our nation; monitored their care in VA spinal cord injury units; and funded research and education in the search for a cure and improved care for individuals with paralysis. With more than 70 offices and 34 chapters, Paralyzed Veterans serves veterans, their families and their caregivers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. (pva.org)

About the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW):

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With nearly 1.7 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in more than 6,500 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at VFW.org.

LZ editor's input.

It is now when all Veterans need to come together and present a common front in order to preserve those benefits to which we are entitled too. Our prior fellow Veterans fought hard to get us where we are now and we must not fail them by not taking the effort to ensure the delivery of the VA's benefits is adequately funded now and in the future.

The most important factor is the advance funding part of the budget, which will give the VA a head start knowing what the next fiscal budget will be and get an early start in plugging any short comes for that period. It took a long fight to get there and still needs more work. And this where you come in...!



Vietnam Veterans of America
200 Grand Avenue
Oakland CA 94612-0208

www.vvchapter400.org
510-444-5235

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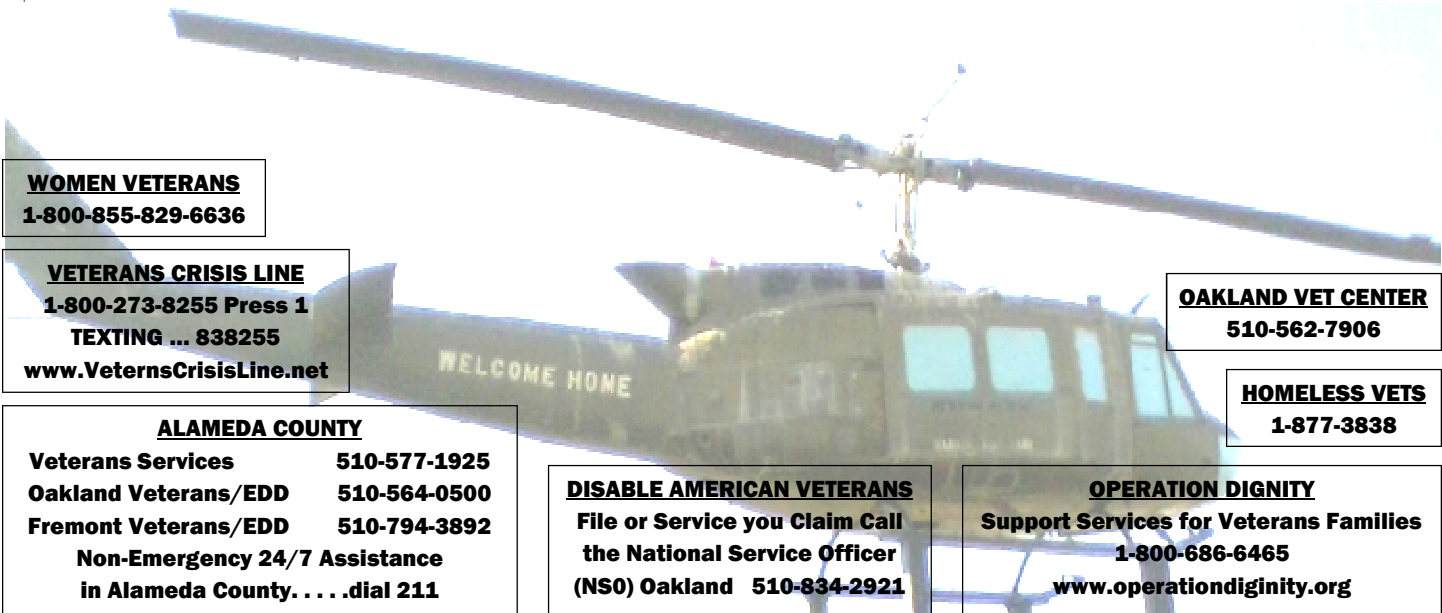
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Veterans Services 510-577-1925
Oakland Veterans/EDD 510-564-0500
Fremont Veterans/EDD 510-794-3892
Non-Emergency 24/7 Assistance
in Alameda County. . . .dial 211

DISABLE AMERICAN VETERANS
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the National Service Officer
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OPERATION DIGNITY
Support Services for Veterans Families
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510-562-7906

HOMELESS VETS
1-877-3838



fold mark

fold mark

THE REUSE PEOPLE

Once upon a time people would just tear down buildings and send the rubbish to fill-in sites or served other purposes than what they started to be for. A long came TRP and saw value in such a vast waste of already spent energy to create it. However, their intention was not for profit, it was to assure the materials were repurposed to either function as they were originally created for or find a new way to use them. During the process they were faced with other articles which still could be used and still were safe as it was their mission for which they were intended for.

Many construction contractors have taken advantage of such a unique depot resource and benefits, not only their bottom line, but of the people they have served.

What a novel idea and one that could go beyond just helping those that can afford renovation. Now, who/whom could benefit from it? Our U.S.A. Veterans, the ones more often than not are over looked or are unaware of such people as

TRP. And NO, you just can't walk-in and expect to get a discount by saying I am a Veteran.

Yes, you could get the same material or item the renovator gets at a Veterans discount. However, there are some eligibility conditions to be met. Why is the question asked? One reason and one reason alone. TRP wants to be assured the materials are actually going to be used at a Veteran's home for renovation and not to construct a brand new home or building.

For further information, please e-mail your request to us at:

sarg.rocha.vva.cal.ch400@gmail.com
www.vvchapter400.org
or fax your request at 510-865-6372

to complete the eligibility process and receive a letter of eligibility to present at the TRP outlet.

If you need it, get it. We are here to help you.

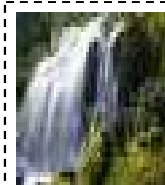
Continued from page 2 Vice-President's

attend and represent the Vietnam Veterans of America and specially our Chapter 400 we need you to step-up and be counted. We can only keep moving forward when we have an adequate cadre willing to share the load.

Just remember, none of us are getting any younger and not feeling as healthy as once we were. Age and military service does take its toll and there is nothing we can do. However,

there is always a way to get around those issues and it has to do with volunteering more often within the Chapter's activities (i.e. attend monthly meetings, be part of the Executive Board, Board of Directors, team leader for events, committee member, and many other activities). The Chapter can only continue to operate by your involvement. There is no "easy chair" if you are really interested there is a Chapter 400 in the future and be proud to say you are an active member.

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