



The California Zephyr

Official Publication of the VVA California State Council
An Organization Chartered By The U.S. Congress



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 17-5

SUMMER 2014

CSC PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The California State Council 14th biennial convention is now history. For those of you who attended the convention you know what a great time we all had. For those of you who did not attend please think about taking part in the convention in two years. It is a good experience.

First let me say thank you to all those who helped make this convention a success. There were numerous people working behind the scenes since January to make sure everything came together. This included both VVA and AVVA members. Thanks to all of you.

We were honored to have the VVA National President John Rowan and the AVVA National President Sharon Hobbs attend the convention. John came all the way from New York while Sharon traveled all the way from Chattanooga, TN. Also in attendance was Charlie Hobbs, Sharon's husband, who is a VVA National Director At-large. Other National officers who attended the CSC convention were our very own AVVA Region 9 Director Elayne Mackey, VVA Region 9 Director Dick Southern and VVA Director At-large Jerry Yamamoto.

During the opening ceremony we had the Fresno Veterans Administration All Women's Color Guard present the Colors. As their title says the women are all veterans and they all work for the Veterans Administration. This is the second time they have presented the colors for a CSC convention and they do an outstanding job every year.

The National Anthem was sung by AVVA Life Member Kyle Orlemann. Kyle is a member of Chapter 53, Redondo Beach.

On Friday evening we had a wonderful POW/MIA ceremony. Three elementary school girls from Kings Rivers School District put together an oral and pictorial presentation. The audience was very impressed with this as were the girls were with the audience.

Our VVA Officers and Board would like to welcome back Henry Iasiello as CSC Vice President. Henry is no stranger to the BOD and will be able to resume his work with no problem. We as Officers and Directors are here to work alongside you and guide if we can. Sometimes we (the BOD) need the guiding. I like to think that we all are one entity – no one is better than anyone else. Our purpose is to work, support and fulfill our mission. We may not always agree but if we can still come out with a hand shake then we have accomplished a goal.

Thank you to all that stepped up to seek office. If you did not get elected it does not mean we do not value you. Please stay with us and help us make the CSC the best we can strive to be.

A special thank you to John Crooker for being there during a sad time for the CSC – John came forward and assumed the duties of VP with no hesitation.

Steve Mackey

CHAPTER 472 – SAN DIEGO

Remember!! Pass on the History, stories and details of the Vietnam War!! Volunteer, be a Patriot and Honor those that have given their all for our County!! Honor and support all Veterans, our Flag and our Country!!

These messages through words and actions occurred on June 14, 2014. On Flag day,



the US Army's 239th birthday and the 44th anniversary of the year this original Vietnam War Memorial monument was dedicated. Members of VVA 472 San Diego participated in the Rededication of the Heartland Youth For Decency Vietnam War Memorial and Unveiling of the POW/MIA chair in La Mesa Ca.

The Monument, one of the first to be established in the nation and state was originally unveiled in 1970, having been conceived and constructed by the local service group, Heartland Youth For Decency, a group of East San Diego County teenagers who were determined that, despite the roiling contentiousness over the Vietnam War a neglected act of decency was to provide equitable treatment to their neighbors who had fallen in the conflict.



The monument with a cross and helmet atop and displaying plaques listing the names of 57 local service persons is located on the corner of University Ave and Spring St. in La Mesa Ca. on the grounds of America Legion Chapter 282. Over the past 44 years, it had suffered wear and tear, been vandalized by graffiti and two of the original plaques had been stolen. Constructed in difficult days, the memorial has survived through other troubled times. Expansion of trolley line tracks took part of the land. The City of La Mesa was forced to transfer ownership of the memorial on Flag Day 1997 to adjacent American Legion post 282 after city coffers were threatened with bankruptcy from



litigation on behalf of atheist plaintiffs objecting to city land containing a cross. The refurbished monument now displays 74 names as well as a blank plaque to be engraved with the name of any Heartland serviceman whose remains are discovered and repatriated. Through the tireless efforts of original members of the HYFD group Oresta Zalophany and Denise Evers Rhoads, the goal of restoration, beautification, renewal and addition to the monument was successful. VVA 472 helped with coordination, on site work, cross painting, sponsorship and funding of the new POW/MIA chair. Over 30 local volunteers, organizations and business contributed time and materials.

The Solid Black Stone chair showing the POW/MIA emblem, as well as those for all branches of service and beautiful flag and eagle artwork in stone is an addition to the original monument. It was made possible by volunteer work in design, masonry, cement and art. Site redesign, landscaping, irrigation, lighting and a new flag pole was also provided.

The ceremony was well attended by an estimated 300 people and covered by local media outlets. HYFD members presented and spoke as well as Retired Navy Cpt. Mel Moore, who on this date 44 years ago was a prisoner of war in the Hanoi Hilton. Mayor of La Mesa Art Madrid spoke about how the memorial "made up for the disrespect that Vietnam Veterans suffered on their return" and presented keys to the city. Korean and Vietnam Vet Sgt. William Dean gave a moving reading of the words to TAPS. VVA 472 President Norm Luker spoke on some of the ways the Vietnam War has affected him. American Legion Commander Thomas Luna and Painting Contractor Manuel Pinal thanked the many volunteers that helped. Invocation was by Chaplain Gerry Cadwalader of ALA Aux. Unit 282 and Benediction by Chaplain Tom Gravelle, VVA 472. Reading of the names by VVA 472, ALA Aux. 282 and VFW ship 1774 Aux. was accompanied by placement of flowers by loved ones, and a wreath was set by the DAR.

The unveiling and dedication of the POW/MIA chair with empty table ceremony was conducted by VVA 472 Vice Pres. Don Barnard. Military participants from all branches of service, VFW 1774 MC and AL Post 282 assisted. There was music before and after as well as special performance by Lauren, David and Joel Rhoads. Patriotic music was played, sang and enjoyed by all.

VVA 472 San Diego Chapter understands the importance of all such monuments and dedicated grounds as a place to honor, reflect, remember and educate. It is important to help younger generations come to understand what the Vietnam War was and what

State Council Officers	Address	Phone/Cell	E-mail
President - Steve Mackey	7401 Candlelight Dr. Riverside, CA 92509	951-681-9531 951-231-7268	nebuskfan@aol.com president@vvacalsc.com
1st Vice President - Henry Iasiello	1290 Tuck Rd. Willits, CA 95490-8827	707-459-8601	shiningraven@earthlink.net vp1@vvacalsc.com
2nd Vice President - Dick Southern	PO Box 68 Tuolumne, CA 95379	209-928-3848	southern@lodelink.com vp2@vvacalsc.com
Secretary - Tom Hohmann	PO Box 3007 Riverside, CA 92519-3007	951-683-7251	tomh47@aol.com secretary@vvacalsc.com
Treasurer - Barry Schloffel	1244 Shaws Flat Rd. Sonora, CA 95370-5433	209-532-6119	bshowful@att.net treasurer@vvacalsc.com
District Directors	Address	Phone	E-mail
North District - Dean Gotham	15879 32nd Ave Clearlake, CA 95422-9353	707-350-1159	deanvva951@mediacombb.net north_district@vvacalsc.com
Central District - Richard Segovia	425 El Sueno Way Arroyo Grande, CA	805-710-3115	rsego11b@yahoo.com central_district@vvacalsc.com
South District - Mike Kennedy	14766 Foxfield Ln Fontana, CA 92336	909-899-0085	mikesps3@verizon.net south_district@vvacalsc.com
Director - Al Sickle	PO Box 1424 Murphys, CA 95247-1424	209-728-2138	leanin.al391@yahoo.com director@vvacalsc.com
Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	E-mail
Membership	Mike Kennedy		mikesps3@verizon.net membership@vvacalsc.com
Public Affairs	Ponce Gonzalez		ponce_g@hotmail.com public_affairs@vvacalsc.com
Government Affairs	Dean Gotham		deanvva951@mediacombb.net government@vvacalsc.com
Legislative Lobbyist	Pete Conaty		pconaty@sbcglobal.net legislative@vvacalsc.com
Minority Affairs	Lou Nunez		minority@vvacalsc.com
Constitution	Mike Kennedy		mikesps3@verizon.net constitution@vvacalsc.com
Finance	Dan Brown		dabrown@mlode.com finance@vvacalsc.com
Women Veterans	Kate O'Hare Palmer		koharepalmer@gmail.com women_veterans@vvacalsc.com
Meeting Planner	Dick Southern		southern@lodelink.net
POW/MIA	Bob Johnston, Sr.		boj201@yahoo.com powmia@vvacalsc.com
Zephyr	Tom Hohmann		tomh47@aol.com zephyr@vvacalsc.com
SDIT Liaison	Mike McCoy		mikebmccoy@netscape.com sdit_liaison@vvacalsc.com
PTSD	Henry Iasiello		shiningraven@earthlink.net ptsd@vvacalsc.com
Incarcerated Veterans	Bob Chaney		bkrbob@charter.net incarcerated@vvacalsc.com
AVVA Liaison	Elayne Mackey		mmm4evr1@aol.com avva_liaison@vvacalsc.com
Agent Orange	Ken Holybee		holybee@comcast.net agent_orange@vvacalsc.com
Veteran Benefits	John Weaver		j.weaver@cox.net veteran_benefits@vvacalsc.com
Convention Planning	Dick Southern		southern@lodelink.com convention@vvacalsc.com

The California

Zephyr

PUBLISHER

Steve Mackey.

EDITOR

Tom Hohmann

Published Quarterly to all members of California VVA and AVVA as part of their membership.

Contact us at:

VVA CSC

PO Box 3007

Riverside, CA 92519

<http://www.vvacalsc.com>

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of VVA, the State Council or its members.

Who Are The Vietnam Veterans Of America?

Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another."

PURPOSE

The purpose of Vietnam Veterans of America's national organization, the state councils, and chapters is:

To help foster, encourage, and promote the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam veteran.

To promote physical and cultural improvement, growth and development, self-respect, self-confidence, and usefulness of Vietnam-era veterans and others.

To eliminate discrimination suffered by Vietnam veterans and to develop channels of communications which will assist Vietnam veterans to maximize self-realization and enrichment of their lives and enhance life-fulfillment.

To study, on a non-partisan basis, proposed legislation, rules, or regulations introduced in any federal, state, or local legislative or administrative body which may affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others; and to develop public-policy proposals designed to improve the quality of life of the Vietnam-era veteran and others especially in the areas of employment, education, training, and health.

To conduct and publish research, on a non-partisan basis, pertaining to the relationship between Vietnam-era veterans and the American society, the Vietnam War experience, the role of the United States in securing peaceful co-existence for the world community, and other matters which affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others.

To assist disabled and needy war veterans including, but not limited to, Vietnam veterans and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.

FUNDING

Vietnam Veterans of America relies totally on private contributions for its revenue. VVA does not receive any funding from federal, state, or local governments.



it was about. The beauty of the white granite stones, bronze plaques, pure white cross, green helmet and new black stone chair is enhanced at night by the lighting. This magnificent monument and chair are part of the American lexicon and our heritage. We Will Not Forget!!

CHAPTER 223

Redwood Empire, Santa Rosa, California

The Santa Rosa Chapter has been very busy this year with lots of outreach projects. This summer we are staffing a booth at the Santa Rosa Wednesday Night Market. This is a street fair type event and we are handing out information to veterans, family and interested people. We have two

booths and one is the information booth and the second is a booth selling ducks as a fundraising effort to assist a local wounded soldier. I spend my time in the information booth and we have a great team in the duck booth. We will also be setting up at the "Wings Over Wine Country" air show in September. This event has been moved a month to be able to bring in more planes. We have core groups doing most of our events but we always have room for more members to join us.

We also have a group that speaks at the local Jr. Collage and high schools about their service in Vietnam. I think it is very important that the students know what the real cost of going to war is. This year the Jr. Collage is filming our speakers so they will always have the information, as a learning tool.

We are in the planning stages of our 3rd annual dinner dance fundraiser to be held on October 11, 2014 at the Santa Rosa Veterans building. Dinner will be served starting at 5 pm and dancing will start at 7:30. Since most of us are now beginning to get some grey hairs we are stopping at 10 pm. Go to our web site vva-223.org or give us a call at 707 526 4218 for more

information. The cost is \$25.00 per person. We will also be having a raffle and silent auction.

If you have a free morning or are coming to our local VA clinic stop in the front for some coffee and maybe a donut. Seems some of the medical people think we don't need any donuts but they are there if you have the desire. The coffee cart is no charge and staffed by members of the local veterans organizations. We are always accepting donations and volunteers to hang out and talk to the other veterans.

We are still involved in the Sonoma County Vet Connect on Tuesday mornings. If you would like to see how we assist Veterans, come on down. They have done a great job of organizing service providers to come in and assist. There are always a few people that will fall through the cracks and we all need to be available to assist them when that happens. Veterans' working to help other veterans is not work, but can be very enjoyable. This is another place I tell veterans to come and just hang out. Having free coffee and donuts seems to get people to open up a little and someone there is always willing to point you in the right direction.

For upcoming programs we are looking at getting a bench installed at the local cemetery to honor and remember those that have died as a result of their service in Vietnam. We also have a bronze plaque with the names of all those killed in Vietnam. We are thinking about having it placed at the beginning of the Vietnam Memorial Trail in Santa Rosa. There is a nice sign and a plaque that was put in with the dedication on November 1, 1987 and we feel this would be a good addition.

Our chapter is working on becoming more involved in the state council. At our recent convention some of our members saw areas where they would be interested in helping. There are a lot of areas where the council could use more members coming in and assisting. We have a very active state council but a few members can only do so much and a few more can make a difference that would be seen around the country. With the diversity of our members in our area we have members that are very close with our supervisors and city council members. These are things every chapter needs and working within the state council we can all be on the same page with issues when we approach them.

A very important directive came down from the acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs. It states that all medical facilities will hold monthly meetings with the Veteran Service Organizations and Military Service Organizations. This will be a great benefit to the medical facilities because we will be able to tell them what our issues are with getting service in a non threatening way. Working together we will be able to dispel myths and create a more efficient facility. Some say I am in a dream world with these kinds of ideas, but if I am you are welcome to join me.

Our general meeting is the third Tuesday of each month, except December. All meetings are pot luck, with food being served at 6:30 pm, with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm

Ken Holybee, president chapter 223

TOXIC EXPOSURE LEGISLATION

Ken Holybee, Government Affairs Committee Chair

We now have a bill in the U S Senate and the U S House of Representatives, Senate Bill 1602 and HR 4816 respectively. I wish I could say that they are moving fast but they are not. When s1602 was introduced I contacted our Senators and asked them to support them. Senator Boxer sent a form letter thanking me for the important information, she has not signed on. Senator Feinstein sent me a response thanking me for my input and stating that she would look at it after it came out of committee. I am not satisfied with these responses. We need more from our Senators than canned responses. We all need to contact them and make sure they understand that this is an issue that is important to us because it affects our children and grandchildren. I do not think people understand what we are asking for. We are looking for answers for our children. Why are they sick? Why do they have problems that are not understood by doctors? How can we help them and who will care for them when we are no longer able?

Congressman Mike Honda from California introduced HR 4816 into the congress in June. This is the companion bill for s 1602. The wording is the same. We are asking for the same thing. We have only two California congress members as co sponsors. My congressman, Jarred Huffman is not one of them. Every congress member in northern California knows about this legislation because we have talked about it to them every time we see them. A list of cosponsors is being included so you can use it to ask you representative why they are not on it and get them on.

AJR 46 is our state legislation to encourage our legislators to support these bills. Assemblyman Frazier is carrying this legislation for us. This joint resolution when passed will be sent to every member of our congressional delegation as well as the speaker of the house, the senate and the president telling them what the people of California want.

Please help our children with this legislation. This is a battle that we must win. If you look on the legislative bill tracking site they say we only have 1% chance of this passing. That sounds like a challenge we are up to.

Here are the house members signed on:

Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU] - 6/9/2014
 Rep Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-13] - 6/9/2014
 Rep DeFazio, Peter A. [OR-4] - 6/20/2014
 Rep Faleomavaega, Eni F. H. [AS] - 6/10/2014
 Rep Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-3] - 6/9/2014
 Rep Higgins, Brian [NY-26] - 6/9/2014
 Rep Keating, William R. [MA-9] - 6/9/2014
 Rep Kirkpatrick, Ann [AZ-1] - 6/9/2014
 Rep Lee, Barbara [CA-13] - 6/9/2014
 Rep Lowey, Nita M. [NY-17] - 7/10/2014
 Rep McGovern, James P. [MA-2] - 6/10/2014
 Rep Napolitano, Grace F. [CA-32] - 6/9/2014
 Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC] - 6/10/2014
 Rep Pastor, Ed [AZ-7] - 7/10/2014
 Rep Pingree, Chellie [ME-1] - 6/10/2014
 Rep Rahall, Nick J., II [WV-3] - 7/10/2014
 Rep Vela, Filemon [TX-34] - 7/10/2014
 Rep Welch, Peter [VT] - 6/9/2014
 Rep. Ed Pastor, AZ-7
 Rep. Nick Rahall, WV-3
 Rep. Filemon Vela, TX-34
 Rep. Nita Lowey, NY-17

FLAG DAY, 2014

LONE TREE CEMETERY

The motto of Vietnam Veterans of America is, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Unfortunately, this is what had happened after some past wars, going back many generations.

VVA's early leadership decided that we weren't going to abandon the future veterans who were sure to join



the ranks of those who fight for this great country.

VVA has worked hard to show the newer veterans how to attain the benefits they so richly deserve and that were promised to them when they volunteered to serve.

For many years throughout this country's history, there were many of our servicemen and women who, it was whispered, were suffering from "shell shock", or "battle fatigue".

Through the insistence and research by VVA, this condition was finally diagnosed as PTSD, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and continues to be a problem, but is now more easily recognized and treated.

Agent Orange, which was used by our forces to defoliate plants which allowed enemy forces to better hide, turned out to be a double edged sword, that has adversely affected veterans of the Vietnam War, and their children and their grandchildren.

VVA's fight has led to our being able to better assist subsequent veterans to recognize and seek treatment for newer hazards, such as Depleted Uranium and the infamous Burn Pits that have contributed greatly to ill health.

VVA has fought tooth and nail, to help veterans of ALL generations get treatment for themselves and their families.

VVA maintains websites and veterans community outreach programs that assists veterans of ALL eras, and to keep them updated as to the latest discoveries and developments in their specific healthcare needs.

After all, if we don't watch out for each other, who will?

Bill Hodges

CA AVVA

A special Thank You to all the AVVA members involved in the CSC State Convention. Even though this was not an AVVA Convention you all turned out when needed with no hesitation and gave more than 100%. For this I thank you very much.

During the convention we were so happy to host our National AVVA President Sharon Hobbs and her husband Charlie. Sharon was very pleased to meet so many members and had a lot of positive remarks about our AVVA.

Our # 1 ranking as the top state AVVA with the number of members is needing some back up. West Virginia is getting close to taking our numbers over. They have a new method of recruiting members – of which I will discuss at the August AVVA meeting. Please recruit, we can get our members the "right" way and keep them. If you need membership applications let me know and we will get them sent to you. Remember that AVVA is not funded by the membership numbers so when we recruit we are recruiting because we want members for strength and support – not money

AVVA REGION 9 REPORT

Being the Region 9 AVVA Director is a true privilege. Our states are outstanding to work beside and such a wonderful group of people. I am very proud of AVVA Region 9.

In May, Nina Schloffel, CA AVVA Vice President and her husband Barry went to Nina's family home in Guam for vacation. One of my duties is to visit each of the states that I represent once during my term of office. Knowing that I probably would never get to Guam, no highway to Guam, and airplanes and I just do not see eye to eye, Nina payed a visit to the Guam Chapter 668.

Nina stated that, "Whenever the VVA chapter sponsors an event, donates money and or labor, not only does the AVVA pitch in, the AVVA shares "top billing" with VVA. All event banners show both organizations." Outstanding Chapter 668!

When Nina arrived at the CSC Convention I received a bag of gifts from Chapter 668. There were a lot of logo items and some great island coffees.

This is AVVA at its best – caring and always so willing to give.

Elayne Mackey, President CA AVVA; AVVA Region 9 Director

MOH RECIPIENT CAVAIANI

Medal of Honor Recipient Jon R. Cavaiani Passes Away at 70. Earned Nation's Highest Award for Valor during Vietnam

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society announces that Sergeant Major Jon R. Cavaiani, Medal of Honor recipient, passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2014 in Stanford, California at age 70.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest award given to those who acted with uncommon, selfless courage, by President Gerald Ford on December 12, 1974.

Born August 2, 1943 in Royston, U.K. Cavaiani's parents emigrated to the U.S. in 1947. He became a naturalized citizen in 1968 shortly before he joined the Army where he served with the 5th Special Forces Group. While defending a secret radio site deep in enemy territory from an enemy attack, he rallied his platoon and fought until helicopters were called to remove the soldiers. He voluntarily stayed on the ground with a recovered machine-gun and covered their withdrawal before being captured and serving 23 months in a Vietnamese P.O.W. camp. He was released after the war. He retired from the Army after 31 years in 1990 at the rank of Sergeant Major.

Funeral services are pending. There are 79 recipients alive today.

About the Congressional Medal of Honor Society
 The Congressional Medal of Honor Society was chartered by Congress in 1958 and consists exclusively of the living recipients of our nation's highest award for bravery in combat, the Medal of Honor. Those who wear this light blue ribbon and Medal around their neck are "recipients" of this prestigious award; they are not "winners." Although it is common to refer to the Medal as the Congressional Medal of Honor, it is simply named the Medal of Honor, although, as stated, the Congress did

establish the Society as the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Contact: Victoria Kueck 843-884-8862 medalhq@earthlink.net

SOURCE Congressional Medal of Honor Society

Read more: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/2086329#ixzz38yYZALrf>

THE VVA/CSC 14TH BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION

By Charles Earthman

This past June Vietnam veterans from across the state gathered for CalCon 14 in Fresno. The weather, which at this time of year can be in triple digits, was in the high 80's and low 90's; comfortable for summer days in California's central valley.

Pre-convention activities got underway on Thursday, June 26. Delegates arrived at the hotel formerly known as the Holiday Inn Fresno Downtown Convention Center. As delegates registered they were greeted with a welcome reception sponsored by the California Veterans Benefit Fund on the hotel's second floor foyer.

The convention got underway Friday morning with an opening ceremony in the Sierra Grand Ballroom. VVA California State Council President Steve Mackey called the convention to order and the Colors were presented by the Fresno VAMC Women's Color Guard. Pledge of Allegiance was said and the National Anthem was sung by Kyle Orlemann. The Invocation and POW/MIA Moment of Silence was done by Craig Meadows Chapter 933. Welcome remarks and recognition of dignitaries and guests was given by Steve Mackey.

VVA National President John Rowan addressed the convention floor. President Rowan spoke of the problems in the VA health care system--a subject of concern to all veterans and especially Vietnam veterans attending the convention. The problems in the VA stirred such passion that the discussion by Mr. Rowan and the convention delegates took more time than intended. But, there was other convention business to do. Other honored guests present were Sharon Hobbs, AVVA National President, and Charlie Hobbs, VVA National Director-at-Large.

The AVVA luncheon was one of the highlights of the convention. The luncheon featured special guests Sharon Hobbs and John Rowan, VVA National President. In the past, the AVVA luncheon has been a popular event with delegates and guests and this time was no exception. After lunch some delegates attended a meeting on secondary PTSD that was very enlightening. Committee meetings and discussions by many of the CSC committee chairs took place the rest of the afternoon. After dinner there was POW/MIA ceremony highlighted by a performance by students from the King River School. The convention day ended with the candidates' forum chaired by Ken Holybee. All the CSC candidates came before the delegates and talked about themselves and what they planned to accomplish in the next two years. Most candidates were standing for reelection and were uncontested. John Crooker lost a bid for re-election to First Vice President and Lou Nunez lost his bid to unseat the incumbent for the Northern District Director to the CSC. Even though Santa Rosa Chapter 223 is one of the most active chapters in the country, neither candidate was as well-known as his opponent.

On Saturday the convention reconvened and committee chairs gave their reports after which delegates broke for lunch. In the afternoon delegate voting took place. At the last session Ken Holybee, Election Committee Chair, reported on the elections results, convention business was finalized, the Colors retired, and the Benediction was given. The convention was adjourned and all that remained was the Awards Banquet.

The Awards Banquet was held in the Sky Room atop the hotel with music provided by the Richie Blue Band. The banquet fair consisted of beef or salmon dinners. This was the final time VVA members from all over the state would be together for two more years. CSC President Steve Mackey presented awards and the CSC Board of Directors for 2014-2016 was officially installed and Cal/Con 14 was over. Election Results: Steve Mackey, President; Henry Iasiello, 1st VP; Dick Southern, 2nd VP; Tom Hohmann, Secretary; Barry Schloffel, Treasurer; Dean Gotham, North District Director; Richard Segovia, Central District Director; Mike Kennedy, South District Director; Al Sickle, At Large Director. Awards for Outstanding Newsletter of the Year and Outstanding E-mail Newsletter of the Year went to Chapter 223. And the Images of Bravery recipient was presented to Frank Smart, Chapter 391

Vietnam-era veterans are growing older and VVA, unlike other veterans' organizations, is a group that one

Chapter 391 Provides gate security for Mother Lode Fair



For the second year, Mother Lode Fair management asked Chapter 391 to provide gate security during the Fair. The fair management donated to our scholarship fund as a thank you. The agreement is an example of a win/win for both groups. The fair lowered their costs for gate security and the scholarship fund benefited. While it was extremely hot (100+) the teams that managed the gates once again showed 391's commitment to community service. The teams came from VVA 391, AVVA and

VVA 391 motorcycle riders group. Our hats are off to each member who gave their time for this goal.



Pictures by: Carol Scamara

The Mother Lode Fair's main theme this year was to honor all veterans. All of Sonora's Veteran Service Organizations were invited to have informational booths at the fair. Chapter 391 provided a booth to inform the community about issues of PTSD, Agent Orange and veteran benefits.

Annual Bobby Rapp Memorial Scholarship Run

Sgt. Bobby Rapp was one of the first local boys killed in Afghanistan, in March 2008. The Bobby Rapp memorial run from Sonora to Tuolumne was created to honor his service. This is a great run and is well supported by motorcycle riders from all around the area. This year was no exception with hundreds of riders showing up to honor one of Sonora's own. Proceeds fund scholarships for local high school students going into their first year of college.



Pictures by: Carol Scamara

Chapter 391 Golf Tournament



The Chapter has hosted an annual Golf Tournament since 2001. This year's event at Mountain Springs Golf Course was, once again, a major success. 100+ golfers enjoyed a shotgun start, putting contest, an outstanding dinner and lots of prizes. Each year

this event has grown and continues to be a major fund raiser for Chapter 391. Project Lead John Marrs has worked diligently to establish the event in the community. Thanks to the Golf team for all their efforts to make this a First Class event.



Pictures by: Kathi Bramblett

VVA Chapter 391 – Sonora CA

The Chapter 391 color guard has been extremely busy in various events around Sonora and Tuolumne County. From the Mother Lode Round Up Parade, multiple Memorial Day ceremonies, Fourth of July celebrations and the Flag retirement ceremony at Twain Harte. The unit has become well known to the community and is welcomed at these events each year.



Picture by: Kathi Bramblett AVVA 391

CSC 14th Bi-annual convention Fresno



At the convention, Chapter 391's very own Frank Smart received the "Images of Bravery" award for his many years of service to veterans. Frank is a tireless supporter of veterans. A founding member of 391 and the Sonora Stand Down, he led fundraising efforts for "Veteran Memory Bricks" for the new VA clinic and many other events. Congratulations Frank!

Picture by:
Brooke McKusick, VVA 223.

Chapter 464

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day 2014

The Chapter's 1st Annual Car Show on March 29th was a rainy day success. It was held at the Redwood City Veterans Memorial Center. Despite the showers, car owners brought their classic vehicles ranging from Dodge Chargers to Cadillac and had a "rainy" good time. President Gary Higgins displayed his Hyundai Equus, 1st VP Keith Blackey his '66 Mustang, and Rod Padilla his '69 Buick Riviera. Chapter Delegate Ponce Gonzalez headed up the BBQ meal with the grilling done by his granddaughter Chef Ashley and fellow Chef Barry. Door prizes were donated by Chaplain Leo McArdle, Sec/Treasurer Helen Wong, USAA's Jon Colnett (also a 173rd Airborne Vietnam Veteran). Tote bags, magnets, and magazines were donated by Hagerty Classic Car Insurance. Members of Chapter 400 participated by passing out veterans related information. Chapter 500 was also represented along with a Navy veteran who lived nearby. Vet Center staff were on hand with their informational handouts. Members of Vet to Vet also had displays on their table. Member Sheryl Shaffer and videographer Vietnam Veteran Steve Hall conducted interviews for Veterans Helping Veterans TV, and made a video which can be viewed at: http://youtu.be/7FTX_e5CbWY

Proclamations from the city of Redwood City, and from the County Board of Supervisors were read. It was a fun day for all and brought together the Chapter members and other Vietnam Veterans in the Community.



day will no longer exist. California has a large population of Vietnam veterans who are aging and have an ever-increasing number of issues to face. As California VVA members, we must help and support our state council. Those of us still able must do what we can to work for programs and legislation to make life as beneficial and positive as possible for all veterans and especially for Vietnam-era vets.

WOMEN WHO DIED IN VIETNAM

U.S. ARMY

- * 2nd Lt. Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba
- * 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones

Lt. Drazba and Lt. Jones were assigned to the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. They died in a helicopter crash near Saigon, February 18, 1966. Drazba was from Dunmore, PA, Jones from Allendale, SC. Both were 22 years old.

- * Capt. Eleanor Grace Alexander
- * 1st Lt. Hedwig Diane Orłowski

Capt. Alexander of Westwood, NJ, and Lt. Orłowski of Detroit, MI, died November 30, 1967. Alexander, stationed at the 85th Evac., and Orłowski, stationed at the 67th Evac. in Qui Nhon, had been sent to a hospital in Pleiku to help out during a push. With them when their plane crashed on the return trip to Qui Nhon were two other nurses, Jerome E. Olmstead of Clintonville, WI, and Kenneth R. Shoemaker, Jr. of Owensboro, KY. Alexander was 27, Orłowski 23. Both were posthumously awarded Bronze Stars.

- * 2nd Lt. Pamela Dorothy Donovan

Lt. Donovan, from Allston, MA, became seriously ill and died on July 8, 1968. She was assigned to the 85th Evac. in Qui Nhon. She was 26 years old.

- * 1st Lt. Sharon Ann Lane

Lt. Lane died from shrapnel wounds when the 312th Evac. at Chu Lai was hit by rockets on June 8, 1969. From Canton, OH, she was a month short of her 26th birthday. She was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Bronze Star for Heroism. In 1970, the recovery room at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, where Lt. Lane had been assigned before going to Viet Nam, was dedicated in her honor. In 1973, Aultman Hospital in Canton, OH, where Lane had attended nursing school, erected a bronze statue of Lane. The names of 110 local servicemen killed in Vietnam are on the base of the statue.

- * Lt. Col. Annie Ruth Graham, Chief Nurse at 91st Evac. Hospital, Tuy Hoa

Lt. Col. Graham, from Efland, NC, suffered a stroke in August 14, 1968 and was evacuated to Japan where she died four days later. A veteran of both World War II and Korea, she was 52.

U.S. AIR FORCE

- * Capt. Mary Therese Klinker

Capt. Klinker, a flight nurse assigned to Clark Air Base in the Philippines, was on the C-5A Galaxy which crashed on April 4 outside Saigon while evacuating Vietnamese orphans. This is known as the Operation Babylift crash. From Lafayette, IN, she was 27. She was posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism and the Meritorious Service Medal.

MOH RECIPIENTS HONORED

CALVET HONORS AND RECOGNIZES MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS ALVARADO, DURAN, GOMEZ, GANDARA AND LARA WITH SPECIAL CEREMONY

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) today honored five Medal of Honor recipients whom received this recognition posthumously from President Barack Obama with a very special ceremony on the West Steps of the State Capitol. Honored and recognized on the occasion of their having received these long overdue Medals of Honor were Specialist Fourth Class Leonard L. Alvarado; Sergeant Jesus S. Duran; Sergeant First Class Eduardo C. Gomez; Private Joe



Photos of VVA Chapter 464 members marching in the Redwood City July 4th parade courtesy of William Jackson.



actions while serving with Company I, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Tabu-dong, Korea, on Sept. 3, 1950.

Private Joe Gandara will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving with Company D, 2d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Amfreville, France, on June 9, 1944.

Private First Class Salvador J. Lara will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as the Squad Leader of a rifle squad with 2d Platoon, Company L, 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Aprilia, Italy, on May 27 and 28, 1944.

Following the ceremony, family members and special guests were treated to a delicious lunch in CalVet's Medal of Honor Hall sponsored by the California Veterans Benefit Fund.

HOSPITAL DELAYS ARE KILLING AMERICA'S WAR VETERANS

By Scott Bronstein, Nelli Black and Drew Griffin, CNN Investigations
America's war veterans are dying because of long waits and delayed care, CNN has found

The VA is aware of the problems and has done little to address it, documents show more than 20 are believed to have died or are dying because of waits at one VA facility Columbia, South Carolina

Military veterans are dying needlessly because of long waits and delayed care at U.S. veterans hospitals, a CNN investigation has found.

What's worse, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is aware of the problems and has done almost nothing to effectively prevent veterans dying from delays in care, according to documents obtained by CNN and interviews with numerous experts.

The problem has been especially dire at the Williams Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina. There, veterans waiting months for simple gastrointestinal procedures -- such as a colonoscopy or endoscopy -- have been dying because their cancers aren't caught in time.

The VA has confirmed six deaths at Dorn tied to delays. But sources close to the investigation say the number of veterans dead or dying of cancer because they had to wait too long for diagnosis or treatment at this facility could be more than 20.

"It's very sad, because people died," said Dr. Stephen Lloyd, a private physician specializing in colonoscopies in Columbia.

Lloyd and other physicians across South Carolina's capital city are being affected by the delays at Dorn as veterans seek treatment or diagnoses outside the VA hospital.

Lloyd is one of the few doctors in the area willing to speak on the record about the situation at Dorn.

"(Veterans) paid the ultimate price," he said. "People that had appointments had their appointments canceled and rescheduled much later. ... In some cases, that made an impact where they went into a later stage (of illness) and therefore lost the battle to live."

Oneal Sessions, a 63-year-old Vietnam veteran, said he was told by staff members at Dorn Medical Center this year that he didn't need a colonoscopy. Instead, he said, they gave him a routine test that would show whether he had polyps that are cancerous or in danger of becoming cancerous.

Sessions said the VA told him to return in several years.

Thanks for your service, vets! Now try finding a job But he ignored that advice and had a colonoscopy in the office of his private physician, Lloyd. In that procedure, Lloyd found and removed four polyps. Two of those polyps were pre-cancerous, the physician said.

Had Sessions waited another few years, Lloyd said, he could have had colon cancer.

"There is a little problem that the VA had," Sessions said. "My feeling is, the VA is not doing their 'pre-stuff' that they should do to protect the veterans."

What happened at the Dorn hospital, however, was not just an oversight by the hospital. Government documents

obtained exclusively by CNN and not made public show that the hospital knew that its growing waiting list and delays in care were having deadly consequences.

Veterans waiting years for benefits Vets face delays in mental health care Soldier drug 'guinea pigs' sue the V.A. Strangers gather for funeral of WWII vet

Medical investigators reviewed the cases of 280 gastrointestinal cancer patients at Dorn and found that 52 were "associated with a delay in diagnosis and treatment."

The government documents CNN obtained illustrate just how bad delays at Dorn got:

- In May 2011, a patient was brought into the emergency room needing urgent care after suffering multiple delays, and the documents state "that was the facility's first realization that patients were 'falling through the cracks.'"

- Another veteran had to wait nine months for a colonoscopy -- "a significant delay," according to VA records, that "would have impacted the stage at which he was diagnosed." The record indicates that by the time this veteran had surgery, his cancer was at stage 3.

- Still another patient recommended for possible disease of the esophagus had to wait four months for an appointment and 11 months for an endoscopy, at which time he learned that he had later-stage esophageal cancer. The internal VA report says that without the delay, "his cancer would have been diagnosed much earlier." And though the report doesn't say whether the veteran died, it does say that an earlier screening would have provided earlier detection "with better survival."

- In July 2011, a hospital physician sent a warning to administrators that the backlog for Dorn patients' gastrointestinal appointments had reached 2,500, and patients were waiting eight months -- until February 2012 -- for appointments.

- By December 2011, the documents show, the backlog at Dorn had grown to 3,800 patients, according to another warning e-mail from a physician.

Read the full VA investigation board report (PDF)

Little was done to effectively resolve the problems, according to expert sources and documents.

In September 2013, the VA's inspector general affirmed details of the delays at Dorn in stark language, stating that 700 of the delays for appointments or care were "critical."

Read the full IG report on Dorn (PDF)

Perhaps most troubling of all is that the problem at the Dorn facility had been identified, and taxpayer money was given to fix the problem in September 2011.

"We appropriated a million dollars (to Dorn) because VA asked for it," said Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Florida, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

War letters offer a peek into history Children of fallen US soldiers speak out VA chair on how shutdown hurts vets Homeless vet makeover goes viral

The documents obtained by CNN show that only a third of that \$1 million from Congress was used for its intended purpose at Dorn: to pay for care for veterans on a waiting list.

The VA "will say, 'we redirected those dollars to go somewhere it was needed,'" Miller said. "Where would it be more needed than to prevent the deaths of veterans?"

At the same time, the documents show, the waiting list at Dorn kept growing to 3,800 patients in December 2011.

"These are real people that we're talking about, that are being harmed -- either made sick, will be sick in the future or have died," Miller said.

Documents and interviews show that the problem goes beyond delayed colonoscopies and other gastrointestinal procedures at Dorn.

CNN has learned from documents and interviews that other VA facilities have been under scrutiny by officials over possible delays in treatment or diagnoses.

Shortly before CNN published this report, the VA acknowledged that there have been concerns about delay of care at some of its facilities.

At the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, the VA said three veterans died as a result of delayed care. Internal documents at that facility showed a waiting list of 4,500 patients.

The VA also acknowledged that it investigated delays at facilities in Atlanta, North Texas and Jackson, Mississippi. The VA said no "adverse outcomes" because of delays were found at the VA centers in Texas and Mississippi.

Homeless vet in makeover video has long road ahead CNN also has learned that, though little publicized, the problem is not new.

"Long wait times and a weak scheduling policy and process have been persistent problems for the VA, and both the GAO and the VA's (inspector general) have been

reporting on these issues for more than a decade," said Debra Draper of the Government Accountability Office.

Draper's office has been reporting to Congress on the delays in care at the VA for years. It is so bad, she said, that she and her staff have found evidence that VA hospitals have tried to cover up wait times, fudge numbers and backdate delayed appointments in an effort to make things appear better than they are.

She says that just getting someone to pick up the phone to make an appointment at a VA hospital can be difficult. And getting a detailed picture of the problem is nearly impossible, she said.

"It's unclear how long it is being delayed, because no one can really give you accurate information," Draper said.

Despite numerous reports and subsequent recommendations by the GAO, the problems with delays persist at VA hospitals, Draper and other experts say.

What veterans want you to know about military service

"Nothing has been implemented that we know of at this point," Draper said. "We've reported similar things, as well as the inspector general has reported similar findings ... for over a decade."

In fact, time and time again, even at hospitals where veterans died waiting for care, administrators got bonuses, not demotions, according to congressional investigators.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has created a website devoted to what investigators say shows ongoing problems at the VA, but the rewards system that Miller says is in place seems to encourage those problems.

CNN's repeated requests for interviews with the VA have been denied. Even Congress has had its requests for information ignored, Miller said.

"But unfortunately, if they treat members of Congress ... this way, imagine how they treat the average veteran out there," said Miller. "I can imagine the grief they may be going through."

The VA said in a statement to CNN, "The Department

of Veterans Affairs is committed to providing the best quality, safe and effective health care our Veterans have earned and deserve. We take seriously any issue that occurs at one of the more than 1,700 health care facilities across the country. The consult delay at Dorn VAMC has been resolved."

The statement added that cases are now tracked daily, and additional staff members were hired.

But sources at Dorn -- both patients and medical staff -- tell CNN that's just not true. The problems continue, and veterans are still facing delays that could be killing them.

CNN's Curt Devine contributed to this report.

CONGRESS DEMANDS ANSWERS AFTER CNN REPORT ON VA DEATHS

Members of Congress traveled to two Veterans Administration hospitals featured in a CNN report to visit the facilities and demand answers about why U.S. veterans needlessly died there.

The congressional delegations led by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller, R-Florida, visited the Dorn Veterans Administration Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina, and the Charlie Norwood Medical Facility in Augusta, Georgia, after a CNN investigation that reported patients died as a result of delayed or denied care.

Six deaths have been confirmed so far, and sources tell CNN the number of veterans who are dead or dying of cancer because they had to wait too long for diagnosis or treatment could be more than 20. Thousands of veterans were forced to wait months for simple screening tests like colonoscopies, and by the time they got diagnosed, it was too late.

Hospital delays are killing America's war veterans. The wait lists for gastrointestinal appointments at the hospitals number in the thousands and go back as

far as 2010. Both hospitals say the wait list issues have been resolved, but according to the visiting members of Congress, the VA still cannot explain why or who was responsible for the poor treatment of veterans.

Rep. John Barrow, a Georgia Democrat whose district includes the Charlie Norwood VA center, said Congress has "a duty to make sure that the veterans who serve get the best health care possible. And it is very obvious that for too long and for too many folks that hasn't happened."

Citing a lack of any disciplinary action and lack of ability to identify who at the VA caused the backlogs to exist, Barrow told reporters, "Our goal here today is to try to get to the bottom of what happened and to prevent this from ever happening again. What's important (is for) folks to understand this is just one step of a multistage affair to get to the bottom of what happened and to hold accountable those who were responsible."

The Veterans Affairs Committee has been looking into problems at VA medical centers for the past year and says the VA administration continues to stonewall and withhold information the congressmen believe is critical to understanding why the VA appears to be run so poorly. The VA has also refused CNN's repeated requests to interview Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki or any other VA official on camera.

VA hospital apologizes for deaths

Miller said the practice at the VA seems to be to hold no one accountable for errors, and instead transfer poorly performing executives and employees to other facilities instead of firing them.

In an interview with CNN, Miller said he and his committee will continue to demand to know the names of those responsible and to demand disciplinary action. "That's why we asked the question again today ... tell us exactly who was disciplined and how." Miller said, "I don't want to hear the excuse anymore that it was, 'well, it was multifaceted, there were many people involved.'... Well, if there were many people involved, then they all need to go."

Miller, who said he has been reluctant to make his investigations political, did say it is time the White House starts paying attention to the deteriorating treatment of the nation's veterans. He said he has been frustrated by a lack of cooperation from the Veterans Administration leadership, and that Shinseki has not paid enough attention to the medical problems at VA medical centers. Miller also said it is time President Obama pay as much attention to what is happening at VA medical centers as he does to what's happening in Washington or Hawaii, a reference to the president's recent vacation to his home state.

"It's time for him (Shinseki) to show some passion. And certainly it's time to show some passion from the President. I mean, the fact that we've had veterans who have died in the very facilities that are supposed to be taking care of them, and not by natural means, by means that could have been prevented, is egregious."

The congressman said his group has given the VA 30 days to respond to their requests for those answers.

PANEL TO STUDY AGENT ORANGE RESIDUE EXPOSURE

By Chad Garland, AP

The Veterans Affairs Department has long resisted disability claims from service members who said chemical residue left in Vietnam War-era planes that were used to spray defoliants over Southeast Asia caused them severe illnesses, including cancer.

This summer, a panel of independent scientists will try to determine whether those veterans could have been exposed to the toxins in defoliants, including Agent Orange, at a level that would be dangerous to their health.

If the panel, which hosts the first of a series of closed meetings and public hearings on May 15, finds a link, the

James Abbott Passes



James was a life member of Chapter 702, and before a prolonged illness slowed him down, he was very active in the chapter's events and meetings. James left us on July 13th

James always had suggestions on ways to improve the chapter and his presence will be missed.

James served 9 months in the National Guard prior to joining the army for a 21 year career

Family and friend will celebrate James' life with military honor Sunday, Aug 3, 2014 at 1:00 PM at Cross Walk Community Church, 2590 First Street in Napa.

Memories and words of sympathy may be sent to the family online at TulocayCemetery.org.

There will be much more on James and his colorful life in the Sep/Oct 702 newsletter, coming out soon.



A U.S. military helicopter sprays Agent

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

By Pete Conaty, Veterans Advocate

VETERANS DESIGNATION ON CA DRIVER'S LICENSES

The effort to get a "VETERAN" designation on the California driver's license started out this year with AB 1637 by Assemblyman Jim Frazier (D-Oakley). The VVA-CSC was a major sponsor of the bill. AB 1637 passed unanimously through the first two policy committees but died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee due to a perceived cost to the DMV of over \$2 million between Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2017. The Appropriations committees are the graveyard of many worthwhile bills because of real or imagined cost pressures on the state budget.

Undaunted, Assemblyman Frazier changed another one of his bills, AB 935, and inserted the veterans driver's license language from AB 1637. In order to get the bill past the Appropriations Committee, a \$15 fee for the veterans' license is now included in the bill. However, the bill will be amended soon to reduce that fee to \$5. The reality of the Legislature's appropriations process means that any bill without a fee would be killed. AB 935 is the best shot we have at getting the veterans designation onto the driver's license this year.

Getting a veteran designation on the CA driver's license is voluntary.

After the veterans designation policy goes into effect, it could perhaps be shown in the future that getting veterans aware of and signed up for their benefits has a much higher cost benefit to the state than the cost to DMV to provide the designation for free.

AB 935 can be viewed at:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/asm/ab_0901-0950/ab_935_bill_20140609_amended_sen_v96.pdf

Proposition 41, Veterans Housing & Homeless Bond Act of 2014

Proposition 41, the Veterans Housing & Homeless Bond Act of 2014 passed easily with 65% of the vote in the June 3rd Primary Election. The VVA-CSC and all of the Veterans Service Organization clients I represented were in support of the legislation which put this measure on the ballot as well as supporting the Yes on 41 campaign.

Thanks for all of your support!

The state will now sell \$600 million in new general obligation bonds to fund affordable multifamily housing for low-income veterans. Prop 41 will fund construction, renovation, and acquisition of affordable multifamily housing, such as apartment complexes. The state would do this by providing local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private developers with financial assistance, such as low-interest loans, to fund part of a project's costs. Housing built with these funds would be rented to low-income veterans (and their families)—that is, those who earn less than 80 percent of average family income, as adjusted by family size and county.

Veterans Treatment Courts

Below is a chart showing which counties have Veterans Treatment Courts. If your county does not have one, you should approach your Board of Supervisors and your local County District Attorney.

County	Court	Veterans*	OEF/OIF*	Population
Los Angeles Downtown	Yes (9/10)	345,886	17,470	9,958,01
Los Angeles Lancaster	Yes (3/13)			
San Diego	Yes (2/11)	229,524	28,666	3,150,178
Orange	Yes (11/08)	137,011	6,227	3,081,804
Riverside	Yes (1/12)	136,635	8,235	2,255,059
San Bernardino	Yes (1/10)	115,656	7,280	2,076,274
Sacramento		98,204	4,614	1,445,806
Santa Clara	Yes (11/08)	67,780	2,726	1,842,254
Alameda	Yes (11/13)	65,831	2,278	1,548,681
Contra Costa		69,376	1,890	1,074,702
Kern	Alternative2	48,052	2,2815	857,882
Ventura	Yes (11/10)	46,442	2,884	835,436
Fresno		45,922	2,254	952,166
San Joaquin	Yes (4/11)	37,498	1,640	698,414
Solano	Alternative1	34,524	3,099	418,387
Sonoma		31,95	834	490,423
San Mateo	Yes (5/12)	31,505	1,084	735,678
Placer	Yes (9/12)	30,582	1,219	357,463
San Francisco	Yes (4/13)	28,444	1,076	825,111
Stanislaus		27,351	1,214	524,124
Santa Barbara	Yes (11/11)	25,172	1,167	429,200
San Luis Obispo	Yes (6/13)	21,966	753	272,177
Monterey		21,022	1,149	421,494
Tulare	Yes (2/10)	19,793	1,097	455,599
Butte		18,787	701	221,485
Shasta		17,158	575	178,601
El Dorado	Yes (2/12)	15,942	407	182,286
Marin		14,137	216	254,007
Santa Cruz		13,189	306	266,662
Merced		11,937	596	262,478
Kings	Yes (4/13)	11,139	1,555	152,007
Humboldt		10,817	3094	135,209
Napa		10,580	246	138,383
Yolo		9,979	573	205,999
Nevada	Alternative3	9,489	232	97,019
Madera		8,567	338	152,711
Imperial		7,644	726	180,061
Mendocino		7,337	141	88,291
Sutter		7,030	435	95,851
Lake		6,958	132	64,531
Tuolumne		6,535	124	54,360
Yuba		6,030	643	73,439
Tehama		5,999	183	63,772
Calaveras		5,766	104	44,932
Amador		4,627	84	36,741
Siskiyou		4,492	103	44,796
Lassen		3,620	149	33,422
San Benito		2,817	122	56,669
Del Norte		2,608	72	28,380
Mariiposa		2,218	30	18,026
Plumas		2,178	53	19,643
Glenn		1,962	65	28,349
Inyo		1,637	30	18,573
Trinity	Alternative1	1,567	33	13,443
Colusa		1,235	48	21,674
Mono		1,091	26	14,493
Modoc		933	27	9,522
Sierra		436	*	3,166
Alpine		150	*	1,087



Achieve the American Dream! Affordable Housing Development for U.S. Veterans



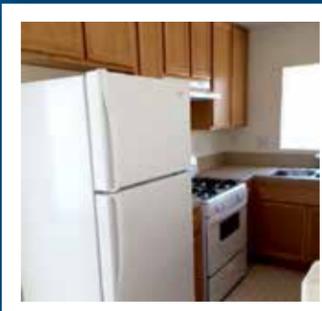
**Attention Veterans with a Family Income
between \$52,000 - \$83,650***

Now accepting applications for Phase 2 of an 87-home community in Santa Clarita.

Through this Enriched Neighborhood™ program, United States veterans of any age or conflict (including National Guard) can qualify for a three or four bedroom home and pay no more than 35% of their monthly income for mortgage, insurance, taxes, and HOA dues. The neighborhood will feature a large playground for children, an urban community garden, and several outdoor and common areas. Families enrolled in the program will also have access to free services and trainings that address the specific needs of veteran first-time home buyers.

To learn more about qualifications and how to apply, call Habitat for Humanity SF/SCV's Family Services Department at (818) 884-8808 or go to <http://www.HumanityCA.org/becomehomeowner.html>

*Qualifying income minimums and maximums are determined by family size and defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



*Shower modifications available



Habitat for Humanity SF/SCV • 21031 Ventura Boulevard, Ste. 610 • Woodland Hills, CA 91364 • www.HumanityCA.org • (818) 884-8808

harmful to humans. The fleet returned stateside, but Air Force Reserve units continued to fly them on cargo and medevac missions until the early 1980s.

Over the years veterans who flew in those planes have been getting sick, and like many Vietnam veterans, they're blaming the defoliants.

Carter said he found out they still had dried herbicide residue in them after he was diagnosed in 2011 with prostate cancer, one of nearly 20 illnesses VA deems service-connected among Vietnam veterans, due to possible herbicide exposure.

The VA does not require Vietnam veterans to prove they were exposed to the herbicides. Instead, it presumes they were, if they develop certain diseases and disorders linked to those chemicals, and grants them disability compensation benefits.

Service members who served on the planes after their return stateside need to "show on a factual basis that they were exposed in order to receive disability compensation," the VA said in an email statement.

Carter was already receiving VA medical care and disability compensation for injuries he sustained on duty in the 1990s, but the VA denied his claim seeking Agent Orange-related disability pay in 2012.

A VA official wrote in support of the denial that medical studies showed that it was unlikely that dioxin exposure would lead to adverse health effects. Carter said he's appealing, but he said it can take years and he worries that at 67 and with cancer, that's more than he has left.

Other postwar C-123 veterans have successfully appealed similar denials. At least one C-123 veteran battling cancer was granted benefits without an appeal, but died a short time later.

Carter said the 2,100 veterans who served on the aircraft after the war should get the same benefit of the doubt.

Carter has amassed public documents showing that the Air Force canceled sales of several C-123s in 1996 and smelted them in 2010 over concerns they were still contaminated with herbicide residue, even after they had sat in the Arizona desert for decades.



Flying at dawn, just over the jungle foliage, U.S. C-123 aircraft spray concentrated defoliant along power lines running between Saigon and Dalat in South Vietnam, early in August 1963. The planes were flying about 130 miles per hour over steep, hilly terrain, much of it believed infiltrated by the Viet Cong. (AP Photo/Horst Faas)



Chapter 201's AVVA marching in the San Jose 4th of July parade.



leading the crusade and who believes his prostate cancer and other disorders are due to his exposure to dioxin, a contaminant found in Agent Orange.

Carter served on C-123s in the Air Force Reserves as a medic from 1974 to 1980. The planes were used to spray millions of gallons of defoliants to destroy crops and eliminate jungle cover used by the North Vietnamese Army and the Vietcong.

The military stopped the spraying by early 1971 over concerns that some defoliants contained compounds

He has also garnered support from lawmakers and others, such as U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Cameron Smith, Yale Law School researchers and several scientists.

Fred Berman, director of the Toxicology Information Center at Oregon Health and Science University, said the VA "established new laws of chemistry" in denying the C-123 veterans' exposure claims.

In response, he and others co-authored a study in the April issue of the journal Environmental Research that concluded dioxin levels in the aircraft after the war were "likely to have exceeded several available exposure guidelines."

Dr. Terry Walters, deputy chief consultant in the VA's Post Deployment Health group, said she understands the frustration, but the VA is simply following the law. She said Congress provided the presumption for Vietnam veterans because there was no way to measure their actual exposure.

The difference for the postwar C-123 veterans, she said, is that there are dioxin measurements from the planes that can be used to make a risk assessment. "You have to draw the line somewhere," Walters said.

"What we're asking the Institute of Medicine to do is give us a scientific opinion of where that is," Walters said.

The Institute of Medicine, which has conducted congressionally mandated reviews to evaluate research on herbicides used in Vietnam, is scheduled to publish its conclusions in the fall.

service members could be eligible for tax-free disability compensation up to several thousand dollars a month.

That's something Wes Carter, a retired Air Force major, believes is long overdue.

"We've got some sick folks that are not allowed to go into the VA," said Carter, a former Oregon resident



Richard Segovia



Charlie Hobbs



Lou Nunez



Conrad Gomez



John Cheney

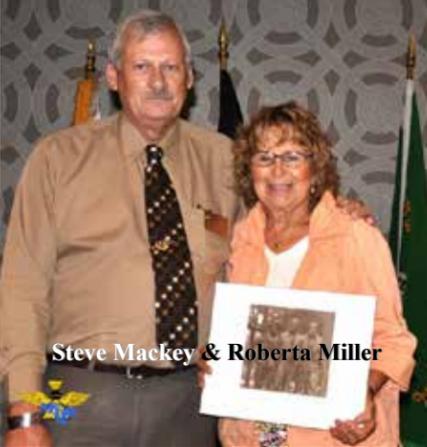
The 2014 VVA California Convention in Pictures

Photos by:
Brooke McKusick, VVA-223



Judy Crooker

Kate O'Hare



Steve Mackey & Roberta Miller

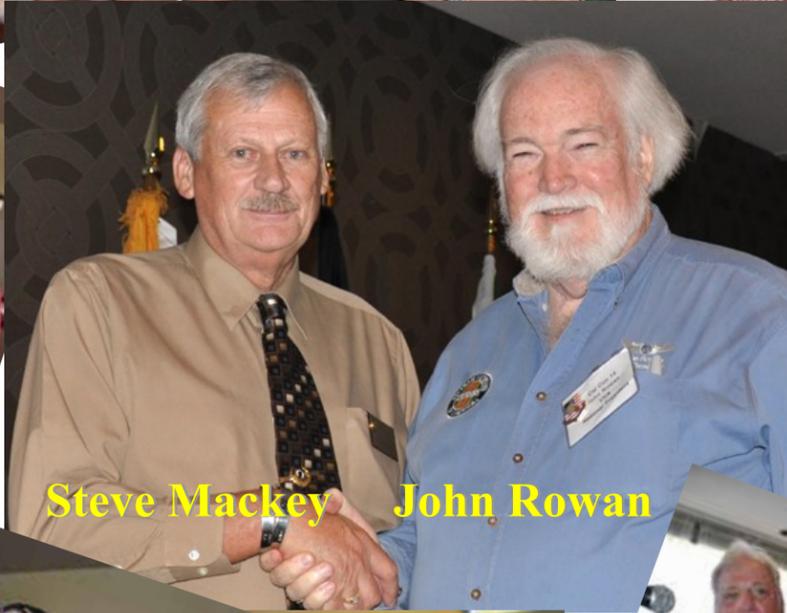


Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Toews

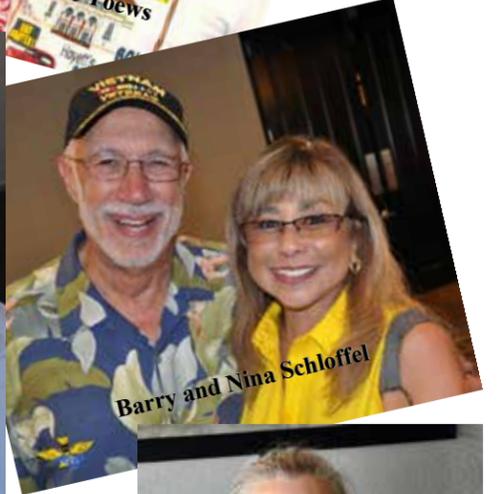


Robert Chaney

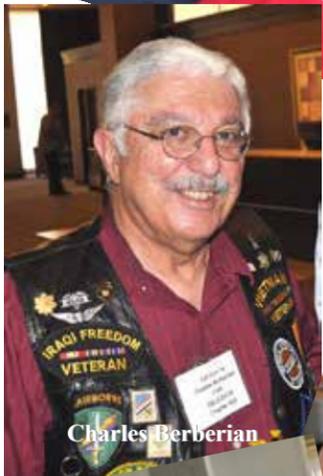
Steve Mackey



Steve Mackey John Rowan



Barry and Nina Schloffel



Charles Berberian



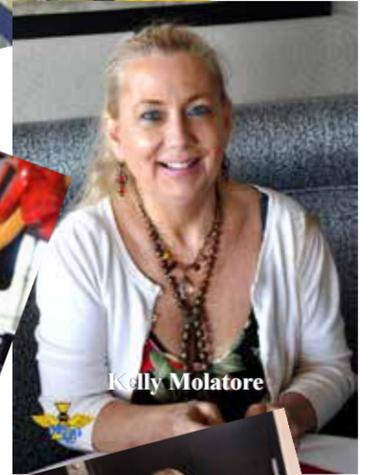
"Richie Blue"



Carol Southern



"Richie Blue"



Kelly Molatore



Gil Flores & Richard Segovia



Debbie Kennedy

Nina Schloffel



Serious Talk



Elayne Mackey



Robert Chaney



John Weaver



Pam Juracich



Michael Callinson



Kathi Davis



Art Hinz



Chelli Croucher



Ponce Gonzalez



Marty Snezek



Sharon Hobbs



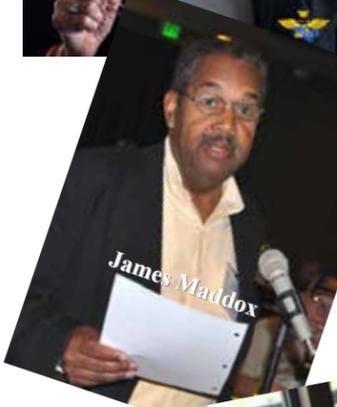
Steve Mackey Brooke McKusick Charles Earthman



Line to Vote



Anthony Tate



James Maddox



"Rolling Thunder" by Kings River School



Peter Burrelle



Retire the Colors



Butch Frederickson & Kelly Molatore



Bob Chaney Chelli Croucher Henry Iasiello



Steve Mackie Al Sickle Frank Smart



Ed Ryan



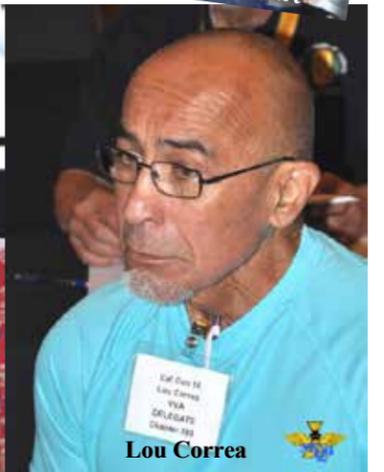
John McGivney



Larry Glenn



Debbie Kennedy



Lou Correa

O JOHNNY, WHERE HAVE YOU GONE

8/1/14
(for those still not yet home)

[Little Boy Blue
Come blow your horn.
The sheep's in the meadow.
The cow's in the corn.
Where is that boy?
To war he went away.
Got banged up there.
His lips too bruised to play.

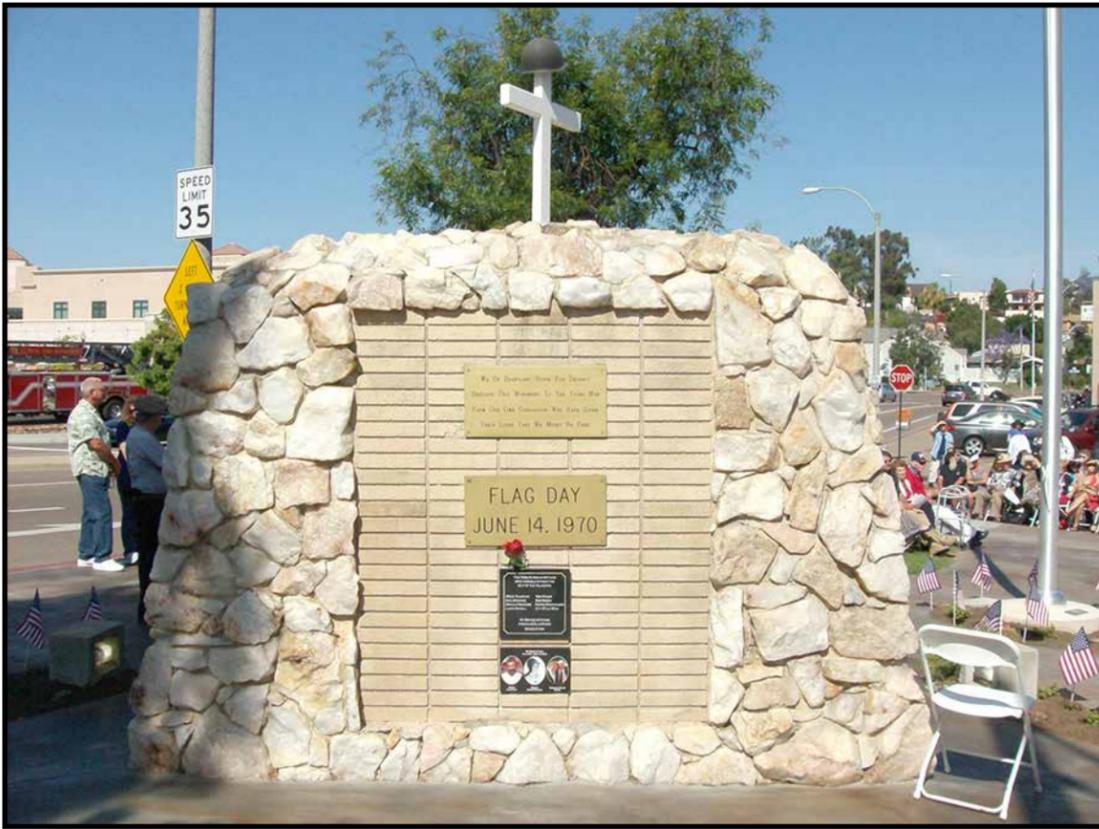
- G Ney, A
Fractured Nursery Rhyme
8/2/14

I

O Johnny!
Where have you gone?
The Earth's lapped
Forty Five and a Wake-up
Since that guy
With your name
Flew from Nam
Over the pond,
A wild goose
On the wrong flyway
With no safe place
To land.

~
O Johnny.
Where have you gone?
The ghost
With your face
Haunts our halls,
A doppelganger
Draped in dread,
"Don't mean nuthin',"
It said.

~
O Johnny,



Where have you gone
Did the catcalls and jeers
Of the No Parade
Steer you back inside
To that still wounded place
Where your hurt can't hide
But can't quite heal?
Your lips are locked
but boilingly loaded.
And though I knew you
Not before, something
In me misses
What once you were.

~
O Johnny.
Where have you gone?
Your tracks leave claw marks
All pointing to the past.
Your stories and poems
Are still over there.
That much I know,
But of the secret sharer
Within your heart
I really know nothing.

~
O Johnny!
Where have you gone?
No grand Main Street march
With bands, crowds and shouts;
Just a quick slip
Into a changed mainstream
And out again off the grid
Or anyplace else
To park your specter.

II

Now I know why
"When Johnny Comes Marching
Home"
Give the lie
To its high hopes
And "Hurrahs"
With the background mourning
Of a minor key.
O Johnny... [in a whisper]
Now I hardly know ye.

- Gerald Alan Ney

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This issue was intended to be published in time for the August CSC Meeting; *My Apologies*. Even though a part of the life cycle, my oldest sister passed; many of you have been through this so I don't need to elaborate. Unfortunately for the Zephyr it was in the middle of prep for this issue when it occurred; I only had about five hours left to finish & get to the printer. As we say often, "Family Comes First" - I hope you all understand. My sisters posted photos on Facebook, e-mail me at tomh47@aol.com, title it related to this.

Rest In Peace Kathleen - See You On The Other Side...



VVA Chapter 223 - Postal Permit
PO Box 1583
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

VVA CA State Council contact info inside - page 2

NON PROFIT ORG
NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
Santa Rosa CA 95402
Permit # 679

To:

In this issue:

- Chapter Activities-Events/Photos
- Legislative Information
- Useful Veteran Information
- 14th Biennial State Convention Photos/Story
- And more...

VVA & CSC Meeting Dates & Events

- CSC Full Council - October 24-26, 2014, Fresno, CA
- CSC Full Council - October 24-26, 2014, Fresno, CA
- CSC Full Council - January 23-25, 2015, Fresno, CA
- CSC Full Council - April 24-26, 2015, Fresno, CA
- 2015 National Convention Info Coming