



# NEWS AND VIEWS



Military Police

Established in 1941

VOLUME 18

ISSUE 9

September 2016

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## Presidents Report, September

The status of our chapter is still in good shape. Looking at what is going on in our area does present concerns. One would think that health care would top the list for our members, but that is second most at this time. At this time a major concern is housing. Not the problem with homelessness in the area but for the number of our members that are being told to move from their rental units. Some have lived in these houses for many years and enjoyed the benefits of renting. At this time a lot of these properties are being sold or the people living in them are being evicted so the owners can remodel and raise the rent. As everyone knows the market here is very tough and there are not many available units to rent. Our members are looking at places they can afford on their fixed income. Some of these places are as far away as Eureka and Redding. With the fires in Lake county, last years as well as this years, there are less houses available in the closer areas. I do not have an answer for the members but if they are forced to leave the area we will all miss their help and friendship. Some of these members are our regular volunteers and we will need to find replacements to fill in for them.

Our upcoming events or the next month will keep us busy. On September 10<sup>th</sup> we have our annual dinner dance fundraiser as well as our monthly poker tournament. This will keep our members busy with two events on the same night. It is a good thing they are in the same building so we can run back and forth if necessary. We also have the Wings Over Wine Coun-



try air show at the end of the month. Two busy days of talking to veterans and others as well as selling hats, pins and anything you leave close to Earl.

We have been trying to keep up with who is doing what in the area. There are efforts to put together programs within the county to address mental health issues, homelessness and a number of other issues. We try to have someone in attendance at these meetings to represent veterans, but we don't always know when they are and sometimes we don't have enough people to attend all of them. Whenever someone is proposing a program or doing something that affects Veterans I feel that veterans should be included in the discussions.

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and is ready for the fall season. I know that the weather is the same for both seasons so people in housing will only notice that the sun goes down earlier. It is time to start planning our Christmas Party which will be on the first Friday of December. If you would like to take the lead of assist let us know.

Don't forget to buy tickets for the dinner dance and invite your friends to attend. There will be raffle and auction items there as well as door prizes.



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Contributors to the News and Views: Ken Holybee, Kate O'Hare-Palmer, Bill Burke and Astrid Ortega. Thanks to all. Would like to see more articles next month. Support the chapter. I don't write articles, I just put it together. There are a lot of interesting stories out there, send them to Ken and he will forward them to me.

If you would like to purchase an Business Card sized ad to put in our NEWSLETTER, Please call the chapter office. Phone number is: 707-526-4218



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## Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014

Ken Holybee

You may be asking where we are on this legislation. The simple answer is stalled. We worked hard and talked to a lot of legislators on this bill. Both of our Senators have signed on as cosponsors to S901. We all took part in making this possible with phone calls and emails to their offices. Our members of congress have also signed on to the companion bill HR 1769. We have spent many years working on getting this legislation to the point that it can be addresses by both houses.

At this time S901, actually some of the wording, has been put into the Veterans First Act. This was supposed to be a fix all for the veteran's legislation out of the senate. If you read this bill it does cover a lot. It also takes a lot of key points out of S901 and puts a clause in that the Secretary of the Veterans Administration does not need to accept the report from the Institute of Medicine and can cancel the program at his discretion. The Senate Veterans Committee voted to send it to the floor with a unanimous vote from the committee. The House is waiting to bring it out. Since everyone is home trying to raise money to get reelected or to just talk about how good of a job they are doing these bills may not see the light of day when the congress goes back into secession.

We must make sure that every time we see our legislators we bring this to their attention. Do not let them forget that we want this legislation passed. Once again we, as veterans, are being used as pawns in the political game to be able to blame the other side for the failure of this important legislation. If our representatives really care about veterans, they will listen to us and do their best to make this bill a reality. Will we need to have more town hall meetings to bring the attention to the public before they vote on it? I hope this is not the case but I would still like to bring this out to open discussion and see if we can get the media involved. These are the children of all veterans that we are talking about. Does anyone know why veterans' children have so many health issues and birth defects. I am not speaking about just Vietnam Veterans but all veterans.

Please do your part and remind your legislators and anyone running for office that this is an important issue to us and it should be important to all American's.

## Veterans Business License Exemption

Bill Burke



The California Business and Professions Code section 16001.7 reads as follows:

“Every person who is honorably discharged or honorably relieved from the military, naval, or air service of the United States and who is a resident of this state, may distribute circulars, and hawk, peddle and vend any goods, wares, or merchandise owned by him or her, except spirituous, malt, or vinous, or other intoxicating liquor, without payment of a business license fee, whether municipal, county, or state, and the legislative body shall issue to that person, without cost, a license therefor.”

What this means is that all honorably discharged veterans are exempt from paying for a business license in California. Many cities including San Diego, in the past, have construed the wording to only apply to goods that were manufactured by the veteran (or his company) not those manufactured by a third party. But the plain reading of the text has prevailed in recent years.

Cities like San Francisco recognize the exemption. Even the San Francisco Arts Commission applies it street performers where the exemption is listed on the application form. Other communities have a specific form for exemptions that include the veteran's exemption. Santa Rosa has an exemption form but does not list the veteran exemption specifically but has wording for an option to submit an exemption. For Santa Rosa, it appears that you need to submit the application for the exemption along with business license application itself.

So if you are in the position of needing a business license at any government level, here in California, it should be issued to you without cost. Just include a copy of your DD-214 and the exact wording of Code section 16001.7 when you make your application for exemption.

## Veteran Project Needs YOU

By: Chuck Cramer

The Veterans Job Project is a start up business that will provide employment for veterans who are unable to find a job, are searching for a job in a desired career field or who are attending school. We will be operating a work shop where veterans will be paid to build and assemble wood garden planters and decor. We will have 2 shop areas the first will be for cutting and sawing the second will be for assembly and shipping. Anyone who has or knows of buildings please get in touch

Before we can get to a point where vets can actually start work we need help getting set up. We are looking for two separate warehouse/shop buildings. We also need people who would like to offer their skills in the areas of woodworking to help supervise work teams. In order to get off the ground we are also looking for people with skills in business communication, letter writing, website management, crowd funding as well as other areas on business management.

If you or someone you know has skills and would like to help us get rolling please call Chuck at [707-527-3707](tel:707-527-3707) or email [cacvet1@yahoo.com](mailto:cacvet1@yahoo.com)

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARKET

Well, another Wednesday Night Market is over for the year; last night was our last night of this great event. It was a pleasure working with Bill Burke, Ken Holybee, Brian McKeown, Earl Walters, including members from Purple Heart and Vet-Connect.

The part I liked best about the Wednesday Market is working closely with members from VVA 223 and AMVETS Post 40. We all talked about our past, starting from the years of childhood, into the military and our later careers. By the last day of the Wednesday Night Market we knew each other better than ever. The comradery was present every Wednesday, friendships were formed. Being soldiers at war is only one part of our lives; keeping one another upbeat despite our differences or circumstances is a pleasure we share.

I believe that we helped complete our goals by being present for the public to see and meet. It is still hard to believe that so many of the citizens of Sonoma

County have no clue that the Vietnam Veterans of America Redwood Empire Chapter #223 even exists after all these years. We met all ages of people looking for information for their loved ones or friends that are in the military ready to be discharged or a family member that has been out of the military and seeking help and looking for resources. That's why VVA Chapter 223 chose to have a booth at the Wednesday Night Market to assist the Veteran Community and their families and friends with these resources. I hope that members of VVA 223 find it in their hearts to join us next year in helping the Veteran Community with the information they need. Help a person smile, God Bless you all.

Lou Nunez  
Vice President  
VVA Chapter #223



### A Vet, His Dog – and PTSD

Written by Mary Rivers and Anthony Tate

Anthony has asked me to write this story because he trusted me to be able to express exactly how he feels as I know his inner person – his thoughts and lack of trust towards others. Trust is a trait not shared among the veteran population, especially for those suffering with PTSD and other visible and invisible disabilities. Veterans are promised assistance that never materializes. Trying to get in to see doctors is not quick enough. Promises are made but never kept.

Anthony, an African American, denied his veteran status for years because of the stigma that was attached to Vietnam Veterans. He disconnected from his family – his sister, brothers, and children. He became callous to life and proceeded in a downward spiral because he, unknowingly, suffered from PTSD.

According to the National Center for PTSD, about 7 or 8 out of every 100 people (or 7-8% of the population) will have PTSD at some point in their lives. About 8 million adults have PTSD during a given year. This is only a small portion of those who have gone through a trauma. Some groups of people, including African-Americans and Hispanics, may be more likely than whites to develop PTSD. This may be because these groups are more likely to go through a trauma. For example, in Veterans who survived Vietnam, a larger percent of African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans were in combat than whites. War takes a physical and emotional toll on Service members, families, and their communities

Continued on page 5

on Service members, families, and their communities. The number of Veterans with PTSD varies by service era:

□ **Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF):** About 11-20 out of every 100 Veterans (or between 11-20%) who served in OIF or OEF have PTSD in a given year.

□ **Gulf War (Desert Storm):** About 12 out of every 100 Gulf War Veterans (or 12%) have PTSD in a given year.

□ **Vietnam War:** About 15 out of every 100 Vietnam Veterans (or 15%) were currently diagnosed with PTSD at the time of the most recent study in the late 1980s, the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (NVVRS). It is estimated that about 30 out of every 100 (or 30%) of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime.

We moved from the East Coast to San Francisco six years ago. Here, I encouraged Anthony to start seeking help and realize that a lot of the struggles he faced were due to his service years in Vietnam. He connected to the local VA Medical Center and started meeting with doctors and counselors. More and more, he started to see that he needed to start treating his PTSD, which would help him to overcome other issues in his life. His first step was to enter into a transitional treatment program called The Hearn House in Santa Rosa. Upon graduation, he moved to the program's next phase at the Rocca House in Rohnert Park. During the time he went through these programs, he started talking with other veterans that were facing similar situations. He learned to start opening up and talk about what was wrong. More importantly, he began to realize that PTSD caused him to lose a lot in life – housing, jobs, family, relationships, friends, and respect for self. He had preferred the street over relationships with people that cared for him. By working on self, Anthony was able to qualify for the HUD Vash Program, where he continued to receive the support he needed to become a fully functional member of the community. After 1 year, he returned his voucher so that another veteran could have the same opportunity that he received from the program. Anthony went from homeless to homeowner within 3 years of being in Santa Rosa.

After several years of treatment, he started becoming proud of his Veteran status rather than ashamed. He joined the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #223 in Santa Rosa and became actively involved in the Chapter. He started speaking in the high schools as to his time in Vietnam. He became part of the Ducky Brigade, a fundraising program aimed at supporting Veteran's needs in the community. They accept donations for veteran's pins, hats, T-shirts, decorated rubber ducks, etc. at local Markets, Air Shows, and the local VA Medical Center to name a few. He served as a Donation Coordinator with the Furniture Program at the Vet Connect in Santa Rosa. This is where he came across Max, his service dog. Max became his

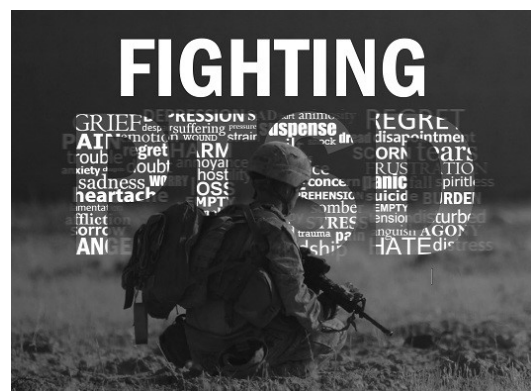
friend and took care of him, being with him at all times. Even at times when he didn't want anyone around, Max was always there. Knowing Anthony and seeing how Max helped to heal and bring out feelings he never expressed, I realized, then, that losing Max would have devastated him and sent him back into the world he was so desperately trying to leave.

Anthony chose to travel back home to reconnect with his family recently. Because he didn't want to leave Max and Lady (his other service dog) at home, he decided it would be best to take both dogs with him. This was a big challenge for Anthony, as he was leaving his comfort zone, his support system, his friends, to travel to see family members, unaware of how they would welcome him after all of these years. The feeling of not being accepted could have sent him back into his depression, seeking the streets to comfort him as it did so many times before.

He initially chose to just go to North Carolina but ended up stopping in Birmingham to visit with one of his brothers. This is where he received a call from 2 of his daughters in Texas, informing him that his sister in Atlanta was undergoing treatment for cancer for the 3rd time. Anthony figured that since he was close to Atlanta, he would stop and see his sister, nieces, and nephews. After visiting with his brother, he left for Atlanta to see his family.

After spending time with family in Atlanta, he traveled to North Carolina to help his youngest daughter rehab her new home. Here, he was able to meet one of his youngest grandchildren for the first time. This daughter's older son, whom Anthony has met, is also a veteran and is in the Army, currently deployed overseas. From there, he traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan to visit with 2 of his other daughters and their husbands, along with several more of his grandchildren. After having traveled around to visit with family members, mending fences left unbroken for quite some time, he began his trip back home to California. This is where he would suffer a great loss! Did he move forward or go back to the streets that had always given him so much comfort?

**Stay tuned for Part 2**




# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Continuum of Care 12:30 PM, check with Ken	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Veterans Wellness Council 10 AM @ Vets Building	9	10 Poker (Need Help) Dinner Dance (see flyer on page 5)
11	12	13 Board Meeting 1 PM	14	15	16 POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY 10 am SR Cemetery	17
18	19	20 General Meeting 6 PM	21	22	23	24 Air Show All Day Earl Walters, Chair
25 Air Show All Day Earl Walters, Chair	26	27 Food Distribution 8 AM	28 United Veterans Council 7 PM	29 Newsletter Folding 10 AM	30	

Gold Star Mothers Recognition Day

# October 2016

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Poker 4:30 PM WACs established 1943
2	3	4	5	6 Continuum of Care 12:30 PM,	7 Operation Enduring Freedom Begins 2001	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11 Board Mtg. 1 PM (Yom Kipper (at	12	13 Veterans Wellness Council 10 AM @ Vets	14 CSC Meeting Fresno	15 CSC Meeting Fresno
16 CSC Meeting Ends	17	18 General Mtg. 6 PM	19	20 WACs disestablished 1978	21	22 Newsletter Articles Due
23	24	25 Food Dist.. 8 AM US invades Grenada	26 UVC Meeting 7 PM	27 Fold Newsletter 10 AM	28	29
30	31					



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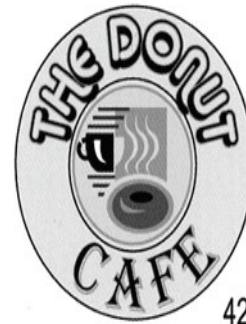


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## ***News and Views***

Volume 18, Issue 9 September 2016

A Publication of:

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