



NEWS AND VIEWS



VOLUME 21

ISSUE 7

JULY 2019

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS



Presidents Message

Another month is flying by. In July we will be attending the national convention in Spokane Washington. This will be during the third week of the month so some of the board

members will not be at the meeting. Kate, Lou, Joe and I will be hard at work setting the course of the VVA into the future. If you have not seen the issues we are addressing yet go to the vva.org web site and look up the resolutions and amendments that we will be discussing and voting on.

We are also real busy at the clinic and Wednesday night market. We can use a few more helpers at these. Some of the volunteers are going on vacation and we don't have enough help to cover all the shifts. If you can fill in for a day or two that would be great. If you are an early riser and don't want to just sit at home come down to the clinic. They serve coffee and donuts to veterans. it is also a great place to sit and just talk or listen to veterans navigating the system. Sometimes just having someone there that can just listen is more important than the doctors inside. The doctors will also tell you that.

Wednesday night market in downtown Santa Rosa is going full swing. We have our booth on the east end of fourth street between the square and D street. It is not too noisy to be able to hear and talk to veterans. I have heard from the Service Office that we have been doing a good job and veterans mention us when they go there for services that we recommend; it is all about working together.

Believe it or not, it is just three months until our an-

nual dinner dance. We will have tickets on sale by our next meeting. They will be \$40 per person and \$70 a couple presale so get them before you show up. Next month I might have some options or special places to purchase them. Check with Lou for sponsorship opportunities. The funds we raise from this event help us with our chapter programs.

In June we gave out four scholarships at our meeting. Of the four recipients only two were able to attend. They stayed for our entire meeting and spoke to us afterwards. They were very impressed with the discussions we were having about the future of the VVA and the agent orange issue and the relationship to our children and grandchildren. Talking to families like this keeps us motivated to continue our work.

Question on the Agent Orange Town Halls and the effects of Dixon on our children and grandchildren. Would we like to host another town hall meeting? We were one of the first chapters to host one. How many of you attended? Probably not many. How many of you have children with birth defects or illnesses that are not hereditary? How many of you have children and cannot have grandchildren? I can ask these types of questions until the cows come home and some will not want anyone to know the answers. I have three children, two daughters and a son. None of them are able to have children. All of them have issues that keep them from having a "normal" relationship. My daughters were interviewed for the Faces of agent orange when we held our town hall. Look up their story on the faces of

Vietnam Veterans of America Redwood Empire Chapter 223

Santa Rosa, California

Office (707) 526-4218 Email: VVA223@gmail.com

Officers

President: Ken Holybee – holybee@comcast.net - 707-887-8891

Vice President: Lou Nuñez — scso610ret@gmail.com — 707-291-5314

Secretary: Kate O'Hare-Palmer— koharepalmer@gmail.com —707-775-4123

Treasurer: Pat Christian—707-539-3500—-PEC@sonic.net

Board of Directors

Joe Cholewa—skosh@sonic.net— 707-486-0699

Whit Patterson — dwpat2@yahoo.com — 707-539-4665

Tony Rambonga Jr.—Ranbongas1.Ajr@gmail.com—415-678-8812

Bob George —tmfc104ra@gmail.com—707-838-3382

AVVA Representative—Brian McKeown—milt32a@yahoo.com—707-508-9969

The Chapters new EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

vva223vva@gmail.com

Committees

Chaplain:

Clinic Coffee Cart: Lou Nuñez

Color Guard:

Dinner/Dance: Lou Nuñez

Education: John McGivney

Finance: Pat Christen

Food Distribution: John McGivney

Legislation: Ken Holybee

Membership: Bill Burke

Newsletter: Ken & Sonja

Scholarship Fund: Sunny Campbell

UVC: Ken Holybee

Veterans Building: Lou Nuñez

Website:

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3/2020

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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

Contributors to the News and Views: Ken Holybee, Kate O'Hare-Palmer, Lou Nuñez, 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.

NOTICE

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of VVA,INC., National, State or Chapter 223 or the newsletter staff, but those of the corresponding party. All articles by the Chapter have permission for reprint in all Vietnam Veterans of America newsletters. Anything else permission must come from the original source.

President's message concluded

We do have research going back for many years. Will this be a benefit to other veterans, or will it just get tossed out when we no longer matter? I am always full of questions. I hope someone will look for the answers and help the children of all veterans. I feel that this will eventually help all mankind.

New Purple Heart Parking

From: Whitt Patterson

If you are a Purple Heart recipient, you are entitled to park in any metered parking spot in Santa Rosa, for free. The vehicle must be displaying the special Purple Heart license plate issued under section 5101.3, (effective January of 2000,) 5101.4, (effective January 2011), 5101.5, (effective Jan. 2011) or 5101.6, (effective January 2009) or 5101.8, (effective Jan. 2011)

and weigh less than 6,000 lbs. (gross



Good afternoon everyone,

From Jason Beardsley, VA Liaison to the Secretary Wilkie

VSO Leaders & Staff

In 2018 Congress passed and President Trump signed a landmark law that changes how VA does business, read further to learn about those changes.

The VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act (MISSION Act) strengthens VA's ability to deliver trusted, easy to access, high quality care whether at VA facilities, virtually through telehealth, or in the community.

VA has developed specific education for Veterans about receiving VA care, healthcare benefits and other related updates as the MISSION Act goes into effect on June 6, 2019. This educational booklet is titled "Health Care Options Through VA."

Veterans can receive this educational booklet in three ways:

1. Download the electronic version of "Health Care Options Through VA" booklet at https://www.missionact.va.gov/library/files/MIS-SION_Act_Community_Care_Booklet.pdf
2. Contact a Public Affairs Officer at their nearest VA Medical Center for a printed copy of the booklet
3. Request a printed copy of the booklet at no cost by filling out a print form available online www.missionact.va.gov and at the medical centers

Help inform Veterans about the new changes by sharing this information:

- Please post the following link to the booklet titled "Health Care Options Through VA" https://www.missionact.va.gov/library/files/MIS-SION_Act_Community_Care_Booklet.pdf

Recommend posting on your organizations website and other Veteran-facing channels available to your office.

- Please communicate to your state and local chapters to distribute the above message on three ways for Veterans to access both electronic and print versions of the booklet.

Stephania Ryan..our gold star daughter before the ride with rolling thunder.!



Sandy Miller.Homeless Veteran Committee ch. Me. Dr.Linda Schwartz- Special Adviaor to John Rowan.VVANatl President Marsha Four, VVA V.P.

Kate, Sam Elliott and Masha Four, VVA, VP at the Memorial Day concert.



A great victory for our bothers!

News Flash



Victory for Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Veterans as the U.S. Senate follows the U.S. House lead and passes H.R. 299 unanimously. Now that both houses have passed the bill it will be presented to the President for signature

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Mark Takano, Chairman

Senate Unanimously Passes the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act

Jun 12, 2019
Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Chairman Mark Takano released the following statement after the Senate unanimously passed the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, H.R. 299.

“Tonight, we can finally tell the tens of thousands of veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War but wrongly denied benefits that justice is finally coming. By passing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, Congress has proven to the nation, to our veterans and their families, and the surviving loved ones of those we lost to toxic exposure, that we have righted a terrible injustice. I want to say thank you to the Veteran Service Organizations and the countless veterans across the country who have been with us throughout this fight. Thank you for never losing hope that this country would deliver on the promise it made to our veterans. Now we call on President Trump to sign HR 299 and finally finish this fight-- these veterans have waited long enough.”

Background:

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 will extend benefits to servicemembers that served in the territorial waters off the coast of Vietnam and were exposed to Agent Orange. This was the first bill Chairman Takano introduced this Congress after a similar bill was passed unanimously in the House of Representatives last Congress but stalled in the Senate. This legislation will ensure tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans finally get the benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

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Source :<https://veterans.house.gov/news/press-releases/senate-unanimously-passes-blue-water-navy-vietnam-veterans-act>

agent orange u-tube videos on our national web site.

What is the Dixon issue that the next generation of veterans will need to fight the government for? Will we be able to assist them and show them the research methods we have used? Continued on page 3 We do have research going back for many years. Will this be a benefit to other veterans, or will it just get tossed out when we no longer matter? I am always full of questions. I hope someone will look for the answers and help the children of all veterans. I feel that this will eventually help all mankind.

Free Seminars Help Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Claim Benefits

Santa Rosa, CA —American veterans with disabilities and their surviving spouses can get in-depth information about government benefits at **free monthly seminars held at the Sonoma County Veterans Service Office (VSO)**, 3725 Westwind Blvd., 1st Floor, Santa Rosa.

Call (707) 565-5960, to register for the seminars, held on the following Wednesdays:

- **Veterans Non-Service Related Disability Pension Seminar, 1st Wednesday of the month from 2 – 4 p.m.**

A needs-based benefit for wartime veterans age 65 or older with limited or no income, who have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability.

- **Veterans 100% Service-Related Disability Seminar, 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2 – 4 p.m.**

New benefit for veterans rated at 100%, permanent and total disability, or with individual unemployability due to a service-related disability.

- **Surviving Spouse Pension Seminar, 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2 – 4 p.m.**

Also called a Death Pension, this is a tax-free monetary benefit, payable to low-income, un-

remarried, surviving spouses of a deceased wartime veteran.

To meet in-person with VSO staff about veterans benefits, visit our Santa Rosa office during drop-in hours, Monday-Thursday, between 8-11 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m., or, starting July 9, visit our Petaluma office by appointment on Tuesdays or Thursdays. The main Veterans Service Office is at 3725 Westwind Blvd., 1st Floor, Santa Rosa. The second office, the Human Services South County Center, is at 5350 Old Redwood Highway North, Suite 100, Petaluma.

If you have just a question or two, call us during business hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at (707) 565-5960.

The Sonoma County Veterans Service Office (VSO) helps U.S. veterans and their families apply for federal, state and local government benefits available due to their military service. These benefits may include medical care, funds for education, housing and benefits for a deceased veteran's family.

The VSO is part of the Sonoma County Human Services Department Adult and Aging Division, which Division offers a variety of services and programs for older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, their families and caregivers. Learn more at sonomacounty.ca.gov/Human-Services/Adult-and-Aging or call (707) 565-5900.

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Media Contact:

Kris Montgomery | Communications Manager
Sonoma County Human Services Department
(707) 565-8085 | cell (707) 495-6999
sonomacounty.ca.gov/Human-Services/

Attachments area

“PRESS RELEASE”



**Invites Veterans, Family and Friends to our Annual
Dinner Dance Fundraiser and Social Event**

Saturday, September 14th, 2019

**SANTA ROSA VETERANS' MEMORIAL BUILDING
1351 MAPLE AVE., SANTA ROSA, CA 95404**

Donations:

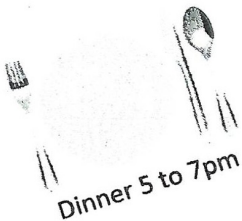
Early bird \$40 per person/\$45 at the door

Early bird \$70 per couple/\$80 at the door

Doors Open at 4:00 P.M.

DOOR PRIZE

**For more information contact:
Lou Nuñez (707) 291-5314 or Email:
scso610ret@gmail.com**



Proceeds Benefit and Support the Chapter's Veterans Programs

**Vietnam Veterans of America Redwood Empire Chapter 223 is a
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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL VETERANS

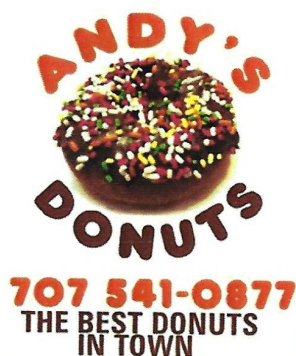


July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Wed Night Market Setup 3:30	4	5	6
7	8 Veteran & Family Ad- visory Comm. 2:30pm	9 Board Mtg. 1pm	10 Wed. Night Market Set-up 3:30	11 Food Dis- tribution: 9- 10:30	12	13
14	15	16 General Mtg. 6pm— potluck 7pm -meeting	17 National Convention Wed. Night Market Set-up 3:30	18 National Convention	19 National Convention	20 National Convention
21	22	23	24 Wed. Night Market Set-up 3:30	25 Food Dis- tribution: 9-10	26	27 Newsletter Ar- ticles Due
28	29 Newslet- ter Printing	30	31 Wed. Night Market- Set-up 3:30	August 1 Newsletter Folding		

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Wed Night Market setup at 3:30	8 Food Distri- bution 9-10:30	9	10
11	12	13 Board Meeting 1 PM	14	15	16	17 POKER NIGHT Setup at 4:00 pm
18	19	20 General Meeting Food at 6 Meeting at 7	21	22 Food Dis- tribution 9-10	23 CSC MEETING	24 Articles Due for news- letter
25 Home from CSC meeting	26 Newsletter Printing	27	28	29 Newslet- ter folding	30	31



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CALIFORNIA VETERANS BENEFITS FUND

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DAN MCCASKELL, Ph.D.
C.R.C., C.V.E.

SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANT REPRESENTATIVE

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Santa Rosa, CA 95401

dangmccaskell@yahoo.com
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6/19

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Robert J. Moreiko, Jr.
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9/19

Mike Thompson

MEMBER OF CONGRESS FIFTH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Requests & Dedications

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News and Views

Volume 21 Issue 7 July 2019

A Publication of:

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Redwood Empire Chapter 223**

1351 Maple Avenue

PO Box 1583

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Office Phone 707-526-4218

WEB: www.vva-223.org

Chapter Email: vva223vva@gmail.com

Address Service Requested

Vietnam Veterans of America of Membership Application Redwood Empire Chapter #223

Membership is open to US armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

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Ad-
dress _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

DATE OF BIRTH----- GENDER-- MALE ___ FEMALE ___ Life - \$100.00 Signature-
ture: _____

Submit to: VVA Membership Chapter 223, PO Box 1583, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

JOIN VVA OR AVVA

**IF YOU ARE A VIETNAM-ERA VETERAN YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN VVA OR JOIN AVVA AND SERVE
YOUR VETERAN COMMUNITY**