



# NEWS AND VIEWS

VVA # 223

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

Volume 15, Issue 8

AUGUST 2013

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## Unclaimed Remains of 35 Veterans Laid to Rest

By Charles Earthman



Charles Earthman

On May 20th, a ceremony was held at Santa Rosa Memorial Park for 35 veterans and two wives whose cremated remains had been left unclaimed, some for many decades. Among the cremated remains were eight WW I vets, seventeen from WW II, one from the Korean War, and three who served in the Vietnam. There were also six who served during peace-time. None of the veterans died during military service.



Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane spoke at the ceremony along with Chris Bingham, a Sonoma County Veterans Service Officer. Representatives from the offices of State Sen. Noreen Evans, D-Santa Rosa; Congressman Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael; and Congressman Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, were also present. "In America, we take a lot of our freedoms for granted, but without a strong military to protect us, we wouldn't have these freedoms," said Zane, who also highlighted the experiences of her father, a decorated World War II veteran.

After the ceremony more than 120 motorcycles escorted the hearse carrying the remains from Santa Rosa to Dixon for formal military burials. It was an impressive motorcade that made the 75-mile journey, arriving at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon shortly after 1 pm for the formal ceremony that began at 2 pm.

Flags hung at half-staff, and a line of flags surrounded the small field where the ceremony was held. Current servicemen, veterans, and motorcyclists served as pallbearers for the veterans' flag-covered remains as a bagpiper played "America the Beautiful."

Sonoma County Veterans Remains Officer Ron Collier was largely responsible for identifying the military veterans. Collier researched the names of more than 300 remains held at Santa Rosa Memorial park to determine whether they had been veterans. Both ceremonies were beautiful and a fitting way to bid farewell to those who had served their country in war and peace.



**VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA  
REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER 223  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA**

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# President's Letter

By Ken Holybee

Seems like every month I say we are having another busy month. Well, we have a great group of members that like to stay busy and are not afraid of challenges. We have started at the Wednesday night market this month. It is a great place to meet veterans and other people and talk about issues that are close to us. Our first night we had a great time running into old friends and members that we have not seen for a long time.

Every project that we start is because we have people that enjoy what they are doing. We have opportunities for members to participate in what they enjoy doing. We are always asking for members to come join us for the friendship and joy we get out of these projects.

Upcoming events are the national convention, dinner dance and the wall in Petaluma. We still have tickets available for the dinner dance. Get some for your friends, family or just because you need a night out.

Don't forget our monthly membership meetings. We have been having great success with the pot luck starting at six. We do have some really good cooks in the chapter. If you cannot cook or don't have anything to bring that is okay. We would like to see you there.

I would like everyone to think about your friends that you have not seen or communicated with lately. We are losing veterans and family every day at too young an age. We need to take that step to let someone know that you still think about them before all you have is the thoughts that make you smile. Look around and see if you can find any really healthy people our age. Ask your friends if their children are healthy. We have spent many years not talking about the health effects of our service and what it has done to our families. Today's service members need to see us and hear us speak about these issues or they will wait until it is too late to start the same discussions.



**Ken Holybee**

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To make a contribution to the News and Views, submit a story, or a photograph, please call or email: Brooke McKusick @ 537-9003, or [mcq6@vbn.com](mailto:mcq6@vbn.com) To make a complaint about the newsletter, please call: Ken Holybee @ 887-8891, or [holybee@comcast.net](mailto:holybee@comcast.net)

VVA Chapter 223 invites you to place an ad in the News and Views, please call:

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A business card size ad in our newsletter is \$100.00 for a full year... With a 100% Tax Credit!

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# THE BANANA WAR

BY MIKE HART

PHOTOS BY DAN STOVER

Half a dozen spry, swarthy sailors and soldiers made a spirited assault on the fishing village of Bodega Bay recently. Instead of looking to seek out 'Charlie' in the name of freedom (as in Vietnam), these former warriors were on a search and destroy mission for...**SALMON**.

There we were on the 6th of June, D-Day, promptly at 0530h, synchronizing our ice chests and making sure our lighters worked for the watery immersion into the unknown realm of fishy uncertainties. The low clouds hanging over the coastline insured that we would have calm seas, at least until the wind came up in the afternoon.



The 'Relent less' six-pack boat, with Captain Bob and his deckhand son Justin, is 28' long. They fish with six rods attached to two electric downriggers, at different depths. It is powered by two Yamaha 115hp outboard engines that sent us humming in a southerly direction to our first destination. It also had one stinky head. During this transport time our warriors created the 'first fish' and the 'largest fish' pools for \$5 each, winners take all (Bob and Mike-23lbs). We decided we would give the deckhand a nice tip for his ardent work. The crew will be happy.

A few miles off of Pt. Reyes National Seashore Justin put the gear in the water and soon our buddy Bob was hooked-up. He reeled it in nicely and everyone became a little more interested now that a 15-pounder was in the box. That was around 0730...and then the never-ending wait for the next one to hit. Minutes ticked by and turned into more than an hour.

During the waiting time Bob brought out a banana and the boat skipper gasped 'NOT A BANANA' and scolded the cowering old boy. Turns out, one of the most well-known jinxes related to fishing is to eat a banana while fishing on a boat, the fear being anglers are liable to get shut out. So, for the elder combatants, always looking for some action, they created the 'Banana Wars.' (Hasta be a war somewhere).

Thus, the Banana dissidents were on one side of the boat (Big Al, Bill, & Mike) and the strict Banananites (Danny and his brother Bob & Jim P) on the other. All of the guys are former combat vets affiliated with Vietnam Vets of America Chapter 223 or the Military Order of Purple Heart 78. The dissidents relied on Buddha-like rituals, e.g. meditation, incense, chanting and prayers to the Neptunus Rex, Ruler of the Raging Main. By sacrificing His sea creatures to us for sustenance, the old boys were humbled, and truly grateful.

During the herring sacrificial rite, the chilly fog parted and the warm sun shone onto our silver, shining domes.

As we struggled with impatience the guys were able to study the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. Huge container ships passed by and the whole commercial fleet from Half Moon Bay arrived to fish our little spot.

The Punta de Reyes stood steady as puffs of low clouds danced here and there and around the lighthouse, protesting the incursion of assassins from the south.

Back to the fishing...we were catching one now and then and the quality of the fish was shiny and excellent. The wind and swell started picking up in the early afternoon so Cap'n Bob tried and tried to get the last fish, so everyone would have one silver beauty.

As it turned out our fishless warrior (Bill) ended up with plenty, as his comrades in battle watched his hungry back. They also watched out for the spewing spittle from his frontal orifice. Poor Bill.

So, for these patriots of Sonoma County, it was a satisfying day; the fish, the wonders of the ecosystem, the humorous and efficient boat crew, and especially Cap'n Bob, who accepted our Buddhist rituals that were so relevant to the overall success of the assault.

The tally is: five king salmon weighing @ approximately 65lbs X \$25.00 per lb. = \$1,625 **salmon value**.

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED** with NO CLEAR WINNER IN "THE BANANA WAR"

Add: Danny and his bro Bob won the family award with two nice fish between them!



## KOREA REMEMBERED

By Charles Earthman

The Korean War was known as the “Forgotten War” or the “Unknown War” for many Americans. Its historical relevance has been understated. One reason was the timing; it happened 5 years after the end of WWII. The fact that the US government and the press referred to it as a “police action” added to this perception. This idea persisted for the rest of the 20th Century and even up until today. In fact, there was a two-volume historical examination published by the Department of the Army during and immediately after the Korean conflict.

The conflict on the Korean Peninsula was a bloody combat action, fought in harsh weather conditions. There was non-stop heavy combat for 35 months, with very high causality rates for the United States and United Nations forces. The combat raged from Pusan in the south to the Yalu River on the Chinese frontier in the north. Eventually the Americans were able to re-establish a defensive line, ironically located almost exactly at the 38th parallel—the line that had divided North and South Korea before the war began. In terms of percentages, the Korean War was the bloodiest war of the 20th Century for American armed forces. The geo-political fallout lasts to this day.



Korea, the place where the Cold War turned hot, is also perhaps the last place on earth where the Cold War still wages on. Communist and anticommunist troops still stare each other down across the barren no-man's-land of Korea's fortified border.

On July 27, the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice was observed in Washington, DC, to honor the service and sacrifice of Korean War Veterans, American service members, and their allies who fought heroically in that conflict. The events and battles of the war are little known by the American public today, but hopefully steps will be taken to place this conflict in the perspective it deserves in the 20th Century history of our nation.

## Dinner and Dance Fundraiser

Vietnam Veterans of America

**Santa Rosa Chapter #223**

*Invites you to the second annual  
Fundraising Dinner and Dance*

**Saturday, September 14, 2013**

*Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building  
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA  
Donation: \$35 per person*

*Dinner from 5:00 to 7:00PM  
Dance from 7:00 to 11:00PM*



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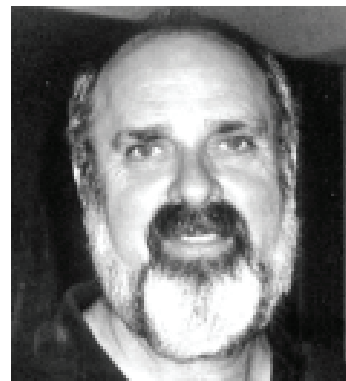
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Hey guys, (guys means everyone, men and women) this is our second annual VVA Dinner & Dance. It has the potential of being Chapter 223's biggest fund raiser each year.

This event requires that all of us chip in and get involved. Please call Lou Nunez @ 291-5314 and ask him what you can do.

**TICKET SALES ARE CRUCIAL.**

## In Memoriam



**Marwin LeRoy Fuller**

**USMC**

**1949 - 2013**



# July 4, 1967

By Charles Earthman

Someone was tapping my foot as I awakened. It was Kirkland, the team leader; he whispered "get your shit together--we're moving out." I gathered my ammo and stuff and got ready to move. It was the rainy season in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam and we had been sneaking around this AO for a couple of days and nights. We had not seen Charlie and he had not seen us.



Charles Earthman

Our LRRP team moved down from the hill we had bivouacked on the night before. Cochran was on point, Kirkland behind him carrying the radio, Chavez was next, and I brought up the rear. We moved with our usual stealth, but we were not looking for the enemy. We had a destination this day.

After moving for about an hour sergeant Kirkland began talking on the radio to someone; we were about to make contact with friendlies. We could smell them first and then we could hear them as they approached. I saw the lead man first as he came over the hill. He was laden with equipment and had an OD towel around his neck. Beneath his steel pot was a boyish face, smeared with a snarl made permanent by humping the boonies for months; he was a "dog face," a real grunt.

It was a company from the Fourth Infantry Division. They had about a hundred men and we fell in with the lead platoon. It was good to see other Americans, but I was not comfortable with such a large group in the bush. I felt like we made a large and noisy target as we moved towards our destination, wherever that was.

We moved for about two hours without incident. As we walked up this hill I could see the sand-bagged bunkers on the perimeter of a fire support base. This was our destination: a forward artillery base located somewhere between Dak To and the Laotian border.

As we walked into the perimeter a guy on the bunker shouted "Hey brother, we got hot chow comin' today, I'm gonna eat till I shit." Everyone on the bunker fell out laughing; I was slightly amused. We took a position further down the line and Kirkland went to pow-wow with the people in charge. It had not rained all day and the sun was shining; I started to relax and feel at ease.

When Kirkland returned from his briefing, he told us we would be here for a couple of days until we got another mission. That was alright with me and I lay out in the sun to take a nap. This was a good day in Vietnam.

Later that afternoon there was activity in the center of the compound; I heard the sound of an approaching chopper. A CH-47 was approaching and someone popped yellow smoke; this must be the hot chow. The Chinook sat down in a flurry of dust and yellow smoke and dropped its tailgate. The crew chief came out in a flight helmet tethered by a long cord, followed by five or six guys carrying back packs and other gear. A bunch of guys ran aboard the chopper and started unloading the hot chow, mail, and other stuff. One guy was shaking hands and giving high fives and hugs before he got on the chopper; this was the first of his freedom birds that would take him to the world. What a day to go home on.

We ate hot chow and settled down for the night--we would not have to stand watch--the grunts were on the wire that night. As I sat on a bunker watching a stream of red tracers from Puff firing on a target far away, I realized this was all the July fourth fireworks I would need. That was a good night.

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## In Memoriam



James Alan Serb of Santa Rosa passed away on July 7, 2013, at the age of 63. Jim was born in 1950 in Oakland, CA and relocated to Santa Rosa with his family in 1960. He served in the Artillery Branch of the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War where he was awarded a Purple Heart. Jim remained in the Santa Rosa area where he retired after 30 years of employment with Hansel Ford. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 223, P.O. Box 1583, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.



### VVA 223 PHOTOGRAPHS on SHUTTERFLY

Address: <http://vva223photographs.shutterfly.com>  
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## VVA 223 IN SONOMA 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Nothing like a small town parade to celebrate the Fourth of July, and Sonoma had the Reddest, Whitest, and Bluest parade going to commemorate the birth of our nation. With towns folk lining the three block parade route, and the rest of the population actually in the parade, everyone had a blast going around Sonoma Plaza.

Emily Charrier-Botts of The Sonoma Index-Tribune writes, "While there was no shortage of red, white and blue, only a few floats celebrated the true patriotism of men and women in uniform. Displays honoring prisoners of war and veterans of Vietnam featured solemn tributes to those who fight for freedom..."

No one was more instrumental in representing VVA 223 and his POW-MIA tower (float) than Bruce Thomson, but Bruce credits Rodney Sheriff as the true source of power on July 4th. John McGivney, Bruce Carpenter, and David Kistenmacher made up the rest of the parade team, including assembling and disassembling the float itself. Great work guys!



John McGivney

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARKET

By Charles Earthman

Santa Rosa's Wednesday Night Market continues to be a wonderful atmosphere to celebrate the spirit of Sonoma County for local residents and visiting guests. Located in beautiful downtown Santa Rosa, Wednesday Night Market brings together a large array of Sonoma County's finest food, produce, vendors, and entertainment, all in one location.

'til AUGUST 21st



On July third John McGivney, Ken Holybee, and I setup a booth for Chapter 223 at Santa Rosa's Wednesday Night Market. The effort was very successful, and we got a lot of interest from market attendees. This was the first Wednesday market for Chapter 223, and there is a learning curve to be surmounted, but the booth allowed us to disseminate information to a large cross section of the public and to answer many questions people had about topics like Agent Orange, PTSD, and VA benefits. It was a successful endeavor, and we plan to be there every Wednesday night for the rest of the summer. The market is a good way for the Chapter to do community outreach and to contact those Vietnam veterans who have yet to completely come home.



## 2013 National Convention August 13 - 18, 2013 Hyatt Regency - Jacksonville, FL

Bon Voyage to our brave men and women who will be trudging down to Jacksonville, FL for 16th National VVA Convention. These heroic folks could be carried off by cockroaches or infected by mosquitoes, but they can fend off these critters by spending quantum amounts of time in the hotel bar drinking copious amounts of G&T...

Going on this stupendous and glorious adventure for the greater benefit of the Redwood Empire Chapter 223 are fearless leader Ken Holybee, Lou Nunez, Charles Earthman, John and Jil McGivney, Kate O'Hare-Palmer.

It's with deep regret that the board of directors has vetoed a serious bon voyage party for these stalwart men and women who are risking life and limb.

The bus will take them into Travis Air Force Base at zero dark o'clock, where they'll embark on a Trans-World Airlines 707, with a stop in Honolulu and Wake Island. If they're lucky...

Oops, I'm so sorry. I'm copying my old itinerary from '65... Good Luck, guys.



## SONOMA COUNTY VET CONNECT



### Veterans Drop In Center for FREE Resources & Services Every Tuesday - 9 am to noon

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building - 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa  
(Across from the Fair Grounds)

Information, Assistance and Referrals

VA Health Care, Veterans Benefits - Counseling for Veterans  
and their Families, Housing -- And Employment Counseling

These services are, also, available at the Veterans Memorial Buildings in **Guerneville** on the 2nd Thursday, **Sonoma** on the 3rd Thursday, and **Petaluma** on the 4th Thursday of every month. Please note the time schedule for these resource and service meetings is: Noon to 3 pm

# ALL VETERANS ARE WELCOME NO CHARGE SERVICE



## THE GRAPEVINE

### Talk Around Redwood Empire Chapter

By Charles Earthman

July and its traditional mid-summer festivities have passed. The Fourth of July, baseball's All Star Game, family vacations and backyard barbecues all took place in the summer heat and the usual North Bay summer fog. Well, that takes care of the "lazy days of summer" and now it's time for the work of summer: fundraising.

The busy month of August is now here and the Chapter will need everyone to step forward and volunteer. A big part of the Chapter leadership will be in Jacksonville, Florida, for VVA's national convention. The air show will take place at the same time, and on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> we will have our monthly Texas Hold-em Tournament. This will require smiling faces in several locations at the same time. We really need more than the usual group of volunteers, so, if you have the time, step-up and help out.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a PTSD awareness walk in Howarth Park, hosted by the Young Veterans of Sonoma County and the Community Actions Partnership of Sonoma County. The walk brings attention to PTSD in society today. VVA is a sponsor of the event and we urge our members to attend, participate and help out. After all, we do know a little bit about PTSD.



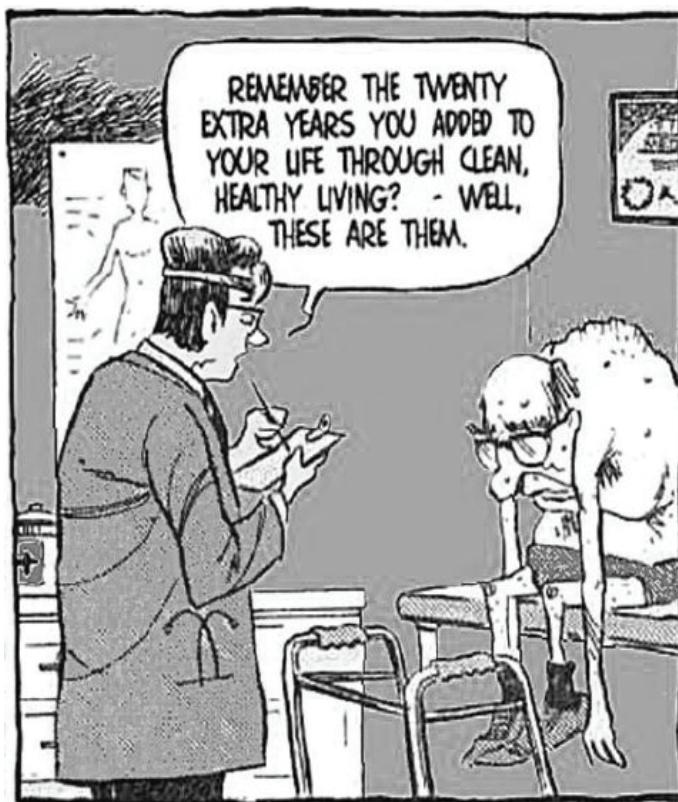
Charles  
Earthman

>>>>>

After a few years without a VSO, Chapter 223 now has a new one. Frank Prim has been certified and is ready to hang his shingle and open for business. So, if you know any veteran that needs help or advice with an existing VA claim or with filing a new claim, Chapter 223 can help. Frank can be reached at 707. 529.4172 or at [frank-prim@gmail.com](mailto:frank-prim@gmail.com). Thanks in advance, Frank.

As this column was being written Mike Hart (our new "cub" reporter) was a patient at Sutter Hospital. Hopefully his condition will improve, and he will be back on the beat soon. Get well soon, Mike.

That's it for now. If you would like to contribute anything to the Grapevine, contact Brooke McKusick at 707.537.9003 or Charles Earthman at 707.778.6598 or 707.318.2837.



## SONOMA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE (707) 565.5960

**3725 Westwind Blvd  
Suite 101  
Santa Rosa CA 95403**



Westwind Boulevard is located near the Main Terminal at the Charles M. Schulz (Sonoma County) Airport. From Highway 101: Exit Airport Boulevard, left on Westwind Blvd. and right into the parking lot. Check Sonoma County Transit Airport route 62 & 64 for bus schedule.

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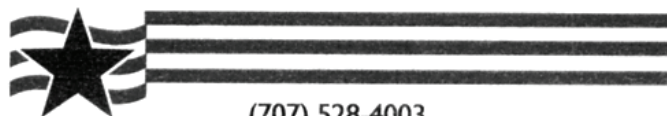
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## Social Security Representative

*Former Social Security Expert*

**Dan McCaskell Ph.D.**

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# ***Kate O'Hare-Palmer Attends Reunion in North Carolina***

## ***312th Evacuation Hospital Unit at Chu Lai***

The reunion took place in Winston-Salem North Carolina on June 8, 2013. This reserve unit was sent to Chu Lai in September 1968 to replace the 2nd Surgical Hospital because the hospital had grown in size so quickly due to the casualty rates.

This was one of four reserve units that was called to active duty during the Vietnam War. I stayed with this unit for three months to help orient them before I was transferred back to my own unit (2nd Surgical Hospital) in Lai Khe.

The 312th unit had the advantage of going over together as a unit and coming home together. Some of the members were transferred out to other hospital units once they got in-country, but the majority stayed together.

It was interesting talking with them after 44 years! Their town supported them going over, during their deployment, and after they came home. All of them had their jobs waiting for them when they got home. Amazing. A very different homecoming than many of us. A very nice story for these Vietnam Vets!



Nurses in attendance from left to right: Martha Green, Wanda Kelly, Lynne O'Malley Bedics, Rosie Winkler, Kathy Splinter, Patty Weisner Heckel, Patti Muehling Ehline, Barbara Caldera, Mary Michels McEldowney, Sylvia Lutz Miller, Jackie Otte (Red Cross), Kate O'Hare-Palmer, Pat Mann



Dr. Chuck Ableson, oral/facial surgeon, Nurse Kate O'Hare Palmer, and Dr. Ray LaRaja, general surgeon.

Below: 312th Evac. Hosp. in Chu Lai c.1968.



Having "The Wall" back in Sonoma County is a wonderful way to connect with the public and participate with the community. Bruce Thompson is putting together a full program for this event, and he would like your input and suggestions to handle the logistics, etc.

If you haven't already signed up with Bruce for these dates, please give him a call at: 523-3278

### **HELP WANTED**

**POKER: Killer weekend, August 17. Please call Jerry Shimmel @ 528-3474 for free cards.**

**VET CLINIC CAFÉ: Please call Lou Nunez @ 291-5314 for free coffee and comradeship.**

**AIR SHOW: Learn how to cook on the Sonoma County Airport apron, only for seriously tough guys. August 17 & 18, call Bruce @ 523-3278**





## **CHAPTER 223 GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 20, 2013 BE THERE EARLY!!!**

### **SONOMA COUNTY VET CONNECT -**

Every Tuesday morning, 9:00 am to noon @ the VETS building. Vets helping vets solve problems. Coffee and donuts served. See page 7.

**VETERANS DROP-IN GROUP** - Every Tuesday @ high noon in the North Room of the VETS building. All veterans are welcome.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** - Second Tuesday of the month, 1:00 pm @ the VETS building. Look for the guys looking for the room...

**NAMI** - First Thursday, 9:30 am @ 1300 North Dutton Avenue.

**VVA-223 GENERAL MEETING** - Third Tuesday of the month. POTLUCK @ SIX. Meeting starts at 7 PM. See above...

**FOOD-GIVE-AWAY PROGRAM** - Fourth Tuesday of the month. Volunteers will please check in with **John McGivney** @ 570-9201 for time and station.

**REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION -  
HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM** - Every Monday evening @ 5:30 pm. **101 6th Street, Santa Rosa.**

**POKER SCHEDULE** - Cards in the air at 6:00 pm. Check-in and pizza 5:00 to 5:55 pm... Usually the first Saturday of the month... **August 17th**, September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd, December 7th, and January 4th, 2014...

# **COMIC'S CORNER**

Arnold Schwarzenegger has announced he will star in a low budget horror movie called 'The Toxic Avenger.' He wreaks havoc. He's a monster. I have no idea what he'll do in the movie. -- Craig Ferguson

Musicians are upset because all their songs can be found for free on the Internet now. But I'd like to point out that it takes me hours to download those songs, and nobody's compensating me for my time either. Well, actually they are because I do it at work, but you know what I mean. -- Doug Vargas

In Pennsylvania, a couple stabbed each other in an argument over who should win 'American Idol.' At last we finally know why 'American Idol' is losing so many viewers. They're killing each other. -- Conan O'Brien

A new study found that heavy drinkers outlive non-drinkers, but the ways they die are a lot more embarrassing. -- Jimmy Fallon

I admit that I get angry in traffic when driving to work. But it's pointless. It's much better to bottle up that anger and then unleash it when you get to work. -- Craig Ferguson

"Having a 2-year-old is like having a blender without a lid." -- Jerry Seinfeld

"Giant African land snails have been found in Florida and Texas. If you're in Houston and you see a giant snail coming toward you, walk slowly for your life." -- Jimmy Kimmel

Sarcasm helps keep you from telling people what you really think of them.

Dear Optimist, Pessimist, and Realist: While you guys were busy arguing about the glass of water, I drank it. Sincerely, The Opportunist

**REVOLVING DOOR:** "Police: DUI Charge for Woman Celebrating End of Earlier DUI Suspension" -- Chicago Tribune headline

**NO, REALLY, THEY'LL COME TO YOU:** "Austrian Drives Flaming Car to Fire Station" -- Associated Press headline

**I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST AN EXPRESSION:** "Sheriff's Office: Woman Arrested after Using Bible as a Weapon" -- Shelby (N.C.) Star headline

It takes only one drink to get me drunk. The trouble is, I can't remember if it's the thirteenth or the fourteenth. -- George Burns

A woman drove me to drink and I never even had the courtesy to thank her. -- W.C. Fields

I envy people who drink - at least they know what to blame everything on. -- Oscar Levant

I only take a drink on two occasions - when I'm thirsty and when I'm not. -- Brendan Behan





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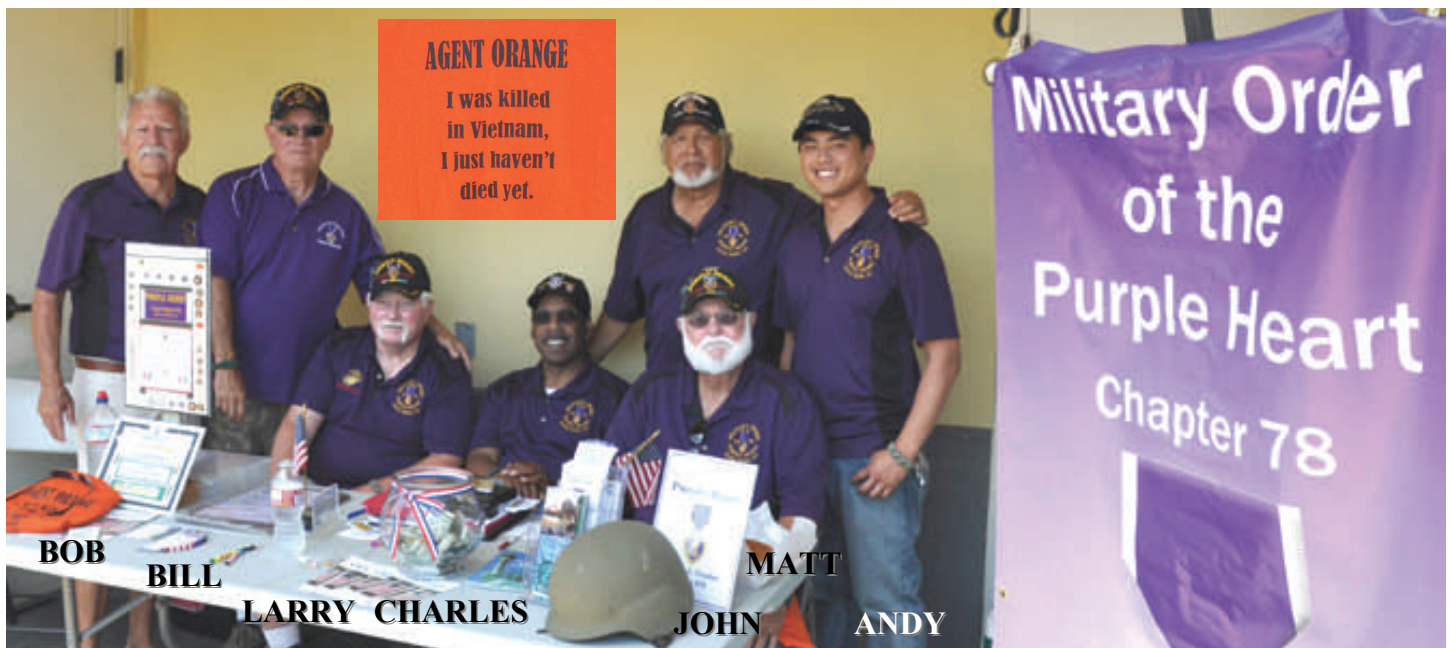
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## *News and Views*

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On July Third the local Purple Heart Chapter set up outside G&G Market on College Ave. in Santa Rosa. Chapter 78 does this at different locations throughout the county. These community outreach projects have been very successful. They help raise funds that support the Chapter's many programs that help veterans and their families. They serve as an information conduit to the community on veterans activities.

The response from shoppers has always been friendly and supportive and many people have told us of a father or brother that has been wounded or killed in combat while serving their country. The stories are heartfelt and remind us of the need to continue to stay in touch with the community.

For years local businesses like G&G Market and Oliver's Market have been very helpful in providing a place and support for these outreach projects.