

NEWS AND VIEWS

VVA CHAPTER # 223 THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

Volume 15, Issue 1

JANUARY 2013

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS



Dave Kistenmacher



From Healdsburg with Love



Medal of Honor (MOH) Recipients, MSG Nicholas Oresko, US Army and SGT Dakota Meyer, US Marine Corps are the oldest and youngest living recipients of the MOH. >>>



2012 YEARBOOK

To Honor, Remember and Celebrate - Pearl Harbor Day, 1941



HAPPY NEW YEAR



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News and Views

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Chapter 223 in 2013

Events and Changes

By Charles Earthman

There are a number of events the Chapter participates in every year, and again we will be looking for members to participate.

The Tet Celebration (The Vietnamese Lunar New Year) is coming soon. In the past we have been the guests of the Sonoma Vietnamese Association and have assisted with this event, which is a lot of fun and brings the veteran and Vietnamese communities together.

The monthly poker tournament is our biggest and most consistent fundraiser and **volunteers** are always needed.

The Chapter is involved in a number of annual events, like the Memorial Day commemoration ceremonies at Santa Rosa Memorial Park, The Rose Parade, the Air Show, many Veterans Day celebrations, and the year-end Christmas Party. All these events will need your participation. Here are some other things you might look for:

A change in election rules: Chapter 223 is changing the length of time officers and Board of Directors serve to two years. A one-year term is thought to be too short a term to effectively implement and complete programs and projects that are started. The notice should be posted in this month's *News and Views*. This change makes the April elections twice as important as they were in past years.

VVA 2013 National Convention: The city of Jacksonville, Florida, will host this year's 16th bi-annual convention from August 13 thru 18. The Chapter will send a group of delegates (number yet to be determined) three thousand miles across the country to this important bi-annual event. If you have not been to a VVA national convention you might want to consider throwing your name in the hat. It is exciting, entertaining, and educational and can be very moving when you get that many Vietnam Vets together. It's been 38 years since the last guy left Vietnam and, for many of us, well over 40 years since we were there.

September Dinner Dance Fundraiser: We will end the summer with our second annual dinner dance. We have a chance to improve on last year's dinner dance with increased participation. Buy tickets and **volunteer** and help make this a successful annual fundraiser.

NOTICE

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

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@vbbn.com To make a complaint about the newsletter, please call: Ken Holybee @ 887-8891, or holybee@comcast.net

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

Lou Nunez @ 291-5314 or Brooke McKusick @ 537-9003
 A business card size ad in our newsletter is \$100.00 for a full year... With a 100% Tax Credit!

VVA Chapter 223
Phone number is 526-4218
Email address is: vets@vva223.org





Our Community in 2012

By Charles Earthman

What kind of year was 2012? What happened in our veteran community? This past year we saw veterans in Sonoma County being active in community outreach for the homeless and needy and their families, many whom are veterans. Organizations like Vet Connect, VVA Chapter 223, Purple Heart Chapter 78 and other veterans' groups did active philanthropic work in 2012.

Vet Connect led the way with another successful year of community outreach. Their weekly Clinic at the Veterans Memorial Building continues to be a one-stop, no-cost resource for information, assistance, and referral services for military veterans and their families. Vet Connect continued to be a conduit connecting veterans to agencies--both governmental and non-governmental-- that serve and help veterans in need. They were instrumental in helping a family go from a situation of despair to a life with housing, good jobs, continued education and getting their VA benefits started.

Vet Connect's Furniture Donation Program also had a great year thanks to a cadre of volunteers led by **John McGivney**, local businesses, and people like **Ted** and **Patty Shurtleff** of Storage Masters. This program helps provide furniture for vets housed through the HUD-VASH vouchers program for homeless veterans. 2012 saw this program grow in size and stature. Vet Connect's national and state profile continues to grow and serves as a model of successful community involvement. We hope that 2013 will see other veteran communities follow this model and start similar programs.

Chapter 78, MOPH, was active in 2012; they hosted the Purple Heart State Convention in Rohnert Park. The Chapter was also involved in many community activities including fund raising, disseminating veteran's information, and volunteering at events such as the Air Show and the Traveling Wall, Cost of Freedom Tribute in Sonoma. The Chapter also made charitable donations to needy veterans and local charities. Chapter 78, with a small, active membership, makes an impressive, positive impact on the Sonoma County veteran community.

Groups like AMVETS, the Marine Corps League, and VFW, together with many individuals, helped to make this a positive year for many. As we look back on this past year we can be thankful we live in such a vibrant veteran community. Thanks to everyone who helped make 2012 a good year.







Christmas Party 2012 A HO, HO, HO Lot of Fun

By Charles Earthman

It was the night before, oh well; I can't start this story out that way, but I do want to tell you about the Chapter's Annual Christmas Party held this year on December 7 at the Veterans Memorial Building Auditorium. The auditorium was a larger venue than the dining room used last year and it was perfect.

The dinner preparations got underway early that morning in the Vets building kitchen. Richard Jones headed a group of volunteers that prepared the feast for the more than two hundred holiday guests. There were desserts and side dishes prepared by volunteers in their own kitchens to complete the festive fare.

Decorating the auditorium got under way after the Pearl Harbor Day breakfast. Jil McGivney, Kate O'Hare-Palmer and host of volunteers helped to transform the big ballroom into a merrily adorned hall full of holiday cheer. Items for the Christmas Party's annual silent auction were displayed, and other items were prepared to be raffled including some Christmas trees and the AVVA Quilt.





The party got underway about 6pm with a steady flow of veterans, their families and friends arriving to a cheerful atmosphere. There were lots of wide-eyed children eagerly anticipating a visit from Saint Nick. The room was full of merriment as dinner was served buffet style. As dinner was winding down and there was a commotion from the back of the room. A group excited kids were escorting Santa and his elves down the center aisle towards the stage where there was a chair next to a table full of presents. The air was charged with excitement as children lined up to tell Santa their Christmas wishes and get a gift presented by the elves. All the children were seen by Santa and they all got a present. The gift giving by Santa was the highlight of a very delightful evening for all.

The silent auction and raffle finished off the festivities as things started to wind down. The beautiful AVVA Quilt was won by Jerry Shimmel. Other participants went away with nice gifts including some very nice Christmas trees. It was a nice way to say goodbye to 2012.



LEGAL NOTICE FOR CHAPTER ELECTION IN APRIL

Chapter 223 Bylaws

Article I

Name

The name of the organization is Vietnam Veterans of America, Santa Rosa, CA., Inc. as prescribed by the Articles of Incorporation and is hereinafter referred to as the Chapter.

Article II

Purpose

The purposes of the Chapter are those prescribed by the Articles of Incorporation and by the Constitution of the Vietnam Veterans of America Incorporated

Article III

Members

The requirements for membership are the same as the requirements in the Vietnam Veterans of America Incorporated.

Article IV

Officers

§1 Officers. The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

§2 Office Holding Limitations. No member shall hold more than one elected office at a time.

Article V

Meetings

§1 Regular Meetings. The regular meetings of the Chapter shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month.

§2 Quorum. Ten members of the Chapter shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI

Board of Directors

§1 Board Composition. The officers including the five directors shall constitute the Board of Directors. The five directors shall serve for a term of **two years** or until their successors are elected.

§2 Board's Duties and Powers. The duties and powers of the board shall be those prescribed by the Constitution of Vietnam Veterans of America Incorporated and, shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Article VII

Committees

§1 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members who shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected.

Article VIII

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (most current) Edition* shall govern the Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order and standing rules the Chapter may adopt. **[This article may be omitted because the Constitution of Vietnam Veterans of America Incorporated prescribes the authority.]**

Article IX

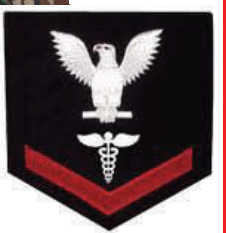
Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at the Annual meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing Ninety days prior to the Annual meeting.

Adopted/ Month, date, and year.

Amended / Revised, Month, date, and year.





Comic's Corner

I'm watching the news and I see these protesters in countries like Egypt, Afghanistan, Tunisia. They're all burning American flags. Where are they getting all these flags? If you hate us so much, how do you have a large supply of flags on hand? -- Jay Leno

The Spanish woman who botched a fresco restoration says she wants royalties from all the tourism it has generated. Why not? Celine Dion got royalties for 'My Heart Will Go On'. -- Jim Barach

Did you hear about the lawyers for a 480-pound death-row inmate in Ohio saying their client is too overweight to be put to death? "Indeed, given his unique physical and medical condition there is a substantial risk that any attempt to execute him will result in serious physical and psychological pain to him," his lawyers said....Dude, you're being executed, not getting a flu shot. -- Cam Hutchenson

Nine Vietnamese women and a Malaysian car wash owner were arrested after suspicious vice officers discovered that customers qualified for free sex after nine punches on their Subway-style proof-of-visits card. Further investigation revealed that a customer could request a free condom as well by asking for 'extra Armor All'. -- Bob Mills

The NHL has locked out its players. The league says the union's demands would bankrupt professional hockey. Free dental. -- Alan Ray

Nothing I learned in school prepared me for life at any level. My first book should have read, "See Dick balance his checkbook. See Jane leave an unhealthy relationship. Run, Jane, run!" --Kate Mason

"The movie 'Taken 2' has come out. In the first one, the bad guys kidnapped Liam Neeson's daughter, and in this new movie they kidnap his ex-wife. I'm not sure that's really upping the ante." -- Craig Ferguson

"Happy birthday to actor Roger Moore, who played 007. Roger Moore is 85 years old. In fact, his new catchphrase is, 'Bond, Gold Bond, Medicated Powder.'" -- Jay Leno

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

"A new study found that people with a lot of phobias are more likely to have health problems. Or as those people put it, 'I was afraid of that.'" -- Jimmy Fallon

When I was in the fifth grade I was taught Sex-Ed by a 65-year-old nun, which is kind of like taking barbecue lessons from a vegetarian. Either way, there's been very limited experience handling meat.

-- Allen Lindsey

"In China, an animal trainer taught his monkeys Kung fu, and then they attacked him using his best kung fu moves. Luckily, they were no match for the parrot he'd taught to fire a gun." -- Conan O'Brien

DEADBEAT DOPE: Corey Curtis, 44, of Racine, Wisc., pleaded no contest to one count each of felony bail jumping, and failure to pay child support -- over \$90,000 for his nine kids from six women. Judge Tim Boyle had a dilemma. "This has come up before," he said at the sentencing. "It's too bad the court doesn't have the authority to sterilize." Assistant District Attorney Rebecca Sommers pointed out that a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling found that a judge may, as a condition of a person's probation, order the defendant not to have another child unless he can show he can support that child. "I will make that a condition of the probation," Boyle said immediately, sentencing Curtis to serve three years' probation. "He is not to procreate until he can show he can provide for them," Boyle said, and added that he must also provide for all nine of his current children. His defense attorney objected, saying that condition of probation was not recommended in Curtis' "pre-sentencing investigation" report. "I'm not following the PSI," the Judge said as a smile spread across his face. (MS/Racine Journal-Times) ... Oblivions not being allowed to breed? A dream come true!

EH, WHAT'S THE RUSH? "Fulton Jail Will Get Working Cell Locks" -- Atlanta (Ga.) Journal-Constitution headline

Forget the Mayan calendar. The Los Angeles Clippers winning 17 in a row? Now, there's a sign of the apocalypse. -- Janice Hough

Mark Zuckerberg's sister Randi was upset when a casual family photo she posted on Facebook ended up reposted on Twitter, saying the person who did it was "way uncool," and saying to "always ask permission before posting a friend's photo publicly. It's not about privacy settings, it's about human decency." "Gosh, those FB settings are confusing, and I'm really sorry that happened to your family," said absolutely nobody. -- Janice Hough

The Pope, in his latest Christmas message, spoke against gay marriage and said that gay adoption meant "The child has become an object to which people have a right and which they have a right to obtain." So does he mean the only non-married people with that right are priests? -- Janice Hough

"Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the Government take care of him better take a closer look at the American Indian."
--Henry Ford



THE GRAPEVINE

Talk Around the Redwood Empire Chapter By Charles Earthman

Goodbye 2012, now here's 2013. January is a month for New Year's resolutions and reflections on the past. I don't make resolutions, but I will reflect a bit on last year.

There were some good things that happened and some not so good things. I was going to talk about both the good and the bad, but I think I will leave the bad out of this column and spotlight a few good people that contributed to our veteran community in 2012.

Most people who work in the non-profit veteran community are volunteers. They do it for the love of helping others and the gratitude they get from the community for their hard work. I will take this opportunity to thank a few of them.

Throughout the year there are all kinds of things going on that need volunteers to show up and help, sometimes with only a few hours advance notice. I'm at a lot of those events and notice things, or after they have happened I usually get a chance to talk to someone who was there. **Dave** and **Jackie Richey** always seem to be at those events, they are always willing to give their time. **Jerry Shimmel** has been around the Santa Rosa Veteran Community for a long time and has held many important leadership positions in Chapter 223; Jerry is still active in Chapter and community events and also shows up and volunteers when the call goes out. And of course there's **John** and **Jil McGivney**, their tireless work throughout the community and in the Chapter is second to none. I would also like to thank **Nancy Schafer**, her name is not mentioned very much, but her work can be seen throughout the year on written and graphic materials for Vet Connect and Chapter 223. She is an artist and a scholar and her consulting with me on many projects makes my work look good. She deserves a thank you and a lot more credit than she gets.

These are just a few of many that deserve recognition.

Thanks to these people, and many more, 2012 was a good year, and I hope 2013 will see others step up and make it an even better year.



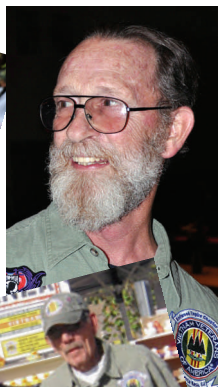
Coffee Is Served



Coffee is now served at the VA clinic. The coffee cart is sponsored by Blue Star Moms of Marin County, Sonoma County Vet Connect, and Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 223.

The cart needs volunteers to help with the coffee; veterans can volunteer for all day or half day. Volunteers can sign-up at the clinic as they serve themselves coffee.

For more information regarding this valuable service to our fellow veterans and the VA clinic, please call **Lou Nunez @ 291-5314**.





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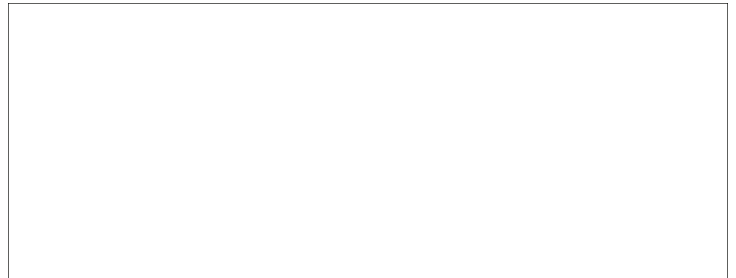
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Chapter 78, MOPH Christmas Luncheon in Rohnert Park. Seated left to right: Charles Earthman, Jim Malone, Gary Malone and Greg George. Standing left to right: Dave Schleeter, Steve Wiegert, Nicolas Gauthier, Bill Schaeffer, Larry Williams, Bob Evans and John Logan.