



# NEWS AND VIEWS

VVA # 223

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

Volume 15, Issue 5

MAY 2013

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS

## RANDY

By Charles earthman

On Friday, April 12, we gathered at the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Rosa to say goodbye to **Randy Flater**. The day was beautiful and the ceremony was a fitting tribute to a good friend and brother veteran whose imprint on our community will not be soon forgotten.



Randy Flater

Randy was a grunt - an 11 Bravo ground pounder who walked the jungle trails and rice paddies of Vietnam in 1967 and 1968. Although I was not a part of his unit (the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf Div), I was there at that time and covered some of those same trails and rice paddies. The US infantry line companies, both Army and Marines took a lot of casualties in those days. There were a lot of young men who would never come home again.

Randy was one of those who did come home and that was a blessing for the people who would be touched by his life. His legacy is one of a man who affected everyone who would come into contact with him in a positive way. The many friends and co-workers Randy had over the years thought highly of him. Everyone in the veteran community, the people at Vet Connect, the young people he mentored, and his fellow veterans in the many organizations he belonged to could count on him. He was there for whatever was needed, even at the end when he was very sick.

There has been a lot said about his love for his family and the dedication he had to his kids and grandkids and his strong family ties. He loved them and still had time and love to give to his community. Randy's strength of character will serve as a model for others to follow and he will be missed and never replaced in our community.

Mentioning Randy's combat service in Vietnam makes me wonder about those young Americans we lost that did not return. Perhaps they could have given to their families and communities a fraction of what **Randy Flater** gave to ours. I say a prayer for those families and communities that never got to know them. And I am thankful for how truly blessed we were to have shared in the life of **Granville "Randy" Flater**.

## SPECIAL DUCKY AWARDED



Bruce Thomson shines with pride sharing his "Ducky Commander" plaque. Bruce was presented with the ducky honor by his crew members back in February.

Although "product sales" may be greatly diminished without Bruce at the helm, Bruce has set a goal to become the greatest ducky salesman on the planet. All profits from ducky sales go directly to Wounded Warrior Project...



With Ken Holybee present, some of the product sales volunteers join Bruce Thomson for a picture. From the left, Earl Walters, Jerry Brester, Joe Cholewa, Bruce of course, Dave Kistenmacher, and Ken. Other members of the product sales team include Jordon Johnson, Samantha and Alexander Holland, Matt Kamanu, Randy Flater, Dave Bariski.

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

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Dave Phillips "Earthman"

## President's Letter

Another month has come and gone. Where does the time go? In the month of May we have a lot of things on the agenda. We start off with the state council meeting in Fresno on the first weekend, also our monthly poker tournament. On the second weekend I will be in Florida as part of the convention planning committee doing recon on the hotel and the area.



**Ken Holybee**

We will be in the Santa Rosa Rose parade on Armed Forces Day, **Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>** with a float using the POW tower that chapter members built for the moving wall that was in Sonoma last year. The Float will be set up at Julliard Park after the parade and our members will be explaining the meaning of it and what the POW/MIA issue means to the people that stop by. It is important that we keep this information in the minds of the population. Most people do not realize that there are still unaccounted for from the Gulf War and missing from the war in Iraq and at least one soldier listed as a prisoner of war in Afghanistan. If the community forgets them as they forget the soldiers that come home who will remember them?

On **Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>** the MIAP (Missing in America Project) of the Patriot Guard Riders will be escorting the cremations of 34 veterans from Franklin Park Cemetery to the VA Cemetery in Dixon. They will be leaving at 10 AM with a CHP escort and motorcycles following the hearse with the remains of the Veterans.

On **Sunday May 26** the "Good Ol' Boys" will be hosting their second annual benefit motorcycle run from the Santa Rosa Veterans Building. Sign in starts at 8 AM with departure at 11 AM. Cost is \$20.00 which includes a shirt and a steak dinner. The morning starts off with a pancake breakfast put on by American Legion Post 21 (\$1 off for paid riders) and music by Counterbalance to entertain everyone in attendance. You can also come and enjoy the day and purchase a dinner even if you don't ride. Proceeds from this event go to Santa Rosa AL, VFW and VVA. Last year was a lot of fun and they promised that this year will be better.

(Cont'd on page 10)

### NOTICE

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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

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**Email address is: [vets@vva223.org](mailto:vets@vva223.org)**





Below right, **Samantha Holland** holds up her winnings as presented by **Jil McGivney**. Samantha had the winning ticket for the quilt drawing, which was serendipitously given to her by **Bruce Thomson**. Please note that Samantha's mother runs the Farmer's Market at the Vet building on weekends and Wednesdays.

## Chapter Color Guard

The Chapter is recruiting new members for the color guard. Old age and attrition have thinned the ranks and they are looking for new recruits. The color guard appears at local veterans ceremonies and marches in parades like the Petaluma Veterans Day Parade and the Luther Burbank Rose Parade.

Members get a uniform shirt and a really nice jacket and beret. You will have to practice to coordinate your moves with others, but I'm sure it won't be like doing close order drills in the military. It could be a lot of fun. If you're interested in becoming a part of the color guard contact **Dave Phillips @ 694-7614**.



## IN MEMORIAM



**RANDY FLATER**

**Granville "Randy" Flater** passed away on April 1, 2013 in Santa Rosa, California after a decade-long battle with cancer. He was known to most as simply "Randy," having been nicknamed by a nurse who attended his birth on June 7, 1946 in Davenport, Iowa.

Randy was the eldest child of **Eldon** and **Eileen Flater**. The family later relocated to Northern California and Randy graduated from Capuchino High School in Millbrae, California, in 1964.

Randy served in the U.S. Army from 1966-1970, including his service in the First Infantry Division in Vietnam from 1967-1968.

Following his return to the U.S., Randy dated and then married **Judy Donohue**, and the couple, along with their eldest child, moved to Santa Rosa in the early 70s when Randy was offered a transfer by his employer, Hewlett-Packard. Randy continued working at Hewlett-

Packard (and later Agilent) for almost three decades, during which time he also attended Santa Rosa Junior College and later Sonoma State University.

He was also very active in the lives of his five children; he became very involved in their athletic and academic endeavors and supported each of them with fervor. Randy continued to be very involved in the lives of his seven grandchildren as well, and was known affectionately as "Papa" to all of them. After retirement, he immersed himself in the activities of his grandchildren, supporting one grandchild's love of ice skating by eventually becoming a board member of the Santa Rosa Figure Skating Club.

In recent years Randy volunteered at Vet Connect, a non-profit organization that helps Veterans in need obtain assistance in areas such as housing, medical care, mental health care, and employment. Randy was proud of his connection to Vet Connect, specifically that he was helping others as well as making a contribution to the community that supported him.

Randy is survived by his wife **Judy Flater**; his children, **Julie Williams** of Pleasant Hill, **Scott Flater** of Santa Rosa, **Mark Flater** of Santa Rosa, **Lindsay Flater** of Santa Rosa and **Michael Flater** of Berkeley; his grandchildren, **Makayla**, **Alayna**, **Ashton**, **Jossana**, **Ginger**, **Layla** and **Carter**; his brother, **Jay Flater** of St. Ignatius, Montana; his sister, **Karen Flater** of Great Falls, Montana; his parents, **Eldon** and **Eileen Flater** of Great Falls, Montana.

Randy's family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), P.O. Box 1583, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, 707-526-4218, [www.VVA223.org](http://www.VVA223.org).

Randy's family wishes to thank all of his friends for their dedication and support of Randy and his family. It will not be forgotten. Randy's strength and dedication will be remembered by all.

Honoring Past Trailblazers and  
How They Are Like Current Servicewomen  
**THE SERVICE WOMEN'S LEGACY**

Kate O'Hare-Palmer  
VVACSC Women Veterans Comm. Chair

It is the one year anniversary for Women Army Vietnam Veterans Induction into the U.S. Army Women's Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame awards were presented to all women who have contributed extraordinary service to women in the Army. This induction was for all those who had served in Vietnam. **Maj. Gen. McWilliams**, President of U.S. Army Women's Foundation, had discussed the challenges faced by women who had served in Vietnam. "The women who served in Vietnam did it for their country—in terrible conditions," she said. "They dealt with things they could not ever have been trained for; the trauma, the shock, the tropical diseases, compounded all the things that happened." Those women came back home and Americans didn't take notice of the work they had done.

Women serving in Vietnam had pivotal roles as nurses, translators, navigators, clerical staff, technicians, aviation mechanics, and many other specialized areas. These women laid the groundwork for the following generation to enter many new specialties within the military. They opened the door to new opportunities and careers for women in the military.

The Army Women's Foundation website is listed below with the link to past podcasts. There is more information on the actual induction ceremony and also podcasts on the continuing challenges of women in the military transitioning home after serving overseas.

<http://www.awfdn.org/podcast/video3.shtml>



Kate  
O'Hare-Palmer

## AMERICANS ACCOUNTED-FOR



There are now **1,650** personnel listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO just posted the accounting for **Major James E. Sizemore**, USAF, from CA, listed as KIA/BNR in Laos on July 8, 1969, flying an A-26A on a night armed-reconnaissance mission over Xiengkhoang Province. His remains were recovered June 1, 2010, and identified on March 25, 2013. The number of Americans announced by DPMO as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 933. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and ID'd before the end of the war, bring the official total of remains repatriated from the Vietnam War to 996. Of the 1,650 missing and unaccounted-for personnel, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,278 (VN-469, VS-809); Laos-312; Cambodia-53; PRC territorial waters-7; 450+ over-water losses are among 630 DPMO lists as No Further Pursuit.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE COMMITMENT:** On March 29<sup>th</sup>, in a statement commemorating Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day in many states across the country, **Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel**, a veteran of the Vietnam War, included the following in specific reference to the Defense Department's commitment to the accounting mission: "*More than 1,600 service members remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Their families still seek answers. Today, the Department of Defense reaffirms its commitment to take all steps to account for our missing personnel and bring closure to their families.*"

## 2013 CHAPTER ELECTIONS

### *Summer is Coming*

By Charles Earthman



The Chapter held its 2013 elections for officers and Board of Directors in April and everyone on the ballot ran unopposed. This could signal a confidence in those standing for office or indicate a lack of interest and participation on the part of the membership. I hope it is the first case, but I fear it is the latter. An influx of new members (five in April) may breathe new interest in the Chapter's business and programs.

Elected to two-year terms were the following members: President, **Ken Holybee** (third term); Vice President, **John McGivney**; Secretary, **Dave Phillips**; and newly elected Treasurer, **Bill Burke**. The five elected Board members are **Charles Earthman**, **Lou Nunez**, **Brooke McKusick**, **Bruce Thomson** and newly elected **Alan Dalton**. Welcome to **Bill Burke** and **Alan Dalton**.

## SHOUT! 2013 IS COMING UP!

Join us to celebrate women veterans through art on May 8. This year we have an incredible line-up of veteran artists presenting photography, poetry, paintings, sculpture, comedy and music. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

This event is free and open to the public.

When: May 8, 2013 6 - 9pm

Where: San Francisco Women's Building  
3543 18th St.

San Francisco, CA 94110



## TRIP to YOUNTVILLE VETERAN'S HOME

*By Jil McGivney*

John and I had the opportunity to take a Veteran to Yountville early this month. She was having her entrance interview and needed a ride.

We talked to **Craig Stratton**, the Admissions coordinator and got a lot of valuable information. We toured the facility which is in a beautiful setting in the Napa Valley. The first thing that hits you is that there is a 9 hole golf course as you enter the driveway. On the grounds there is a large swimming pool, baseball diamond, a huge wood-working shop and a ceramics room, available to all residences. There is also a fairly new theater, where they have plays and even the Napa symphony has concerts there as well. There is also a large park with a gazebo where music can be heard there all summer long. There is a large cafeteria which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and an extra bonus is that you can have your own car.

There are almost 1000 rooms on site. They did want to stress that however, permanent residence have first crack at the more advanced stages of rooms, i.e. semi-assisted living and 24 assisted living with a nurse always on call. We were told if you're considering Yountville as your retirement community please be aware they are only taking residence Veterans. As their needs advance they have first priority to the next levels. Provided in these rooms are a bed, dressers and basic cable. You can bring your own modem, and there is also Wi-Fi spots in certain areas on the grounds.

The criteria for filling these rooms is 1. Hardship 2. Homeless 3. 55+ (unless disabled). As a resident you do share a room for at least the first 5 years. There is also 1 bedroom apartments for married couples. However, when the Veteran passes on the spouse is more than welcome to stay on. Only if the spouse does decide to leave, they won't be permitted back.

The fees for residential entry is 47.5% of your income.

Intermediate care (semi-assisted Living) is 65% of your income

Memory care (skilled nursing 24/7) is 70 % of your income and for spouses at the residential entry is 90%.

Just a reminder that everything you need from food to cable to basic assistance is included in those fees. The one thing they wanted me to make sure to tell you is NOT to wait until you need assisted living arrangements because those openings are filled from the residential homes.

The town of Yountville is very close by with lots of shops, eateries and grocery stores. Although, because it is in the Napa Valley, none of these things in town are inexpensive!

---

There were no comments by the candidates and, because they all ran unopposed, a motion was made that all nominees be elected by a white ballot. The voice vote was unanimous and that was that. The Oath of Office will be administered at May's general meeting. Jil McGivney was also elected as the AVVA representative to the Board. I'm sure she will be a valuable addition to the Chapter leadership group. She has already been working in that capacity for a while now. Welcome Jil, officially..

The Chapter by-laws were also amended and approved by the members present. The changes were to Article VI, which pertains to the length of office terms for

the Board members. They will now serve a two-year term along with Chapter officers who will also now serve for two years. This should give the leadership time to implement some positive programs and continue the good ones that exist.

May marks the beginning of the very busy summer season. Events scheduled for this month include the Rose Parade on May 18, the Good Ol' Boys Veterans Bike Run on May 26, and the dedication of the new Petaluma Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 30. This gets us started and I don't think we will stop until we finish dancing at the Annual Dinner Dance held on September 14. So get your schedule in order because we're gonna need all the help we can get.



The 119th Annual Luther Burbank Rose Parade and Festival takes place on Saturday, May 18, 2013

## VVA 223 GEARS UP FOR THE ROSE PARADE

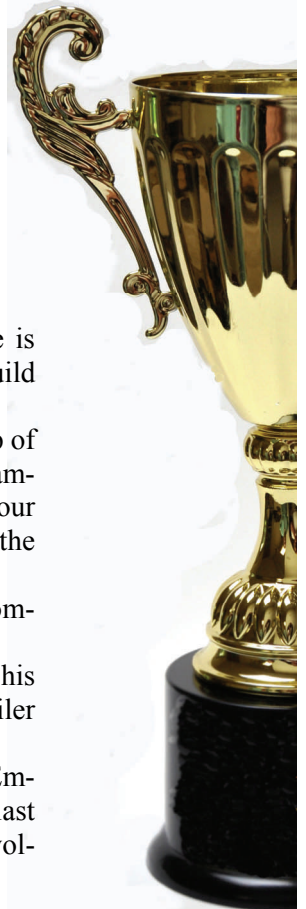
As this publication goes to press, the Rose Parade committee is hard at work planning, assembling materials, and getting ready to build the chapter's entry for the 119th annual Luther Burbank Rose Parade.

**Joe Cholewa** and **Bruce Thomson** are leading our usual group of designers, craftspeople, and builders to create a stunning North Vietnamese concentration camp guard tower, which will be the center piece of our float. Please note: The connotation of the guard tower is to remind the viewers to **NEVER FORGET** the sacrifices which our POWs/MIAs have made for the United States of America. (Please see the accompanying article on page 4).

**Bruce Carpenter**, again this year, has graciously given over his driveway for the modification of the float, and construction of the trailer for our members to ride.

This year the chapter is going it alone to insure a Redwood Empire Chapter, Vietnam Veterans experience. Please join the crew from last year to build a new tradition. Call **Bruce Thomson** @ 484-2299 to volunteer for construction days...

(Cont'd on page 10)



### *Women's Military History Week*

Our own Elaine Richter, U.S. Army, WWII, right, and Deputy Secretary Lindsey Sin, Women Veterans Affairs, CDVA, attend the Women's Military History Week Celebration, Alameda County, April 13, 2013.

Below left to right: Connie Guaraglia, US Marines, Korea, 1953-1957; Ramona Finlason, U.S Army, 1943-45, Deputy Secretary Lindsay Sin, and Vet Connect's pin-up girl Elaine Richter.



### **SALUTE**

VVA 223 Color Guard, Dave Phillips, John McGivney, and Travis Washington, salute and present the national colors to Judy Flater and her family.





# QUILT MOVIE SEWS UP BOFFO BOX OFFICE

## AVVA NOTES

*By Brooke McKusick*

With abundant popcorn and quilts galore, the *Quilts of Valor* movie drew quite a crowd March 30th. **Jil McGivney** organized a wonderful experience for everyone.

There were all sizes and shapes of quilts on hand, and also books and handouts for folks who are just getting started in the project to make quilts for returning soldiers.

"Our goal is to reach out to our local returning veterans and wounded warriors. I feel we need to learn from our history, that it's important that our new generation of Veterans start talking about their experiences now and let them know what VA services are available to them. Maybe we can make a start by reaching out to our local wounded warriors and give them a quilt," Jil told the audience.

The Lake County quilters brought down several of their Wounded Warrior quilts for us to see, and of course, **Kathy Kistmacher** brought many of her beautiful quilts. **Melvin Jones** made the food and AVVA

(Cont'd on page 8)



Laura , Mary , Kathy, Grace, and Bethany

## 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)

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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

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## THE GRAPEVINE

### Talk Around Redwood Empire Chapter

By Charles Earthman

April was a busy month and I think we won't miss a beat in May. We said goodbye to our good friend and brother, **Randy Flater**. It was a beautiful day and a nice memorial service. Goodbye Randy!

**Jil McGivney** had a very successful showing of the documentary "Quilts of Valor" on March 30. There was a nice turnout of people interested in quilting and learning how it can benefit our serviceman and veterans. Good job Jil, as usual.

The last general meeting was a little weird. It was procedurally void of any kind of structure. There was an election and a motion to approve changes to the Chapter by-laws. We got it all done, despite not being ready for any of it. We knew we were going to do these things, but the meeting just kind of snuck up on us and we weren't quite ready for it.

Summer is right around the corner and that means it's time to gear up for the fundraising season. It is a busy time of year for the Chapter, but it's all done for a good cause. The August Poker Night will take place at the same time as the Air Show, and we will be shorthanded because we also will be sending six delegates and **Ken Holybee** to the VVA National Convention in Jacksonville, FL.

**James Cutri** had to step down

(Cont'd above right...)



Charles  
Earthman

from his bugler duties. He had been doing it for many years for the Chapter and the Sonoma County veteran community. We thank him for his many years of devotion to duty and his bugler services will be missed.

The Chapter is looking for a few good men (or women) to join the honor guard. You can proudly represent the Chapter and the VVA at ceremonies, and you don't have to drill as long and hard as you did when you had some E-6 yelling at you. If you are interested, contact **Dave Phillips** (he was an E-6 drill sergeant), but now he is a nice guy.

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

(Cont'd from page 6)

## AVVA NOTES

member **Sheila Hart** was his assistant, and **Francis Ramirez** ran the raffle...

Jil reported, "We made enough money to cover the event, well almost anyway. And it sounded like people really enjoyed the movie. All the instruction booklets were gone and all the quilt squares that were provided from the *Quilts of Valor* people were also all taken. I'm hoping in a few weeks we'll be hearing from people who have made quilts and are ready to donate them to either us, *Quilts of Valor* or the Wounded Warrior Project.

## VVA 223 PHOTOGRAPHS

### on SHUTTERFLY

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Once you get there, OPEN: Pictures and Videos.

CLICK ON: Album Title to see photos.

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Photos by **Brooke McKusick**

## SONOMA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE (707) 565.5960

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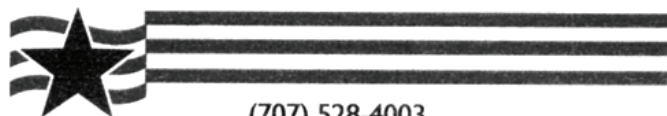
5-14

## Social Security Representative

*Former Social Security Expert*

**Dan McCaskell Ph.D.**

*CVE, CRC, CCM*



**(707) 528-4003**

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# SERVICE

By Charles Earthman

In April, we said goodbye to **Randy Flater**, a hard working volunteer for Vet Connect, VVA Chapter 223 and many other veterans' organizations. I was moved by his selfless dedication to our community, and I was also moved by the actions of others who stepped up to insure a nice send off for such a great guy.

The people who were there to help with Randy's memorial are the people who are always ready to step up when help is needed in the community. **Matt Kamanu** set the whole thing up. **John** and **Jil McGivney** were, of course, up front as always--they made sure there were flowers and the room was fitting for the memorial. "**Big Joe**" **Cholewa** was there to help in the eleventh hour by getting the food for the ceremony and guys like **Tony Rambonga**, **Gary Casassa** helped in serving and manning the kitchen.

I mention these volunteers because they often go about their task without much notice or thanks. Vet Connect does a lion's share of volunteer work in the veteran community. Many of its staff members are from Chapter 223. The furniture donations program **John McGivney** runs is busy and successful. Volunteers like **Bill Schaeffer** and others stand ready to help, sometimes with only 24 or 48 hours' notice. The Chapter does all kinds of fundraising and participates in many projects for our community, and many others volunteer regularly: guys like **Bob Evans**, **Dave Phillips**, **Jim Wheeler**, **Gary Brester**, and **Earl Walters**.

Successful scholarship programs are led by **Sonny Campbell**. Community information and outreach programs at Santa Rosa Junior College and local high schools are lead by **Bruce Thomson**. These programs help keep our youth informed and in touch with our history.

Our Chapter is a leader in community service, but we are not alone in Sonoma County. Other veteran organizations like the MOPH Chapter 78 also take community service to heart. The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a prestigious veteran's organization and we are fortunate to have Chapter 78 as a part of our community. The MOPH Chapter has a small active membership (consisting of many Vietnam veterans) that has a large and active presence in the community. Chapter 78 has a successful fundraising profile and contributes thousands of dollars to the community every year. They also volunteer and participate in many community events.

Service is a hallmark of our veteran community. Vietnam veterans are out front in most, if not all, of these efforts. But we must remain forever vigilant-- more volunteers are always needed. We must continue to put the word out that veterans need to help veterans and contribute to the community.

*For those volunteers who work so hard and are always there, we say thank you and keep up the good work. Randy Flater is looking down at you with pride.*

## (Cont'd from page 2) **President's Letter**

On **Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>** we will be at Franklin Park for the annual Avenue of the Flags. Be there at 6 AM and help put up the flags. Bring some young people that can reach the ground and get back up, I know that is getting difficult for some of us, and help put up the flags. We have been involved with this for over twenty years, since we were asked to assist the WWII vets that were having trouble with the bending and getting the flags up. There question to us was "who will be there to raise the flags over us". I think we need to start asking the same question. The ceremony starts at 10 AM. Take down starts at 4 PM with a BBQ after the flags are all put away.

On **May 30<sup>th</sup>** the replacement Plaque will be dedicated in Petaluma. This plaque is to replace the one stolen on Christmas last year. It was originally dedicated on May 30 1969 to honor Petaluma soldiers that were killed in Vietnam. The program starts at 2 PM at Walnut Park in Petaluma. This is on the corner of D street and Main to us Petaluma people and to everyone else it is D and Petaluma Boulevard.

As you can see this is another busy month. We will also be planning for our booth at the air show in August as well as the national convention which is on the same weekend as the air show. I hope you will be able to come and join us at one or more of these events.

In September we are holding our second annual Dinner Dance. Tickets are on sale now. We are hoping for a good turnout for this event. Contact **Lou Nunez** or a board member for information or to purchase a ticket, or if you would like to assist in selling tickets.

(Cont'd from page 6)

## **Rose Parade**



It must be noted that these dedicated folks really stepped up last year: **Earl Walters**, **Alan Davilla**, **Dave Richey**, **Dave Kistenmacher**, **Greg George**, **Jackson Mayes**, **Gary Casassa**, **Alan Dalton**, **Matt Kamanu**, **Bruce Thomson**, **Roy Hass**, **Steve Wiegert**, and **Jim Wheeler**. Of course, **Joe Cholewa** and **Bruce Carpenter** were right in the middle of everything.

I do not want to slight **Kimchi Moyer**, and her group, for their contribution last year, but it must be noted that VVA 223 is moving in a new direction.

Please call Bruce now to get on the float build list! **484-2299**





**CHAPTER 223**  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
**MAY 21, 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... May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 17th, September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd, December 7th, and January 4th, 2014...

# COMIC'S CORNER

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"I'm sick of following my dreams. I'm just going to ask them where they're going and hook up with them later." --Mitch Hedberg

"You need to be careful when writing comments," our principal told the faculty. He held a report card for a Susan Crabbe. A colleague had written, "Susan is beginning to come out of her shell."

"The women's school district in New Hampshire has officially banned dodge ball because parents complained their kids were being targeted during games which, of course, is the point of dodge ball." -- Jimmy Kimmel

"Today President Obama asked Congress for \$100 million to map the human brain. And believe me, if anybody needs a map to find their brain, it's Congress." -- Jay Leno

"Last week, a hunter in Kansas shot his friend twice because he mistakenly thought he was a turkey. After the first shot, the guy said he wasn't a turkey. But, come on, that's exactly what a turkey would have said." --Jimmy Fallon

"A man in New Jersey was arrested for stealing \$100,000 worth of perfume. Not good. I mean, if there's one thing you don't want in jail, it's to smell pretty." -- Jimmy Fallon

"The U.S. Senate is now fighting to keep open the Senate barber shop. It loses \$350,000 a year. Do you know what that makes it? The most successful government program ever. It's only losing \$350,000 a year." -- Jay Leno

I once heard Jerry Falwell condemn "Godless atheism" I hope there aren't too many other kinds of atheism out there I'm not aware of. In fact, I'd like to avoid "beerless atheism" if at all possible. -- Joseph Moore

"New research shows that eating organic foods can make people more arrogant and judgmental. In fact, eating just one handful of organic bean sprouts has the same effect as driving 1,000 miles in a Prius." -- Jay Leno

In a recent interview, Paris Hilton said she believed in Santa Claus until she was 17. Then someone told Paris that wasn't Santa who kept walking up to her shouting, "Ho." -- Conan O'Brien

Celebrity boxing is an affront to every principle of human dignity -- but on the bright side, at least the celebrities get punched for participating. -- The Covert Comic

**SOME PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING TO AVOID TIPPING THE BELLHOP:** "Evansville Hotel Employee Stops Man Trying to Wheel Dead Body out on Luggage Cart" -- Evansville (Ind.) Courier-Press headline

It must be doubly embarrassing for those guys who have female pattern baldness. -- Doug Finney





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## *News and Views*

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## A HEARTFELT THANKS FROM OUR RETURNING SOLDIERS!

THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS  
FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS, HELP AND SUPPORT.  
ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS HAVE  
RESULTED IN OVER 1,150 BOXES OF SUPPLIES BEING SENT  
TO 11 PLATOONS. 900 SOLDIER'S LIVES WERE TOUCHED  
BY YOUR KINDNESS AND ENCOURAGEMENT!

THE LIST IS TOO LARGE TO THANK EACH AND EVERY PERSON,  
BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION THAT PARTICIPATED  
IN OUR SUCCESS. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU  
ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY ALL THE SOLDIERS  
OF THE 4TH ID FROM FORT CARSON  
AND THE HEALDSBURG SOS (SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS).

## *Thank You Note*

