



NEWS AND VIEWS

VVA # 223

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

Volume 15, Issue 6

JUNE 2013

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS



EDD and Veterans Organizations Host Job Fair for Sonoma County Vets

By Charles Earthman

On May Day, the California Employment Development Department and Sonoma County veterans' organizations hosted a veteran's resource and job fair at the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Rosa. This was the second year this event was staged at this venue and, judging by the turnout, it was a huge success.

There were 58 employers looking to fill nearly 1,500 jobs. There were close to 1100 job seekers in search of employment opportunities and more than 20% (240) were veterans. In Sonoma County, veterans have a higher unemployment rate than non-veterans. In 2011 the five-year average for unemployment among veterans was 9.7 percent compared to 8.4 percent among non-veterans, according to EDD.

On hand were 26 veterans' resources organizations to assist the job seekers. Vet Connect and Chapter representatives from five local veterans' organizations were there giving important information and help. The CALVET Center's Mobile RV was located outside and saw 150 veterans, of which 90 were combat vets.

Claudio Calvo, the EDD Veterans' Rep. and a Vietnam Vet himself, has organized this event for the last two years.

His ideas and efforts have been the driving force behind the enormous success of these job fairs in Sonoma County. Claudio has worked very hard to ease the burden felt by veterans re-entering our community. Finding employment and having access to veterans' resources goes a long way to helping returning vets maintain dignity and self-respect. Claudio has a second job fair planned later on this year at the Double-Tree Hotel in Rohnert Park.

The day began with the presentation of the colors. Local veterans' organizations and representatives of all five branches of service took part in the ceremony. Congressman Jared Huffman presented the job fair organizers with a certificate from the U.S. Congress. There were other politicians on hand, including representatives from two Assembly offices and one State Senator's office. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors presented Claudio and the fair organizers with a Gold Resolution for their achievement. Also attending was the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs Major General Peter Gravett (Retired).

Although the veterans' resource and job fair was organized to help veterans find work and get the help some of them so

(Cont'd on page 10)



Pictured to the left by the number: 1. Terry Grumley, California Secretary of Veterans Affairs Peter J. Gravett, and Claudio Calvo. 2. SCAYD Ligia Camara and Leah Conde. 3. U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman and Supervisor Mike McGuire. 4. Daniel Mercado, Secretary Gravett and Vet Connect's James Poore.

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

OFFICE: 707-526-4218

WEB: www.vva223.org

Officers and Board of Directors

President: Ken Holybee
Phone: 707.887.8891
Email: holybee@comcast.net

Vice President: John McGivney
Secretary: Dave Phillips
Treasurer: William "Bill" Burke
Charles Earthman: Brooke McKusick
Lou Nunez: Alan Dalton
Bruce Thomson

Committees

Chaplin: Bob Cheadle
Color Guard: Dave Phillips
Community Liaison: John Crooker
Education: Bruce Thomson
Finance: Pat Christen
Food Give-A-Way: John McGivney
Homeless Outreach: Dave Phillips
Legislation: Ken Holybee
Membership: Charles Earthman
Newsletter: Brooke McKusick
Product Sales: Bruce Thomson
Bob Evans: Bruce Thomson
Public Relations: Charles Earthman
Scholarship Fund: Sunny Campbell
UVC: Ken Holybee
Veteran's Building: John Crooker
Website: John Crooker

News and Views

Publisher: Ken Holybee
Editor-in-Chief: Brooke McKusick
Associate Editor: Charles Earthman
Correspondent: Kate O'Hare- Palmer
Advertising: Lou Nunez
Photos by: "McQ6"
Dave Phillips "Earthman"
Ken Hollybee Diane Thomson

President's Letter

It has been a very busy month. Most of our reports for this month's activities will be reported on next month since they are still going on. We gave out our scholarships and swore in our new board at the May meeting.

We are still working on our fund-raising dinner dance. Please plan on attending Saturday, September 14th. We are also getting involved with a table at the Santa Rosa Wednesday night market. Stop in and see us and say "hi" or hang out with us there for a while.

While we were working at putting up the flags at Franklin Park Cemetery for Memorial Day, I keep thinking about when we got involved with this project. We were the young ones then, and one of our members asked us to think about the older vets that worry about who would put the flags up when they are gone. Well, a lot of them are now gone, and we are starting to ask the same question. To those who were there thank you, to those that know younger veterans, ask them to come and help. We have lost quite a few members in the last year, and we have gained a lot of new members.

The parade was great. We don't have as many walking members as we have had in the past, but we are still getting the job done. Remember our monthly meetings, we are still having pot luck and some of our members put on some great food.

I will have more to report next month.

In service, Ken



Ken Holybee

VVA 223 PHOTOGRAPHS on SHUTTERFLY

PHOTO ADDRESS: <http://vva223photographs.shutterfly.com>

Once you get there, OPEN: "Pictures and Videos." CLICK ON: "Album Title" to see photos. You can freely view all of the pictures on the site. You can download or purchase prints from Shutterfly directly, but to download to your own computer you must create a shutterfly account with your own email address and your own password. You can collect as many photos as you like after that...

NOTICE: You may use any of my pictures in printed material, and/or any other medium, but you must credit the photographer: Photos by Brooke McKusick

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@vbn.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



CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL MEETING - MAY 4, 2013

By Kate O'Hare-Palmer

The CSC meetings last week in Fresno were filled with information. It was a great time to get together to hear how the other chapters are doing.

Our guest speaker, Charles Hunnycutt, is a veterans service officer in Fresno and Madera. He shared the history and current situation with the CDVA. There are 56 service officers in California. The advantage of a veteran using a service office to put in their compensation claim is many. They have three trainings per year, they get a national accreditation and then can loop with six different veterans associations for current information, and they now work to develop fully developed claims before they are submitted. This all helps to shorten the length of time of claim adjudication. The lack of funding per county is what determines how many service officers you may have in your community. The state only funds 15% of each office and the county funds the rest. It is up to the veterans in each community to go to the county board of supervisors to get each office the increase in funds they may need for functioning.

Karen Olzewski, our very own VVACSC service officer in Long Beach, reviewed the current status of veteran claims from her point of view. She reminded those of us who are ready to join the Social Security ranks that your military service is calculated in to enhance your Social Security monthly check. Don't forget to mention that. The 526EZ compensation claim form is a newer form that is only 2 pages long and takes three to six months to process. If you are interested in submitting a compensation claim, it is important to have your doctor fill out a Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DVQ) to help support your physical claims. Again, she reminded us that PTSD compensation has relaxed the stressors requirement. If you were in-country in a war zone, it is now considered a stressful place (really?) and there are no geographical limitations. In a Military Sexual Trauma claim, a detailed written statement by the victim is given equal weight for the claim without need for witnesses. MST is also included in the new DSM-V criteria for PTSD. She did emphasize that the best way to get PTSD rated (if think you qualify) is your need to accept help and report your true symptoms. She also mentioned aid and attendance compensation for those veterans that are aging and need help in their homes for daily needs. If you know someone who is having difficulty with living in their home alone, this may be something you need to research and contact your local veteran service office for help.

The second guest speaker, Dick Cole, is from a Michigan marketing firm that represents our California VVA for California Veterans Benefits Fund in solicitation. 93% of solicitation is through the mail and the other 7% is via telemarketing. The VBF is instrumental to each VVA chapter for funds that help the chapter function. The economic climate for donations in the last three years has been down. However, in the last four months donations have increased 15%. It is clear that each chapter does need to be responsible for as much of their donations and working expenses as possible. We are seeing that some chapters that are more successful are helping out other chapters with financial assistance.

James Maddox, VVA member from Pasadena, works tirelessly on the Veterans Health Council and supports bridging veteran information with the NAACP. He emphasizes that most people don't know who the VVA is.

>>>>>>>

John Crooker gets sworn in as Vice President of the California State Council



The board of the California State Council of VVA appointed John Crooker as First Vice President. He was confirmed by the attending members of the CSC on May 4, 2013. He will finish the remainder of Dennis (Doc) Croucher's term.

John joined VVA Chapter 223 in 1996 as a Life member. He served 3 terms as chapter treasurer, finance committee member and chair, and three terms as president of the Redwood Empire Chapter. He was editor of the chapter newsletter for 2 years. John has been a chapter delegate at the last four National Conventions, and he is the Treasurer for Sonoma County Vet Connect (veterans outreach).

Crooker helped with fund raising thru a Golf Tournament, Welcome Home Iraqi and Afghanistan Veterans BBQ.

John is on the San Francisco VA Hospital's "Veteran and Family Advisory Committee" and "The Hospitals Veterans Homeless Outreach Committee." He also serves on an advisory committee to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in regarding the Veterans Memorial Buildings and the overall welfare of the veterans in the county.

Crooker served in the Army from 1967-1972. After advanced infantry training he was sent to Vietnam in March of 1968. He was assigned to the 1st infantry division 1st/16th. John was a crewman on a 106 mm recoilless rifle. He was promoted to sergeant E-5 in September of 1968. His unit was transferred to the 9th infantry Division in November of the same year. He was assigned as a squad leader with the 5th of the 60th Inf. HQ/HQ company and was in the battalion commander's security platoon. John earned a CIB, a bronze star and a good conduct medal and received an honorable discharge.

He would like each chapter to reach out to our local NAACP chapter. There are over 2200 branches. There are many Vietnam veterans within this group. He has great success in the southern California area with sharing information with local NAACP chapters. James states that our VVA position; focus on policy and not politicians and health care initiatives, is in sync with their goals.

Our VVACSC website is a wealth of information. The message board is quite informative. We always take time at these meetings to hear what each chapter is doing via their chapter reports as well as the committee breakout sessions. I would encourage each of you to check out the VVACSC website and also to look at each chapter's website for their local news.

Rose Parade Preparations



Robert and Dan Stover, Bruce Thomson, Matt Kamanu, Bruce Carpenter, Gary Casassa, and Pat Christen gather at Carpenter's house to assemble the float for the Rose Parade. See the parade pictures on page six.



Our VVA-223 parade participants got together at the staging area at the Vet Building. Left group: Bill Schaeffer, Gary Casassa, Tony Rambonga, and Rodney Sheriff. Back row from the left: David Kistenmacher, Bruce Carpenter, Bruce Thompson, Gene from Sonoma, John McGivney, Dave Phillips, Ray Reece, Travis 'n' Irene Washington, and Bill Becker.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

SB 296 seeks raise the state's local assistance appropriation for County Veterans Service Officers by \$5 million. This would result in a total local assistance amount of \$7.6 million. SB 296 will also make available an additional \$1.4 million for competitive grants that the California Department of Veterans Affairs can award to Veterans Service Organizations, such as the American Legion, for outreach and claims assistance.

SB 296 passed out of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously. The bill will next go to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 296 is authored by Senators Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) and Ben Hueso (D-San Diego).

Vietnam Era Ends: May 7, 1975

By the Veterans at VetFriends.com

From August 5, 1964 through March 28, 1973, many of you, our Veteran brothers and sisters were among the 8,744,000 active duty U.S. military personnel who proudly served our Nation during the war in Vietnam, with 2,594,000 of you serving within the borders of South Vietnam, some deployed as early as 1954 and leaving as late as 1975. The Vietnam Era also includes all Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam as early as February 28, 1961.

Over several years beginning in the early 60's, the U.S. escalated its forces in the Vietnam war assisting South Vietnam in opposition to communism - to deter Soviet-based expansion and control throughout Southeast Asia.

Aug. 2-4, 1964, after the Gulf of Tonkin incident, the Johnson Administration escalates U.S. involvement in the war.



Operation Rolling Thunder & Operation Starlite (65-68): By the end of 1965, there was a build-up of U.S. troops from 184,000 to 429,000 in 1966, and by 1968 there were 529,000 Americans fighting in Vietnam.

Vietnamization (69-74): With Nixon elected as president, the U.S. began a slow disengagement from the war, while building up the South Vietnamese Army to fight on its own.

On January 27, 1973 the Paris Peace Accords were signed declaring a cease-fire in Vietnam. The U.S. government, South Vietnam and North Vietnam governments pledged to "respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Vietnam as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam." As a result, there was a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops by March 29, 1973. At the end of the war, over **58,200** American soldiers had given their lives fighting for our country.



**VVA's Education Committee
"The Living History Project"
High marks at Santa Rosa Junior College
and Santa Rosa High School
By Bruce Thomson**

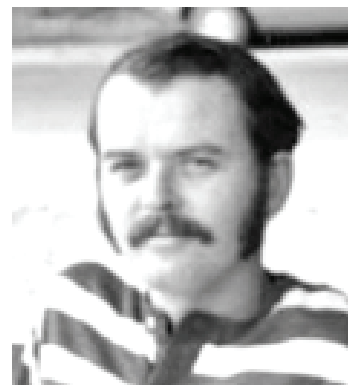
April was a busy month for the 'project' with both the high school and the junior college hitting Vietnam this time of the year. We started at the J.C. in two classes for Jill Kelly-Moore, Humanities Faculty Instructor in her American Cultures classes. In each class we had three speakers share their Vietnam experience, then return in a week to judge a debate by the students on the pro's and con's of the war. The class stops the war at TET 1968 for the debate. We Vets judge the debate, not the war. This year the Pro side won the first debate while the anti-war side took the 2nd in a close vote. Both sides in the classes worked hard on their research and presentation. The 'Project' wishes to thank Kate Palmer-O'Hare, Dan Stover, John McGivney, Bill Burke & Bruce Thomson for their participation; we received an A+ from the teacher for our work.

At Santa Rosa High School, Terry Swehla coordinated with Art Horner, instructors for a day long experience with the junior history classes. We started at 08:00 and spoke to 474 students in 13 classes during the next 7 hours. Since we used the library all day, we also set up visual effects – helmets, medals and pictures adding a little more to the students exposure to our experiences. This year we had the privilege to display "Sentinels - Selected Portraits of Veterans of America's Wars" by Mike Dowdall, a talented Vietnam Veteran artist.

We used 2 or 3 veterans per period sharing our stories and answering student questions. A truly rewarding experience for both speakers and listeners. I can't thank enough, Steve Wiegert, Sunny Campbell, Dan Stover, Joe Ross, Bruce Thomson, John Logan, John McGivney, Bill Burke, Tom Dundas, Bob Evans, and Gene Campagna for their time and interest. We were well received with the students telling us how rewarding it was for them, not just another page in a book. We received an A+ from the faculty for our varied approach, amazing visuals, timing and candidness.

In the fall we will start again. If you wish to be involved with the 'Living History Project,' see Bruce Thomson at the monthly meeting.

IN MEMORIAM



THOMAS BRADY

Thomas Brady passed away surrounded by his family on April 5, 2013 in Santa Rosa, California.

Dearly beloved husband of Rosalinda Brady and beloved father of Jennifer Brady (Joseph) and Ryan Brady (Erica); loving grandfather of Laura Rose, Audra, Doren, Sydney, Alex, Megan, and Laura Marie. And he is survived by dear brother of Jim Brady (Lynne) and Trish Montano (Al), and by nephew and niece, Michael and Emily Montano.

Born February 5, 1945 and raised in San Francisco, he attended Mission Dolores Grammar School, Saint Ignatius High School, and graduated from Cal State Hayward. He lived in Santa Rosa for the last 33 years. Tom served in Vietnam receiving two Purple Hearts. A Sonoma County probation officer for over 20 years, he retired 13 years ago. Tom was active in many service organizations throughout his life. He was a life member of VVA-223.

Memorial contributions in Tom's memory may be made to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, 2140 Bock St. Santa Rosa, Ca. 95403.

Published in the Press Democrat on April 14, 2013

AMVETS POST 40 CONTRIBUTES NUTRITIOUS LUNCHES TO NEEDY VETERANS AT VET CONNECT

Dianna Waite and Tim O'Brien, including many other volunteers, distribute sack lunches to veterans who visit the Sonoma County Vet Connect each Tuesday morning.

A couple years ago, Michael Ottolini AMVETS Post 40 of Sonoma County saw that many of the veterans visiting Vet Connect were homeless or needy in some other way. The members decided to provide a sack lunch for some of these needy veterans. We have found that in some cases, this is the only meal some of them get that day, or even for several days.

The lunches are made up of healthy items like a fresh fruit, granola bars, yogurt, water and juice. There is usually a fresh sandwich included. Post members take turns distributing the lunches, which have become a very popular aspect of these veterans' visit. The post is currently supplying 30 lunches each week. The resulting fellowship with not only the veterans seeking help, but also with the staff and resource providers has been very rewarding.





119TH LUTHER BURBANK ROSE PARADE

By Charles Earthman

Photos by Brooke McKusick

A cavalcade of Santa Rosa's finest on BMW motorcycles rolled down Santa Rosa Avenue. They executed a simple but well-choreographed maneuver signaling the beginning of the 119th Annual Luther Burbank Rose Parade and Festival. Families and community members lined the sidewalks of downtown Santa Rosa as a stream of floats, veterans groups, and marching bands filed by to the joy of onlookers of all ages. The parade had about 160 groups with some 4,000 participating.

This year's theme "Surf 'n Safari" paid tribute to the California coast and the classic California beach rock & roll music of the past. Chapter 223's parade entry was a more solemn reminder of the past. A POW/MIA float displaying a prison camp guard tower, reminded onlookers not to forget those being held captive or still missing while in service for America. A banner on the side of the POW/MIA float heralded the fact that it was Armed Forces Day and encouraged folks to "Thank a Veteran." The exhibit was warmly received by onlookers who I'm sure got the message.

The Color Guard was present and looking good and some Chapter 223 members walked carrying the Chapter banner while others rode in vehicles--all displaying the pride of a generation of proud veterans and still active in the community and serving all veterans, both young and old.

Organizers estimated that 30,000 attended the event, although some spectators said the crowd seemed smaller than in recent years. This year also marked the return of the festival to Juilliard Park. After the parade ended there were booths and displays (including the POW/MIA exhibit) set up to continue the day's theme. There was music, family fun activities, and lots of different food booths located throughout Juilliard Park.

These festivities marked the unofficial beginning of summer for Sonoma County and the start the Chapter's busy schedule.

Dogs Helping Veterans

Canines Help Vets Cope with PTSD

By Charles Earthman



This story focuses on efforts involving service dogs to treat PTSD in the veteran community. Most people associate PTSD with battle-scarred soldiers and military combat, but any overwhelming life experience can trigger PTSD, especially if the event is unpredictable and uncontrollable. PTSD can be suffered by anyone who has experienced trauma or a traumatic event.

Since 1980, when the American Psychiatric Association added PTSD to its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III), clinicians have had many treatment regimens with varying levels of success. Some conventional treatments have had adverse effects on patients and made the symptoms worse.

The idea of service dogs as a treatment for PTSD has slowly been gaining the attention of mental health professionals who deal with PTSD. Dr. Bonita Bergin invented the concept of the Service Dog to assist people with mobility limitations in 1975. Bergin University of

Canine Studies, home of The Assistance Dog Institute, was founded by Dr. Bergin in 1991. Bergin University is the only accredited academic institution in the world solely dedicated to advanced canine education and research. The University is a leader in the field of canines assisting psychologically-scared veterans.

The University has two programs that assist veteran's needs. The Paws for Purple Hearts (PPH) program is the only program of its kind in the world and builds on the time-honored tradition of soldiers helping soldiers. This program helps heal returning combat veterans by teaching those with psychological scars, including PTSD, to train service dogs for their comrades with physical disabilities.

Another program, Dogs Helping Veterans, was started by Steve Moore, an Iraq war veteran and a graduate of Bergin University. This program joins vets with service dogs in training. Working with the dogs has many positive effects for the dogs provide a powerful

(Cont'd on page 10)



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

This month's general meeting started with the swearing in of Chapter Officers and the Board of Directors, thus completing the election process started in April. We welcome Alan Dalton to the Board, and his knowledge and skills will be useful.

On Sunday, May 19th, a ceremony was held honoring Dr. Patrick Reilly who had recently retired. Dr. Reilly has been an important part of the mental health clinic at the Santa Rosa VA for many years, and he will be missed by the veteran community. He was presented with Congressional certificates from both Mike Thompson and Jared Huffman's office.



**Charles
Earthman**

A moving ceremony was held at the Santa Rosa Memorial Park on Monday, May 20, for the remains of 35 military veterans and two military wives, left unclaimed for decades. The remains were escorted by 120 motorcycles from Santa Rosa to Dixon for formal military burials. There will be more on how this came about in a future edition of News and Views.

Word is, John McGivney has been put on light duty. The hard working McGivney has done so much for the community that it's about time somebody forced him to slow down. The slack is being taken up by Bill Schaeffer and Big Joe Cholewa, >>>>>>>



VET CONNECT HOSPITALITY

David Kistenmacher meets Dennis McGloun at a Tuesday morning Vet Connect.. Dennis was in the middle of reorganizing his pack, and David helped him fix one of the straps. *(Photo with client permission.)*

who always seem to be there when a job needs doing. John, you take that well deserved rest and we'll cover for you.

For more than two years Brooke and I have worked tirelessly to get out the *News and Views*, and we have done a pretty good job, winning praise and honors of which we're proud. We would like to welcome **Mike Hart** to our staff. Mike is a life member of Chapter 223 and an accomplished writer. Get to work 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.

P. O. Box 4059, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

(FAX (707) 565 5980)

**DANIELS
CHAPEL
of the ROSES
FUNERAL
HOME AND
CREMATORY**

**DANIELS CHAPEL OF THE ROSES
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY**

"Serving Sonoma County Since 1875"

Santa Rosa's only family owned Funeral Home
and Crematory - now in our 3rd Generation

Telephone 525-3730

1225 Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

CA Lic: FD-209

CA Lic: CR-92

KC's Downtown Grill

9051 DuVander Lane

Windsor, CA

Phone (707) 838-4800

On The Windsor Town Green



**Construction
Company, Inc.**

3510 Brooks Avenue

Santa Rosa, CA 95407

General Engineering

(707) 586-0500

Fax (707) 586-0900

License # 479227

5-14



*Sonoma County's Premier
Storage Facilities*

Office Hours
Mon thru Sat 9:00am to 6:00pm

Ted & Patty Shurtleff
Regional Managers

707.546.0000 Fax 707.523.7862
3205 Dutton Ave. Santa Rosa, CA 95407
www.storagemastersr.com

5-14

When you patronize these businesses, please make
sure you mention that you're a member of VVA 223, and
you saw their advertisement in the *News and Views*!

West Santa Rosa

707-545-8111

449 Stony Point Rd

Open at 11am Daily!

Locally Owned & Operated

Since 1990



Stripe 'N' Seal, Inc. dba Aaron Paving

Contractor's License No. 308128

Engineering Solutions To Pavement Since 1971

**Paving ♦ Asphalt Repair ♦ Grinding ♦ Overlays
37-2 Slurry Seal ♦ Asphalt Base Seal Coat ♦ Cracksealing
Striping ♦ Signs ♦ Bumpers**

(707) 528-3377

(707) 224-3377

(415) 499-9060

Santa Rosa, CA

Napa, CA

San Rafael, CA

P.O. Box 7347 • Santa Rosa, CA 95407

5-14

FINE DONUTS & PASTRIES, GOURMET COFFEE DRINKS



Frank & Champa

(707) 326-9181

fwhigham@hotmail.com

4275 Montgomery Drive

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

(707) 539-2416

5-14

Social Security Representative

Former Social Security Expert

Dan McCaskell Ph.D.

CVE, CRC, CCM



(707) 528-4003

529 Davis Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

dangmccaskell@aol.com

5-14

**TRI★STAR
AUTOMOTIVE**

484 KENWOOD COURT
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95407

JIM DADAOS

jim@tristarautomotive.com

707 571-8866

www.tristarautomotive.com

707-584-8401
MON.-SAT. 8:30AM-5:30PM

BATAEFF SALVAGE CO.

WE BUY SCRAP METAL
COPPER • BRASS • ALUMINUM • STAINLESS STEEL

GEORGE BATAEFF, JR.
CORY BRIANS

250 Mountain View Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

The New Redwood Empire Chapter 223 Board of Directors



The new Board of Directors was sworn in at the May general meeting. They are (left to right) Bruce Thomson, Alan Dalton, Lou Nunez, Charles Earthman, Dave Phillips (Secretary), Bill Burke (Treasurer), John McGivney (Vice President), Ken Holybee (President), and Brooke McKusick.

Dogs

(Cont'd from page 6)



intervention for people by giving them unrequited love and comfort and enhanced personal growth. People suffering from PTSD find themselves showered with love and returning love and devotion to their four-legged best friend, a relationship which can unravel the psychological knots twisted in war.

Researchers are accumulating evidence showing that bonding with dogs has positive biological effects and can serve as an effective therapeutic tool for veterans with PTSD and other psychological illnesses. A lot of this research is cutting edge and, as with any new treatment methods, is meeting with skepticism by some in the mental health field.

The staff, volunteers, and students at Bergin University, together with their four legged friends, are dedicated and deeply committed to the inclusion of service dogs as helpers for veterans with PTSD. The process has many therapeutic benefits and can enhance sociability.

Bergin University is located in Rohnert Park at 5860 Labath Avenue. For more information about Bergin University, contact them at 707-545-3647. E-mail address is info@berginu.edu.

It is up to the Sonoma County veteran community to join with Bergin and support this very worthy and important treatment method.

Captions for this story, including page six: VVA 223's own Jerry Kromer is pictured with an adult dog in training, "Chew," and one of the puppies in the Bergin University breeding program.



(Cont'd from page 1)

JOB FAIR

community. The bad old days of the past few years seem to be easing up a little as more jobs opportunities become available, but difficulties still exist for many people, both veteran and non-veterans. As long as there is a need, veterans' organizations like Vet Connect, VVA Chapter #223, Chapter #78 MOPH, and other veterans' organizations will be there to help our brothers and sisters through hard times.

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."



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... June 1st, July 6th, August 17th, September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd, December 7th, and January 4th, 2014...

Redwood Empire Chapter 223

Awards Three Scholarships

On Tuesday, May 21, at our monthly meeting, Sunny Campbell of the Scholarship Committee, presented the winners of our annual scholarship program. This program is funded by the work our members who participate in the Texas Hold'em tournament, and the sales of military memorabilia at local functions. The purpose of this program is to provide scholarships to high school and college students who are children, or grandchildren of Vietnam War veterans.

We also have scholarships for current veterans who are attending local colleges following their military service. Their letters describe how they were influenced by a relative who served in the Vietnam War, or how their service in the military benefited their desire to attend college. We received 15 applications this year with three awards presented.



Sunny Campbell is pictured with Alberto Aguilar-Martinez (left photo) and Matt Huffman. Each man received a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

The three winners announced this year were: Justin Tyler Banda of Casa Grande High School, Matt Huffman (US Army) and Alberto Aguilar-Martinez (US Marines) of Santa Rosa Jr. College. Mr. Huffman and Mr. Aguilar-Martinez received their awards of \$1000 each at our meeting. Mr. Banda was unable to attend our meeting. His letter was about his grandfather who served in WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. Mr. Huffman plans to attend Empire College and pursue Law Degree and Mr. Aguilar-Martinez plans to continue his education at Sonoma State. Mr. Aguilar-Martinez brought his wife and two children to the presentation.

Now is the time to inform any of your children or grandchildren of the Scholarship program the VVA has available. We sent application forms to all high schools in Sonoma County and Santa Rosa JC and Sonoma State. We can all take pride in the wonderful work the VVA a does in the community.





NON PROFIT ORG
NON PROFIT
U S POSTAGE PAID
Santa Rosa CA 95402
Permit # 679

Address Service Requested

News and Views

Volume 15, Issue 6 JUNE 2013

A Publication of:
Vietnam Veterans of America
The Redwood Empire Chapter 223
1351 Maple Avenue
PO Box 1583
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

OFFICE: 707-526-4218
WEB: www.vva223.org



Sonoma County Veterans Job Fair



**Supervisor
Susan
Gorin**

**Supervisor
Mike
McGuire**



Photos by: Brooke McKusick