

News and Views

Volume 22 Issue 2 March 2020

A Publication of:

Vietnam Veterans of America
Redwood Empire Chapter 223

PO Box 1583, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Meets at,

see below

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Membership Application for:
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter # 223

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

NAME_____Address_____

CITY_____STATE._____ZIP_____

PHONE_____E-MAIL_____

DATE OF BIRTH_____ GENDER-- MALE___FEMALE___

Life - \$50.00 Signature:_____

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

JOIN VVA OR AVVA check: AVVA.org for membership costs

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

NEWS AND VIEWS
Redwood Empire Chapter 223



VOLUME 22 ISSUE 2 March 2020

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS

Presidents Message:

The more things change the more they stay the same. I have been making comments so I must make myself clear on a point. I do put a lot of thought into the position of expanding the membership in VVA and eventually, maybe changing the organization with renaming it. I believe that the work that we began many years ago is not complete and we may not live long enough to see it through. Our children and grandchildren may depend on our ability to work into the future.

As a lot of you are aware, I have been involved with the leadership at all levels of VVA since 1988 and have served on the board at all levels. I have been involved and served on many committees during this time. I often read and hear from members that insist that we are a last man standing organization and I appreciate that. I understand where most of them are coming from.

VVA was formed because no one understood us, and other organizations did not want to listen to our problems. After many years of fighting the government we were accepted because of our successes that benefited all veterans. Our founding principle of “Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another” seems to have different meaning to different people. This is okay. I have served on committees that were tasked into looking into the ability to create a new organization, open our membership and other ways of making sure our ability to work with members of congress and the VA can continue. Do not think that this is the first time this issue has been brought up. It was around for the conventions in 2005 and 2007. Look back through the VVA history to see what became of those questions. We have been the lone organization to work with a few startup groups to benefit post-Vietnam veterans. We have always been open and ready to listen and assist veterans in their search for

where they belong.


I hear all the comments about the “younger veterans” do not want to join an organization, they’re not ready to join, when you get a membership they don’t participate. I don’t believe that is completely the facts of life. When you came home did you join? Were you welcomed into organizations? Were you too busy to participate or was it something else? The first organization I was asked to join was the VVA in 1986. I was welcomed and accepted. “I was just a truck driver,” was my introduction to the members. In those days we introduced ourselves and said what we did during the war. When running for a chapter office, or any office at that time, what you did in the military was important. We are mostly passed that now.

Our military service is still important to us, we do have a faction that only acknowledges “boots on the ground” and another faction that is more into combat only, but we do all work together. Our commonality is that as different as we are, we are the same and can work together for the betterment of all veterans. so why the battle?

To most, coming home and not being acknowledged for our service was a slap in the face. After all we grew up watching all the movies about how returning veterans were treated with honor and respect. Most try not to remember that it was the old veterans and our families that turned their backs on our accomplishments, injuries and needs. We were told to get over it and go to work. Some did just that.

Some were broken and did not understand what went wrong and went into hiding in work, or substance, to keep from feeling or remembering.

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Continuum of Care	3	4 Poker Night
5	6 Veteran & Family Comm.	7	8	9 Food Distribution 9-10	10	11
12 Happy Easter! 	13	14 Board Meeting 1pm	15 Tax Day!	16	17	18
19	20	21 General Meeting 6pm potluck 7pm meeting	22 UVC 7 pm Club room	23 Food Distribution 9-10	24	25 Newsletter Articles Due
26	27	28	29	30 Newsletter folding 10am		

President's Message continued:

I cannot analyze others, but this has been stated many times.

All in all, we have traveled down a path that may be longer than we expected. We passed a law in 2016 that has not been implemented yet. Public Law 114-315, the Toxic Research Act. This law was to take affect and be implemented over a year ago. The research is on the health affects of military and exposure to chemicals and other agents on the children and grand children of veterans. this bill took years to put together and get passed. We have spent thousands of hours in town hall meetings hearing about the health problems of our children or the loss or lack of children. We are watching as a third generation of veterans are having children with challenges, disabilities and other problems. Yes, I said the third generation.

We need to have someone that can not only carry on our battle to care for our children, but to make sure we are cared for when we need it. We are losing care constantly no matter what pundits are saying.

With the cuts in staffing at VA hospitals we are being outsourced to whatever is cheapest. They increase the VA budget, but they use the money to outsource care and cut research and advancements in veterans care. Try to find a doctor on the outside that understands the trauma that veterans have gone through. Try to find a mental health program that can listen to your stories and not only understand but not judge. We need someone to carry on our mission and I am committing myself to help find or create that group that will not only honor us but take the mission and work to complete it.

It is okay if you disagree with me, it is okay if you oppose what I am doing. If you see things differently let me know, if you wish to assist let me know. This is our journey and we can make it a smooth one or we can bounce all the way to the end.



Greetings:

The Board of Directors of the Pacific

Coast Air Museum has determined that the museum will not pursue a Wings over Wine Country Air Show for 2020. This decision did not come lightly or easily and was not made without due consideration. Our air show team was unsuccessful in scheduling any significant air show demonstration such as a jet team or military jet demo for this year, something that the patrons of WOWC-past have grown to appreciate and expect. Other considerations in addition to the risky nature of planning such an event were the ever-increasing costs of our beloved air show, the growth of air travel from our airport and ever-increasing requirements of hosting such an event. We will continue to remain active and open to air shows in the future as well as changing the size and scope of future events.

The museum will be replacing the WOWC Air Show this year with an assortment of smaller events so please visit our website pacificcoastairmuseum.org for information.

The first of these events is scheduled for April 4th and is intended to recognize and honor Vietnam-era veterans from all branches of service. It is being touted as a "gathering of the brotherhood" and is a one-day event focused on friendship, fellowship and fun. Invitations have gone out to all of our surrounding counties so we are expecting a good turnout. There will be food and refreshments available, guest speakers, period aircraft and artifacts and memorabilia. A GoFundMe account has been set up to help us raise the funds needed so please help us by donating. Also, please help us to get the word out to other veterans and supporters for this special event for a well-deserving group of our veterans. If we can make this event successful we will include it in our annual planning. Please spread the word.

<https://charity.gofundme.com/lzpcam>

Submitted to Chapter email:

Name: JACK MURPHY

Email: rainmanj@ptd.net

Subject: REMEMBERING VIETNAM FALLEN

Message: <https://daviddegrogan.com/2020/02/specialist-jack-murphy-u-s-army-saluting-fellow-veterans-with-a-heartfelt-song/>

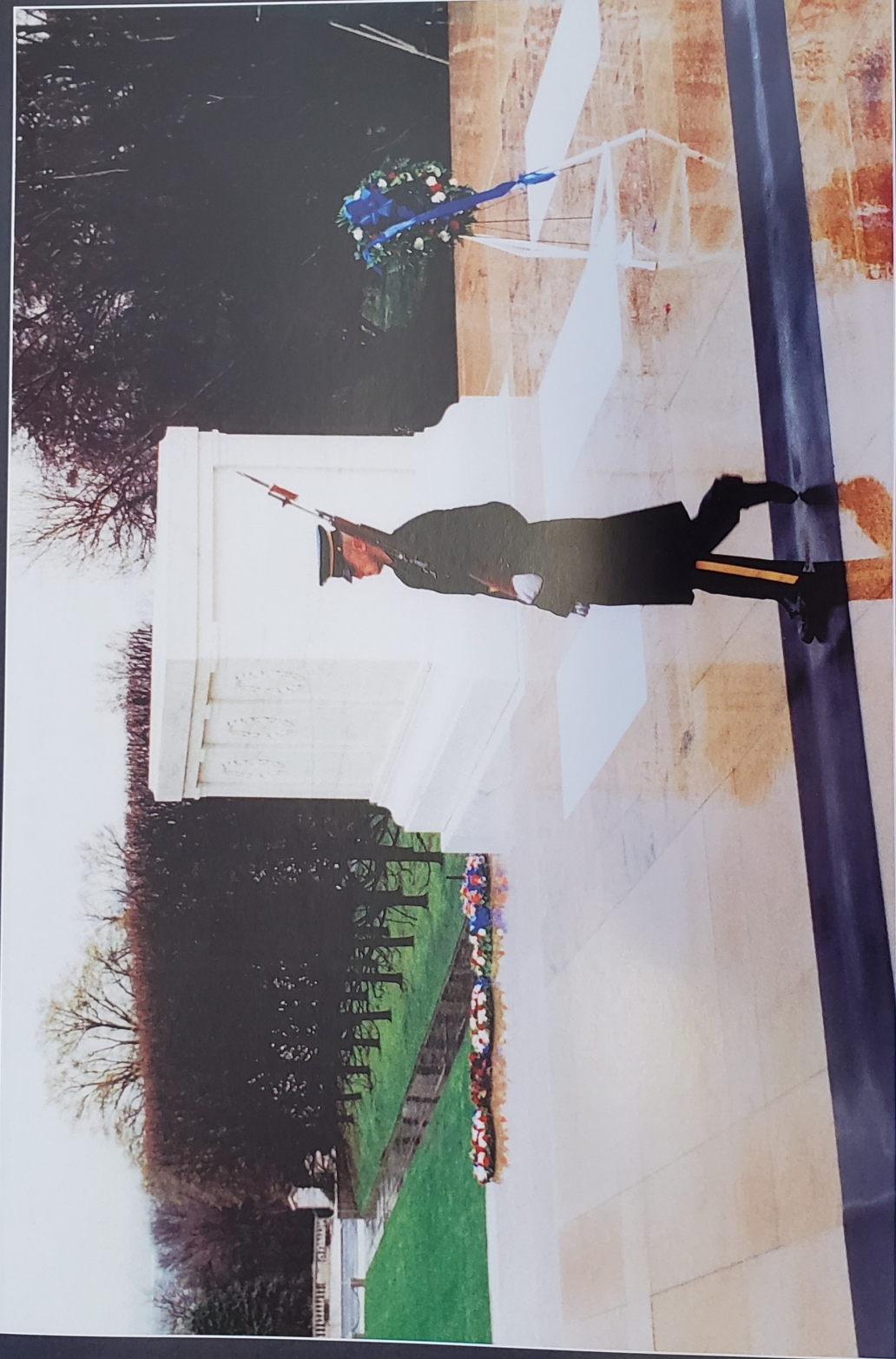



PHOTO: MICHAEL KENNEDY

Remember me. Vote.

Vietnam Veterans of America www.vva.org | 800-882-1316



March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 CSC Mtg ends Panel for Women Vets SR library 33pm	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4	5 Continuum of Care	6	7
8	9 Veteran and Family Advisory Comm.	10 Board Meeting 1pm	11	12 Food Distribution 9-10	13	14
15	16	17 General Meeting 6pm potluck 7pm meeting Happy St Patrick's Day!	18	19	20	21 Newsletter Articles Due
22	23	24	25 UVC Meeting	26 Food Distribution 9-10 Newsletter	27	28 Welcome Home BBQ 1-6pm Spring Lake Park
29	30	31				

Ken received this from Lynnette Casey. It is a program at the Franklin Park Cemetery that runs until March 14th.

Hi Ken,
I asked Howard Berry to send you an article. Howard is father to Josh's Berry and Howard created this flag display after his son Josh took his life due to PTSD.

The 660 flags are a representation of the 22 soldiers who take their lives each day due to PTSD they suffer from their military service. The display will stay up for 30 days, at Santa Rosa Memorial Park Cemetery.

My son Sgt Raymond James Burnside took his life after seeking help from the VA.

We buried him on Valentine's Day 2016 so that is the day dedicated to display the flags the past three years.

Thank you, Lynette Casey



HOLD THE DATE!

TEXAS HOLD EM CARD GAME COMING SOON! APRIL 4, 2020

THANKS TO YOU, OUR FIRST GAME OF THE YEAR WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!

SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS WAS PAID TO OUR TOURNAMENT WINNERS AND RUNNER UP!

NEW RULES: BIGGER PAYOUTS, 4 GAMES PER YEAR.

FOR EVERY 10 PLAYERS A PAYOUT OF \$1000 WILL GO TO THE TOP FINISHERS.
(The total payout is determined by the total number of players in the tournament)

NEXT GAME: SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020

LOCATION: VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING, SANTA ROSA

START: CARDS IN THE AIR 6:00 PM SHARP

BUY IN: \$150 PER PLAYER (PRE PAY BY APRIL 3RD) & RECEIVE \$10,000 EXTRA CHIPS (2 GREEN)

ADD ON: \$30 PER PLAYER AT FIRST BREAK APPROX. 7:30 PM: MUST BE STILL IN GAME AT THE TIME.

FOOD: BASE ON PLAYERS FEEDBACK WE HAVE PLANNED TO TAKE OUR FOOD PROVIDED UP A NOTCH!

NEW : WE WIL PROVIDE A SLECTION OF THREE PASTA DISH VARIETIES, SALAD AND GARLIC BREAD. AND CAKE, COOKIES, SODA AND COFFEE, SORRY NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED.

PAYMENT: PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VVA CHAPTER 223, MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 3RD.

**SEND TO: PETER NARDONE
450 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95401**

**NEW DROP OFF LOCATION:
MAIL SLOT AT VVA 223 OFFICE, (NEAR DINNING ROOM) VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING, 1351 MAPLE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404**

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICPATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN ON APRIL 4TH.



What's Happening?

Submitted by Ken

First a couple of things to clean up. Last month there was an article about LZ PCAM. It had the wrong dates in the article. The event is on March 28 and April 4th. The original idea of the LZ PCAM was to hold it on March 28th but that would have been a conflict with our BBQ. Hope no one is too confused and can plan for two weekends of hanging out with veterans.

Stan Dennison gave a presentation to the members about accessing free telephones for hearing impaired. I thought that putting out the information we would have had more members attending to get this information or sign up for the phones. I will put his contact information in the newsletter for a few months to encourage members to take advantage of this. Stan and I were a little disappointed with the turnout.

Upcoming events for March and April include Saturdays from 8:30 till 1 we will have a booth at the Farmers Market at the veterans building in Santa Rosa. This will be an information booth where we can sell tickets to our events and give information on whatever the volunteers are most comfortable with. We do have flyers and handouts available.

The first Thursday of every month is the Continuum of Care meeting at 12:30 till 1:30 at the county housing authority building on Guerneville Rd. This is an information exchange on housing programs for homeless veterans, beds available and working with the agencies in the county to house veterans and keep up to date on the changes in programs. Interested people are welcome to attend you can contact me for more information.

Second Monday of each month is the Veteran and Family Advisory committee. This committee meets at the clinic with the management and others discussing better ways to serve the veterans.

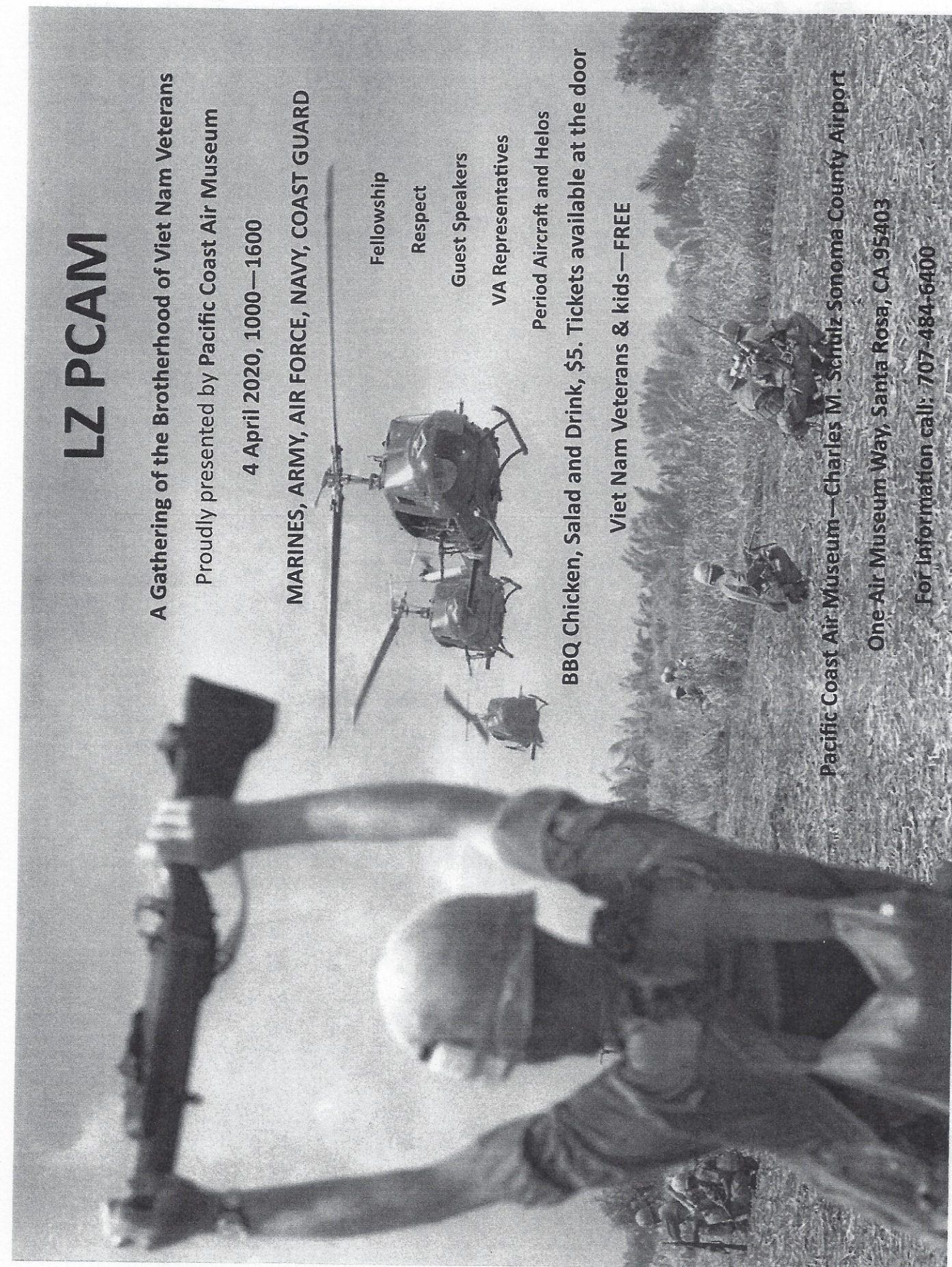
We are instrumental in putting on the Town Hall meeting with the VA leadership every May, this year on the 19th at the Santa Rosa Veterans building. We also take concerns from veterans we talk with to the committee and the relevant parts of the VA.

The second and fourth Thursdays are food distribution (probably not the best title) at the veterans building. Volunteers can contact Joe or Tony for more information.

mation.

March 28th is our annual BBQ. We have the Jackass Flats campground all day and BBQ starts at 1PM.

Other dates for the month. March 10th Board meeting 1 PM, March 17th General Meeting (nominations open for officers and state council representatives), March 25th UVC meeting 7 PM Santa Rosa vets building. April we do all the regular things again. Board April 14th, general meeting April 21st, national board meeting April 17 and 18 with travel days before and after, April 22 is All Veterans day at the capitol. Ask me about getting registered.



LZ PCAM

A Gathering of the Brotherhood of Viet Nam Veterans

Proudly presented by Pacific Coast Air Museum

4 April 2020, 1000 — 1600

MARINES, ARMY, AIR FORCE, NAVY, COAST GUARD

Fellowship
Respect
Guest Speakers
VA Representatives

Period Aircraft and Helos

BBQ Chicken, Salad and Drink, \$5. Tickets available at the door

Viet Nam Veterans & kids — FREE

Pacific Coast Air Museum — Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport
One Air Museum Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
For information call: 707-484-6400