



NEWS AND VIEWS



Volume 20

Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2018

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS

Presidents Message

Changing of the times.

I have a lot of issues that I would like to address. Some I will do here and some I will be bringing to the chapter meeting.

First; in case you forgot, Sonja is going to stop doing the newsletter. This will probably be her last. We have a lot of things that need reported on and a lot of upcoming events. Someone needs to tell the members things like when is the Christmas Party? Friday December 7th. When does it start? I don't know but it is at the veterans building and Lou has asked for donations of hams and turkeys. No one gives this information to Sonja to put in the newsletter.

Second; the newsletter is late, but I hope everyone voted. I also would like everyone to contact their Senator and tell them to support the Blue Water Navy Bill, S 422, the companion to HR 299 that passed the House with no negative votes. If everyone contacts their Senator's, they will be pressured to have the committee bring it to the floor for a vote. We do not want to have this die in committee again. Our veterans need our help to get them what they deserve.

Next on the list, my number one, is the Toxic Exposure Research Act, Subtitle C Toxic Exposure, Public Law 114-315, is due to take the next step. It has gone thru the assessment by the National Academy of Medicine and will be reported out to the Secretary of the VA. When he gets the report he must, within 90 days he must report to the Veterans Affairs Committees of the House and Senate a certification based on the results of the study, the feasibility of conducting further research. This is the tricky part of the law. After reading the report only one person can either say to do research on the children or just scrap the whole thing. We have been working on this for many years. They have started research on the children of the

Gulf War Veterans. we need to be ready to make sure they do the right thing with this issue. Our congress is all about not spending money.

I hope everyone is starting to understand the Mission Act. President Trump signed the bill into law in the Rose Garden. This act will cost the VA about 57 Billion Dollars. Within a couple of hours, he sent a letter to congress stating that he would not support raising the cap on VA funding to pay for it. He says the VA has plenty of funds to do what is needed. What will we need to give up in our VISN to pay for our health care? The good part of the Act is they will be handling all appointments in house as well as the billing. Without raising the budget for this how can it work better than the mess we have now. Just so you know, I get all of my health care from the VA.

Membership; starting on November there will no longer be annual membership in VVA. We are asking that all new members and all one-year individual members become life members for \$50.00. when looking at the national or even our chapter membership, the number of annual members has been slowly been getting smaller because of our life member programs. With about 85,000 members nationally there are less than 8,000 annual members. Although we appreciate the annual dues we cannot see having the number of staff members working on sending out renewal reminders and processing the information. We can use the staff in other areas and still utilize the membership department personnel to help with other areas. We have a program to assist veterans with their dues if needed. Please contact Whit or any board member for information. I will also have whit contact all members that this will affect to make sure we are all on the same page.

I just spent the last week in Silver Spring MD for the working group on the future of VVA and the national board meeting. I always bring back a lot of information from these meetings. I will speak about some at the general meeting and at any time someone asks me about what

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**The Chapters new EMAIL ADDRESS IS:
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Committees

Chaplain:

Clinic Coffee Cart: Lou Nuñez

Color Guard:

Dinner/Dance: Lou Nuñez

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Finance: Pat Christen

Food Distribution: John McGivney

Legislation: Ken Holybee

Membership: Whitt Patterson

Newsletter: Ken & Sonja

Scholarship Fund: Sunny Campbell

UVC: Ken Holybee

Veterans Building: Lou Nuñez

Website: Elizabeth O'Gara

Contributors to the News and Views: Ken Holybee, Kate O'Hare-Palmer. Thanks to all. Would like to see more articles next month. Support the chapter. I don't write articles, I just put it together. There are a lot of interesting stories out there, send

Notice

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

If you would like to purchase a Business Card sized **sponsorship** to put in our NEWSLETTER, Please call the chapter office. Phone number is: 707-526- 4218

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Dave Richey

AMVETS Post 40 and VVA Chapter 223 jointly hosted a pancake breakfast on Sunday, September 30. Even though billed as a “pancake” event, we served biscuits and gravy, which turned out to be a more popular choice. The folks who came for breakfast also enjoyed scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, sweet muffins, orange juice and coffee. We asked several of those who came for breakfast (we sold 40 tickets) how they heard about it. A few said by e-mail; at least two saw the banners posted on the building and the fence; some said “word of mouth”; most were people who were at the flea market in the building parking lot. Our Board members will be looking into more efficient methods of marketing in the future.

There were volunteers from both host organizations and many of their spouses, the AVVA and the Devil Pups. The Sonoma County Volunteer Center sourced some of the volunteers. All told, we had about 15 volunteers. We want to sincerely thank all those who pitched in to set up, sit at the ticket booth, cook, serve and clean up. We could not have done it without you.

We are planning to have several more of these events after the first of the New Year. We would like to encourage the members from both of our organizations to come out and help with these fundraisers, which give us the means to carry out our mission and the programs for the veterans’ community.

Presidents Message—Changing Times Concluded

is going on. We had our forty-year gala event at the end of the board meeting. I always try to start the week going around the national office and checking in with all the staff and anyone there. This event gave us a chance to socialize with the staff, their families and other veterans. most of us were all dressed up, so it was hard to recognize some of us. We have a lot of talented people in our office. Quite a few are veterans. most of us don’t know that some we work with are veterans or are married to service members. If you call the office there has been a lot of changes, partially because of reorganizing and getting the right people for the job. We have expanded the government affairs staff to reach more people going both ways. We have a whole crew working to assist post-Vietnam veterans and address their needs. Our future is defined on how well we represent the newer veterans and their families.



Ken all dressed up for the Black Tie 40th Anniversary dinner.

Photo taken by: Leslie DeLong, Constitution Chair from Louisiana

I want to apologize to Alan Duncan for forgetting to put this in Last Months Newsletter.

This is the conclusion on the USS Bayfield. ed

The following is a letter sent to Bill Fivaz by A. W.
McNight who lives in Japan

I hope you and your family are well and happy. i'm ok. but when I suffered a stroke three years ago that partly paralyzed my left side I worried that i'd never again be able to play the piano. However, months of rehabilitation in the hospital allowed me to return home.

The Japanese health care system provides me with a care manager weekly visit by a rehab nurse and a home helper three days a week to clean the house, shop and do laundry. I do my own cooking. The same nurse has been visiting me for the past two years and is a wonderful, helpful, caring woman. it is due to her continual encouragement that i'm able to play again not as well as before, but better than expected (if she wasn't happily married with a family and I was forty years younger I'd consider asking her to marry me)

My contractor who is also a friend who does excellent work on my house, invited me to his "Bonen Kai (year end party) a tradition with Japanese companies and officers. Although, he knows i'm not up to par he said I could play some piano. After his 14 year old daughter played some beautiful classical piano, I was asked to play. After a couple of numbers he told me that the band wanted me to sit in on their next set. I was so thankful that it brought happy tears to my eyes. Since i'm now 88 years old, like the number of keys on a piano, I was dubbed "88 on the 88" we never before played together so it was straight improvisation an old time Jam session.

in nice weather, my nurse takes me down the hill for a rehab walk. Every morning, i'm now up to 30 squats and 30 pushups. A korean war marine friend writes that at 84 he's lucky to do 5 well. Bill i've rambled on enough. please take care. All the best.

"Mac"

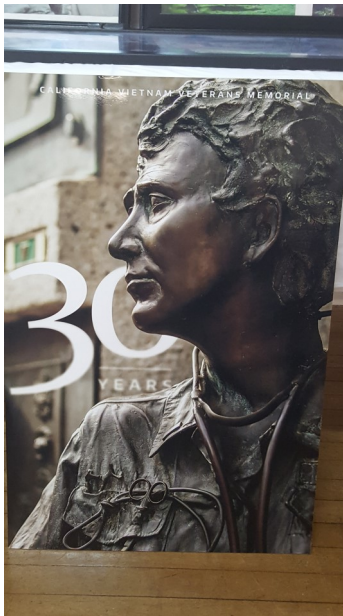
United States Senator for California



The Memorial with flags before ceremony



Greg McNeil doing the POW/MIA table observance



This bronze statue is wearing Sister Sarges UNIFORM



The memorial and crowd during the ceremonies



John Rowan, President of VVA and guest speaker for the event. His first time seeing our California Memorial

Kate, Dean Gotham, and Ken with chapter 500s wreath



Master of Ceremonies

Pete Conaty



Sister Sarge, Mistress of Ceremonies for original start-up committee to place the Memorial and a Gentleman named Al. There are only 3 members of the original committee still living.



This gentleman, Kris Goldsmith works digitally for VVA his wife is an editor for a major newspaper.



Ken and Dick Southern Dinner Companions, L to R Guy in white shirt don't know, Richard and Leslie DeLong, and Allen Mannal all from Louisiana They also had the couple in the Left picture



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 223**

CHRISTMAS DINNER

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018
5:00 P.M.**

AT THE

**SANTA ROSA VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
1351 MAPLE AVE
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**VETERANS, THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO ENJOY A
FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER**

BRING A DESSERT AND SHARE IT WITH EVERYONE



November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Continuum of care 12:30	2	3 Poker set up at 4:00 1967-Battle of Dak To begins
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Advisory Committee	9 Board Meeting 1 PM	14 Battle of IA DRANG Valley begins	15 battle of Dak To ENDS	16	17
18 Battle of IA DRANG ENDS	19	20 Chapter mtg at 7 pm 1965-Opearation Silver Bayonet ENDS	21 Newsletter Folding GRENADA ENDS	22 Thanks-giving	23	24 Newsletter Articles Due
25	26	27	28 UVC 7 PM 1951 –2nd Korean Winter begins	29	30	

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 POKER THIRD KO- REAN WIN- TER Begins
2 Chanukah begins at sun- down	3	4	5	6 Continuum of Care	7 Christmas Dinner 	8
9	10 Advisory Committee	11 Board Meeting at 1 PM	12 2001— Battle of Tora Bora begins	13 2003— Saddam Hus- sein captured near Tirkat, Iraq	14	15
16	17 2001-- Battle of Tora Bora ENDS	18 NO GENERAL MEETING	19	20 1989— Operation Just Cause (Panama) begins	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas 	26 1950-LTG Ridgway assumes command of Eighth Army in Korea	27	28	29
30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE					

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9/19

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KWTF.net "Roots of Rock"

Saturdays @ 0800 am

Requests & Dedications

Rock it Man@ mcn .org

...Be There

1/2019

News and Views

Volume 20 Issue 11 NOVEMBER 2018

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Membership Application for:
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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.

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Life - \$100.00 Signature:_____

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

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