



# NEWS AND VIEWS

VVA # 223

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

Volume 15, Issue 9

September 2013

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS

**VVA 223 News and Views Wins National Chapter Newsletter of the Year**  
Kate O'Hare Palmer, Brooke McKusick and Charles Earthman share the honors.



## NEWS AND VIEWS "BEST IN THE LAND"

By Charles Earthman

*One of the greatest honors given to a chapter at the VVA national convention is that of Best Newsletter of the Year. In 2013 that honor went to VVA Chapter 223 of Santa Rosa, CA.*

*The chapter newsletter is a reflection on a chapter's ability to communicate with its members and the community. News and Views is a valuable print media conduit to the Sonoma County Veteran Community. Under the editorial direction of Brooke McKusick, we have consistently provided news and information to our members, the community, and interested readers all over the country.*

*For this, the Awards Committee of the Vietnam Veterans of America awarded News and Views the coveted Best Printed Newsletter of 2013. I am proud to be a part of this and take some responsibility for making this happen. There are many others who share these honors with Brooke and me. To them, we say thanks and congratulations. Let's not rest on our laurels, but rather continue to produce an award-winning publication.*

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

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**OUTSTANDING WEEKEND AT  
"WINGS OVER WINE COUNTRY"**

By Mike Hart

Spectators who gathered at the Wings Over Wine Country Air Show, Aug. 17-18, were somewhat cheated by the federal sequester of current warplanes, but actually ended up getting an aeronautical surprise for their money.



**Mike Hart**

Thousands of people on the 17<sup>th</sup> witnessed a real emergency by Cal-Fire retardant-dropping planes to subdue a bevy of fledgling fires, presumably started by a flare used by a trick-performing aeronaut. Four small fires along the runway and in a small grove of Oak trees outside the airport wire, were sparked by a flare used in aerobatics, reportedly performed by stunt-pilot Julie Clark.

Ground crews were called out to the tarmac and fire crews from Windsor joined forces with Cal-Fire air units to suppress the small blazes, while thousands of witnesses cheered them on. The real emergency was enough to delay the air show for over an hour, but brought an unusual twist to the day's performances.

The P-51's from World War II were the stars of the weekend show and the Pacific Air Museum opened up it's fine collection of warplanes, helicopters, OV-10 spotter planes, et.al. for the kids of all ages to climb on, and fantasize about making that deadly run on an enemy target.

Veterans from all areas of military service were on hand (many got in free) and our own Vietnam Vets from Chapter 223 were present, proudly flying our colors.

See pages five and six...



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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**

# President's Letter

At the time of this writing, the chapter has finished the Wednesday night market. We have had a booth there for the last two months. We have been doing outreach to the community and speaking to lots of people. Our main objectives have been to promote our programs, events of the chapter, and issues of Agent Orange and Toxic exposures in the military. We have spoken to many veterans and children of veterans about these issues. We have also learned that most people do not know of our concerns about toxic exposures. We were pleased to find that many people know about the work we do in the community and are interested in our chapter.



Ken Holybee

Next year I would like to expand our participation in the Wednesday night market for the entire season. I would also like to have more of our members eager to assist us, but to do this I must work more to instill confidence in your ability to speak on these issues. We are looking at having small meetings at a local restaurant over lunch or brunch to speak and work on expanding our education in many of these areas. Keep a watch for times, places and subjects.

We have also just returned from the 16<sup>th</sup> VVA national convention. This marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first convention held in Detroit Michigan in 1983. This year was also the largest delegate gathering in our history, and we had fourteen original members that attended the first convention in attendance. Florida may be nice, but there is no place I have ever been that can take away our weather. It was hot, muggy and rained every day. Inside the hotel was comfortable, except in some of the meeting rooms that were over capacity and would not stay cool. I spoke at all regional caucuses so maybe that was why it was not always comfortable. I was running for a second term on the national board but was unsuccessful in my attempt. Although I did not get re-elected, I was a personal favorite for many but, I need to work on a few things for another attempt. Public speaking and self promotion do not seem to be my strong points.

Back to the chapter. **We will be holding our second dinner dance fundraiser this month.** I hope to see a lot of you there. This should be a fun event, and hopefully we can raise more funds than last year. If you would like to assist with set up and decorations, be there around noon on the 14<sup>th</sup>. If you like to stay out late, volunteer to stay for clean up. We can always use the company. If you like to dance (or watch dancing) be there at 7pm or for dinner show up at 5pm. We plan to have fun so come join us.

We will be showing the documentary film "Bravo" on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the vets building. We have not had time to sit down and talk about the time of showing yet. I am leaning for late afternoon or early evening. I know that a lot of our members don't like to drive late at night and with the content some will likely wish to either talk about it, hopefully in a social place. We are planning to have coffee and snacks for the showing. I would like to get the information out to the JC and schools where appropriate for students that wish to attend. The film is about the siege of Kha Sahn in 1968. We will be letting everyone know

that it is graphic, since there is combat footage in the film as well as interviews with survivors.

If you have any questions about any of these events or programs feel free to contact me or any of the board members. We are all here to do what we can.

Sincerely, Ken Holybee



## AVVA Report

*by Jil McGivney*

I just got back from Jacksonville, Florida and the VVA/AVVA convention. I won't elaborate on the flight delays, the nightmare of traveling across the country, or the horrific heat and humidity that greeted us in Jacksonville. The convention overshadowed all of that.

There were about 800 Vietnam Veterans and almost 90 Associates. We all went in for the opening ceremony. There were many touching moments for me throughout the week. The first was after the colors were presented, they carried in each service branches' individual flag, with each branch standing at attention. When the Coast Guard flag came down the aisle, there were maybe 3 men who stood up. Suddenly everyone stood up in support. I was surprised to find tears rolling down my cheeks.

After the opening speeches, we broke apart and the Associates got busy. This was the first AVVA convention with Chapter Representatives as delegates.

The first day was spent discussing pros and cons and voting on the proposed amendments to the by-laws. We took a break, and a really nice AVVA luncheon was provided, with speeches and awards given out. Then back to work on the by-laws.

The next day we met the candidates and voted. That sounds simple, but it took most of the day. When we finished up, I went down to see the VVA closing ceremony and more speeches. The last night VVA/AVVA got together for a fantastic dinner. I even got an autographed picture from Arlo Guthrie, and there were more speeches.

I met lots of wonderful people from all over the country, all with the same goal..helping and supporting our Veterans. I heard what different AVVA chapters are doing, as far as fund raising and getting the community more involved. (More on that later).

In the end, we saw dolphins in the river right outside our hotel. The nightly lightning storms were amazing. At the Jacksonville airport, I got an alligator head to bring back for our 6 year old grandson just starting 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The convention was much bigger, better and more emotional than I expected. Despite my earlier complaints, I would do it again.



Jil McGivney

# WOMEN VETERAN COMMITTEE REPORT

## NATIONAL VVA CONVENTION, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, AUGUST 2013

By Kate O'Hare-Palmer

Welcome home from Jacksonville, Fla. It was a jump back in time into the steamy, muggy, and heat filled days of our tours in Viet Nam! The Jacksonville VVA chapter was gracious and welcomed us at the airport! Some of their members were there to guide us through to the shuttles for the hotel. Luckily, we were in the scenic Hyatt Regency overlooking the river, and we had air conditioning.

The women veterans committee is chaired by Marsha Four. She has been on the board for past 10 years, and she has a committee of eight members who meet three times a year. This year's resolutions adopted by the committee and later passed in the convention included:



Kate  
O'Hare-Palmer

1. Women Veteran Program Managers. **Issue:** VHA must ensure the compliance with the Women Veteran Program Managers Policies. **Resolved, That VVA calls for congressional oversight and accountability of all VA medical center and VISN Directors' compliance with the measures defined in the VA's 2010 Handbook 1330.01.** In other words, do the job that was mandated 3 years ago.

2. Military Sexual Trauma(MST). **Issue:** Currently, instances of sexual assault in the military must be reported through the chain of command. The creation of a separate and independent office to address such crimes would remove barriers to reporting and provide additional protection and safety for the victims. **Resolved:** VVA will pursue legislation that reassigns complaint of MST by service members outside of the victim's and alleged perpetrator's immediate chain of command.

3. Military Sexual Trauma Treatment For Guard and Reserve. **Issue:** Members of the Reserve forces and National Guard who experience MST during weekend drills/battle assemblies and annual training are not eligible for treatment from the VA. **Resolved, That:** The Vietnam Veterans of America calls for legislation to allow members of the NG and Reserves, who experience MST while on drill, battle assemblies, and annual training, to receive MST-related care from VA Medical facilities at no cost.

The Women Veterans Committee Breakfast was well attended. The guest speaker was Anu Bhagwati, a Marine, and director of Service Women Action Network(SWAN) This organization was established in 2007 to provide women veterans with resources and community support to heal their wounds and readjust to civilian society.

It has become a groundbreaking 501c3 human rights organization providing national policy advocacy and direct services to servicewomen and women veterans. Their contact phone is (646)569-5200. Ms. Bhagwati reported that there are several areas they are focusing on. These include: women serving in combat, MST, marital violence, MST claims issues, reproductive health care for both men and women, don't ask don't tell, and spousal benefits. She talked about the status of the Ruth Moore Act, 2013. It has been taken up by the Senate's committee on Veterans' Affairs, after being unanimously passed in the House on June 4, 2013.

There are six more senators needed to sign on to the bill for its passage. This bill will make a huge difference in the lives of thousands of veterans who are survivors of MST and are struggling to get the benefits they are owed.

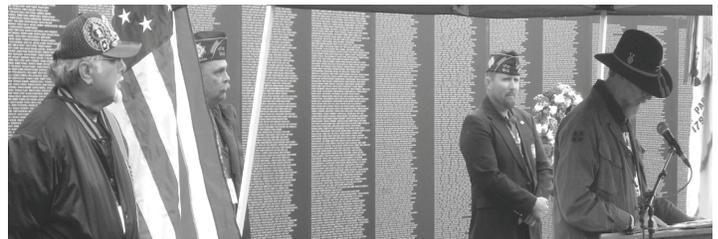
113th CONGRESS  
1st Session  
S. 294

Ruth Moore Act of 2013

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes. Companion bill HR 671 – passed House June 04, 2013.

In closing my report, the week was hectic and totally filled with events. We had a beautiful banquet on Saturday evening with a huge turnout. It was an honor to meet Guion Bluford, engineer astronaut, and first African American to travel in space in 1983 aboard the Challenger. We also met Arlo Guthrie, a great supporter of Vietnam veterans. Hope that the next convention in Springfield, Illinois will tempt others in our chapter to participate.

###



## Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall 10/9/13 – 10/13/13

Luchessi Park, Petaluma CA 94954

\* Escort Arrival Wednesday October 9th

\*Opening Ceremonies, 2pm: City Proclamation, Veterans Presentations, Performance by Air Force Band of the Golden West.

Sponsored by V V A Chapter 563, Petaluma Fire Department, McDowell Drug Task Force, Clover Stornetta, Steve Kemerlee, Plaza North, VVA 223, Marin VVA, Petaluma Downtown Association, RIP City Riders and many more.

# Dinner and Dance Fundraiser

Vietnam Veterans of America

Santa Rosa Chapter #223

Invites you to the second annual  
Fundraising Dinner and Dance

Saturday, September 14, 2013

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building  
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA  
Donation: \$35 per person

Dinner from 5:00 to 7:00PM  
Dance from 7:00 to 11:00PM



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## VVA 223 Product Sales Shine at Air Show By Bruce Thomson

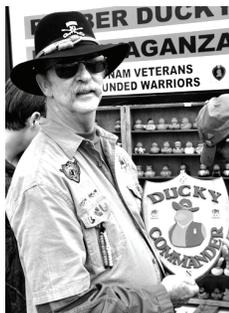
With superb organizational skills leading up to the Air Show, Bruce Thomson, Alan Dalton, Pat and Richard Jones created the most successful event ever at "Wings Over Wine Country." ed. The "higher-ups" were in Florida for the National Convention so us pirates got to run the show with God's gift to the Army... the sergeants.

Friday was set-up time from 11am to 4pm. It was hot. Saturday was hotter, and Sunday was the hottest. Yet to quote big Dave Kistenmacher, "this weekend was great."

Kudos to all of the volunteers who came out and participated in so many different ways. "Little Dave" Bariski works and works and works... He counts the money.

Gerry "good old what's his name" Brester came off furlough to lend back and pick-up truck to set-up, tear down and work both days. On Saturday, he broke away to help "Vet Connect Bill" with furniture. How does he do it!

Alan Dalton, his wife Shirley and daughter Jane, held down the fort on the Ducky inside. Anthony Tate and his wife Mary were acting like carnival barkers bringing in the folks. They worked as team, restocking, as the Duckys



Bruce Thomson

Wednesday Night Market. With 450 Duckys sold, I might be the Ducky Commander, but Earl is truly the Ducky Master. Working at the Friday set-up, Saturday at the Air Show and Texas Hold-em, and back to the Air Show on Sunday, Earl took his mom-in-law to the hospital, too! How does he do it? Mirrors? Jordon, Earl's extension, er, grandson, came Saturday with his teenage perspective on life and the Air Show.

Dave's wife Cathy came by to show us the quilt she made for the "Bad Ass Car Show" raffle. The show is at the Sonoma Vet's Building September 7th. Product Sales and the Duckys will be fully involved. It'll be worth it to come out for a chance to win this exceptional quilt. Cathy, you have out done yourself again. This commercial has been brought to you by "Duck Soup." In a theater near you 'bout seventy years ago...

This is the crew, the people who do what it takes over and over to make our chapter a success:

As good as the crew is, we could never do what we do alone. "Big Joe" Cholewa was the grease that made everything run so smoothly for us this year. Big Joe is the best point man we've ever had. His sidekick "Bruce the younger and less wiser" Carpenter is truly a wonder to behold. He is first to step up, no matter what the job is... He's been known to work until he collapses, and this is when we've been holding him up!

Tony, "the scrounger" Rambonga has the thing every organization needs, the ability to see what we are going to need and get it before the rest of us know we need it!

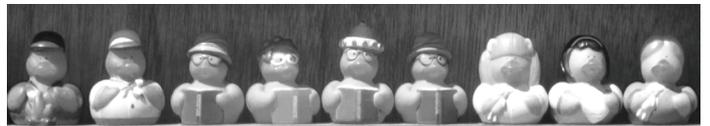
"Stan the Man" Fife seems to show up when he's needed most, like the ancient mariner he is, fading in and out of the fog.

Our resident Combat Engineer, Dan Stover, another F.N.G., has fallen right in step with what we do. Dan isn't new to the Veterans movement; we go back to the Vietnam Veteran Hunger Strike Demonstration in 1981. Another plus for Dan is his brother, Robert, a special guy who's ready to do what he can for us.

Jerry Shimmel and Pat Christen came Sunday, even though they had worked Texas Hold-em late into the night before.

Roy Haas is another one of those quiet guys who helps balance the amazing amount of things we do...

Matt Kamanu, "the huggin' Hawaiian" keeps the positive energy flowing, and he is so missed when he isn't able to be there.



All in all, it was a very profitable Air Show experience for all of us this year. We made money and we touched a lot of people, both old and young veterans, their families and friends. We also found new homes for over 680 duckys.

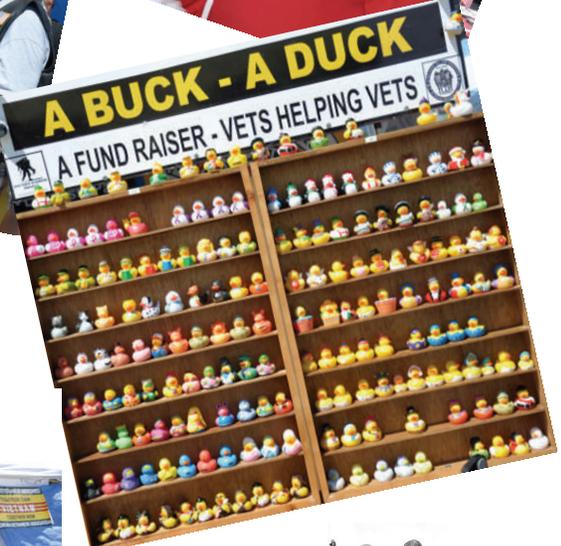
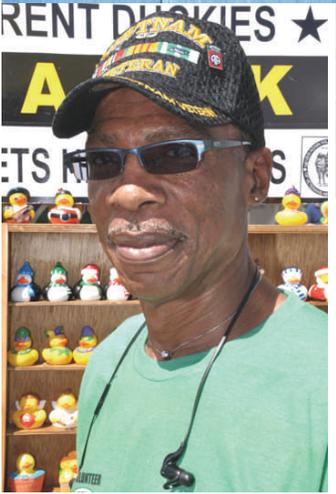
I wish to thank everyone for this success. YOU made possible!

P.S. If I missed anyone, it's from sun stroke. Please forgive me.

See the pictures on page six.



# AIR SHOW



# VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA SIXTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Charles Earthman

Vietnam-era veterans from across the country met in Jacksonville, Florida, August 13 through 17 for VVA's 16<sup>th</sup> national convention. Electric wheel chairs, canes and walkers assisted some of the nearly 800 delegates that attended the largest VVA convention ever. The Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel graciously provided the venue for the event while northern Florida sweltered in 90° heat and daily thunder storms.

The convention's opening ceremony got underway Wednesday with the presentation of the colors by Chapter 1046 and the singing of the national anthem by country star Jolie Holiday. VVA President John Rowan welcomed the delegates and talked about the growth in membership over the last two years and how far we had come since VVA's first convention in 1983. The key note address was given by David Bonior, a former congressman from Michigan and Vietnam-era vet, who gave us VVA's founding principle "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."



After a brief break, which took a little longer due to the pace of the aging delegates, we got down to business. Committee chairs were introduced and the delegates proceeded to voting changes to constitutional amendments, changing wording to existing legislation, introducing new amendments, and approving committee motions and agendas. The issues were decided by a yes or no voice vote or a show of hands, with some outcomes being disputed by grumbling among some delegates who would've disputed the sunrise.



That afternoon delegates attended various committee hearings on a myriad of topics from Agent Orange and PTSD to Minority Affairs and Economic Opportunities. These committees were good and informative and hopefully we will be able to share some of what we learned.

Regional Caucuses were held in the evenings over the next two days. We got to hear and ask questions of all the candidates standing for national offices and the At-Large Board of Directors. The election of national officers for the next two years was one of the most important events and reasons for VVA gathering at this bi-annual convention. The results will be published on the VVA's state and national websites and in the print media in the coming weeks.

The national convention was a chance for VVA and AVVA members to get together and exchange ideas and compare notes on the various local and state programs these organizations are working on. There was a lot of boasting, back patting and self-congratulating; some projects are good and important and some are not. It became clear to me that the work being done by the Sonoma County Veteran Community is real and produced tangible results that can be seen and felt everyday by those in need in the community. It makes me proud to be a part of VVA Chapter 223, MOPH Chapter 78, and especially Vet Connect. Vet Connect is the kind of program that is needed but yet to be emulated in other veteran communities across this land.





## THE GRAPEVINE

### Talk Around Redwood Empire Chapter

By Charles Earthman

We did it. We made it through an event-filled August, and we are wrapping up another busy summer season. Casualties were light and we end the season on a high note with the Dinner and Dance in September. Thanks to all the Chapter members who volunteered their time.

The Young Veterans of Sonoma County staged their first PTSD awareness walk in Howarth Park. It was a big success and we hope they will continue to raise awareness to this issue that has affected our generation and is now manifesting itself in this new generation of returning vets.

The Air Show went off well, although attendance was down, possibly due to the closure of the Airport Blvd. off ramp on US 101. The group from 223 was on hand selling duckys and giving valuable information. As usual, our monthly Texas Hold'em tournament provided valuable funds that support so many of the Chapter's programs. Thanks Jerry, Pat, Bill, Carlton, Earl, and all the volunteers who continue to make it a big success.

A few of us went to the VVA national convention in Jacksonville, FL. I think the hardest part was the travel; just ask Jil McGivney. There were no direct flights into Jacksonville so we all had to change planes at least once, which made for a long travel day. The trip home seemed



Charles Earthman

even longer given the fatigue of being away from home for nearly a week.

My return trip was made a little lighter with some extra weight added to my luggage: I brought back to the Chapter the Best Newsletter plaque for "News and Views." I hope to make this a regular addition to my luggage after subsequent VVA national conventions.

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.

## PLANNING MEETING FOR ALL MEMBERS

There will be a scheduled breakfast meeting on Saturday, September 21, 2013, at 10:00 am at the Star Restaurant on Farmer's Lane in Santa Rosa. The purpose for this meeting is to discuss the Dinner/Dance, organizational issues, and program planning for the future. Please notify Lou Nunez at 707-291-5314 if you would like to attend.

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**P.S. If you are having trouble viewing the pictures, your computer may not have enough memory or speed to handle the task.**

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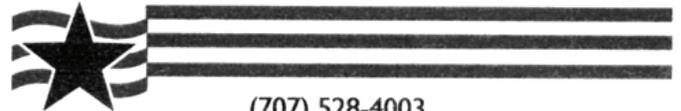
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# **Camp Lejeune Water Contamination**

## **SHARE THIS INFO WITH ALL MARINES**

In the early 1980s at the Marine Corps Base in Lejeune, NC, it was discovered that two on-base water supply systems were contaminated with the volatile organic compounds trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent. Benzene, vinyl chloride, and other compounds were also found to be contaminating the water supply systems. The water systems were contaminated from August 1953 through December 1987.

There is limited and suggestive evidence of an association between certain diseases and the chemical compounds found at Camp Lejeune during the period of contamination. VA will consider disability compensation claims based on exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune on a case-by-case basis.

In order to file a claim, you must be a veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, and you must have served at Camp Lejeune during the period of contamination (August 1953 through 1987). You must also have a current disease and a medical opinion that states the disease is a result of exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

Under a law signed in 2012, veterans and family members who served on active duty or resided at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between Jan. 1, 1957 and Dec. 31, 1987 may be eligible for medical care through VA for many health conditions including several types of cancer, multiple myeloma, renal toxicity, female infertility, scleroderma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Leukemia. Our office is available to answer any questions you may have and assist you with any claims for benefits.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran I.D. cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at [www.countyofkings.com](http://www.countyofkings.com).

*Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 852-2669; or e-mail [joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us).*

## **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**



# COMIC'S CORNER

## CHAPTER 223 GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 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...

**September 7th**, October 5th, November 2nd, December 7th, and January 4th, 2014...

According to The Washington Post, the NSA has been monitoring phone calls and emails of people in Mexico. So apparently it's not enough to spy on American citizens, they feel they have to spy on FUTURE American citizens as well. - Jay Leno

Absolutely true -- there was the Cleveland Browns fan who died and requested in his will that six players from the team be pall bearers, "so they could let me down one last time." -- Tim Hunter

Alex Rodriguez of the Yankees is suspended for 211 games. That is an odd number, but .211 is what they calculated his batting average would have been without the drug. -- Jimmy Kimmel

"The inventor of the world's first artificial test-tube hamburger said that 'It looks, feels, and hopefully tastes like meat.' He was immediately sued by Arby's for stealing their slogan." -- Conan O'Brien

"The NFL is about to get its first full-time female referee. Good for them. It will be a little different though. When a player asks her what he did wrong, she'll say 'Oh, you know what you did.'" -- Jimmy Fallon

We have all been there (well, most of us, anyway), after a few too many drinks we decide we are going to do something we regret later. Usually it is something juvenile and stupid. But every now and then something life-threateningly stupid is attempted, like the stunt pulled off by this man. John Morillo wanted to prove he could swim across the Detroit River from Canada to the U.S. after a night of drinking. "I was drinking, but I wasn't really drunk," Morillo, 47, of Windsor, said. "The thing is, I've been telling people I'm going to swim across the river for years and they're like 'yah, yah, blah, blah, you can't make it.' So, I don't know, last night I just decided it was the time to go."

"According to a new study, lying gets easier over time. People get better at lying the more they do it. See, that's why you have to have term limits." -- Jay Leno

A couple of old men were sitting around swapping stories. "Have you ever hunted bear?" asked the one. "No," replied the other, "but I've gone fishing in nothing but shorts."

Personally, I'm just thankful there's no deviant politician named Anthony Bunghole who likes to send nudie pix of his namesake. -- Tim H. Richweis

The new version of Twinkies is about 10% smaller than the original version. No doubt Hostess will seek a price increase because the new snack cakes are healthier for you. -- Janice Hough





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