



# NEWS AND VIEWS

VVA REDWOOD EMPIRE Chapter 223



Volumne 20

Issue 9

September 2018

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH OTHER VETERANS

## Welcome to the Twilight Zone

Have you ever laid awake at night unable to fall asleep and wonder if we have gone back ty years? I have been struggling with the reasons that I have worked hard for so many years to be able to work with politicians. Not just the congress, they seem to be the easiest to work with. At our local level it seems that the only time our elected officials accept an invitation to attend one of our functions is when they are the most important person there and it is a chance for them to step up and say what a great job they are doing for us. As a c 19 non-profit we cannot endorse anyone for an elected position and at times we must really watch what we say. As a chapter president I must give up some of my speaking privileges to represent the organization and be sure that a statement from me does not become a statement representing the organization. The reason for this type of comment, we are holding our annual fundraiser to benefit our local veterans on September 8<sup>th</sup>. We in the chapter have invited every elected representative in the area. We do have one that supports us. None of the rest have the time attend and do not wish to even sponsor someone to represent them. At our Veterans Day program last year, you may have noticed that there were no elected officials interested in coming even as speakers. We will see what happened this year. If you remember it is an election year and some may think that by attending they will get your vote.



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I thought that the disrespect of veterans of our era was a thing of the past. This last year I see it coming back with a different face. "Thank you for your service", now go away and don't bother me. The Vietnam Veterans are dying at a faster pace every month. Where will we be as a chapter in a couple of years? I have the information in the chapter office from our leadership conference that is addressing that question. Our biggest question is, will someone step up to protect what we have created for all veterans? Will the elected representatives give lip service and then turn their backs on the veterans? It has happened before, and it was a battle to get what justice we have.

November 6, 2018 is the day we hold our midterm elections. There are so many things on the ballot that some may just not bother. Doing this give the green light for all our elected people, local, state and federal to do as they wish. Maybe someday some of them will come to our and ask us for their support and not just for our money. I am losing my faith in the elected leaders to lead, but I don't see anyone stepping up that is worthy of my vote. We have a lot of propositions on our ballet that put more burden on the homeowners. Is this a fair burden and where do they get the money to pay for them? It is an election year get out and vote. This year when I vote I will ask myself more than one, what has this person done to make the lives of veterans easier? Are they just saying what we want to hear or is someone speaking for them and they don't know what is being said on their behalf? Think about when you came home, could you vote? Did you? VVA had a program a few years ago that said "Remember Me. Vote" with a picture of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Vietnam Veterans of America Redwood Empire Chapter 223

Santa Rosa, California

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**The Chapters new EMAIL ADDRESS IS: [vva223vva@gmail.com](mailto:vva223vva@gmail.com)**

**Committees**

Chaplain:

Clinic Coffee Cart: Lou Nuñez

Color Guard:

Dinner/Dance: Lou Nuñez

Education: John McGivney

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  
(Bill's Niece)

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 them to Ken and he will forward them to me.

**NOTICE**

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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

The vessels of the U.S. Navy all have a story, particularly those whose life spans multiple periods of crises, conflict or war. The first ship I served on was such a ship. She was named for Bayfield County, Wisconsin and she was older than I when I reported aboard in Subic Bay, P.I. in January of 1963 at the age of 19. She was not a streamlined, sleek greyhound of the seas like a destroyer or cruiser. Neither was she heavily armed or armored like a battleship, her biggest guns being two 5 inch 38 rifles in open turrets. Her designation as an APA stood for, (in utilitarian sounding typical naval jargon) Auxiliary Personnel Attack. In layman's terms, she was a troop ship, whose job it was to transport and then to land combat troops and their equipment in hostile enemy territory. She did just that beginning in WWII in both Europe and the Pacific, at Inchon during the Korean Conflict and then Vietnam before she was unceremoniously scrapped in 1969. Following is a chronological history of the U.S.S. Bayfield.

## USS BAYFIELD A BRIEF HISTORY

The USS Bayfield APA was an attack transport which was converted from the merchant SS Sea Bass at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1943. She was an 18 knot 16,000-ton ship and could accommodate up to 2,000 troops along with about 20 landing craft. In addition, the Bayfield was configured as a flagship being equipped with advanced communication equipment and radars. She was also heavily armed with two five inch, eight 40mm and eighteen 20mm guns, and had a wartime complement of about 600 men. During WWII she was Coast Guard manned and frequently carried a large contingent of naval staff.

On February 11, 1944 the Bayfield sailed for Britain where she participated in several exercises and other activities in preparation for the invasion of Europe. One such exercise was operation Tiger carried out on April 26 at Slapton Sands located just across the Channel from France. This was a large scale, live fire exercise under the command of Rear Admiral Don P. Moon who was embarked along with his staff aboard the Bayfield. The exercise unfortunately turned into a major disaster.

First, due to communication errors, the first troops were landed on Slapton Sands. While the naval gunfire was hitting the beach causing many casualties.

Second, a group of eight LSTs was attacked that night by a few German E-boats that torpedoed and sank three of the LSTs resulting in a very large number of casualties among the troops and sailors. The Bayfield boats helped pick up survivors and the bodies. It is estimated that 800 to 1,000 U.S. soldiers and sailors died in this operation. Participants in this operation were told not to speak of it under pain of court martial, and it was not until the 1980s

that official records of the operation were made public.

The first action the Bayfield saw was at Utah Beach during the Normandy landing on June 6, 1944. Admiral Moon was commander of the invasion force at Utah Beach, where the Bayfield was flagship for the operation. During the voyage from England to Normandy on the night of June 5th and 6th, Brigadier General Theodore

Roosevelt, Jr. who was the deputy commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, helped lead the soldiers and sailors in the hymns Faith of Our Fathers, Onward Christian Soldiers, and The Battle Hymn of the Republic. The Coast Guard crew members who were aboard that night strongly felt that the hymns were both inspiring and comforting especially given what they would be facing that morning. As to General Roosevelt, he was much like his father President Theodore Roosevelt, in that at 57 he was the oldest and first general officer to land in the first wave at Normandy. He had severe arthritis in his hip, so walked with a cane, and was one of the first if not the first to hit the beach. As he moved up the beach he led the troops over the barriers with his cane in one hand and a .45 in the other. Unfortunately, on July 11th he died of a heart attack during the advance into France. Subsequently, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on Utah Beach.

Also, aboard the Bayfield that night was the actor Caesar Romero, and Yogi Berra who was known aboard & ship as Larry. Yogi had been called up from double A ball by the Navy to drive a rocket boat along the beach which he did that morning.

The Bayfield remained at Utah Beach for three weeks after the initial landing and among other duties acted as command ship for General Omar Bradley and his staff as he directed the advance into France. It also acted as a hospital ship treating some 500 wounded which included over 100 major surgeries.

**Continued on Next page 4**

## Continued from page 3

In July of 1944 Admiral Moon assumed command of Task Force 8 or the Camel Force for the invasion of Southern France. Sadly, on August 5, 1944 Admiral Moon took his Own life in his stateroom while the ship was in Naples, Italy preparing for the invasion. The official cause of his death was attributed to battle fatigue. This may have resulted from several factors including being wrongly accused by some for the Slapton Sands disaster. In addition, the Admiral suffered a head injury from a near miss by a bomb dropped by a German aircraft while the ship was at Utah Beach, which may have affected his cognitive abilities. On August 15<sup>th</sup> the Bayfield landed troops of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Saint-Raphael and remained in the area for almost a month due to the hard fighting in that area.

In 1945 the Bayfield transited to the Pacific and participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19<sup>th</sup>. It remained for several weeks as a hospital and prisoner of war ship. In April of 1945 the Bayfield was part of the invasion force at Okinawa where she was part of a demonstration group that simulated landings on the island to act as a diversion of Japanese forces. The group was attacked by Japanese kamikazes, which resulted in damage to several ships of the group.

After being dry-docked in California in preparation for the anticipated invasion of Japan, the Bayfield returned to the Western Pacific in September of 1945 after the Japanese surrender, where she landed elements of the 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division at Aomori, Japan as one of the first U.S. occupation forces to land in Japan. In October and November of 1945, the Bayfield participated in operation Magic Carpet, returning U.S. troops to the U.S. as well as taking occupation troops to Korea.

In June and July of 1946, the Bayfield participated in operation Crossroads that involved the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll.

In 1949 the Bayfield was deployed to China and was the last U.S. ship to leave Shanghai as the Chinese communists under Mao were entering the city.

In 1950 the Bayfield was deployed to Korea in response to the North Korean invasion. The ship participated in the landings at Inchon, and then in December the evacuation operation at Hugenam, North Korea where the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine division had fought its way back from the Chosen Reservoir through three Chinese divisions in the dead of winter. In addition to the Marines, the ship embarked ROK (Republic of Korea) troops, many of whom were seriously wounded as well as Korean civilians.

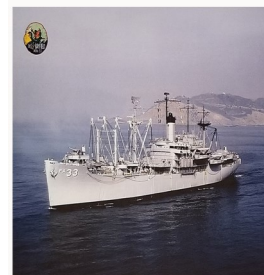
In 1954 the Bayfield participated in the evacuation of North Vietnamese Catholics from North Vietnam as the French were leaving and the communists under Ho Chi Minh were coming in. The Bayfield transported some 2,000 refugees from Haiphong to Saigon. This operation was described in the March 1955 edition of the Reader's Digest under the title "They Will Remember the Bayfield." On March 26, 1955 a Pan American Stratocrusier ditched 35 miles off the coast of Oregon near the Bayfield. The Bayfield used its boats to rescue 19 of the survivors. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in October of 1962 the Bayfield loaded up with Marines at Camp Pendleton in California, steamed through the Panama Canal and stood off Cuba until the crisis was resolved.

## Continued Next Month

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2019 I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO THE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER. MY RIGHT ARM IS IN CONSTANT PAIN AND BY THE TIME I TYPE FOR MORE THAN 10 MINUTES. MY ARM GOES NUMB. I just needed a date to give you, I will live with it until then.

IF YOU WANT A NEWSLETTER SOMEONE NEEDS TO VOLUNTEER.

Sonja



USS BAYFIELD  
1943 - 1969





## **Veterans: The IRS May Owe You Money, For A Change**

By [Jeff Schogol](#)

on July 16, 2018

On the day of President Trump's historic meeting with Russian President Putin, the Pentagon announced that about 130,000 veterans could be eligible to receive a refund for taxes they paid on disability compensation that shouldn't have been taxed.

The veterans in question received Disability Severance Pay for combat-related injuries, or the Department of Veterans Affairs determined they were eligible to be compensated for a service-related disability, defense officials told reporters on Monday. They are currently receiving letters from the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of the Pentagon notifying service-members that they could receive a refund.

The letters include the amount they received in Disability Severance Pay, which they can include on tax Form 1040X to file their claims, said Army Lt. Col. David Dulaney, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

Most of the veterans received a disability rating from the VA after they had already paid taxes on their Disability Severance Pay, Dulaney said at a media roundtable. The IRS had put the onus on taxpayers to ask for a refund in such situations, but in December 2016 Congress passed a law requiring the Defense Department to notify veterans that they may be eligible to be reimbursed for taxes withheld between 1991 and 2016.

The IRS has set three levels of compensation, based on which year veterans paid taxes on their Disability Severance Pay, he said. Veterans can get a \$1,750 refund if they were taxed between 1991 and 2005; they can get \$2,400 for years 2006 through 2010; and they are eligible for a \$3,200 refund for years 2011 through 2016. Veterans who received a letter from the IRS should include on Form 1040X which year they received their Disability Separation Pay and which refund amount they qualify for, Dulaney said. Those veterans who did not receive a letter but believe they are still owed a refund can also file a 1040X, he said. If they do not have the supporting documentation, they can go to the National Archives for their personnel records.

The Defense Department identified nearly 130,000 combat injured veterans who may be eligible for a refund by November 2017, but it took the IRS until late April 2018 to finalize exactly how those veterans could file their claims, Dulaney said.

"Because the act [law] required that the Department of Defense include those instructions to follow – which the IRS approved – we could not send out the

notification letters until that point," he said. "The DoD has been working with the IRS to finalize the letters and also send those letters out."

Dulaney stressed that the Pentagon does not have addresses for all the affected veterans, but the IRS does, and that is why they are mailing the letters.

When asked why the Defense Finance and Accounting Service isn't reimbursing the affected veterans, Dulaney explained that all taxable withholdings are paid to the U.S. Treasury Department, not the Defense Department.

"So it isn't something that is within a DoD authority to go back and make payment of that from the Treasury," he said. "In order to seek a refund of the amount of taxes that you paid as a taxpayer throughout the year, you have to file a claim with the IRS directly."

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**Continued on page 6**

## **Denied Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Claims Related to Military Sexual Trauma**

08/20/2018 08:00 PM EDT

The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) reviewed Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA's) denied claims related to veterans' military sexual trauma (MST) to determine whether staff correctly processed the claims according to VBA policy. Some service members are reluctant to submit a report of MST, particularly when the perpetrator is a superior officer. Victims may have concerns about the potential for negative performance reports or punishment for collateral misconduct. There is also sometimes the perception of an unresponsive military chain of command. If the MST leads to posttraumatic stress disorder, it is often difficult for victims to produce evidence to support the occurrence of the assault. VBA policy, therefore, requires staff to follow additional steps for processing MST-related claims so veterans have additional opportunities to provide adequate evidence. Based on its sample, the OIG estimated that VBA staff incorrectly processed about 1,300 of the 2,700 MST-related claims denied during the review period April 2017 through September 2017. This may have resulted in the denial of benefits to veterans who could have been entitled to receive them. The OIG determined multiple factors led to the improper processing and denial of MST-related claims, including lack of reviewers' specialization and no additional level of review, discontinued special focus reviews, and inadequate training. The OIG made six recommendations to the Under Secretary for Benefits including that VBA review all approximately 5,500 MST-related claims denied from October 2016 through September 2017, take corrective action on those claims in which VBA staff did not follow all required steps, assign MST-related claims to a specialized group of claims processors, and improve oversight and training on addressing MST-related claims.

## **Veterans: The IRS May Owe You Money, For A Change From page 5**

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## **AWARD**

By Dave Richey

At the Membership meeting on August 21, President Ken Holybee presented our ever-busy Earl Walters with a National Achievement Award and Certificate for his outstanding service to the veteran community. Earl can be seen tending the pins and hats at the CBOC Coffee Bar. He is present at all the VVA 223 functions at the Veterans Memorial Building. He's always ready to lend a hand to a needy veteran, make a supply run or prepare for a fundraising event. These are just a few examples of Earl's fun and giving work among the veterans of Sonoma County and beyond.





## BILL'S MEMORIAL



Burial will be on Friday, October 19th at 1 p.m.

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

810 Midway Rd

Dixon, CA 95602

Memorial service will be held on  
Saturday, October 20th at 11 a.m.

Daniel Chapel of the Roses

1225 Sonoma Ave

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Luncheon will follow the Memorial Service Rest In

Peace My Friend





## The Coffee Cart

Five years ago, the coffee cart was started at Santa Rosa Veterans outpatient clinic. I never thought how important the coffee cart service would become to the Veteran community and to the clinic staff. It's a place where Veterans can come and relax, meet other Veterans or old friends and talk about issues that they never told anyone else.

Only a Veteran can talk to another Veteran about war issues; things that happened to them or things they were ordered to do. It is a place where they can also talk about making it home and being able to raise a family, and about friends who didn't make it back.

It also helps the clinic staff. For some reason a nice, hot cup of coffee and a donut helps Veterans to relax before their appointment. Some will also wait until after their appointment to approach the coffee cart. Either way it has become a place for people to gather and share stories.

The coffee cart is sustained thanks to donations from organizations, veterans and people from the community. More importantly, it is also kept going thru the dedication of volunteers. If you are interested in joining this awesome group to help maintain the coffee cart, please contact Earl Walter at 707-477-4567.

Lou Nunez







## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Pictures From Kate O'Hare-Palmer and Ken Holybee



Opening Ceremonies



Eagles



Palm Springs Air Museum



Retired LA Dodger Steve Garvey, in red tie, at the Leadership Dinner



Wayne Newton received an award

The passing of the Flag to Ohio, for the next Leadership Meeting (below)



It is our group after the Women Veterans Committee Leadership conference. L to R Sandy Miller, Marsha Four, me, Dottie Barackman, Maureen Elias, Dr. Tom Berger, and our guest speaker from LA. office EEOC Nicole St. Germain.



Orange Moon

# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1 POKER</b> Set up at 4 PM
<b>2</b>	<b>3 LABOR DAY</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Dinner Dance 4PM—10PM</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11 Board Meeting 1 PM</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 1950—US Forces land at Inchon</b>
<b>16 US Eighth Army breaks out of Pusan perimeter</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 General Mtg 6 pm dinner 7 PM meeting</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 POW/MIA DAY 10am—done</b>	<b>22 Air Show Newsletter Articles DUE</b>
<b>23 Air Show</b>	<b>24 Copy Newsletter</b>	<b>25 Food Distribution 7 AM</b>	<b>26 UVC—7 PM</b>	<b>27 Fold Newsletter 10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 Gold Star Reignition DAY</b>						

# October 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Poker Set up @ 4 PM</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 Board meeting 1 PM</b>	<b>10 1951—Battle at Heartbreak Ridge Begins</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 1968—Operation McArthur Begins</b>
<b>13 30th Anniversary Ca Vietnam Memorial</b>					
<b>14 2001—Operation Enduring Freedom,</b>	<b>15 NATIONAL BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>16 General Meeting 6 pm potluck 7 PM meeting</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
					<b>20 Newsletter Articles Due</b>
<b>21 NATIONAL MEETING ENDS HOME</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23 Food distribution 7 am 1965—Operation Silver Bayonet Begins</b>	<b>24 UVC 7 PM</b>	<b>25 1983—US Forces invade Grenada</b>	<b>26 CSC MEETING</b>
					<b>27 CSC Meeting</b>
<b>28 CSC MEETING ENDS</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31 Halloween</b>		



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9/19



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6/19



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**DINNER DANCE**  
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**FROM ANY BOARD MEMBER**





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**News and Views**

**Volume 20 Issue 9 September 2018**

**A Publication of:**

**Vietnam Veterans of America**

**Redwood Empire Chapter 223**

**PO Box 1583, Santa Rosa, CA 95402**

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**Chapter Email: [vva223vva@gmail.com](mailto:vva223vva@gmail.com)**

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 \_\_\_\_ Year- \$20.00 3-years—\$50.00

Life - \$100.00 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**JOIN VVA OR AVVA**

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