



NEWS AND VIEWS



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Names of Three Fallen Service Members to be added to California Vietnam Veterans Memorial

By: June Iljana, CDVA

Sacramento – The names of three California Veterans who died as a result of their service in the Vietnam War will be added to the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Capitol Park during a ceremony **Sunday, May 29, 2016**, the day before Memorial Day.

“The men we honor today did not die in the theater of war. Instead, they each carried the burden of their battlefield experience back home, sometimes suffering for decades, before their military service took them,” said Dr. Vito Imbasciani, Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). “The sacrifice of our fallen service members is deserving of recognition.”

The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honor Committee, created by AB 287 in 2013, is tasked with adding names of men and women killed during the Vietnam War. The Committee is also tasked with including the names of California Veterans who later died as a result of illness or injuries, including physical or mental injuries documented by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or licensed medical professionals, that can reasonably be assumed to have resulted from military service in the Vietnam War. Under the provisions of the law, written by Assemblymember Jim Frazier, Jr., the Committee must compile a list of names to be added to the memorial by **November 1st** of each year. On **October 19, 2016**, the committee

voted to add the following individuals to the Memorial:

- Private First Class Richard Carmine Borrelli of Sierra Madre, who served in the U.S. Army and died as a result of his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam.
- Ensign Jan Byron Jones of Ione, who served in the U.S. Navy and took his own life in 1973 as direct result of the severe post-traumatic stress disorder he experienced due to his service in Vietnam.
- Captain Brien Thomas (B.T.) Collins of Sacramento, who served in the U.S. Army and died as a result of his service in Vietnam, where he also lost an arm and a leg in combat. He was a life-long advocate for Veterans and served in the California State Legislature.

The memorial bearing the three additional engraved names will be unveiled at a ceremony in Sacramento's Capitol Park during “The Reading of the Names,” a day-long annual event during which volunteers will read aloud all 5,659 names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The event is hosted by Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 500 in Sacramento.

The Committee members are CalVet Secretary Dr. Imbasciani; representatives from the California State Commanders Veterans Council: Jerry Guevara, Jim Anderson, and Frederick Romero; representatives from the California State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America: Al Sickle, and Lou Nuñez.

To nominate a deceased Vietnam Veteran for addition to the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial, or to donate to this privately-funded effort, please visit the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honor Committee webpage at <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/Vietnam-Veterans-Memorial-Honor-Committee.aspx>.

Pictures on page 7

Vietnam Veterans of America Redwood Empire Chapter 223

Santa Rosa, California

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The Chapters new EMAIL ADDRESS IS: vva223vva@gmail.com

Committees

Chaplain:	Bob Cheadle
Clinic Coffee Cart:	Lou Nuñez
Color Guard:	Dave Phillips
Dinner/Dance:	Lou Nuñez
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Legislation:	Ken Holybee
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Newsletter:	Ken & Sonja
Scholarship Fund:	Sunny Campbell
UVC:	Ken Holybee
Veterans Building:	John Crooker
Website:	Bill Burke

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

Contributors to the News and Views: Ken Holybee, Kate O'Hare-Palmer, Bill Burke and Astrid Ortega. 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.

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Brooke We Miss YOU



Presidents report June

We have started the summer months with a bang. The Wednesday Night market is off to a good start. This is a project that I have come to enjoy. I like speaking to other veterans and their families about the issues facing today's veterans as well as the veterans of our era. I get feeling a little closed in at times but with the members there with me it is not so bad. AVVA member Brian McKeown is there speaking to veterans of the current wars. It is good to have the younger veterans there with us showing that we are all in this together. We are trying to become more inclusive of all organizations and eras of veterans to help them along. We have worked thru many issues that they are just beginning to face and our background can be of use to them. Come on down and join us. There are some interesting sights on the Santa Rosa streets in the evenings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for June 20th and July 8th. We are hosting town hall meetings at the veterans building in the Lodge Room, the room we meet in. on June 20th we are having a town hall type meeting with the San Francisco VA. They will be there from 6 pm till 8 pm (1800 till 2000) to give us a short briefing on issues we feel are important and answer questions from veterans. We would like to have the questions about issues that we all are experiencing and not personal problems. This meeting will tell you who to see and how to contact the right person to deal with your personal questions. There will be a flier out and some at the clinic with the number if you would like to call about what kinds of questions you would like answers to.

On July 8th we will be hosting a veteran and family education and information forum on Hep C. This will also be in the Lodge Room from 6 pm till 8 pm. There has been a lot of progress made in treatment for people with Hep C in the last couple of years. It is recommended that anyone that was in Vietnam and came in contact with blood or body fluids come in to learn what is going on. Hep C can stay dormant in your body for decades before causing problems. We

will have refreshments at both of these events.

By the time you get this we will have been to the Santa Rosa Rose Parade and the memorial day events. As you know we are hosting a veterans to veterans get together after the parade. We are hoping to be able to get veterans and their families to come over and spend a little time with us, just talking about what their needs are. If this is successful we would like to do it again. We need to work with the younger veterans more than the older veterans worked with us. It is a different world today but we are all a part of it.

National VVA has a new web site. If you have been to it or are planning to go to it there is a little trick to finding what you are looking for. At the bottom of the home page on the right side look for "resources", click on this and it will take you to the information you are looking for. There is also a place to contact people and the webmaster. You can leave comments there. The page is set up for people looking at our sight to make donations. Don't let the new sight fool you and keep you from your search. They do have a lot of information on there if you know where to look.

If there is anything you wish to put on our calendar feel free to let us know what it is. If you see a mistake let us know so we can correct it. If we don't see you at one of our summer events, have a great summer and hopefully we will see you in the fall.

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

Will Rogers

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free!

P.J. O'Rourke

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

Ronald Reagan (1986)

Victory in Court

By way of Billie Cullin
Past President of Arizona State Council

Court Rules VA Has Shortchanged Veterans Since 2009 By Refusing To Reimburse Them For Emergency Medical Expenses Not Covered By Insurance

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Agrees with National Veterans Legal Services Program Argument That VA Failed to Revise Its Reimbursement Regulations to Comply with 2009 Congressional Mandate

On Friday, a unanimous three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims struck down a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulation that VA had been relying upon since 2009 to deny reimbursement requests from veterans who incurred emergency medical care costs outside the VA healthcare system. The Court's decision rebuked the VA, emphasizing that VA's reimbursement regulation became "wholly inconsistent" with the governing statute when Congress amended it in 2009, but thereafter the VA unlawfully "declined to remedy this inconsistency."

The case, *Richard W. Staab v. Robert A. McDonald*, was brought by the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) on behalf of an Air Force veteran who had a heart attack in 2010 and was rushed to a non-VA hospital, where he underwent open heart surgery and incurred approximately \$48,000 in emergency medical expenses. Medicare covered a portion of this medical bill, and the veteran sought VA reimbursement for the portion of the medical expenses not covered by Medicare.

"This is a major win for veterans, and their families," said Bart Stichman, Joint Executive Director of NVLSP and one of the attorneys in the case. "Often veterans have to seek emergency medical care outside the VA healthcare system, and for years the VA has refused to reimburse these veterans for any of the expenses incurred simply because secondary insurance covered a portion of the medical bill. This practice has violated federal law since at least 2009. The court's ruling means the VA will have to amend the unlawful regulations it should have amended in

2009 and do right by these veterans. It's not just a win for one veteran. Veterans who have pending claims for reimbursement will benefit. Plus, veterans whose reimbursement requests were turned down years ago may now be able to get paid by claiming that the previous denial contained "clear and unmistakable error."

For more information on this important decision, [read the full press release here.](#)

Requesting Military Service Records and Replacement Medals

From Chris Bingham, VSO

Veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of a Veteran's discharge papers (DD 214 for Korea onward, and Report of Separation for WWII) and other military personnel and medical records from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). While there is an online process (Google: eVetRecs), our office faxes the Standard Form 180 (SF-180) as our primary method for getting records and requesting awards/medals. To complete the request, NPRC requires the veteran's complete name used while in service, service number, social security number, branch of service, dates of service, and date and place of birth (especially if the service number is not known) to be able to locate the Veteran's records. If the Veteran is alive, the Veteran must sign the request. If the Veteran is deceased, Next-of-kin must sign, and a copy of the death certificate must accompany the SF-180. The typical response time for the archives to provide a DD 214 is two to four weeks. However, requests that involve records damaged/destroyed in the 1973 fire or older records may take much longer. If there is an emergency or deadline associated with your request, please explain this on the SF-180 or contact the Sonoma County CVSO office for assistance with this process. We have a few tricks to potentially speed up the process if the circumstances warrant expedited processing. There is a special NPRC emergency fax line for urgent requests.

Requests for the military service medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. Provide as much information as possible and send the SF-180 to the appropriate military branch listed online or in the SF-180 instructions. Generally, there is no charge for medal or award replacements. The length of time to receive a response or your medals and awards varies depending upon the branch of service sending the medals.

Limited information from Official Military Personnel Files is releasable to the general public without the consent of the veteran or next-of-kin. You are considered a member of the general public if you are asking about a veteran who is no relation to you, or a veteran who is a relative but you are not the next-of-kin. Next-of-kin is defined as the un-

Continued from page 5

remarried widow or widower, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran. Our office can assist you in completing the necessary forms.

The Sonoma County Veterans Service Office can complete the DMV Veteran Status Verification Form for the new California Veteran Designation on your driver's license. We can also issue local Veteran I.D. cards to veterans. 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.

Sonoma County Veteran Services 3725 Westwind Blvd Ste 101, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Sonoma County Veteran Services serves clients by appointment, Monday through Thursday. We see clients on a drop in basis Monday through Thursday before 10:00, but appointments are the preferred method for us to serve our clients. Please call 565-5960 to schedule an appointment.



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2016

No. 16-11

Contact:

Mokie Porter

[301-585-4000](tel:301-585-4000)

Vietnam Veterans of America, National Institute of Corrections

Release New Publication on Veterans Treatment Courts

(Washington, D.C.) – “When troops return home from a combat zone, they are forever changed, even if they have never suffered a physical injury or wound,” said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). “Far too many of these newly minted veterans get caught up in the criminal justice system, with their past service dismissed, and their future options sadly diminished.”

“Today, however,” Rowan noted, “Veterans Treatment Courts offer hope to these men and women that had been unavailable to veterans of previous wars and conflicts.” First estab-

lished by Judge Robert Russell in 2008, these courts now number over 300. Vietnam veteran Patrick Welch, of VVA Chapter 77 in Erie County, New York, continues to play an integral role in the Buffalo Veterans Court. Along with Judge Russell, he has overseen the evolution of this court into what is now a national model. Said Welch, “the Veterans Treatment Court model represents the most profound change in the attitude of our criminal justice system towards veterans in the history of this country.”

Today, the National Institute of Corrections will release *Veterans Treatment Courts: A Second Chance for Vets Who Have Lost Their Way*, a publication based on a series of interviews that explore the topic of these diversionary courts. Conceived by Greg Crawford, corrections program specialist for the National Institute of Corrections, a division of the federal Bureau of Prisons, this publication is written and edited by Bernard Edelman, deputy director for policy and government affairs for VVA, with the assistance of Dr. Tom Berger, executive director of VVA's Veterans Health Council.

Veterans Treatment Courts: A Second Chance for Vets Who Have Lost Their Way tells the story of those who have been intimately involved in the founding and the operation of these courts, the veterans, judges, veterans advocates, and treatment professionals who are engaged in the fight to ensure a second chance for vets who find themselves caught up in the criminal justice system. To learn more about veterans' initiatives at the NIC, visit the National Institute of Corrections at www.nicic.gov/veterans.

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. In keeping with its founding principle, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,” VVA aggressively advocates for all veterans.



Brian McKeown and Lou Nuñez talking to people at the Wednesday night market booth, on 5/17/16.

Ken took the picture so he wasn't in the booth

Scholarship Recipients

Each was awarded \$500

On Left is Natalie Jean Smith from Sonoma Valley High School and Sunny Campbell Scholarship Chair



On Right is Sunny Campbell Scholarship Chair and Deborah Fry, from Santa Rosa High School



On Left is Hannah Stocker from Rancho Cotati High School



Below is Matthew Smith who Attends Santa Rosa Junior College



On Left is Elias Salomon from Elise Allen High School

Britnee Howard could not attend



Santa Rosa Rose Parade

I went to the parade this year with a different format.

They had a bike race in the beginning and end of the parade and cool, cloudy skies with a little rain mixed in. it was a later start than normal and adjustments were made for the bike race. We did not have a color guard this year. This is the first time in over twenty years without one. We had very little participation from the membership so we joined others on their float. VFW Post 1844 had a float pulled by West Coast Diesel. On the float was the Post 21 American Legion Commander, Andy Young, VFW 1844 Commander, Brian McKeown, and his family, their past commander, the Merchant Marines and VVA 223 members Joe Cholewa, Duane DeWitt and me. We all had our unit flags and were promoting unity of the organizations. The parade route was changed a lot and it took a while to get back to the Veterans building with all the road closures and detours. We had planned a get together with other veterans after the parade but with all the changes and the main event of the day a bike race this turned out to be a bad plan. We had about ten people show up and we had chips, coffee, soda and water. The time we spent talking was good and I think we should put more effort into planning another event like this, but do it at a more convenient time. We were not the only ones with a low turnout of members. All of the other groups were in the same position. I think the bike race had more to do with this than the rain, since we have been rained on before.

Having time to talk to the other veteran leaders is very beneficial. We discussed our ageing membership and the inability of our members to be able to stand for long periods or walk any distance. We talked about the need for more family oriented events to attract more veterans to events and how we can work together on more projects.



We discussed the Palms Inn and the potential to make a positive impression there with us assisting with their programs and helping with some of their needs. We all need to work together to keep us all going. We all have the same mission, when you get down to the nuts and bolts, but we have our uniqueness in our membership and methods. Think

about joining us in our future projects. It takes a village to make us all complete.

Two New Names added to the Memorial

On May 18, 2016 the names of two Vietnam Veterans who died as a result of their service in Vietnam



were engraved on the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The engraving of the new names is in preparation for an official unveil-

ing ceremony May 29, 2016.



On May 29 , 2016 at 12 PM Cal Vet, the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Honor Committee, and Vietnam

Veterans of America, Chapter 500, the Sacramento Valley Chapter, host the unveiling of the two new names engraved on the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Capital Park.

VVA Redwood Empire Chapter
Awards Six Scholarships

To Local High School and Junior College Students

On Tuesday, May 17, at our monthly meeting, six scholarships were awarded by your chapter scholarship committee to local junior college and high school students. This program is funded by the work of the chapter embers throughout the year with some of the following events: The Texas Hold'em poker tournament, the sales of military memorabilia at local functions, and the chapter Dinner Dance. The purpose of this program is to provide scholarships to high school and college students who are children, or grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans.

This program is also open to current military veterans who have completed their military service and are now attending local colleges. The letters received this year were from six family members attending high school, and one in junior college. Their letters described how they were influenced by a relative who served during the Vietnam War Period. We received seven applications this year and awarded scholarships to six students, for a total of \$3,000.00. The winners were:

Natalie Jean Smith,	Sonoma Valley High School	\$500
Deborah Fry,	Santa Rosa High School	\$500
Hannah Stocker,	Rancho Cotati High School	\$500
Matthew Smith,	Santa Rosa Junior College	\$500
Elias Salomon,	Elsie Allen High School	\$500
Britnee Howard,	Rancho Cotati High School	\$500

Now is the time to inform an of your children or grandchildren of the Scholarship Program the VVA has available. Applications for this program were available to our members who attended our monthly meetings, and mailed to the High Schools and Colleges I Sonoma County. We can all take pride in the wonderful work our chapter provides to our local community.

Sunny Campbell and Steve Wiegert are members of the scholarship committee.

Associate Information
Sonja Holybee

As your newly elected Associate Representative I would like to pass out the information I receive from the State officers and National on to you.. If you would like this information by email just send me your email address, mine is on page two of all the newsletters, and I will be happy to send this pertinent information on to you. They have stopped putting email address on our rosters is why I am asking for yours, at this time.

At the April meeting of the AVVA State Council, we elected officers for the coming two years and re-worked our State By-laws. As soon as I get a copy of the approved By-laws I will mail a copy or email, if I have it to all of you are approved By-laws.

The officers elected were the same group of ladies that has been serving us for a number of years. They are Elayne Mackey, President, Nina Schloffel, Vice President, Penny Chamousis, Secretary and Carol Southern, Treasurer. We will elect an At-Large Director later.



L to R: Debbie Kennedy, Elections Chair , Elayne, Penny, Carol, Nina, Susan Hodges, VVA & AVVA member and Conrad Gomez, President of VVA 756.

Also due to the untimely death of the National Vice President, Cathy Keister the board of directors, during it's April Board Meeting, appointed Elayne Mackey to finish her term and Elayne's assistant, Casey Farrell, of Arizona, is the new Region 9 Director.

California Veterans Registry

Both Articles from the CDVA Website, go there for more information

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record to honor California veterans, past and present, who have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Whether a cook, fighter pilot, mechanic, chief of staff, this memorial honors all our veterans. The registry forever immortalizes the contributions that California veterans have made to their nation. In addition to being available online, the registry is installed in a video kiosk at the California Military Museum at 1119 2nd Street, Sacramento, CA . Using a touch screen, users are able to access specific information about California veterans and the manner in which they served.

Each California veteran who received an honorable discharge is encouraged to register in the registry and is entitled to list their name, rank, and branch of service. To create a truly living memorial, California veterans may expand on their basic information by making a donation to the enhanced registry. The enhanced registry allows California veterans to include a photograph (preferably in military uniform) for a donation of \$35. A 100-word statement may be included for a donation of \$15. These fees are deposited into the California Veterans Registry Fund, which is provided for maintenance and data entry into the registry. Additional donations are accepted and encouraged.

The 100-word statement is a veteran's opportunity to describe their military experience, or that of a loved one. The written statement can include such information as medals awarded, duty stations, nicknames, anecdotes, hometown, or other relevant information. Visitors to the registry will be able to refer to this information forever and recall the military experience of a father or mother, grandfather or grandmother, sister or brother, cousin or friend.

For more information, call (916) 653-2573. To submit an enrollment online or by form, mail it to:
California Veterans Registry, 1227 O Street, Room 101, Sacramento, CA 95814

On-Line California Veteran Registry

You or a Loved One Can Become Part of the California Veterans Memorial

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California Veterans, past and present, who

have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Whether cook or fighter pilot, mechanic or chief of staff, this memorial will honor them all, and forever immortalize the contributions that California veterans have made to their nation.

Each California veteran is entitled to the basic information of name, rank and branch of service. To create a truly living memorial, California veterans are encouraged to expand on the basic information by contributing to the enhanced registry.

The Enhanced Registry

California veterans can be truly immortalized by including a photograph (preferably in military uniform) for a donation of \$35 and/or a 100-word statement for a donation of \$15. Any veteran who considers California to be their home is eligible to participate.

The 100-word statement is your opportunity to describe your military experience, or that of a loved one. The written statement can include such information as medals awarded, duty stations, nicknames, anecdotes, hometown or other relevant information. Visitors to the memorial will be able to refer to this information forever and recall the military experience of a father or mother, grandfather or grandmother, sister or brother, cousin or friend.

There are other memorials in California, but none that represent all who have served, whether in peacetime or during war, and from all branches of military service.

The California Veterans Memorial was built with money raised solely through private contributions such as your donation to the enhanced registry. The memorial receives no state money for this project. Your financial support will go directly to the memorial fund.

Enroll today! You may either download an enrollment form to fill out and send to us. (If you wish, you may also use this form to make an additional donation* to the Memorial Fund.) or complete the "Register Online" submission above.

For more information please write to the California Veterans Memorial Project at 1227 "O" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Register Online

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Wednesday Night Market setup 3:30-8:30	2	3 RSVP DUE for Women's Lunch 569-2312	4 Poker Game set up 4:30
5	6 D-Day 1944	7 Vet Connect 9-12	8 Wednesday Night Market setup 3:30-8:30	9	10 Women's Luncheon @ SR VA Rm 240 11:30 -1:00 PM	11 Palms Inn Grand Open- ing 1-3 PM
12	13	14 Vet Connect 9-12 Board Meeting 1 PM Flag Day	15 Wednesday Night Market setup 3:30-8:30	16	17	18
19 Fathers Day	20 Town Hall Mtg. SF VA and us in Lodge Rm SR Vets 6-8	21 Vet Connect 9-12 General Meeting 6:30 pm	22 Wednesday Night Market setup 3:30-8:30	23 CSC Con- vention	24 CSC Conven- tion	25 CSC Convention
26 Convention Ends Travel Day	27	28 Vet Con- nect—9-12 Food Give A Way Contact John McGivney 575- 5261	29 Weds night Market 3:30-8:30	30		

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Poker Game set -up starts 4:30
3	4	5 Vet Connect 9—Noon	6 Weds Night Market 3:30-Dark	7	8 Hep C 6-8 SR Vets Build. Lodge Rm.	9
10	11 Veterans & Advisory Commit- tee 2-4 @ SR VA	12 Vet Connect 9—Noon BD Meeting 1PM	13 Weds night Market 3:30-8:30 or Dark	14	15	16
17	18	19 Vet Connect 9—Noon General Meeting 6-9 PM	20 Weds night Market 3:30-8:30 or Dark	21	22	23 Articles Due for Newsletter
24	25 Copy Newslet- ter As long as it takes!!!	26 Vet Connect— 9-12 Food Give A Way Contact John McGivney 575- 5261	27 United Veterans Council@7 PM SRVets Weds night Market 3:30-8:30	28 Fold Newsletter @ 10 am	29	30
31						

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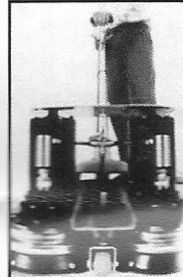
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News and Views

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The Redwood Empire Chapter 223

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