



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another”

SEPTEMBER 2015

***“Together then,
Together now”***



Chapter 218

P.O. Box 4862
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Officers & Board Of Directors

President: Peter Bie
1st Vice President: John Blankenship
2nd Vice President: Hap DeSimone
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott
Treasurer: Mike Mauro
Chris Galbraith
Pat Rumpza
John Selfridge

CA State Council Rep: Hap DeSimone
Membership Director: John Selfridge
Chaplain: Pattie Murdy
Memorabilia: Cathy Matter

Vance Memorial Fund

The Chapter's Vance Committee distributes funds to qualified disabled American veterans.

Fred Golin (Chair) Don Matter
Madeline Moreaux Mike Mauro

Next Chapter Meeting

Sept. 9, 2015 | 6:00 pm
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta
Dinner Available
\$8.00 per person

President's Message...

Hello 218'ers!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 9 at 6pm at the Elks Lodge. Please plan on attending as we've got several important items of business to discuss, including the return of "The Moving Wall" to Santa Barbara in October of 2016!

Again, my thanks to all who participated in Fiesta this year! Please see Don Matter's wrap up remarks in this issue.

Seats may still be available at the Channel City Luncheon at Fess Parker's Double Tree on Wednesday, September 9 for the 90-minute program "Vietnam: The War & Its Veterans 50 Years On." Lunch is at 11:30, followed by the program at noon. Tickets are \$40 per person. Unfortunately, there are no longer any "freebie" tickets available. Several members of our chapter will be on the panel. For more info, see the flyer in this issue. No tickets are sold at the door so RSVP ASAP. Our Huey Helicopter will be on site.

Speaking of the Huey, it will be featured in the annual "Touch-A-Truck" event to be held at the campus of Santa Barbara City College on Saturday, September 20 from 10am-3pm. We will need volunteers to staff the bird during that time. Our chopper has proven to be the big hit of past events with families lining up to get inside. If you can give a few hours (or more) to staffing that day, phone George Ogle at (805) 403-6543 or e-mail me at peterbie@cox.net. Matt Thomas, who is a huge supporter of this event, will be towing the chopper at no cost.

The annual Santa Maria Stand Down is October 17. Pattie Murdy, our chapter chaplain will be attending the meeting set for Tuesday, September 8 at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care, 602 E. Montecito Street from 11:30-1:15pm. Lunch is provided, meeting follows. RSVP required to Katherine.smith@vnhcsb.org. See flyer in this issue.

Look forward to greeting you at the meeting on Wednesday....

Welcome home!

Peter
Peter Bie
President

FIESTA WRAP UP

Don Matter

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 218 Fiesta booth was a success! No exact return yet, but our profit is in the neighborhood of \$5,000. We introduced a new item on the menu this year: Pulled Pork Nachos! (My daughter Kelsey's suggestion). The nachos were very popular and successful.

I would like to thank the many folks who helped make it all possible: Andrew Matter, Mike Mauro, Fred Cota, Pablo Corlon, Peter Bie, Marty, Alden Fairbanks (for the tools), Tom Elliott, Tom Palmeri (for being on call and here in spirit), Mike Mazur (for helping anyway and a big thank you), Mario Pintor, George Ogle & son, Cathy Matter (my bookkeeper and my rock), Kelsey Matter, Chris Galbraith, Laura Pettit (who provided the pulled pork, prepped and ready to go), Matt Edick, Charlie Franco, David Bianchi, Gerry Roberson (the bearded man at the register), Doug Nelson, Bill Connell, Mark Thies, Mo McFadden, Larry Copeland, Wanda Johnson, Rick Carter, Barry Schulmann, Karen Raders, Dan Oroz, Clyde Freeman, Fred Golin, Cindy Ganesh, Hazel Blankenship, John Parsons, Peter Benedict, Holly Grooms, Susan Stewart, Pat Rumpza, Steven Schlah, Ron Westerman, Ed Foster and Pattie Murdy. (My apologies if I left anyone off this list).

Thanks also to Isaac and Baggins from the SB Grunions Rugby Club for assisting us when needed. And to Tony Beccera, wrestling coach at San Marcos for his assistance.

A big 218 salute to the US Navy Seabees from Port Hueneme: Lt.Cdr. Brooks, CMC Sanders, Kwame Beckley, Juliet Dramadri, Aaron Duran and David Hayden. They helped us tear down the booth and get it stored away for next year—and boy did they move fast!

And thanks so much to Steve Penner for helping with the tear down and then buying breakfast for all at the Mesa Café!

I mentioned to many of you in attendance at the booth that next year (2016) will be the final year for myself and Tom Palmeri. As we've all aged, and with different physical ailments popping up, it appears as though Chapter 218 will eventually have to turn the reins over to a new group. I have received interest from several organizations, among them the Alano Club and Vet Net.

So, at this point, it appears someone else will be running the booth in 2017. However, this is still an issue for our board and our chapter members to determine, but it seems that our long standing role of having a food booth at Fiesta is coming to an end.

I know it seems way too early to remind you, but Fiesta next year is from August 3 through August 6. If we are stepping back from operating the booth after that, I do hope that many of you will turn out in 2016 to give the booth a proper 218 send off!

Thanks for all your support over the many years,

Don

**“VIETNAM: THE WAR & ITS VETERANS
50 YEARS ON.”**
**FESS PARKER'S DOUBLE TREE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH**



**Vietnam:
The War & Its Veterans
50 Years On** 

September 9 at 11:30 AM
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 11:00 AM
The Fess Parker, Santa Barbara, CA

**History Comes Alive
Eleven Vietnam Vets and One Spouse Tell Their Stories**

Special Guest Speakers
Peter Bie • Hazel Blankenship • John Blankenship • Fred Clough • Phil Conran • Joe Danely
Carol Fritz • Fred Lopez • Steve Penner • Dennis Peterson • Jose Ramirez • Pat Rumpza


the Channel City Club
Santa Barbara's Window on the World & Committee on Foreign Relations

Pierre Claeysens
Veterans Foundation
SANTA BARBARA, CA
www.pcvf.org

RSVP: (805) 564-6223 - No later than Friday, 9/4 • info@channelcityclub.org
P.O. Box 2247, Santa Barbara, CA 93120
COST: \$40 - No tickets will be sold at the door

VNHC - Collection site

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY VETERAN STAND DOWN

OFFICIAL COLLECTION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Underwear - for women & men
- Basic T-shirts - for women & men
- Hotel Size - Soap / Shampoo / personal hygiene items
- Full size - Lotions / sunscreens
- First aid kits
- Any basic necessities needed when moving into an apartment

Backpacks are being purchased for homeless vets at a cost of \$40/each ... please consider making a donation by check to "Good Samaritan Shelter" (Memo: "Standdown/Backpacks")



**STAND DOWN -
Santa Maria Fairpark
9 – 2 p.m. Saturday
October 17, 2015**

<http://www.sbcountystanddown.com>