



# RECON REPORT

- Serving Veterans and the Community Since 1985 -

## **FEBRUARY 2015**

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## **Chapter 218**

[www.vvachapter218.org](http://www.vvachapter218.org)

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### Next Chapter Meeting

February 11, 2015 | 6:00 pm  
 Santa Barbara Elks Lodge  
 150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta  
 Dinner Available  
 \$8.00 per person

*“Never again  
 will one generation  
 of veterans  
 abandon another...”*

### **President's Message**

In an effort to make sure this Recon is out in time for our next meeting I'll keep my remarks short and to the point.

Our next Chapter meeting is Wednesday, February 11 at 6pm at the Elks Lodge in Santa Barbara. If you've not attended in some time, I encourage you to turn out. We are making plans for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on Saturday, March 28 and your participation, ideas and help will be greatly appreciated.

Hap Desimone will provide an initial report along with Jerry Farmer, who is working closely with the Santa Barbara Riders Foundation and the Break Time Sports Bar to help stage the event in Goleta.

Welcome Home Day is a nationally recognized event and we need to make sure all Vietnam Veterans are aware of it so they can make their presence known. (We will take a short break around 6:30 to get dinner downstairs and return to our meeting).

The Vance Fund Committee, which has been somewhat inactive for the past several months, will meet at 5:15pm on Wednesday, February 11 at the Elks Lodge to discuss several matters and elect a chairperson.

The Vance Fund (which holds just over \$64,000) is meant to provide financial assistance to Veterans who may not be able to cover costs for certain needs. We must move forward in publicizing and promoting this fund and its availability to Veterans—of all eras—who qualify.

The funds are not given to the individual, but sent directly to the provider of services once the request has been properly vetted. For example: it may be to help cover costs for dental work or to have an access ramp installed at a home.

On the flip side, we also need to discuss ways to continue to grow this fund. If you're interested in serving on the committee, please feel free to join us for the meeting.

We need to raise funds for our annual scholarships (2 at \$750 each) which are provided to the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation by May 1. We have been seeded with \$500 via an earlier donation so that gives us a good start.

And while we'll “pass the hat” at each of our monthly meetings, won't you please consider providing a donation to this fund? Perhaps you can send \$25, \$50 or even \$100 to help us get these scholarships into the hands of a couple of college bound students of Veterans.

As you know, college is very expensive these days and \$750 does ease the burden of purchasing books or other much needed items. The scholarships are given in the names of two of the 98 Santa Barbara County Vietnam Veterans who died during the war.

Please give consideration to contributing whatever amount you are comfortable with and send your donation in care of the Chapter at VVA Chapter 218, PO Box 4862, Santa Barbara, CA 93140. Please note “Scholarship Fund” on your check. Your donation is tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

## **President's Message Cont'd.**

The Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation will be honoring Vietnam Veterans at the annual Military Ball on Saturday, November 7. With that in mind, I want to make sure that as many of our members (and spouses or family members) are able to attend. The PCVF will provide scholarships to anyone who wishes to attend, but can't afford the ticket price of \$125 per person. I'd like to begin gathering names now so we don't wait to the last minute to try and squeeze you in. Send me an e-mail: peterbie@cox.net to RSVP. Or leave a message on my cell: (805) 259-9779. I'll also have a sign up sheet at our monthly meetings.

See you Wednesday at the Elks Lodge. (Oh, by the way, is there any chance we can get a replay of that "pass" call during the last 60 seconds of the Superbowl? Just curious... and very heartbroken).

Welcome Home!

*Peter*

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The Santa Barbara Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America is a tax exempt, non-profit, community service organization. Our members are Vietnam era (you need not have served "in country") Veterans and associates (individuals from all walks of life who may or may not have served in the military).

The Chapter meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge, 150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta. The meeting starts at 6:00 pm and dinner is available immediately following (\$8.00 per person). Spouses, family members and veterans of all eras are always welcome.

If you wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail only in PDF form please respond to vvachapter218@gmail.com and be sure to check our website for updated information on events and the latest news at vvachapter218.org.

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### **Officers and Board Of Directors**

*(Elected Every April)*

President: Peter Bie  
1st Vice President: John Blankenship  
2nd Vice President: Hap DeSimone  
Recording Secretary: Don Matter  
Treasurer: Mike Mauro  
*(All officers serve as members of the Board of Directors)*

California State Council Representative: Mike Mauro

Membership Director: John Selfridge

Chaplain: Pattie Murdy

Memorabilia: Cathy Matter

Recon Report Editor and Publisher: John Selfridge

(johnselfridge218@hotmail.com)

Recon Report layout and design: Melinda Bie

### **Also in service to the Board:**

Hazel Blankenship  
Chris Galbraith  
Cathy Matter  
Pattie Murdy  
Gerry Roberson  
Pat Rumpza  
John Selfridge

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### **Vance Memorial Fund**

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

Committee is appointed each April.

Dan Oroz

Madeline Moreaux

Gerry Roberson

Fred Golin

Mike Mauro

Don Matter

Pattie Murdy (alternate)