



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

# RECON REPORT

*"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another"*

## NOVEMBER 2018

*"Together then,  
Together now"*



### Chapter 218

P.O. Box 4862  
Santa Barbara, CA 93140  
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Email: info@vvachapter218.org

#### Officers & Board Of Directors

President: Peter Bie  
Vice President: John Blankenship  
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott  
Treasurer: Chris Galbraith  
Greg Brown  
Fred Cota  
Hap DeSimone  
Ed Foster  
Fred Golin  
Don Matter  
Rik Peirson  
Mario Pintor  
Pat Rumpza

CA State Council Rep: Hap Desimone  
Membership Director: Chris Galbraith  
Chaplain: Pattie Murdy

#### Vance Memorial Fund

The Chapter's Vance Committee distributes assistance funds to qualified American veterans of all eras.  
Fred Golin (Chair) Chris Galbraith  
Don Matter

#### Next Regular Chapter Meeting

November 14, 2018 | 6:00 pm  
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge  
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta  
Dinner Available: \$8.00 per person

From the President...

We say goodbye to Bill Stewart....



We mourn the passing of our longtime friend, fellow Vietnam Veteran and Life member of our chapter, Cmdr. William Stewart, US Navy. Bill was a dynamic personality, always ready to speak before any group that would have him, writing editorials for local newspapers and strongly supporting our armed forces by reminding everyone how important it was to remember all who have served and sacrificed so much for our country. And he rarely missed a parade, often riding in the Huey as it went down State Street. You could count on Bill to turn out in his dress

uniform, looking sharp and standing tall. I'm sure as he reports to his new duty station, he will be greeting one and all with a snappy salute. A memorial for Bill will be held on Friday, Nov. 16 (time and place TBA).

My thanks to our members who turned out to honor and pay respects to Thomas Briggs (KIA Vietnam) on Oct. 12 at a special ceremony at the Santa Barbara Cemetery organized by a high school friend and Vietnam Vet, Richard McKee. Briggs was killed 50 years ago in the opening days of the Tet Offensive while serving with the Marines in I Corp.

#### MARK THE DATE:

Saturday, Nov. 3, 5pm: The annual Military Ball held at the Hilton Beach Resort Hotel on Cabrillo Blvd. sponsored by the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation. Huey on site.

Tuesday, Nov. 6: **VOTE!**

Saturday, Nov. 10, 12noon: The annual SB Veterans Day Parade. Our Huey Helicopter will participate and you are encouraged to march with the bird down State Street. We form up at the corner of Sola/State by 11:30. We need five members to carry our chapter flags and two to carry the 218 Banner. Wear chapter shirts or appropriate uniform. Once we reach Cabrillo Blvd. the bird will continue on to the Carriage Museum where it will remain for the annual Salute to Vets event hosted by the Santa Barbara Riders Veterans Foundation.

*(Cont'd on page 2)*

Sunday, Nov. 11, 10am: A memorial ceremony will be held at Santa Barbara Cemetery. (This day marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI--also known as the Great War--and for what so many of the day hoped would be the war to end all wars).

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 6pm: Chapter 218 meets at the Elks Lodge. Plan to attend as we will hear a presentation by John Blankenship on a proposed redo of the Vietnam Veterans Walk at Elings Park. Also see next story. (Note: This will be our last meeting of the year. Our first meeting of 2019 will be Wed. January 9, 6pm at the Elks Lodge).

Two officers of our Chapter depart in early 2019....

Effective late January 2019, our current Secretary of the chapter, Tom Elliott, will depart on an extensive trip. At our January meeting we will need to approve the appointment of Rik Peirson--who has graciously volunteered to be interim Secretary--until our annual election in April. We will also lose the services of our current Treasurer/Membership Director, Chris Galbraith, effective February 2019 as he departs on a long-awaited retirement vacation, so we will need to appoint an interim Treasurer at our January meeting until our election in April. If anyone in the Chapter is interested in helping with this position (which does not require a great deal of your time), please let me know. Both positions must be filled as they are standing officers of the 218. More details at our Nov. meeting.

Low income Veteran housing.....

The Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (HACSB) broke ground on Oct. 8 on Johnson Court, a 16-studio unit apartment development on Carrillo Street for very-low and low-income Veterans. The plan to develop the housing specifically for Veterans came about after the city discovered just how many veterans were underserved and vulnerable, following the 2011 and 2013 Point-in-Time count among the homeless in Santa Barbara. The survey showed there were 210 homeless veterans on the streets with an average age of 52 years; the oldest Veteran reported being 84. In addition, Johnson Court will feature a one-bedroom manager unit, common area and office space to accommodate the provision of services and activities on-site. All studio units will be subsidized with Project Based Vouchers, making rent affordable at 30 percent of a resident's income. For more about HACSB, visit [www.hacsb.org](http://www.hacsb.org).

Now let's jump into the way back machine....

No. 1 Songs Nov/Dec 1962: He's A Rebel (Crystals), Big Girls Don't Cry (4 Seasons), Telstar (Tornadoes). Top TV shows: Wagon Train, Bonanza, Gunsmoke, Hazel, Perry Mason.

No. 1 Songs Nov/Dec 1967: To Sir, With Love (Lulu), Incense & Peppermints (Strawberry Alarm Clock), Daydream Believer (Monkees). Top TV Shows: Andy Griffith, Lucy, Gomer Pyle U.S.M.C., Gunsmoke, Family Affair.

No. 1 Songs Nov/Dec 1972: I Can See Clearly Now (Johnny Nash), Papa Was a Rollin' Stone (Temptations), I Am Woman (Helen Reddy), Me and Mrs. Jones (Billy Paul). Top TV Shows: All in the Family, Sanford and Son, Hawaii 5-0, Maude, Bridget Loves Bernie.

See you at the meeting on Nov. 14!

Welcome Home!

Peter



Peter Bie, President

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