



# RECON REPORT

- Serving Veterans and the Community Since 1985 -

## JULY 2015

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## Chapter 218

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

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### Next Chapter Meeting

September 9, 2015 | 6:00 pm

Santa Barbara Elks Lodge

150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta

*Dinner Available*

*\$8.00 per person*

### Officers and Board Of Directors

President: Peter Bie

1st Vice President: John Blankenship

2nd Vice President: Hap DeSimone

Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott

Treasurer: Mike Mauro

### Also in service to the Board:

Chris Galbraith

Don Matter

Steve Penner

Pat Rumpza

John Selfridge

## President's Message

Greetings all 218'ers!

As we gear up for another shot at Fiesta, please keep in mind that your participation is vital to the effort in making the booth the success it has been over the past many years. (See Don Matter's column in this issue and prepare to join the fun!)

My thanks to everyone involved in making our most recent events/appearances such a huge success: The Rods and Roses Car Show in Carpinteria on June 27 and the 4th of July parade in Santa Barbara. You—and our Huey—are rock stars!

There is an important event on Wednesday, September 9, (noon at Fess Parker's Double Tree) that I want to encourage you to attend. It's a luncheon being hosted by the Channel City Club and the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation and will specifically focus on the Vietnam War and honor Veterans of the era (1959-1975).

A 90-minute program has been assembled that will cover the era from the late 50's to the fall of Saigon in 1975. It will feature various speakers representing the five branches of the military, film clips, news archives, personal stories and music of the time. It is designed to give an overview of the war and highlight the service of millions of American men and women who served—both in-country and around the world—during that time. It will also honor the sacrifice of those whose names are on The Wall in Washington, D.C., (98 from Santa Barbara County) and the thousands who were wounded.

The PCVF wants as many Vietnam-era Veterans to be in the audience that day as possible so they are offering the opportunity for you and a guest to attend at no cost. Please e-mail me: [peterbie@cox.net](mailto:peterbie@cox.net) or call my cell: (805) 259-9779 and leave a message if you wish to attend. I need to know as soon as possible as seating is limited.

There will NOT be a meeting of the Chapter in August. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 9 (same day as the above mentioned luncheon) at 6pm, Elks Lodge, 150 N. Kellogg, Santa Barbara. See you there!

In the meantime, I look forward to working alongside you at the Fiesta Booth!

Welcome Home!

*Peter*

Peter Bie, President

[peterbie@cox.net](mailto:peterbie@cox.net)

(805) 259-9779 cell

## TWO FROM 218 ARE HONORED...

On July 8, The Scottish Rite Valley of Santa Barbara awarded the 2015 Patriot of The Year Award to Scott Wenz. He is a 32nd Degree Mason, KCCH and Treasurer of the Valley at the Santa Barbara Masonic Temple. A native of Santa Barbara, Scott is a Vietnam era Army Veteran (1969-1970) who achieved the rank of Specialist Fourth Class (E-4).

Representatives from Congresswoman Lois Capps' office, California Assemblyman Khatchik H. Achadjian's office and Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal's office were on hand to present Scott with numerous Certificates of Recognition. Worshipful J.C. Knapp M.C., read the Certificate from Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider.

Over 50 people attended the event from as far away as San Luis Obispo, including past recipients of the award and retired Army and Air Force officers, enlisted veterans, and friends.



\* \* \* \*

On June 24, Peter Bie, president of Chapter 218, was honored as the Veteran of The Year (2015) for the 37th Assembly District while attending the annual State Assembly Veterans Luncheon at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

Peter served with the U.S. Army (1967-1970) and rose to the rank of Specialist 5th Class (E-5) while posted to II Field Force, Long Binh, Vietnam; A Troop, 1/9 of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, Vietnam and Armed Forces Radio, Alaska.



Peter is pictured here with Assemblyman Das Williams, accepting his certificate.

## IT'S FIESTA TIME AGAIN!!

- Don Matter -

Yep, it's that time of year again. Chapter 218 will have its annual Fiesta Food Booth at De la Guerra Plaza. This year we'll be selling our delish pulled pork sandwiches, french fries, lemonade and sweet tea. And we've added a new product: Pulled Pork Nachos! (I thank my daughter Kelsey for the wonderful suggestion; I expect this delight to catch fire and really sell).

Your participation is vital to the success of the booth each and every year. We do, of course, have wonderful help from Laura Pettit—who is prepping the pulled pork—and her crew from Foster's Freeze in Carpinteria who are most anxious to be on site and serve up the goodies.

In the meantime, we've got a lot of work ahead of us to get the booth up and running. So check the schedule below and jump in to help any way you can.

**July 31 @ 5pm (or so):** We load the truck at Hillside House. Hopefully, the Seabees can participate. (Their lead guy had a family emergency and he is seeking a replacement).

**August 1 @ 6:30am:** Unload the truck and build the booth at De la Guerra Plaza. If past setups are any indication, we should be done by noon or a bit later.

**August 2 to August 4, (hours variable):** Clean equipment and prep the booth to Health Department standards. (Please contact Don Matter for further info—see e-mail and phone number below).

**August 5 to August 8, 11am to 11pm:** We're open for business!

**August 9 @ 7am:** Meet at the Plaza for booth tear down, haul away and store until 2106.

I will be calling members for volunteer days and hours. I will try to call after the dinner hour and not after 9pm. I may also send out email(s). If I leave a message, **PLEASE** return the call and let me know what you want to do.

**Contact:** donmatter51@yahoo.com or 805-455-7478.

Thank you for being part of this great Chapter and I look forward to your participation in making this the best Fiesta ever!

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](mailto:vvachapter218@gmail.com) and be sure to check our website for updated information on events and the latest news at [vvachapter218.org](http://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: Tom Elliott  
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](mailto:johnselfridge218@hotmail.com))

Recon Report layout and design: Melinda Bie

**Also in service to the Board:**

Chris Galbraith  
Don Matter  
Steve Penner  
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.

Madeline Moreaux

Fred Golin

Mike Mauro

Don Matter

Pattie Murdy (alternate)