



RECON REPORT

- Serving Veterans and the Community Since 1985 -

OCTOBER 2014

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Chapter 218

www.vvachapter218.org

Email: vvachapter218@gmail.com



Next Chapter Meeting

October 8, 2014 | 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

Wow! Summer has come and gone (although by the weather we've been having you'd think Mother Nature is not about to let it go!) and we're not only making plans for Veterans Day activities but looking ahead to our annual gathering in December.

I'm pleased to report that our Treasurer, Mike Mauro, will be representing Chapter 218 at the California State Council meeting in Fresno later this month. This is Mike's first outing and my hat is off to Hap Desimone who has been graciously volunteering to attend so many of the meetings in the past.

My thanks to everyone who participated in the recent "Touch-A-Truck" event at the Elks Lodge Parking lot! Once again our Huey—kind of an airborne truck--was the big hit of the day. (Check out the photos and story elsewhere in this issue).

Our bird will be at the 2nd Annual Salute to the Vets sponsored by the Santa Barbara Riders Veterans Foundation on Saturday, October 11 at the Break Time Sports Bar, 5977 Encina Road in Goleta from noon to the late afternoon; the event itself goes to 2am. Also on site will be military vehicles, vintage motorcycles, live music, a BBQ, raffle prizes and much more. Call (805) 350-2006 for more info or online at: sbridersveteransfoundation.org. The bird needs to be washed on Friday, Oct. 10 at 1pm at the armory (takes about an hour). It will need to be staffed on site at Break Time starting at 11am on Sat up to 4pm or so. If you can help please contact George Ogle at (805) 403-6453.

The annual Military Ball at Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort is Saturday, November 8 at 6pm. The per-person price of \$125 can be covered via a scholarship through the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation by indicating your need on the invitation. They want as many Veterans to attend this event as possible and are gladly helping to make that possible. This is one of the few military-centric events in our area with seating for 700 and is always a sold-out affair. Formal attire (tux or business suit for men, evening/cocktail dress for women) is requested and Veterans are always encouraged to wear dress uniforms if they have one. Our Huey will be placed directly in front of the street entrance to the main ballroom. (Next year's ball will focus on Vietnam Veterans).

On Sunday, November 9 our chapter—and our Huey--will participate in the Veterans Day Parade on State Street in Santa Barbara at noon. There is also a free Veterans Concert at First Presbyterian Church in Santa Barbara (Constance and State) at 2:30pm the same day; well worth your time.

And our annual Holiday Dinner is set for Friday, December 19 at the Elks Lodge at 6pm (details TBA).

See you Wed, Oct 8 at 6pm at the Elks Lodge for our monthly meeting. We are now taking a short break around 6:30 to get our meal downstairs and return with it to the room! This makes for a more congenial gathering as we can conduct business while eating and not be rushed to get to the chow line by 7pm!

Welcome Home,

Peter

Chaplain's Corner, Pattie Murdy

October already! When is the frost supposed to be on the pumpkin and fall/winter clothes are taken from the closet? As I'm writing this, the thermometer says 85 degrees!

The Family of Martin Caballero wishes to thank those Chapter 218 members who attended his memorial service at Tucker's Grove on Sunday, September 14. Nearly 200 people turned out for this moving and patriotic service which was a great send off for one of our beloved members. Martin always had a big smile, a bear hug, and a handshake for those who came in contact with him. He's probably driving that gorgeous red Mustang convertible around heaven these days and looking over all of his fellow veterans.

The Santa Barbara County Stand Down will be held at the Santa Maria Fairgrounds (Fairpark) on Saturday, October 18 from 9am-3pm. We are still accepting donations of clean and gently used clothing, boots, shoes, new tee shirts, new socks and new underwear. Those items can be dropped off on Monday and Tuesday at Common Core Office in Santa Barbara during business hours. Last year 450 Vets were provided various services from employment to health and this year's attendance is expected to be much higher. For more info go to: sbcountystanddown.com.

Special thanks to Andrew Matter, Beverly Taylor, Debra Johnson and George Ogle for their generous donations of clothing and hygiene supplies for the upcoming Stand Down.

Hearts Therapeutic Equestrian Center is offering an opportunity to spend time with horses as a way of honoring and thanking United States Veterans from Vietnam to current veterans returning home from conflicts overseas. This program has proved to be helpful in dealing with, PTSD, Depression, Abuse, Bi-polar disorder, and anxiety disorder to name a few. This "Horses for Heroes" Program for Veterans is at NO COST. For more information about the program and how it could work for you, contact "Hearts" at (805) 964-1519.

Medal of Honor awarded to two Vietnam Veterans

At a White House ceremony in September, President Obama awarded the MOH to Sgt. Major Bennie Adkins for actions that took place in Vietnam nearly 50 years ago. Adkins, now 80, deployed to 'Nam three times from 1963 to 1971. During a four day assault on Camp A Chau by the North Vietnamese in 1966, Adkins repeatedly helped to fight off waves of attacking NVA. He ran through enemy fire to retrieve supplies and to rescue fellow soldiers. On the first day, Adkins was helping load a wounded American onto a helicopter when an ARVN (Vietnamese) soldier, hoping to escape the battle, jumped on and aimed his rifle at the wounded man, preparing to shoot. Adkins immediately placed himself in the line of fire, saving his

comrade's life. (Ed. Note: It's not known what happened to the Vietnamese soldier). As incredulous as it sounds, the citation goes on to say that Adkins was credited with an estimated 135 to 175 enemy dead before the battle ended.

The second MOH was presented posthumously to the surviving family of Army Specialist Donald Sloat. He was on patrol in dense jungle in January 1970 when a fellow soldier triggered a booby trap rigged with a live grenade which rolled right up to Sloat's feet. With no time to toss it away, Sloat immediately closed his body around the grenade as it exploded, shielding the others from harm.

The President noted that it had taken much longer than it should have to recognize the valor and sacrifice of the two men by saying, "sometimes even the most extraordinary stories can get lost in the fog of war or the passage of time." (NY Times)

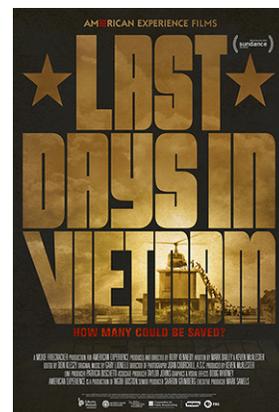
"Last Days in Vietnam"

New documentary about the frantic final weeks of the war...

If you think you've heard and seen it all about those days in April 1975 as the North Vietnamese were closing in on Saigon, then you need to seek out this film by director Rory Kennedy (a niece of JFK). It 's a well balanced, calm and eye-opening look at the heroes and heroics that took place in those days and hours leading up to the moment when the tanks rolled through the gates of the Palace grounds.

It also sheds an often startling light on the actions of US Ambassador Graham Martin who refused to plan an exit strategy, believing that the South Vietnamese would prevail. Only in the last few days did he finally order an evacuation.

As the 40th anniversary of the end of the war approaches next April, it's worth your time to spend time with this revealing look at an event in our history that will remain with us for many decades to come. The film is currently in theaters in limited release. (PB)



For Your Information...



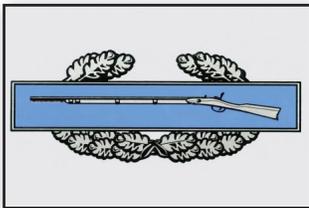
Check out the wonderful article on member Bill Stewart in the on-line newspaper Noozhawk about how his family and friends have rallied to assist him as he deals with dementia. This heartwarming story can be found at: www.noozhawk.com/article/finding_friends_in_dementia_friendly_places. Bill's shadow box of pictures and medals will be on display at the upcoming Military

Ball. (See president's message on front page of this issue for more on the ball).

After years of battling with Sacramento, member Bill Connell of Carpinteria has finally been successful in his efforts to get a bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown that will compensate him—and other Veterans in California—for sales taxes levied that by law he should not have had to pay. Congratulations Bill! See the full story by going to: www.independent.com/hot_dog_man.



We received the following request from Debora Jackson of Corinth, Missouri: Searching for any photograph of Charles Edward Hancock who joined the Army while in Santa Barbara, CA and died in Vietnam, September 10, 1969. "Chuck" was a loving father figure for my husband, Shane Jackson. When Chuck left for Vietnam, Shane was about 6 at the time, but Chuck made a HUGE impression on him. His Wall information lists him as a Specialist Fourth Class with A Company/2nd Battalion/18th Infantry/1st Infantry Div. His name is on Panel W18, Line 64. He was born June 24, 1944. Any help or guidance is greatly appreciated. Debora Jackson, 20 County Road 209, Corinth, MS 38834 or deborajackson09@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact her directly if you have any information.



If you are a recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) you are invited to join the Combat Infantrymen's Association which was organized in 1985 and incorporated as a non-profit in 1990.

(Ed. Note: I don't know if any women have been awarded the CIB in recent years, but I don't think they are excluded from joining what appears to be a "male-only" association simply by its name). You can contact Command Sergeant Major James Bourgeois, National Deputy Commander at PO Box 97033, Tacoma, WA 98497-0033 or via e-mail at jabemk32@aol.com or go to their website: CIBASSOC.COM.

Huey News

Thank you to John Kerr for supplying the following pictures of the Huey at "Touch-a-Truck" annual event held at the Elk's Lodge in Goleta on September 14.

John tells us that for the first 3 hours of the event the Huey was swamped with visitors! Thank you George Ogle, Mario Pintor, Gerry Roberson and John Kerr for being such amazing ambassadors for the Chapter! And huge thank you, once again, to Matt Thomas for towing our bird with such care.



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.

Publisher/Editor: John Selfridge johnselfridge218@hotmail.com. Please let me know if you wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail in PDF form and check our website for updated information on events and the latest news.

Officers and Board Of Directors

(Elected Every April)

President: Peter Bie
1st Vice President: John Blankenship
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Recording Secretary: Don Matter
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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

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)

Wednesday, October 8 - Chapter Meeting - 6:00 pm
At the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!