



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another”

JANUARY 2018

**“Together then,
Together now”**



Chapter 218

P.O. Box 4862
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Officers & Board Of Directors

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Vice President: John Blankenship
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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
Pattie Murdy Gerry Roberson

Next Regular Chapter Meeting

January 10, 2018 | 6:00 pm
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta
Dinner Available: \$8.00 per person

A Message from the President...

Happy New Year! And may 2018 be a joyous, healthy and prosperous year for you and yours!

The good news is that the Thomas Fire is now nearly a thing of the past and we have secured a new date for our holiday party: Friday, January 19. I realize that's only a few weeks away, but under the circumstances the Elks Lodge has been very accommodating.

The only thing that has changed is the time: 5:30-6:30pm for the cocktail hour with dinner served at 6:30pm.

Please flip this page over (or scroll down) to get all the info and RSVP by Jan 11. I'm hoping that with the date change, some of you who had previous conflicts will be able to attend. Also, if you've added anyone to your party, please be sure to reconfirm with the number attending and menu selections.

Our next chapter meeting is set for Wednesday, January 10th at 6pm at the Elks Lodge in the upstairs meeting room. Please plan on attending as we'll be discussing our plans for 2018. This also begins our schedule of holding a meeting every other month. However, I'm very much open to planning some kind of a social event in the "off" months. Let's chat about it at the meeting.

The end of this month will mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the Tet Offensive in South Vietnam. 1968 was a watershed year in-country, and the reverberations had a profound and lasting impact on folks back home, so much so that it changed the very nature of how America would proceed in Vietnam.

While the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese suffered terrible losses, and the South Vietnamese and American forces took heavy casualties over the next month or so without losing a single battle, the resulting psychological effect on the American public would be the turning point in a war already under siege—politically and morally—at home; eventually reaching deep inside the White House, forcing President Lyndon Johnson to give up seeking a second term.

For those us who were there at the time, little did we realize what the future held. The survivors were just glad they made it through, and, if you were a short-timer, you had your eyes skyward, looking forward to boarding that freedom bird. I'd be interested in hearing your Tet stories, no matter where you were stationed in the world at the time or if you were already mustered out and wondering what the hell was going on!

It's important that we continue to reflect on the war and its legacy, not just for those who were there, but for all who served during that time and for the generations of Americans to follow.

Welcome home,

Peter

Please join us for a "we survived the fire, ash sucks,
my carpets won't come clean,
we got cheated out of 2 weeks of Christmas,
we can't find anything after evacuating, blessed are the firefighters,
we need some cheer and laughter,
I haven't heard that many birds fly over since Nam..."

VVA Chapter 218 2017 Holiday Dinner

Friday, January 19, 2018

\$20.00 Per Person

Reception at 5:30-6:30 pm | Dinner at 6:30 pm
Santa Barbara Elk's Lodge (upstairs meeting room)
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Santa Barbara

Menu choices: Prime Rib, French Rack of Pork or Salmon
RSVP required by January 11

If you responded to the invitation for the cancelled dinner in December, please reconfirm (with the number in your party) that you'll be attending on Jan 19. I already have your menu selection(s). If you are responding for the first time, please indicate your menu selection(s).

RSVP to (805) 259-9779 or email info@vvachapter218.org

*A no host cash bar will be available with well drinks,
wine, beer, assorted sodas and sparkling water.*
Dress Code: Santa Barbara Dress Casual (no t-shirts, shorts or flip flops)

Please bring payment to dinner or mail check to:
VVA Chapter 218, P.O. Box 4862, Santa Barbara, CA 93140