



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another”

JULY 2018

**“Together then,
Together now”**



Chapter 218

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Officers & Board Of Directors

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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
Don Matter

Next Regular Chapter Meeting

September 12, 2018 | 6:00 pm
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta
Dinner Available: \$8.00 per person

Greetings to the Membership:

REMINDER: THERE IS NO FORMAL MEETING OF THE CHAPTER IN JULY OR AUGUST. OUR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 AT 6PM AT THE ELKS LODGE, 150 N. KELLOG, SANTA BARBARA.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Plan on joining your fellow 218 members to march in the annual 4th of July parade in Santa Barbara. We form up near the corner of Micheltorena and State Street by 12:30pm for a 1pm start. We need five people to carry flags and two to carry the 218 Banner. I'll meet you at the Huey with flags and harnesses. The parade goes down State Street and makes a left turn onto Cota St. where I'll be to gather up the flags and harnesses. The Huey will head back to its home; no stopping on State Street or in front of the Veterans Building. We are expecting that a near-mint condition Vietnam-era 2 ½ ton truck, recently purchased by Sam Long, will be behind the chopper. If anyone wishes to ride on the truck, you're more than welcome to do so. Please wear your chapter shirt, ballcap, fatigues or Class A's and stand proud!

A SPECIAL MEMORIAL AND REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Thursday, July 5, 4pm at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum: This ceremony will honor the 12 airmen who were killed on July 5, 1943 when their B-24 crashed on Green Mountain, San Miguel Island. Ironically, they were on a search mission to find another B-24 that had gone missing in the area. This event is sponsored by the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation and is free and open to the public.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR CHAPTER BAR-B-Q

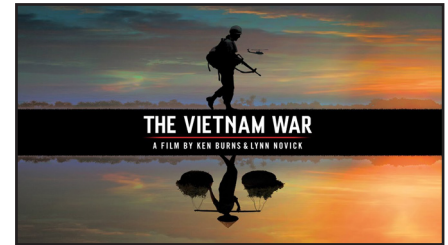
Sunday, August 19, Ledbetter Beach, Santa Barbara, Noon to 4pm. Bring the family and your friends and join us for a summer blowout! The chapter will provide the main dish (hotdogs/hamburgers/buns and chicken) along with water, soft drinks and condiments. However, it's up to you to bring a side dish (green salad, potato salad, baked beans, etc.) or desert (cake, pie, brownies, etc) or both! Figure each side dish and/or desert should feed at least 4 to 5 folks. This will be a BYOB, so pack in your own beer, wine, etc. If you are attending, please respond with the number in your party and what you intend to bring by e-mail: info@vvachapter218.org. If you don't use e-mail, call my cell and leave a message: (805) 259-9779. The sooner the better. (Ledbetter Beach is situated along Shoreline Drive—below SB City College and to the west of the boat harbor—with plenty of parking available. We'll have the picnic area well marked).

(Continued on page 2)

A MOMENT IN TIME IN VIETNAM (June 27, 1968)

The U.S. Command in Saigon confirmed that U.S. forces had begun evacuating the Marine base at Khe Sanh, 14 miles below the DMZ and just six miles from the Laotian border. The command statement said the pullback was due to a “change in the military situation” and the Khe Sanh outpost was no longer needed. This news came on the heels of the 66-day siege of the base which began on January 22 and continued during the Tet Offensive and beyond in which the Marines withstood constant artillery bombardment and pitched firefights with a deeply entrenched North Vietnamese force, numbering as high as 15,000. The relief of the base began in early April as elements of the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division and a South Vietnamese battalion approached Khe Sanh from the east and south, while the Marines pushed westward to re-open Route 9. The siege was lifted on April 6 when Cav troopers and Marines finally linked up. A week later the NVA would be driven off nearby Hill 881 North. In the end, both sides claimed victory, but a costly one: 205 Marines were KIA and over 1,600 wounded. It’s estimated that the NVA lost between 10,000 and 15,000 men in the fighting. (In late August 1968, I was in a group of four choppers from the 1st Cav when we did a recon mission over the old base. At one point our commander ordered his bird to set down on what was left of the airfield. He got out, took a piss, and climbed back on board—PB). Thanks to the HistoryChannel.com

MEDIA: You can now stream all episodes of the Ken Burns series “The Vietnam War” on Netflix. If you missed it last fall, I would urge you to spend time with the series. It’s also available on DVD and Blu-Ray from Amazon, PBS and other websites.



FROM THE WAYBACK MACHINE

July 1974: Number 1 songs: “Rock the Boat”/Hughes Corporation, “Rock Your Baby”/George McRae, “Annie’s Song”/John Denver. Top TV Shows: “All In The Family”, “The Waltons”, “Sanford and Son”, “M*A*S*H”, “Hawaii 5-0”.

July 1969: Number 1 songs: “Love Theme from Romeo & Juliet”/Henry Mancini, “In the Year 2525”/Zager & Evans. Top TV Shows: “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In”, “Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.”, “Bonanza”, “Mayberry, R.F.D.”, “Family Affair”.

July 1964: Number 1 songs: “I Get Around”/Beach Boys, “Rag Doll”/4 Seasons. Top TV Shows: “The Beverly Hillbillies”, “Bonanza”, “The Dick Van Dyke Show”, “Petticoat Junction”, “The Andy Griffith Show”.

Welcome Home!

Peter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Peter'.

Peter Bie, President

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