



RECON REPORT

- Serving Veterans and the Community Since 1985 -

MAY 2014

Inside this issue:

President's Report	1
Chaplain's Report	2
VCC Report	2
Santa Ynez Air Show	3
Officers & Directors	4



Chapter 218

www.vvachapter218.org
Email: vvachapter218@gmail.com



Next Chapter Meeting

May 14, 2014 | 5:45 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...

Our next meeting on Wednesday, May 14, will be important to all members of Chapter 218 as we will take a vote on whether or not we stay at the Elks Lodge for all future meetings.

If you intend on being at the meeting, please bring the ballot which you received either via e-mail or snail mail. Your vote does count and your attendance is greatly appreciated. If you can't be there, please return the ballot (if you already haven't done so) as soon as possible to the PO Box of the Chapter. You may also send an e-mail--indicating your decision--to our chapter secretary, Don Matter at: donmatter51@yahoo.com.

Our Huey Helicopter will be on site for the first ever Air Show at the Santa Ynez Airport on Saturday, May 17. (See flyer inside this issue). While the usual suspects will be on hand to oversee the bird that day, volunteers are needed to help clean and wash the bird on Friday afternoon, May 16 and to spend a few hours with the bird, meeting and greeting the public on that Saturday. Please contact John Kerr via phone at (805) 680-5624 or via e-mail at cambodianred@gmail.com.

The bird was a special request from the SYV Airport Authority and several veterans—who wished to remain anonymous—chipped in the monies necessary for us to transport the bird to the site and return.

A very special shout out to Matt Thomas, whose unwavering support of our chapter, and his commitment to getting the bird wherever she needs to go, has been above and beyond the call of duty!

Please plan on attending local Memorial Day Ceremonies on Monday, May 26. Times and places are contained in the Chaplain's Report in this issue. This is the one day each year in which we pay our respects and remember those who have fallen in so many of our conflicts and wars and who remain in our hearts forever. Your presence at any of the ceremonies is a reminder to all that it is the living who must not forget the great sacrifices made on behalf of this nation.

Immediately following our meeting (at around 7pm), we'll head downstairs for a wonderful spaghetti dinner served up by the Elks. Just \$8.00 gets you a great meal! Coffee and water is free and there is beer, wine and soft drinks available from the bar.

Last, but certainly not least, congratulations are in order for the newly elected (and re-elected) officers of the chapter and for those who are in service to the board of directors.

The April election resulted in returning several people to their positions: Yours truly as President, John Blankenship as 1st Vice President, Hap Desimone as 2nd Vice President and Don Matter as Secretary. Mike Mauro was elected Treasurer, replacing Pat Rumpza, who now has a seat on the Board of Directors. (All the elected officers serve on the Board).

Others in service to the board are John Kerr, Gerry Roberson, Pattie Murdy, Hazel Blankenship, Cathy Matter, John Selfridge and our newest elected member, Chris Galbraith. Please thank them for their service at your next opportunity.

See you Wednesday, May 14 at 5:45pm....Welcome Home!

Chaplain's Corner | Pattie Murdy

I'd like to recognize those Chapter members and friends who have contributed to our Homeless Veterans Clothing Project during the month of April.

Donors include the Family of the late Dennis Rader, USMC, for their gifts of household items for kitchen and bath: electric juicer, flatware, storage containers, BBQ utensils, coffee pot, coffee carafe, bedding and towels.

Women's clothing, bedding, towels, jewelry, shoes, purses, were generously donated by Donna Kall, Lynne LeCouvere, and Pattie Murdy.

A special word of thanks goes to John Kerr for his kind offer to pick up bags of clothing in Solvang and bring to Carpinteria.

At our May 14 Chapter Meeting, we will have a guest speaker, Officer Craig Burleigh of the SBPD, who has been taking care of about 35 HOMELESS VETERANS who are currently living on the streets of Santa Barbara. We have been working on the Homeless Veterans Clothing Project during the past 6 months. In addition to being a member of the SBPD for the past 15 years, Officer Burleigh is the Restorative Policing Officer, Tactical Patrol Force, Hostage Team Leader, and Veterans Treatment Court Representative.

During this month of May we will remember and honor our mothers on Mother's Day, May 11. For those of you whose Moms are still around, be extra kind to them. For those of us whose Mom's have passed, be kind to one another and give hugs to your family members.



Our most revered Day of Remembrance is Memorial Day, May 26. The Goleta Cemetery Ceremony is at 9am, the Santa Barbara Cemetery Ceremony is at 10am and the Carpinteria Cemetery Ceremony is at 10am. A flyover (at around 10:45am) of at least four aircraft has been graciously provided by John and Hazel Blankenship (chapter members) through the auspices of the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation. Please plan to attend—and invite your family and friends to come along—one of these remembrances and fly the flag proudly, wear your chapter T or an insignia cap, or, if it still fits, a class A or dress uniform. Vietnam Veteran Bill Connell and yours

truly will represent the 218 and present a wreath at the Carpinteria Ceremonies.

We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and salute as you go by. I'm standing on the curb for you with a grateful heart.

Thank you.

Pattie

VCC Report | John Selfridge

I'm pleased to report that fellow VCC member Ron Dexter and I are working on rewording the VCC by-laws to eliminate the requirement that a sitting representative must be a member of a chartered organization approved by Congress and to substitute wording that says a DD214 or similar discharge document would be sufficient to prove veteran status and thus acceptance into the VCC.

In the meantime, at the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, May 6, the Supes voted unanimously to have the County's General Services Administration take over the management of the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Barbara effective July 1, 2014.

The VMB will now join the Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building and the interior rental venues in the Santa Barbara County Courthouse as being under the auspices of the GSA, which has recommended an additional annual appropriation of \$114,694 of requested funding starting with the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget.

In essence, this means that the VCC, as of July 1, will no longer be the governing body in charge of the day-to-day operations of the VMB as it has been since 1998. The County will have the responsibility to provide the management personnel and the yearly budget for operations of the landmark status building.

It remains unclear at this point of what, if any, changes may be necessary for the makeup of the VCC and its mission of serving all Veterans within Santa Barbara County going forward.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY AIRPORT AIRPORT DAY

"Learning to fly is humankind's most aspiring achievement; when you learn to fly, it changes who you are and how you think of yourself forever."

- John King, Aviation Educator

OVER
25
AIRCRAFT
ON DISPLAY

SATURDAY
MAY 17TH
9AM – 5PM

FREE AIRPLANE RIDES
AGES 8-18 WITH PARENT'S CONSENT

Programs throughout
the day:

- AERONAUTICS
- CAREERS IN AVIATION
- WOMEN IN AVIATION
- SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT
AVIATION UNIT

FREE FAMILY EVENT

**HAMBURGER
& HOT DOG BARBECUE**

SPONSORED BY SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS
HOSTED BY SANTA YNEZ VALLEY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY AIRPORT IS A 501(c)(3) PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION



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 5:45 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

2nd Vice President: Hap DeSimone

Recording Secretary: Don Matter

Treasurer: Mike Mauro

(All officers serve as members of the Board of Directors)

California State Council Representative: TBD

SBVeterans Coordinating Council Representative:

John Selfridge

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

John Kerr

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.

John Kerr (Chairman) (Cambodianred@gmail.com)

Dan Oroz

Madeline Moreaux

Gerry Roberson

Fred Golin

Mike Mauro

Don Matter

Pattie Murdy (alternate)

Wednesday, May 14 - Chapter Meeting - 5:45 pm
At the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!