



# Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

# RECON REPORT

*"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another"*

**AUGUST 2017**

**"Together then,  
Together now"**



**Chapter 218**

P.O. Box 4862  
Santa Barbara, CA 93140  
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Email: info@vvachapter218.org

#### **Officers & Board Of Directors**

President: Peter Bie  
Vice President: John Blankenship  
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott  
Treasurer: Chris Galbraith  
Greg Brown  
Hap DeSimone  
Fred Golin  
Don Matter  
Rik Peirson  
Steve Penner  
Mario Pintor  
Pat Rumpza

CA State Council Rep: Hap Desimone  
Membership Director: Chris Galbraith  
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**

September 17, 2017 | 6:00 pm  
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge  
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta  
Dinner Available: \$8.00 per person

To the Membership of VVA Chapter 218, Santa Barbara:

Welcome to the August edition of the Recon Report!

Well, the year is half over and the days are already getting shorter! I do hope that your summer has been a good one and you've been able to enjoy it with family and friends.

There are a number of things concerning the activities of our chapter so I'll get right to it:

#### **FIESTA BOOTH NOW IN GOOD HANDS!**

Our Fiesta Booth, now in the hands of the Santa Barbara High School Cheer Team and the Wrestling Team, is set up at De La Guerra Plaza for Old Spanish Days Fiesta (August 2-5). Please stop by and purchase a pulled pork sandwich and fries and show your support for the students, their coaches, advisors and parents. Be sure to thank them for taking over the booth.

Fiesta was a big part of the 218 for over 25 years and my enduring thanks to all the members who kept it going through the decades.

#### **NEXT CHAPTER MEETING**

There is NO chapter meeting this month. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 13 at 6pm at the Elks Club in Santa Barbara. Everyone is welcome. Invite a fellow Vietnam Vet to join us or bring them along with you.

#### **218 ALL CHAPTER BAR-B-Q/SAVE THE DATE!**

The officers and board of the chapter felt that we needed to host a get together of the membership on **Sunday, September 17 from 1 to 4pm at Elings Park**, Santa Barbara. Mario Pintor has volunteered to cook! The invitation is open to all 218 members, their spouses, significant others and immediate family.

Please plan on bringing a side dish that would feed four to five people. Your choice of: baked beans, garlic bread, salad w/a bottle or two of dressing, or desert: cookies, pie, cake, brownies, etc. Soft drinks, water and ice will be supplied; the rest is B.Y.O.B.

**Respond to: [info@vvachapter218.org](mailto:info@vvachapter218.org) with the number of people in your party and what you intend to bring.** Your response is need by August 26 so we have a good head count. If you don't use e-mail, then call (805) 259-9779 and leave a message.

## STATUS OF THE HUEY HELICOPTER

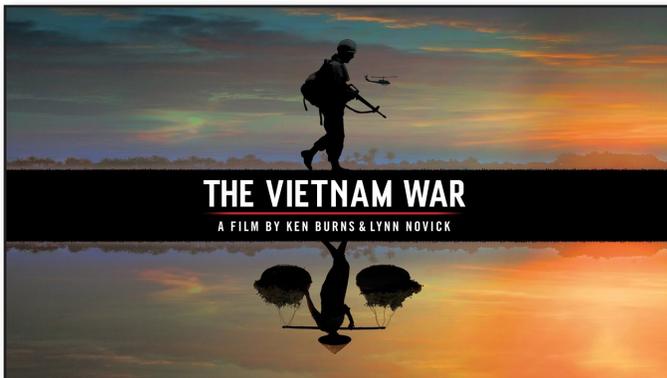
Our beloved Huey, which has been parked at the National Guard Armory on Canon Perdido Street in Santa Barbara for over 10 years, is now situated at 6444 Hollister Avenue (behind Santa Barbara Motorsports) in a large, fenced and gated lot. It was necessary to relocate the bird because the SB School District is moving ahead with the purchase of the armory property and intends to build a new stadium on the site. This new location has been offered to us at no cost! Kudos to members George Ogle and Matt Thomas for their untiring efforts to relocate the bird!



In the meantime, our chapter had to pay for the cleanup and landscaping around the entire armory property as part of the new agreement we signed last November with the State and the Guard. The final tally for the work came to over \$6,000, but if prorated out over ten years it works out to \$50 per month. (Keep in mind that the NG and the State had never previously charged us for all the time we were on the property).

## RECOMMEND VIEWING

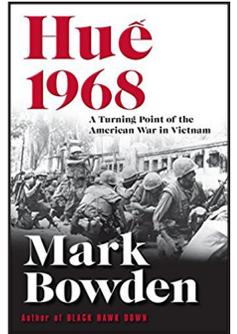
“THE VIETNAM WAR” PBS-TV SERIES STARTS SEPT. 17  
This 10-part, 18 hours long series by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick has been 10 years in the making and takes a very in-depth, intimate and often times surprising look at the war that defined our generation and left a legacy that haunts our country still. I encourage you to tune in, stream it, set your DVR or purchase the DVD of the series.



## RECOMMENDED READING

“HUE 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam” by Mark Bowden

The timing of the publication of this book couldn't have come at a better time, what with the debut of “The Vietnam War” series on PBS in September and the 50th Anniversary of the Tet Offensive in late January, 2018. Bowden's focus is on just one major battle of that long war and delves deep into the memories of the many Americans (military and civilian), South Vietnamese, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong cadre (men and women) who were a part of it.



Hue, the old capital of Vietnam, was the target of a takeover by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces at the start of the Tet Offensive (January 31, 1968) and soon became a vast killing field that lasted for nearly 30 days and leaving thousands of civilians dead and heavy losses sustained by American, South Vietnamese and NVA forces. But the point had been made: That North Vietnam's resolve had not been weakened by the years of warfare and it was determined to show that it could do damage all across the South, including the cities that were once deemed “safe” from the ravages of the war. It is riveting reading, indeed. (Bowden is the author of “Black Hawk Down”).

***See you at the September 13 meeting  
and the September 17 Bar-B-Q!***

In the meantime, I'm always reachable at [info@vvachapter218.org](mailto:info@vvachapter218.org) or via cell phone at (805) 259-9779.

Welcome Home!

*Peter Bie*

President

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