



RECON REPORT

- Serving Veterans and the Community Since 1985 -

MARCH 2014

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Chapter 218

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Email: vvachapter218@gmail.com



Next Chapter Meeting

March 12, 2014 | 6:00 pm

Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta

Dinner Available
\$8.50 per person

*“Never again
will one generation
of veterans
abandon another...”*

President's Message...

This certainly is a “new day” for our chapter. I’m speaking about the change of meeting day to the second Wednesday of the month as well as the new meeting room—upstairs at the Elks Lodge in Goleta.

Wednesday, March 12 at 6pm will begin our trial period of meeting at the Elks. After three monthly meetings, we’ll assess the situation and go from there. I’m hoping that we’ve not only found a welcoming place to be, but one that provides ease of access as far as parking is concerned. That alone is worth the price of admission!

When you arrive on the evening of the 12th, we will have someone posted at the door to let you in. (If you happen to be an Elks member, you already have a key card for entry). Following the meeting—which I will try to wrap up between 7 and 7:30—we can then retire to the restaurant/bar downstairs and join the spaghetti feed. It’s \$8.50 per person with drinks extra. (If you run into a Vietnam Vet who is not yet a member, please invite them to attend the meeting).

We should hear from Susan Stewart on the fundraising effort by California Pizza Kitchen on February 11 in which 20% of all sales are being donated toward the restoration of our Huey helicopter.

Nominations are now open for the April election of officers and board of directors for the 2014-2105 term. While the elected officers of the chapter also comprise the board of directors, we always need other members to assist the board in the month-to-month business of the chapter. It’s a great way to get to know the inner workings of the chapter and become familiar with the leadership. The board does not meet every month unless there are specific issues or concerns that need the board’s approval, so you don’t need to worry about being slammed with a lot of meetings every month. .

You can nominate yourself for any position, or nominate someone else (please get their OK beforehand!). Please bring the nominating form in this issue to the meeting on the 12th, or mail it to the chapter’s PO Box address on the outside of the Recon Report.

I have mentioned that I will stand for re-election as president for a third term. Should I be re-elected, I will voluntarily “term out” in 2015 and look forward to grooming another member of the chapter for the presidency. If all goes as planned, I’ll be knee deep in planning the exhibition of The Moving Wall in Santa Barbara later that year.

Pat Rumpza has indicated that she will not run again, so Mike Mauro has said he will be glad to run for Treasurer. Don Matter wishes to step down as Secretary, so we are in need of someone who can make the meetings (both of the chapter and the BoD) and take notes. If that’s you, please put your name in nomination. John Blankenship and Hap DeSimone have said they will run for re-election as well.

President's Message Cont'd.

The slate of nominees will be drawn up after the March meeting and distributed to all members for a vote. However, at the April meeting, we will be open to taking nominations from the floor prior to a final vote.

The officers and those serving the board are a vital part of this chapter and are paramount to its future success, so I urge you to consider running for a position, even if you're unsure of what it entails. You've got lots of help and support should you be elected and your service will be greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, concerns—or just need directions to the Elks Lodge—please e-mail me at: peterbie@cox.net

Welcome Home!

Chaplain's Corner | Pattie Murdy

Here it is, March already! On Sunday, March 9, Daylight Saving Time begins so remember to set your clocks FORWARD one hour. (The saying goes: "Spring ahead, Fall back...or behind"...or something like that).



Our monthly meeting of VVA 218 is at a new venue (and new day of the month), The Elks Club on Kellogg Ave. in Goleta, which offers plenty of free parking. **We start at 6pm on Wednesday, March 12 in the upstairs meeting room.** At the conclusion of the meeting, everyone is invited into the dining room to enjoy their fantastic spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings! (\$8.50 per person; drinks extra).

"Top of the Mornin' to ya and the rest of the day too!" St. Patrick's Day is March 17—often considered the High Holy Day for the Irish...and those who want to be. Several local eateries are offering the traditional corned beef and cabbage along with other tasty choices and, of course, green beer. Irish music tops off the celebration.

It's the First Day of Spring on March 20. Boy, seems like it took a lot longer to get here this year. (I just wish we'd had more rain over the season...perhaps we'll get another storm or two before summer sets in).

I want to give a shout out to our chapter members and friends who so generously donated to our Homeless Veterans Clothing Project during January: John Selfridge

for the huge supply of polo and tee shirts and Bob Brennan for the shirts, sweats and athletic gear.

I was most happy to contribute housing supplies for Michael Storm aka "Running Man", who, after many years of being on the streets, was finally approved for a private room at The New Faulding Hotel. Michael was stationed with the Army in Germany from 1974-79.

Without the help of our chapter members, along with other regional chapters, we would not have been able to set up housing for Michael.

We're always in need of gently used clothing, sleeping bags, fast food gift cards and hygiene supplies. Please continue to donate any of the above items and bring them to our monthly chapter meetings.

And thanks for all the get well wishes and support from so many of you. My shoulder is slowly healing, and there are a few challenges still ahead, but I'm doing better and better every day. Look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Thank you and God bless you all,
Pattie

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

It's March and that means we join the national celebration at the end of the month for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

On Saturday, March 29, we are returning to The Grove at the Elks Lodge in Goleta for a great lunchtime meal for a nominal charge, conversation, entertainment, a 50/50 pot and our Huey Helicopter on the scene. The fun starts at 11am and runs until 2pm.

Plan on attending and bring along your family and friends. Feel free to wear your chapter shirt, fatigues, caps or any other insignia that identifies you as a Vietnam Veteran and/or a member of Chapter 218. We'll also be selling our ever popular Huey T-Shirts.

"WELCOME HOME"



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY, 2014

Time Capsule

It was 50 years ago this month (March 9) that the first Mustang rolled off the assembly line at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Mich. It debuted the following month at the New York World's Fair with a suggested retail price of \$2,368(!). Ford execs had predicted that fewer than 100,000 of the cars would be sold in the first year, but by the 18-month mark over 1-million of the pony cars had left the Dearborn lot! (Thanks to AARP Magazine)



Chapter 218 Scholarship Challenge

In January, the chapter committed to supporting two scholarships this year and to increase the amount of each to \$750. They will be awarded later this year in the names of Michael C. Dominquez and Stephen B. Neal, both Santa Barbara County residents who died in Vietnam.

The deadline for funding of both scholarships is May 1, 2014. As of this writing the chapter has raised nearly \$750! That means we are nearly half way to our goal of \$1,500 to fund these two scholarships... and you can help.

You're encouraged to contribute whatever you can, whenever you can, to help us meet our funding goal. You can do so at our monthly meetings—the next one is Wednesday, March 12 at the Elks Lodge in Goleta—or send a check in care of our PO Box and mark it for “scholarship fund”.

The scholarships the chapter provided in past years have been used for tuition, books and other much needed items by grateful college age recipients. “The cost of college has risen sharply over the past five or six years,” notes chapter member John Kerr, chair of the scholarship committee, “but even our rather small amounts have proved to be vital when combined with other monies from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara.”

For the two local Vietnam Veterans who lost their lives in-country, it means that their names, their sacrifice and their legacy will continue to live on through these scholarships.



On the Calendar...

Sunday, March 9: Daylight Saving Time starts. Roll your clocks ahead one hour.

Saturday, March 29: VVA 218 celebrates Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day at The Grove at the Elks Lodge, Goleta from 11am to 2pm with our Huey Helicopter on site. Food, fun, music! Public is invited.

Wednesday, April 9: VVA 218 regularly scheduled monthly meeting at The Elks Lodge, Goleta at 6pm. Election of Officers for 2014-2015 term. (Dinner is available following the meeting. \$8.50 per person; drinks extra).

The Last Word



If you don't like something, change it.
If you can't change it, change your attitude.
Don't complain.
- Maya Angelou

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 (\$8.50 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: Pat Rumpza
Public Affairs Officer: TBD

(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
Program Director: Melinda Bie
Recon Report Editor and Publisher: John Selfridge
(johnselfridge218@hotmail.com)
Recon Report layout and design: Melinda Bie

Also in service to the Board:

Gerry Roberson
Pattie Murdy
John Selfridge
Hazel Blankenship
Mike Mauro
Cathy Matter

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, March 12 - Chapter Meeting - 6 pm
At the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!