



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another”

JUNE 2016

**“Together then,
Together now”**



Chapter 218

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Officers & Board Of Directors

President: Peter Bie
1st Vice President: John Blankenship
2nd Vice President: Hap DeSimone
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott
Treasurer: Mike Mauro
Chris Galbraith
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CA State Council Rep: Hap DeSimone
Membership Director: Chris Galbraith
Chaplain: Pattie Murdy
Memorabilia: Cathy Matter

Vance Memorial Fund

The Chapter's Vance Committee distributes funds to qualified disabled American veterans.
Fred Golin (Chair) Madeline Moreaux
Mike Mauro Pattie Murdy

Next Chapter Meeting

June 8, 2016 | 6:00 pm
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta
Dinner Available
\$8.00 per person

Greetings to the Membership:

It has been a busy time for the chapter, especially with our Huey helicopter on display at several events over the past month or so. At the State Street Nationals Car Show on May 15 we received over \$700 in donations; gear heads love choppers! At the Santa Ynez Valley Airport Day on May 21 we had a lot of excited visitors—young and old—as our team talked up The Moving Wall display in October. My thanks to everyone who staffs the bird and gets her to and from the Armory.

The Huey was also on view May 31 at San Marcos High School. It was impressive to see nearly 1,000 students in the stands as we ran through a solemn ceremony, highlighted by the “Missing Man” table, the story behind the black POW-MIA flag and a flag folding presentation. San Marcos was the first site in the entire country to have a plaque dedicated to the memory of 38 former students of area high schools who were killed in ‘Nam. I believe it’s vital that the younger generation understand the meaning behind these symbols and ceremonies and why it’s important for them to continue these traditions long after you and I are gone.

There are two events coming up that may hold interest for a lot of you: Author (“War”, “The Perfect Storm”) and documentarian (“Restrepo”) Sebastian Junger appears at the Santa Barbara Channel City Club luncheon on Wednesday, June 8 to discuss his latest book, “Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging”, a deep look into the need for families, friends, communities and the country to uphold and nurture those returning from war. Reservations required. Tickets are \$45 and available at www.channelcityclub.org or by calling (805) 564-6223. On Saturday, June 11 at 7pm, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Nick Ut will be at the Ojai Art Center Theater at 7pm with a slideshow of his photographs, followed by a Q&A. Ut’s 1972 photo of nine-year-old Kim Phuc running naked along a South Vietnamese road following a botched napalm attack (by South Vietnamese planes) went worldwide and marked another turning point in the war. Phuc survived her burns and the two are good friends to this day. Tickets are \$35 and available at www.ojaiartcenter.org or by calling (805) 646-0117.

Montecito Bank & Trust has recently joined our fundraising efforts by coming on board as a \$1,000 sponsor of The Moving Wall. Our thanks to the management and employees for their generous donation and to chapter member Clyde Freeman for suggesting they do so.

I look forward to greeting you at our next meeting, Wednesday, June 8, 6pm at the Elks Lodge at 150 N. Kellogg, (Goleta). And let me extend an invitation to any Vietnam-era Veteran and any Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran to join us as well. You don’t have to be a member to be welcome in our chapter. (We’ll work on that later ☺). Heck, we’ll even buy the spaghetti dinner if that’ll get you in the door!

Mark your calendar: The Moving Wall is here October 12-17 at Chase Palm Park, Santa Barbara.

Welcome Home,
Peter
Peter Bie, President