



# RECON REPORT

- Serving Veterans and the Community Since 1985 -

## MARCH 2015

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## Chapter 218

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



### Next Chapter Meeting

March 11, 2015 | 6:00 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

To the Membership:

We've reached that time of year in which we have our annual election of officers and appoint those who wish to serve on the board of directors and other vital positions.

You will find attached (if receiving via e-mail) or enclosed (if receiving via regular mail) information about how the election process is to be conducted as well as a nomination form to you to return.

It is vital that you participate in this process as it sets the stage for the next year of leadership of the chapter.

**Please take a few minutes to look over the documents. Read the instructions carefully and pay careful attention to the due date for the nominating form to be returned.**

I can't stress enough that the chapter has always relied on the volunteer nature of its membership to provide staffing for events, work on committees, encourage other Vietnam Vets to join, support one another and, overall, give of time and energy to make the organization the success that it is. It simply cannot be accomplished without your involvement.

Even if you're unable to attend meetings I encourage you to take the time to engage in our election process, no matter if you happen to live miles away or perhaps in another state. You are a member of this chapter and your vote does matter.

Yours in service to Veterans of all eras,

*Peter*  
Peter Bie  
President

**WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY  
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015 - 11am to 6pm**

Our annual celebration will be held at the Break Time Sports Lounge at 5977 Encina Rd, in Goleta. Our Huey Helicopter will be on site in the parking lot from 11am-4pm offering a close up look at this iconic piece of history from the Vietnam War. We'll also offer our newly minted Huey Helicopter T-Shirts for sale at \$20 each.

We are working closely with the Santa Barbara Riders Foundation which has indicated that they want to raise funds for our chapter on that Saturday. They are also planning on having a number of other military vehicles on site along with 50's, 60's and 70's music! Food and drink will be available. Full details on the day's events are forthcoming. Save the date and plan to bring your family and friends!



**SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE 2015**

Each year our chapter provides two scholarships to college students of Veterans. This year we opted to fund two \$750 scholarships that will be presented in the names of two of the 98 Santa Barbara County Veterans who died in Vietnam.

Our deadline is May 1 to provide a check to the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation which is turn hands out the awards to qualified applicants.

We received \$500 earlier to seed our fund this year so we've very nearly got one scholarship taken care of. Won't you help us meet our goal? If you can provide a gift in the amount of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 or even \$100

you can assure that a struggling student is going to be able to cover expenses for books or class fees or a myriad of things that keep the cost of attending college going up and up.

You can mail your tax deductible donation to VVA 218, PO Box 4862, Santa Barbara, CA 93140. Be sure to note on your check "scholarship fund". Or simply bring a check (or cash) to our next meeting on March 11 at the Elks Lodge.

**Chaplain's Corner | Pattie Murdy**

March: Walk in military fashion; move in military style formation; walk with determination; walk to protest or publicize something; etc. you know how....

March 8: Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am. Remember to set your clocks one hour FORWARD. ("Spring" ahead and "Fall" back)

March 11: Marks the one year anniversary of Chapter 218 meetings being held at the Elks Lodge. See you there!

March 17: St. Patrick's Day—often considered the High Holy Day for the Irish and those who want to be.

March 19: In 2003 the Iraq War began. Wear R.E.D. today and Remember Everyone Deployed.

March 20: First Day of spring; let's enjoy and make the most of it. Bet they wish it happens back in the Northeast and mid-West!

March 28: "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" celebration at the Break Time Sports Bar in Goleta from 11:00 to 5:00 p.m. (See story in this issue)

March 29: In 1973 all American combat operations in the Vietnam War come to an end with only a small contingent of military personnel remaining behind to guard certain facilities and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

Homeless Veterans Clothing Project—It is with an abundance of gratitude that I thank former Vietnam

Veterans for their donations of clothing, shoes, sleeping bags, hygiene products etc. during the past few months: David Boyd, United States Navy; Robert Brennan, United States Army; David R. Litschel, United States Air Force; John Blankenship, United States Navy.

With a happy heart for everything VVA 218 has done to help this Homeless Veterans Project become successful, I say thank you. May the Peace of the Lord be always with you. - Pattie

### SAVE THE DATE!

Chapter 218 will participate in the following events this year....

Sat, March 28: Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day at the Break Time Sports Lounge, Goleta, 11am-5pm.

Mon, May 25: Memorial Day Ceremonies at Goleta Cemetery, Santa Barbara Cemetery and Carpinteria Cemetery.

Sat, June 27: Rods and Roses Car Show and Independence Parade, Carpinteria.

Sat, July 4: Independence Day Parade, Santa Barbara.

Wed-Sat, Aug 5-8: Old Spanish Days Fiesta (food booth), Santa Barbara.

Sat, Nov. 7: Santa Barbara Veterans Marathon. Pierre Claeysens Military Ball at Fess Parker's Double Tree honoring Vietnam Veterans.

Sun, Nov. 8: Veterans Day Parade, Santa Barbara. (At the moment, there are no activities scheduled for Wed, Nov. 11—Veterans Day).

Sat, Dec. 12: Chapter 218 Annual Holiday Banquet.

### WANTED: ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

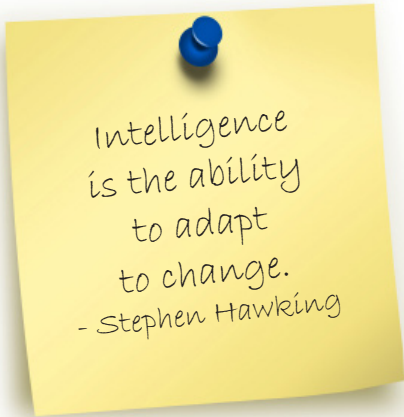
The Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara seeks the following: An honorably discharged member of the U.S. Armed Forces to be the Administrative Coordinator of Volunteer Services, a per diem position at 10 hours per week.

This position provides clerical support and coordination assistance for the volunteer program. The Administrative Coordinator demonstrates respect and promotes the mission, values and vision of Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care.

Among the essential duties and responsibilities this position supports the overall management of volunteer support throughout the agency with a focus on North County and the We Honor Vets program. Recruits, trains, and supports volunteers in North County and works with all volunteers. Tracks, inputs and logs data from volunteer visits and monthly progress reports into Allscripts. Assists with patient referrals for volunteers as needed. Oversees progress with the We Honor Veterans program, arranging for Vet to Vet volunteers, patient pinnings, and representation of the agency at Veteran specific collaborative meetings.

For a complete listing of the position duties, responsibilities, qualifications and to apply, please go to [www.vnhcsb.org](http://www.vnhcsb.org) or call (805) 965-5555.

### THE LAST WORD



Intelligence  
is the ability  
to adapt  
to change.  
- Stephen Hawking

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 (\$8.00 per person). Spouses, family members and veterans of all eras are always welcome.

Please let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail in PDF form by emailing [vvachapter218@gmail.com](mailto:vvachapter218@gmail.com).

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**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: Mike Mauro

Membership Director: John Selfridge

Chaplain: Pattie Murdy

Memorabilia: Cathy Matter

Recon Report layout and design: Melinda Bie

**Also in service to the Board:**

Hazel Blankenship  
Chris Galbraith  
Cathy Matter  
Pattie Murdy  
Gerry Roberson  
Pat Rumpza  
John Selfridge

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**Vance Memorial Fund**

The Chapter’s Vance Committee distributes funds to qualified disabled American veterans.  
Committee is appointed each April.

Madeline Moreaux  
(alternate)

Gerry Roberson

Fred Golin

Mike Mauro

Pattie Murdy (alter-  
nate)

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**Wednesday, March 11 - Chapter Meeting - 6:00 pm**  
**At the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge**  
**PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!**