



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another”

JAN-FEB 2019

**“Together then,
Together now”**



Chapter 218

P.O. Box 4862
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Officers & Board Of Directors

President: Peter Bie
Vice President: John Blankenship
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott
Treasurer: Chris Galbraith
Fred Cota
Hap DeSimone
Ed Foster
Fred Golin
Don Matter
Rik Peirson
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
Don Matter

Next Regular Chapter Meeting

January 9 | 6:00 pm
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta
Dinner Available: \$8.00 per person

From the President...

As we welcome in a brand New Year, we'll have our first meeting of 2019 on **Wednesday, January 9 at 6pm at the Elks Lodge in Santa Barbara**. Plan on attending as we have several important issues before us. Secretary Tom Elliott departs on a long cruise in late January and doesn't return until early March. Rik Peirson has volunteered to be interim secretary until Tom returns. Treasurer Chris Galbraith also departs on a vacation that will keep him away for quite some time and he feels it best to turn over the reins to someone else as he will not be able available. For the moment, Patricia Rumpza will step in as interim treasurer until our election in April.

As 2018 was winding down, we were saddened by the loss of two of our members: Frank Gunther and William "Bill" Stewart. Then, in early December, we learned of the sudden death of Santiago Perez, co-owner of Thomas Towing, following an industrial accident in Santa Barbara. Santiago—a Marine Vet—had towed our Huey helicopter many times over the past years and was always considered to be one of our family. He leaves behind a wife and two young children. Most recently, I was informed of the passing of Gordon "Gordy" Mezzo of Goleta, a Vietnam Veteran who was a one-time member of 218. Our condolences to all the families concerned.

VVA National converts all members to Life Member status: In recognition of the fact that the number of surviving Vietnam Veterans is slowly beginning to dwindle, the national office took the gracious step in late 2018 of converting all members to Life status. And the only fee any newcomer will pay is a flat \$50. If you are currently paying \$20 per year for membership, you'll automatically become a Life member when you've reached the \$50 fee. If you've already surpassed that amount, you'll be notified by the national office of your change of status and will no longer pay any dues. Eventually every chapter will have only Life members. This is certainly a welcome change and will make it much more appealing to encourage new members. And to make it is as easy as possible to join, our chapter is prepared to help anyone with the fee should they need it.

Alto Lucero Convalescence Center, 3880 Via Lucero, Santa Barbara has about 10 Veterans who would welcome someone to drop by and talk with them. Call the center for visiting hours: (805) 687-6651.

IRS encourages certain Vets to file amended returns: Thanks to the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016, certain Veterans who paid taxes on disability severance payments received after 1/17/1991 may file amended returns to claim a refund. *(Cont'd on page 2)*

Veterans can submit Form 1040X that reflects the actual amount of their disability severance payment or use a simplified method. Veterans using this method should write “Disability Severance Payment” on line 15 of Form 1040X and enter on lines 15 and 22 a standard refund amount (\$1,750 for 1991-2005); \$2,400 for 2006-2010 and \$3,200 for 2011-2016). All Veterans claiming refunds should write either “Veteran Disability Service” or “St. Clair claim” across the top of the front page of Form 1040X. Claims must be made within the normal three-year statute of limitations period or one year from the date of a letter sent by the Department of Defense, whichever expires later. (This info from an IRS news release of 2018).

Please calendar the following dates for our meetings in 2019 at the Elks Lodge, Santa Barbara:



February - **NO MEETING**

March 13 (Wednesday) 6pm

April 10 (Wednesday) 6pm: This is our annual election of officers and board of directors and must be held in April to meet requirements of the by-laws of VVA National.

June 12 (Wednesday) 6pm

July - **NO MEETING**

August - **NO MEETING**. Making plans for a possible BBQ or similar event. TBA

September 11 (Wednesday) 6pm

October - **NO MEETING**

November 13 (Wednesday) 6pm

December - **NO MEETING**

And now for a trip in the “Way Back Machine”

January/February 1969:

#1 Hit Songs: *I Heard It Through the Grapevine*--Marvin Gaye/*Crimson & Clover*—Tommy James & The Shondells/*Everyday People*—Sly & The Family Stone

Top TV Shows: *Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In*/*Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*/*Bonanza*/*Mayberry R.F.D.*/*Family Affair*

January/February 1964

#1 Hit Songs: *There! I’ve Said It Again*--Bobby Vinton/*I Want to Hold Your Hand*—The Beatles (It would stay #1 until March 21 when it was replaced by *She Loves You*...by the Beatles...which would stay #1 until April 4 when it was replaced by *Can’t Buy Me Love*..by the Beatles...which would then be replaced on May 9 by *Hello, Dolly!* by Louis Armstrong. Just thought you’d like to know).

Top TV Shows: *The Beverly Hillbillies*/*Candid Camera*/*The Red Skelton Show*/*Bonanza*/*The Lucy Show*

January/February 1959

#1 Hit Songs: *The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don’t Be Late)*—Alvin & The Chipmunks/*Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*—The Platters/*Stagger Lee*—Lloyd Price. (February would become known as “the day the music died” with the deaths of Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper—along with their pilot—in the crash of their small plane in an Iowa corn field).

Top TV Shows: *Gunsmoke*/*Wagon Train*/*Have Gun Will Travel*/*The Rifleman*/*The Danny Thomas Show*

My thanks to everyone who has contributed in one way or another to the life and work of Chapter 218. We have much to be accomplished over the next few years and with your help, we’ll get it done!

Welcome Home!

Peter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter".

Peter Bie, President

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