



RECON REPORT

- Serving Veterans and the Community Since 1985 -

FEBRUARY 2014

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Chapter 218

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Next Chapter Meeting

February 11, 2014 | 6:00 pm

Veterans Memorial Building

112 W. Cabrillo Boulevard

Light Dinner Available

\$10 per person

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

President's Message...

As we settle into this first quarter of 2014, there are exciting things ahead for Chapter 218.

Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 11 at 6pm at the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Barbara. (It is NOT being held at the California Pizza Kitchen as previously stated). It will be a special day and evening for the 218 as we will be the beneficiary of a percentage of the proceeds that day from the California Pizza Kitchen Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

Susan Stewart (Bill's daughter) works at CPK and set up this special day. Whether customers that day dine in or order out, a portion of their tab will go toward 218. This includes all beverages sold too. So be sure to tell your family and your friends and business associates to make a point to order lunch or dinner at CPK on Tuesday!

Susan will provide food for our meeting on Tuesday, but we will need to reimburse for the expense, which I don't believe will come to much more than \$10 per person, our usual fee for dinner. She will provide a general order of different kinds of food items, realizing that it may be somewhat difficult to get an order from every person attending the meeting. The chapter will provide the beverages.

If you can, stop by CPK on Tuesday for lunch or just drop in to thank the staff and management for supporting Chapter 218 and the restoration of our Huey Helicopter.

At our meeting in January, we acted on several recommendations of the board of directors. Namely, that the day of our monthly meetings will move to the 2nd WEDNESDAY of the month and our location will also change.

So, starting with our meeting of Wednesday, March 12, our new location will be the Elks Lodge in Goleta.

While we will start at the usual time of 6pm, I will make every effort to hold our business meeting to one hour to allow us to go into the Elks restaurant where a spaghetti dinner runs from 6:30 to 7:30 or so. The fee for the dinner is just \$8.50. There is also a bar that is open during this time and which remains open until 9pm or later. (This means we no longer need to bring food and drink for our meetings, saving the chapter a fair amount of money).

This new location (a large upstairs room at the lodge) will give us a better opportunity for socializing after the meeting and, I hope, draw in more of our members to the meetings. Another advantage is that it may also attract a number of Elks members (who are Vietnam vets) to join our organization and vice versa. The B.P.O.E. (Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks) have been huge supporters of Veterans since the organization was established over 100 years ago.

President's Message Cont'd.

We will conduct our meetings at the Elks over a three month period as a "test for change" and then take the pulse of the chapter members to find out if we wish to continue meeting there. However, the Elks graciously agreed to reduce the fee for the room to \$25 per meeting and we've already received a donation from one of our members to cover that cost for an entire year. So it looks like we've found a new home!

The VMB is not and has not been a very accessible, or at times, inviting place to hold a meeting or social event. (See story on the VMB elsewhere in this issue).

As such, I have already made reservations for us to use the outside Grove at the Elks Lodge for our annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day festivities on Saturday, March 29. The Elks Bar-B-Q team will once again be enlisted to cook and serve the food and we will have our Huey on display. (Details to come).

This will be a pivotal year for our chapter, as we make plans to note the 50th Anniversary years of the events of our era. For example, in August of this year, it will be 50 years (1964) since the infamous Gulf of Tonkin incident and the Congressional passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Johnson authority to act against North Vietnam and, within months, to our full on military commitment to the war in the South.

2015 will mark 50 years (1965) of our first heavy engagements with the North Vietnamese Army and subsequent calls for more personnel to fight the war. (At its peak, we had over 550,000 military personnel in country; eventually nearly 3-million GI's would serve in 'Nam). It is also the 40th Anniversary year (1975) of the end of the war on April 30.

Our eyes are set on bringing The Moving Wall back to Santa Barbara in late September/early October of 2015. We have the funds to get the Wall here, but if we are to duplicate the overall effort of what was presented in 2011, it will take another huge fundraising campaign to make it happen. I know we can do it.

As we begin to "age out" during the next ten years or beyond, I realize that we will lose members to infirmity, illness, lack of interest or even death. So as we mark these important anniversaries, I want as many of you as possible to participate and be recognized for your service

and sacrifice. I know that in many ways we still feel like the "kids" we once were and somehow, being 19 doesn't seem like that long ago!

I believe it's necessary for us to take a hard look at what we want our chapter to be and to represent, not only to Vietnam Veterans, but to our families, friends and the public at large as the years continue to roll by. In other words, what does it mean to you personally to be a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 218? Your thoughts and comments are always welcomed and encouraged to: peterbie@cox.net

See you Tuesday, Feb 11...and don't forget Valentine's Day on Friday, Feb. 14!

Peter

SICK CALL



Our very own Chaplain, Pattie Murdy, took a spill while riding her bike in January and broke her arm in several places, forcing her to be laid up for six to 8 weeks while things heal and preventing her from driving! She begins PT in mid-February and asks that everyone keeps her in their prayers and she sends hugs—at least with one arm—to all. Get well, Pattie!

VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

John Selfridge, VVA 218 Representative

The VCC held a hastily called meeting on January 22 to address the issue of funding for the VMB. At that meeting, a vote of censure was taken against Chair Michael Cook. This vote was prompted by the decision of Mr. Cook to repay the loan from the Pierre Claeysens Foundation. The motion for censure was brought forth by Mr. Bob Handy and it passed. Mr. Cook was then asked to resign as Chair, which he did.

Then, about 20 minutes later, when it was realized that there would be no one to officially represent the VCC at the CA Labor Board hearing for Marge Beavers on Jan 24, another vote was taken to reinstate Michael as the Chair. This second vote was stuck at a 5-5 tie until Ellery Price changed his vote to allow the motion to pass. The vote passed and Michael Cook then accepted the position of Chair. Steve Penner presented the folder for the Labor

Board and also stated his reasons for resigning earlier in the month as Chair of the VCC.

At its regular meeting of Jan 29, it was announced to the VCC that Marge Beavers would be returning as manager of the VMB; this per the settlement of the Labor Board negotiation of Jan 24. She replaces Charles “Crash” Huff until such time as the County takes over full control of the building in April, 2014.

There appear to be no other changes in the building and all meetings being conducted by Veterans groups and other organizations are “business as usual”.

CHAPTER 218 SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

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

The deadline for funding of both scholarships is May 1, 2014. You are encouraged to contribute whatever you can, whenever you can, to help us meet our funding goal. You can do so at our monthly meetings or send a check in care of our PO Box and note it for “scholarship fund”.

The scholarships the chapter provided in past years have been used for tuition, books and other necessary and needed items by grateful college age recipients. “The cost of college has risen sharply over the past five or six years,” noted 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.”

A BEATLES INVASION WEEKEND...

“It was 50 years ago today, Sgt. Pepper taught the band to play”..or something close to that. It has been 50 years since The Beatles landed at JFK in New York and their appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show. To celebrate this momentous event, the Plaza Playhouse Theatre in Carpinteria is presenting The Tearaways on Sat. Feb. 8 at 7:30pm with a great medley of Beatles tunes. They will be followed by a screening of “A Hard Day’s Night”, starring The Beatles. On Sun. Feb. 9 at 3:30pm, Alan Parsons sits down for an hour-long Q&A on the Plaza stage to talk about his engineering work behind the scenes when the

Fab Four were recording their last two albums together in the Abbey Road Studios. That will be followed by the full one-hour Ed Sullivan Show of Feb. 9, 1964—in glorious black and white and complete with commercials! Tickets for the Saturday show are \$20 and tickets for the Sunday program are \$12 and available at plazapheaterparpinteria.com, Curious Cup Bookstore in Carpinteria or at the door. (Full disclosure: Peter Bie serves as an unpaid board member of the Plaza).



Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server, and we'll donate **20%** of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

FUNdraiser in support of:

Vietnam Veterans

Santa Barbara Chapter 218
HUEY Helicopter Restoration

Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen
719 Paseo Nuevo Santa Barbara, CA
(Corner of Chapala and De La Guerra)
805-962-4648

All Day 11am – 10pm
Tuesday, February 11th 2014

Join the **Pizza Dough™ Rewards program** on your next visit or at cpk.com and receive a **free** Small Plate for registering.



FUNdraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profits schools are eligible to participate in CPK's FUNdraiser program. CPK will donate twenty percent of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine in, take out, online, catering or curbside orders. Not valid for delivery orders. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the FUNdraiser, please contact the organization directly.

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 Tuesday of every month at the Veterans Memorial Building, 112 West Cabrillo Boulevard, Santa Barbara. A light dinner is served at 6pm (\$5 per person) and the meeting starts at 6:20pm. 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)

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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

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Pattie Murdy (alternate)