



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

# RECON REPORT

*“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another”*

**JUNE 2018**

**“Together then,  
Together now”**



**Chapter 218**

P.O. Box 4862  
Santa Barbara, CA 93140  
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Email: info@vvachapter218.org

**Officers & Board Of Directors**

President: Peter Bie  
Vice President: John Blankenship  
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott  
Treasurer: Chris Galbraith  
Greg Brown  
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**

June 13, 2018 | 6:00 pm  
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge  
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta  
Dinner Available: \$8.00 per person

Greetings to the Membership:

School is out, graduations are underway and best of all: Summer is here! With that in mind, our next get-together of the chapter is set for **Wednesday, June 13 at 6pm at the Elks Lodge**, Santa Barbara in the upstairs meeting room. Please plan on attending as we'll have details on our participation in the July 4th parade in Santa Barbara and catch up on the recent Memorial Day and car shows events in which our Huey was on display.

When I wrote the May Recon Report, I overlooked the fact that we had held our annual election at the April meeting, oops! So to correct my oversight, we elected the following Officers (who also serve as the Executive Board) for a one- year term: President, Peter Bie. Vice President, John Blankenship. Secretary, Tom Elliott. Treasurer, Chris Galbraith. (Note: Tom Elliott is only able to serve until January, 2019 and we will need to name an interim Secretary to fill in until the next election). Additional Board Members include: Gregg Brown, Fred Cota (new), Ed Foster (new), Fred Golin, Don Matter, Rik Peirson, Mario Pintor and Patricia Rumpza. Appointed positions: Membership Dir., Chris Galbraith; California State Council Representative, Hap Desimone. Chris Galbraith, Fred Golin and Don Matter head up our Vance Committee and Pattie Murdy continues as our Chapter Chaplain. Congratulations to all and my thanks to each and everyone of you for giving of your time and talents to our chapter.

Please calendar the following dates:

**Thursday, June 21 - Monday, June 25 (24/7):** The Moving Wall exhibited by the Ventura County Vietnam Veterans at the Ventura Government Center lawn along Victoria Ave. Official dedication ceremony is Saturday, June 23 at the Military Memorial (corner of Victoria and Telephone Rd.) at 11am.

**Wednesday, July 4, 1pm:** The annual Independence Day Parade in Santa Barbara kicks off at the corner of Micheltorena and State Streets and heads down to Cabrillo Blvd. Plan on joining us to march ahead of the Huey. We need five flag bearers, plus two people to hold the 218 Banner. Hap Desimone is unable to participate this year so he's looking for someone (Sgt. Pintor?) to call cadence. He's also written a new cadence call!

*More Info on Page 2...*

## Life Membership Patch

If you are a Life Member of the chapter and don't yet have a patch to sew on your chapter polo shirt or other clothing, let me know and I'll send it to you—no charge! (You can request more than one). If you're not yet a Life Member, national VVA offers a one-time fee of \$100 so you don't have to send in those pesky \$20 dues every year. Contact me: [info@vvachapter218.org](mailto:info@vvachapter218.org) or call (805) 259-9779.

## On June 7, 1965 (53 years ago)...

As the U.S. presence in South Vietnam begins to ramp up, General William Westmoreland requests a total of 35 battalions of combat troops, with another nine in reserve. This gave rise to the "44 battalion" debate within the Johnson administration, a discussion of how many U.S. combat troops to commit to the war. Westmoreland felt that the South Vietnamese could not defeat the communists alone and he wanted U.S. combat troops to go on the offensive against the enemy. His plan was to secure the coastlines, block infiltration of North Vietnamese troops into the south, and then wage a war of attrition with "search and destroy" missions into the countryside, using helicopters for rapid deployment and evacuation. Westmoreland had some supporters in the Johnson administration, but others of the president's advisers did not support Westmoreland's request for more troops, because they disagreed with what would be a fundamental change in the U.S. role in Vietnam. In the end, Johnson acquiesced to Westmoreland's request; eventually there would be over 500,000 U.S. troops in South Vietnam. (Source: HistoryChannel.com)

*OK, time for a trip down Memory Lane...*

**June, 1970:** The Number 1 songs this month: "The Long and Winding Road" (Beatles) and "The Love You Save" (Jackson Five). The Top TV Shows: "Rowan and Martin's Laugh In", "Gunsmoke", "Bonanza", "Mayberry R.F.D." and "Family Affair". Lowest rated: "The F.B.I."

**June, 1965:** The Number 1 songs this month: "Back in My Arms Again" (Supremes) and "I Can't Help Myself—Sugar Pie Honey Bunch" (Four Tops). The Top TV shows: "Bonanza", "Bewitched", "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.", "The Andy Griffith Show" and "The Fugitive". Lowest rated: "Wild, Wild, West" (What?! That can't be possible!).

**June, 1960:** The Number 1 songs this month: "Cathy's Clown" (Everly Bros.) and "Everybody's Somebody's Fool" (Connie Francis). The Top TV shows: "Gunsmoke", "Wagon Train", "Have Gun Will Travel" (my favorite), "The Danny Thomas Show" and "The Red Skelton Show" (my mom's favorite!). Lowest rated: "Alfred Hitchcock Presents".

**Ed. Note:** In case you've forgotten, "Gunsmoke" ran on CBS from its humble beginnings as a half hour show in 1955 to its final episode in 1975! This is the reason it keeps popping up among the top shows over that two-decade period. Its ratings widely varied over the years, but it goes into the record books as one of the longest running shows on TV. (The network had approached John Wayne to star, but he turned it down while recommending James Arness for the lead role. Wayne provided the on-camera introduction to the show when it debuted).

See you at the meeting on June 13!

Welcome Home!

Peter Bie, President

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