



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another"

MAY 2017

**"Together then,
Together now"**



Chapter 218

P.O. Box 4862
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Officers & Board Of Directors

President: Peter Bie
1st Vice President: John Blankenship
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott
Treasurer: Chris Galbraith
Greg Brown
Hap DeSimone
Fred Golin
Don Matter
Rik Peirson
Steve Penner
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 funds to qualified American veterans.
Fred Golin (Chair) Chris Galbraith
Pattie Murdy Gerry Roberson

Next Regular Chapter Meeting

May 10, 2017 | 6:00 pm
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta
Dinner Available: \$8.00 per person

To the Membership of VVA Chapter 218, Santa Barbara:

Welcome to the May edition of the Recon Report!

At the top, this is a reminder that our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 10 at 6pm at the Elks Lodge, 150 N. Kellogg in Santa Barbara (upstairs room). Please plan on attending.

At our April meeting we conducted our annual election of officers and board members and all were unanimously confirmed by those in attendance.

Officers of the Chapter 2017-2018:

President: Peter Bie
Vice President: John Blankenship
Secretary: Tom Elliott
Treasurer: Chris Galbraith
(The officers also serve on the Board)

Additional Board Members 2017-2018:

Greg Brown, Hap Desimone, Fred Golin, Don Matter, Rik Peirson, Steve Penner, Mario Pintor and Pat Rumpza.

Membership Director (appointed): Chris Galbraith
Chaplain (appointed): Pattie Murdy (AVVA)
California State Council Delegate (appointed): Hap Desimone

Vance Committee (voluntary):

Fred Golin (Chair), Chris Galbraith, Pattie Murdy, Gerry Roberson (AVVA).

The Vance Committee reviews and approves applications from eligible Veterans who are seeking financial assistance. The monies are made available via the Vance Fund, established through a specified purpose gift to the chapter.

The funds are distributed directly to the service provider and in the past have included medical expenses not covered by insurance, car repairs, dental work, a wheel chair ramp and other necessary needs.

If you know a Veteran who could use our help, please put him/her in touch with the Vance Committee or direct them to our website for more information and an application: www.vvachapter218.org.

Congratulations to all who have volunteered to serve the chapter! Your service is greatly appreciated and is vital to the well being of our organization!

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Status of the Huey Helicopter at the NG Armory in Santa Barbara

For many years, our iconic chopper has been securely parked at the armory on Canon Perdido Street. Now, we are anxiously awaiting the outcome of talks between the State and the Santa Barbara School District over the potential sale of the property to the district, which must provide a yes or no answer by June 30. (As of this writing the selling price had yet to be determined by the State office)

In the meantime, per our 2016 agreement with the State and the National Guard, we are moving ahead with getting the property cleaned up in regard to weed abatement, mowing the lawn(s) and any necessary trimming of the trees and palms. This is a small price to pay after being able to park the bird at the facility at no charge for so long a time.

After some difficulty in securing a landscaping company we finally have a local firm with the proper paperwork and they will begin work shortly.

I've spoken directly with the facilities management office of SBSB, and if the district does approve the sales price, we most likely would be able to remain on the property while public hearings are conducted on the proposed use of the land; all in all, a process that could take some time.

However, there is no guarantee that this will happen and we must be prepared to move the bird on or before June 30. In the meantime, our responsibility is to keep the area looking good.

Annual Scholarships

As we have been doing for several years, we recently donated \$2,000 to the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation for two \$1,000 scholarships to be provided to two eligible college age students.

The scholarships are given in the names of two of the fallen 99 Vietnam Veterans of Santa Barbara County. Once the scholarships have been awarded, the foundation will inform us as to which two of the 99 were honored.

Huey Helicopter goes Public

Sunday, May 21, the bird will be on display at the State Street Nationals Car Show in Santa Barbara from 9am to 4pm. Contact George Ogle at (805) 403-6453 to confirm that you can help with staffing. Last year we raised nearly \$800 in donations!



Friday, May 26, the chopper is on display only (no "in and out" of visitors) at San Marcos High School for the re-dedication of the plaque (first put up in the late '70s) that honors high school grads from the greater Santa Barbara area who died in Vietnam. This will be an all-school event held in the stadium. You are urged to attend the 10am ceremony. (Chopper should arrive by 9am).

Sunday, June 4, the bird is parked at the Show-N-Style Car Show at Earl Warren Show Grounds in Santa Barbara from 9am-5pm. Volunteers needed to assist the public. Contact: George Ogle.

Saturday, July 1: The Rods and Roses Car Show in Carpinteria from 9am to 3pm. The bird will be on static display and then lead the Spirit of Independence parade at 5pm. Volunteers needed. Contact: George Ogle.

Tuesday, July 4: The Annual Spirit of '76 Parade begins at 1pm at Micheltorena Street and proceeds down State Street to Old Town Santa Barbara, concluding at Cota Street. The Huey will be towed and all Chapter members are encouraged to walk the parade route. We need two people to hold our large banner and five people to handle the flags (with harness). Participants should be on site no later than 12:30pm. Happy 4th of July!

Tuesday, July 4: The Free Annual July 4th Concert held at the Santa Barbara Courthouse Sunken Gardens starts at 5pm. The Sunken Garden Concert features a one-hour show performed by the West Coast Symphony Orchestra. (No Huey present).

Memorial Day Ceremonies (Monday, May 29)

9am: Goleta Valley Cemetery
10am: Carpinteria Valley Cemetery
10am: Santa Barbara Cemetery
Please plan on attending a ceremony near you.

See you at the meeting on May 10!

Peter Bie
President
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Website: www.vvachapter218.org