



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another"

MAY 2016

**"Together then,
Together now"**



Chapter 218

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Officers & Board Of Directors

President: Peter Bie
1st Vice President: John Blankenship
2nd Vice President: Hap DeSimone
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott
Treasurer: Mike Mauro
Chris Galbraith
Don Matter
Steve Penner
Pat Rumpza

CA State Council Rep: Hap DeSimone
Membership Director: Chris Galbraith
Chaplain: Pattie Murdy
Memorabilia: Cathy Matter

Vance Memorial Fund

The Chapter's Vance Committee distributes funds to qualified disabled American veterans.
Fred Golin (Chair) Madeline Moreaux
Mike Mauro Pattie Murdy

Next Chapter Meeting

May 11, 2016 | 6:00 pm
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta
Dinner Available
\$8.00 per person

Message from the President...

Well, here it is... May... already! We've got a several irons in the fire and your participation in chapter activities will be vital over this year.

Our Huey will be making three appearances this month: Sunday, May 15 at the State Street Nationals Car Show in Santa Barbara; Saturday, May 21 at the Santa Ynez Valley Airport Day and Tuesday, May 31 at San Marcos High School. (See details in this issue). Each of these appearances will provide an opportunity to inform the public about The Moving Wall display in October and to raise funds for the exhibition.

Mark your calendar to attend one (or more) Memorial Day Ceremonies on Monday, May 30: 9am at Goleta Cemetery, 10am at Santa Barbara Cemetery; 10am at Carpinteria Cemetery and a noontime ceremony at the Veterans Building in Santa Barbara.

It appears that our food booth at Fiesta may have a life after this year's event. Don Matter has made contact with a Veteran centric non-profit interested in taking over the booth in 2017. Don will have more to share at the chapter meeting on May 11.

We are receiving more and more inquiries from Vietnam Veterans who live in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties about joining our chapter. I recently received an e-mail from a Vet in Palm Desert! It's good to know they are reaching out and wanting to be a part of what we are doing. Should you run across an era Veteran who is not a member, or wishes to change his/her chapter affiliation, please let them know we can make that happen.

And to add to that, I want to encourage any Gulf War Veteran or any Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to join our chapter as Associate Members. We welcome any and all who wish to embrace the brotherhood/sisterhood that is shared by all who were in the military at any time. And you're always welcome to attend our meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Elks Lodge.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

Peter
Peter Bie
President

HUEY ON LOCATION

Our Huey Helicopter will be on display Sunday, May 15 at State and Carrillo Streets during the State Street Nationals Car Show from 9am-4pm. Volunteers are needed to assist visitors off and on the bird and to hand out brochures and provide information about The Moving Wall display in October.

On Saturday, May 21, the bird will be at the Santa Ynez Valley Airport Day event from 10am-4pm. Again, we can use your help. (Both events are free and open to the public).

On Tuesday, May 31, at 11am the bird will be at the annual gathering of students at San Marcos High School as they mark Memorial Day (school is closed on Memorial Day Monday). The school was the first in the country—long before The Wall in D.C.—to have a plaque honoring Vietnam Veterans and the KIA's who attended San Marcos. It's not necessary to have staff at the bird, but every chapter member is invited to this event if you can make it.

THE MOVING WALL FUND

We are pleased and excited to announce that our first \$5,000 sponsor has come on board! Our grateful thanks go out to the Rudi Shulte Family Foundation for so quickly joining our efforts. We've also received a pledge of financial support from the Santa Barbara Rider's Foundation.

We now have more of the Sponsorship Booklets that outline the various levels of financial giving for any individual, corporation or organization that wants to support The Wall's display in Santa Barbara October 12-17. These are four-color, professionally produced, and include a letter of solicitation plus a donation form to be filled out and returned to the chapter.

We've also obtained more of the tri-fold brochures that can be handed out to the public which also contain a donation form. (These will be available at the Huey when on display later this month).

If you know someone—or an organization or company—that you believe would be interested in financially supporting The Moving Wall, please let us know, or request a booklet & brochure so that you can present them with the materials.

We are also seeking “in-kind” donations from businesses or individuals who may be able to help with various services and needs—large and small—rather than providing a direct

financial contribution.

As a chapter member please consider a donation—in any amount—to The Moving Wall fund. We are setting an ambitious goal of \$50,000 to cover all the expenses of the exhibition and associated ceremonies.

Contact: Peter Bie: peterbie@cox.net or Don Matter: donmatter51@yahoo.com

A LOOK BACK AT THE VIETNAM WAR ERA

On May 4, 1961...

At a press conference, Secretary of State Dean Rusk reports that Viet Cong forces have grown to 12,000 men and that they had killed or kidnapped more than 3,000 persons in 1960. While declaring that the United States would supply South Vietnam with any possible help, he refused to say whether the United States would intervene militarily. At a press conference the next day, President John F. Kennedy said that consideration was being given to the use of United States forces. (He would soon commit thousands of so-called “advisors” to the war effort, but it would be President Lyndon B. Johnson - Kennedy's successor - who would eventually order more than 500,000 American troops into the war--Ed).

On May 4, 1970...

At Kent State University in Ohio, 100 National Guardsmen fire their rifles into a group of students, killing four and wounding 11. This occurred in the aftermath of President Richard Nixon's April 30 announcement that U.S. and South Vietnamese forces had been ordered to execute an “incursion” into Cambodia to destroy North Vietnamese bases there. In protest, demonstrations and disturbances erupted on college campuses across the country.

At Kent State, student protesters had torched the ROTC building on campus and Ohio Governor James Rhodes called on the National Guard to restore order. Under harassment from the demonstrators it appeared the Guardsmen were staging a slow retreat and moving away from the main crowd when they suddenly wheeled around and opened fire. Several Guardsmen were later brought to trial for the shootings, but found not guilty. (It was never made very clear why the Guardsmen were allowed - or ordered - to load live ammunition in the first place and who actually gave the command to fire on the crowd. Several of those killed or wounded had only been observing the demonstration - Ed.).

(Thanks to The History Channel)