

# INCOMING NEWS



**February  
2012**

## Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

*"Proudly We Served"*

# "Super Sunday" Charity CRAB FEED - FEB. 5th Near Sell-Out: Final Ticket Opportunity at Dinner

**Help us "sell-out" again this year...  
donate & support our troops to attend!**

## Feb Message from 2012 President Mike "Slatts" Slattengren in the U.S.

As the month of February begins and as we finally get some rain for our winter, our VNVDV group is not being slowed down by that rain or the cold weather. Our members have been busy in many of the activities we participate in. These include our *charity fund raiser Crab Feed*, the *East Bay Stand Down (EBSD)*, the *Walk Of Honor (WOH)* and we continue to have current military personnel who are coming home on leave or after being discharged so we are participating in *Operation Welcome Home* events.

Our *charity fund raiser Crab Feed* will be held this **Sunday Feb 5** at the Community Center in Danville (next to Danville's Library). Festivities begin when doors open at 1pm; the *"all you can eat"* crab, pasta, salad & bread will be served at about 3:15. John Estes has been coordinating this activity with assistance from a number of members. Pete Rubin again will be working the kitchen, joined by Jerry Yahiro, Ray La Rochelle promises to bring his spiced cocktail sauce and Gene Ghio is working appetizers with the generous assistance this year of the **Blue Star Moms**. We will have 4 beautiful **Oakland Raiderettes** who will be assisting Patti Kintz & others in the sale of raffle tickets & drawings. Bill Green is behind our no-host wine/beer & beverage bar service. Skip and Linda have been busy organizing the silent auction items. Skip arranged for the jeweler to return this year to buy old, broken or unwanted **GOLD** jewelry at our Crab Feed. Bring your items to for an appraisal & to sell.

There are some really fantastic items that have been donated by members & friends of the VNVDV. This is a crab feed that you just can't pass up. Contact our treasurer Marty De Venuta for tickets (\$40). A tradition we've had is even if you can't attend, buy a ticket & donate it back to our organization. We use those tickets to invite current military personnel or wounded warriors to join us & enjoy an afternoon of food and friends.

Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space  
Museum Presentation FEB  
*featured Guest Speaker*

February 2, 2012 join us for our monthly dinner meeting featuring **Phil Lancaster**, President of the *Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundation & Education Foundation*. Phil will fill us in on the brand new Air & Space Museum being built at the Travis Air Force Base.

## Tribute to our Troops Support our Crab Feed

SUPPORT OUR **"Sentinels"** scholarship recipients & local military & other warriors to attend our Crab Feed & thanking YOU as their *generous 2012 "Sponsor."*

For an \$80. donation - you can sponsor a *Sentinel* & his spouse or military personnel to join the VNVDV again this year, as many of your have in years past. Mike Conklin, *Sentinels* founder, continues to provide the superior program, tailored to each recipient providing a life path with expert guidance. We are honored to have these *Sentinels* as future leaders in our community. We encourage all of you to "sponsor" some tickets. Meet the **"Sentinels"** along with our outstanding **"Blue Star Moms"** at our 8th annual Charity Crab Feed & we are again very honored to be joined by a major supporter of our men & women serving in the military - *Footballs Fabulous Females...* the *Oakland Raiderettes Feb 5th*

**MIKE  
SLATTENGREN  
VNVDV President**

wants you to know he is NOT overseas & did not lose his wallet in a cab! He did lose his e-mail account!  
See end of his message

**Mike WILL BE your Host & our Master of Ceremonies at our 2012 Charity Crab Feed on Sunday Welcoming all our guests and supporters.**

**Amazing Super Raffle & Silent Auction items assembled for this year's Crab Feed Fund Raiser supporting 2012 programs - Bidders be ready**



*"Prez Message" Continued... on Page Two -*



# President's Feb Message

*Continued... from Page One -*

**EBSD 2012** started the monthly public meetings in Jan. held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, starting off at the Palm Center, Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Locations will rotate to allow easier monthly access to involve organizations throughout the east bay. At our VNVDV Board meeting in Jan. we passed a motion to donate \$1000 to help support the **EBSD**. This something we've done for each Stand Down since the beginning.

And by the way, set aside a few days in Sept. of this year to come volunteer and help out at the stand down. This is a very rewarding activity that helps and assists our fellow veterans who don't quite have things as nice as we do. More info to come on this in the months to come. Plan on attending some of the monthly volunteer planning meetings.

Mark your calendar for the "**WOH**" on Saturday May 19 "**Armed Forces Day**" in Crockett. This is an event generously sponsored by **ConocoPhillips** Oil Company to give back to their community. We have been a partner proudly working with ConocoPhillips & the Crockett Community Services Group to improve the Veterans Hall. This year the goal is to make 2012 even better than last year... and that may be hard to do! The planning has started - meeting monthly on the details, and the VNVDV is already hard at work seeking sponsors and supporters. "**WOH**" registration will open soon - watch for the announcement. This major event is very important allowing the VNVDV the resources which we use to aid veterans in need and other organizations who support veterans and our current military personnel.

The **Wine for Wheels** fund raisers has raised enough money towards another container of wheelchairs to begin planning for a group of members who will take them to Viet Nam to distribute later this year (beginning November 4/5th - if I remember, that was when it is cooler in Viet Nam). See past President Rich Lambert if you are interested in participating.

Finally, don't forget **Operation Welcome Home**. This is important and, if you are able to participate in these, visit the **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** website to see the latest updates. Let John Reese know you want to be on his distribution list to learn more about events when these young warriors come home. No special skills are needed, just show up with a flag in your hand, a smile on your face & a thank you hand shake for the young man or woman. These are fun gatherings & only take about an hour out of your day. Very fulfilling for both the returnees and to each of us.

We'll see you all at our **February dinner meeting** on **Thurs. Feb. 2** at the **Crow Canyon Country Club** in San Ramon.

*Michael Slattengren*

**Michael Slattengren**

President 2012

PH: (925) 837-6238

E: [President.VNVDV@gmail.com](mailto:President.VNVDV@gmail.com)



**Note: New E-Mail**

# Silent Auction and Super Raffle is

## "loaded" with Winners!

**BID TO WIN:**

**Vintage UH-1 Huey Ride... a Tour**

**for a group of 10 - bid together**

**MUMM Magnum Prestige Brut & Tasting for 8 + paring of fruit & nuts**

**American Flag - Flown over the U. S. Capitol on a Future Special Day You Choose & In Honor of Your Someone Special**

**Custom Engraved Cigar Humidor & Box of Fine 21 Torro Quality Cigars**

**Jerry's Smoked Salmon & Halibut**

**Sentinels Framed U. S. Flag Carried in Battle by Ranger Company in Operation Enduring Freedom**

**Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa Stay**

**Gift Basket + 3 Massages**

**Condo Week in Napa - Oct. 2012**

**OPIVU Salon - Hair & Full Make-up +**

**Fred Biletnikoff Autographed Football**

**Golf at Mare Island & Many Others**

**Tahoe & Reno Casino 2-day Get-a-Ways**

**Outstanding selections of wines & wine sets + Many Unique & Hand-Crafted Items**

**Even... Estate Jewelry**

# 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 2 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... FEB Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club  
FEB 5 - Sunday @ 1300 in Danville... *Super Sunday* Charity Crab Feed Fundraiser - Danville Community Center - 420 Front Street  
FEB 6 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee Mtg. - Hap McGee Ranch Park - Swain House  
FEB 11 - Saturday @ 1800 to 2300 in SF... Sweethearts for Gold Stars Concert & Dinner - Dance - *Marines Memorial Club* "Special Event"  
FEB 16 - Thursday @ 1600 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" FEB Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club  
FEB 25 - Saturday @ 1730 to 2330 in Blackhawk... Wheelchair Foundation 10th Annual Charity Ball - "*The Cotton Club*" - see event ad

MAR 1 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... Monthly Dinner Meeting - Dinner & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club  
MAR 5 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee Mtg. - Hap McGee Ranch Park - Swain House  
MAR 16 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club

\* Watch for the *Grand Opening* of the *New Veteran's Memorial Building* for the San Ramon Valley in Danville - *details when available!*

APR 2 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee Mtg. - Hap McGee Ranch Park - Swain House  
APR 5 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club  
APR 19 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club

MAY 3 - Thursday @ 1700 in San Ramon... VNVDV Monthly Dinner Meeting & Guest Speaker @ Crow Canyon Country Club  
MAY 7 - Monday @ 1800 in Danville... Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee Mtg. - Hap McGee Ranch Park - Swain House  
MAY 17 - Thursday @ 1800 in San Ramon... VNVDV "Board of Directors" Business Meeting @ Crow Canyon Country Club  
MAY 19 - Saturday @ 0900 in Crockett... *Armed Forces Day* "**WALK OF HONOR**" presented by ConocoPhillips in Crockett - See Ad  
MAY 28 - Monday @ 1000 in *Diablo Valley*... *Memorial Day* - Oakhill Park - **Danville**... *the annual remembrance for the east bay*

JUL 04 - Wednesday in Danville... VNVDV participates in annual 4th of July Parade - through downtown Danville - distributing **12,000 flags**  
*Note: Many other meetings - events - crab feeds by fellow VSO & support organizations + our *Operation Welcome Home* events we encourage you to attend. Watch for more announcements & only wish we had time and space to list everyone's event and program. Please check their specific websites of all our partnering and supporting organizations for details on their upcoming events - listed in this edition of the newsletter. Look for special feature "other organizations" - listing website for more information.*

All "*Operation Welcome Home*" event updates can be found at: [www.DiabloValleyFlagBrigade.com](http://www.DiabloValleyFlagBrigade.com) for upcoming events. Thanks.  
Visit our website to see more about the *VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley* at: [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)  
For information on *All Wars Memorial* and obtaining *AWM Pavers* at Oak Hill Park - visit: [www.AllWarsMemorial.com](http://www.AllWarsMemorial.com)  
For details and information on our *new Veterans Memorial Building* visit: [www.srvveteranshall.org](http://www.srvveteranshall.org)  
You can make a "**pledge**" over a **three to five year period**... and **YOU** can "**make a difference in the future**"

**This is our Charity Fund Raiser & All monies go to support our 2012 Veteran & Community Service Projects... Bid & Donate with this in mind. NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED by ABC license. Thank You**

Thank You

 A BIG Thanks to the...

# OAKLAND RAIDERETTES

for 8 continuous years of "Super Sunday Support"  
to our Troops who Proudly Serve & to the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Special Thanks to all our crab feed event donors & sponsors of our Military & Sentinel attendees



## **FEBRUARY Featured Guest Speaker. . .**

**Most of us know the story of  
...the "Doolittle Raid".**

**Thursday we have a very  
special opportunity to learn  
even more!**

**PHIL LANCASTER**

**President**

**of the Jimmy Doolittle Air &  
Space Museum at Travis AFB**



Four months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, **Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle** and his squadron of 16 B-25 bombers, manned by all volunteers, took off, secretly, from the USS Hornet and bombed their targets of Tokyo, Kobe, Yokohama, Osaka, and Nagoya. Knowing they lacked enough fuel to reach a safe airbase, Doolittle and the majority of his men bailed out over China and were rescued by Chinese guerrilla fighters. All the planes were lost as well as seven crew members.

While the "Doolittle Raid" did minor damage to the Japanese towns, this was seen as a major morale-building victory for the United States. The raid had shown the Japanese that their homeland was vulnerable to air attack, and forced them to re-direct a portion of their firepower to homeland defense, leading directly to the decisive American victory during the Battle of Midway.

### **What you probably did not know:**

Doolittle was a **local** boy, having been **born in Alameda**, and **attended UC Berkeley**

He was a high speed test pilot

Most famous for his development of instrument flying

Realized that pilots had to be trained to "trust their instruments"

Fought in Mexican Border Service, WWI, WWII Pacific, Mediterranean, and European Campaign as well as the Korean War

Had a long career with Shell Oil

Reached the rank of Four Star General

Died in **1993** at **Pebble Beach, CA**

These are just a few of the many fascinating facts and stories about **Jimmy Doolittle**.

Please join us on the "first" Thursday - February 2, 2012 for our monthly dinner meeting to hear **Phil Lancaster**, President of the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundation and Education Foundation. Phil will fill us in on the brand new Air and Space Museum being built right here in the Travis Air Force Base. The museum will tell not only the story of Doolittle, but California Military Aviation History.

We meet monthly for dinner and a featured guest speaker at **Crow Canyon Country Club** in San Ramon beginning at 1700 with a social hour - followed at 1800 by a "chef's choice" buffet dinner (\$25. members & guests). Our dinner meetings are casual, fun, and relaxed "open" meetings which allow you to bring your spouse, guests, friends, and fellow veterans. These are enjoyable social occasions... **Please join us!**



# VNVDV Veterans Plan Return to VietNam in 2012



## VNVDV Return to Vietnam, 2012

Plans for the **Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley's** (VNVDV), November 2012, return to Vietnam are well underway. We will once again partner with the **Wheelchair Foundation** on this journey, to distribute approximately 250 wheel chairs to those in need, at pre-screened agencies throughout Vietnam.

The tentative timeframe for this trip is **November 4 to 21, 2012**. We expect the cost for this trip, to be approximately **\$3,000 to \$3,500**, per person, when finalized. The cost of the trip may be tax deductible, as we will be on a volunteer, charitable mission in conjunction with the **Wheelchair Foundation**. Please consult your tax adviser for further details.

There will be space available for **20** to make the journey. Since space will be limited, if there are more than 20 who wish to make the trip, some criteria will be set to determine travel priority. An initial deposit of **\$1,000, per individual**, will also be required when plans are finalized..

The following areas are being considered for this trip, so that those wishing to visit locations where they served, during the War, may do so: Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Can Tho, Quy Nhon, Hue, Ha Long Bay and Hanoi.

The **2012** trip will be the **VNVDV's second return to Vietnam**. In 2006, nine (9) VNVDV members and their spouses/significant others made the memorable journey. Everyone who made this trip in 2006, felt that it not only helped the veterans, but also dramatically improved the life of those who received a wheelchair, as well as their caregivers and families.

During the 2006 journey, impromptu "group sessions" were held to discuss veterans' memories, feelings, and observations. More importantly, spouses/significant others were involved in many of these discussions, contributing to the healing experience of any leftover war time issues.

Additional trip details will be forthcoming, as plans and itinerary are finalized. If you think you may want to join the group for this amazing Vets return to Viet Nam, please contact VNVDV Past President **Richard Lambert** at **925/938-1767** or e-mail *Rich* at: (**RLAMBERT@RITCHIECOMMERCIAL.COM**) so that we may get a count for an "initial show of interest." Thanks.

## 10th Annual Wheelchair Foundation Charity Ball

February 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 – 5:30PM until 11:30PM

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle – Danville 94506

For information on Event ~ see *Custom Display ad in this edition...* "The Cotton Club"  
or Contact Jeff Behring.



Remember to "credit" your wheelchair donations to [our VietNam container](#) - "mark" your donation payment with "VNVDV" or "[VietNam Container](#)" please! We thank everyone for their support in making our 2006 trip possible and the VNVDV is once again looking forward to our Nov. 2012 distribution return trip to VietNam.

Please Support these Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels Events in 2012.

*Please participate in our local "Wine for Wheels" events supporting the Wheelchair Foundation*

**VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley**

**Proudly Supports the Wheelchair Foundation**

**Visit their website: [www.wheelchairfoundation.org](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org)**

**VNVDV "INCOMING" Newsletter**

# 10th Annual Wheelchair Foundation Charity Ball



## The Cotton Club

Blackhawk Museums - Danville CA

Live Entertainment by:

## Grammy Award Winner

## Lead Singer of Club Nouveau "Samuelle"

... and specialty hors d'oeuvres, outstanding winery hosted wines, silent & live auctions, & dinner catered by Scott's Seafood ... all to provide wheelchairs to those in need.

Sponsorships are available - Call or email Jeff Behring

[jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org](mailto:jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org)

(925) 648-3829

(Black tie Optional or Theme Attire)

If you are not able to attend the event, please consider donating **an auction item** or donate monitarily to bring Hope, Mobility, and Freedom to those in **Fiji** who are in need of a wheelchair. To donate without tickets do so on the Wheelchair Foundation website or contact Jeff Behring & let him know the **VNVDV** sent you to their "**10th Annual Wheelchair Foundation Charity Ball**."

### Sat. Feb. 25th - EVENT TICKETS:

**General Admission** - \$150 (\$75 tax deductible amount per ticket)

**VIP Admission** - \$250 (\$175 tax deductible amount per ticket)

**For concert only tickets** (9:00pm admission) - **\$25**

[Please call Jeff Berhing at (925) 648-3829 or

email [jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org](mailto:jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org) **for concert only tickets**]

The **VNVDV** encourages you to give the **FREEDOM** of mobility!

## Proud Supporters of the Wheelchair Foundation

# Tours aboard the Battleship USS IOWA BB-61

We wanted to let your group know that **Battleship USS IOWA** is open for tours on the weekends for a brief period of time at Pier 3 at the Port of Richmond before our departure to Los Angeles.

Pacific Battleship Center, the non-profit organization that is bringing **USS IOWA** back to life is hosting the "Battleship Expo at the Port of Richmond." The "expo" includes a visit on board **USS IOWA** and access to exhibits that include a short film on the battleship, 16" shells, a Sheridan tank & half-track displayed by the **Military Vehicle Foundation**, the Blue Angels F-4 Phantom flight simulator from Pacific Coast Air Museum, and numerous other exhibits. The "Battleship Expo" entrance donation is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child 12 years or older, and children 11 & under are free.

Currently the forward portion of the main deck with a view of turrets 1 & 2 is open to guests. As work is completed, additional exhibits and areas on the battleship may be open to the public for visitation. It is encouraged to return to see the progress.

Reservations are not required. **USS IOWA** is located at Terminal 3 - 1411 Harbour Way - Richmond CA. The "Battleship Expo" can be accessed via the northeast gate on Saturdays and Sundays during the hours of 10am to 4pm.

### Information -

Contact: Tour Manager USS IOWA BB-61 - Pacific Battleship Center  
PH: 877 / 446-9261 Ext. 713 or E-mail: [dway@LABattleship.com](mailto:dway@LABattleship.com)



*Involvement makes the difference!* **We need your personal participation...** it makes it all work in our community & in our organization. We thank all those who are serving & active. Join a committees & enjoy our many programs - projects & events throughout the Diablo Valley. We know... we cannot do it alone & thank the many wonderful organizations who partner & work with us in most all of our events. The **teamwork** & joint-effort benefits all veterans & those we serve in our great community. Our successful efforts are well known & we would like others to be on the team. Working Together - we make a big difference! If you are a member - **join a committee** of interest & **get more involved** - spend only what time you want & you will enjoy it... plus you will make new & lasting friendships!  
*We believe... you will be glad you did - it may change your life!* *Proud Veterans serving other Veterans & those who now currently serve our nation in uniform & we continue to serve our community Proudly!*

**Learn More about our organization...**  
**Ask one of our Board of Director Members -**  
**at our Crow Canyon Country Club Meetings!**

*Interested in Being More Active?*  
*Get Involved in Community Service!*  
*Find Out More - at our "Business Meeting"*



**POSITIONS OPEN...**



**VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley**

**Director of Events**

**Director of Information**

**Interested in Joining the VNVDV Board of Directors?**

*Do you have some spare time & want to volunteer for community service?*

**Two great positions as a "Director" exist & our Board is looking for interested members.**

Our 2012 President **Mike "Slatts" Slattengren** is **looking for a few good men or women!** His need is to fill **two** open vacancies on our new Board of Directors with VNVDV members who are seriously interested in **"continuing to serve"** proudly as a member of our Board. As noted above... the position of **Director of Events** is "open" with our new V.P. **Ray La Rochelle** filling-in for the time being & very willing to share his valuable experience with a **new** Director in this key role to help coordinate the overall process of our VNVDV events. Want to help out - coordinate the management of our major events? If you have some time available this is a great position in our group... **Think about it.**

The **Director of Information** is another great position on our Board. It is currently being covered by our Director of Public Relations - **John Reese** who will continue to work with & assist any new Director in any transfer of knowledge regarding any position while he serves as our PR. **Something new...** the **Information** position now has some **additional support** from member **Linda Schardt** who coordinates our new Veterans Memorial Building among many other activities. Linda has volunteered to assist with our distribution of Information - serving as our Communications Specialist & play a key role in the publication & distribution of our monthly news - the **"Incoming"** which is shared with all members & on our website. Linda's support greatly assist our organization & this position. Information Director is responsible gathering information from e-mails & the **Internet** on a regular basis & obtaining the specifics on various programs & events conducted by the VNVDV & other supporting groups. This downloading of timely information is collected throughout each month & then shared by this Director with our Officers - Membership & outside our organization with our supporters using our newsletter. This Director works closely with Public Relations.

Both open Director positions required having **some** spare time & working with other Board members as part of the **management team** for the VNVDV led by our President. To find out more - just ask & plan on attending our monthly Board Meetings the **3rd Thursday** at Crow Canyon Country Club @ 1800. Any member can attend a Board Meeting. If you want more details about either of these great service positions... please contact **President Mike Slattengren** or Nomination Committee Chair - **Del Loewe** for details what is involved in these two positions. Being on the VNVDV Board of Directors is a great way to volunteer in a meaningful & key manner while supporting our organizational goals. It is actually a great deal of fun working with fellow veterans - friends & supporters. Please seriously consider one of these **two** Director positions & advise **Del** of your interest in knowing more. You will be glad you did! Help us pass the word & consider recommending serving to other VNVDV members if you know they have time & talent. Our new Veterans Memorial Building opens soon & we need to fill these two positions as quickly as possible to share the workload evenly among our Directors. We appreciate you taking the time to consider these positions. **Thanks.**



# Operation Welcome Home 2012

## DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE

*Dedicated to the Remembrance of 9-11.  
Devoted to the Support of our Troops.*  
www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com



### OPERATION WELCOME HOME!

We will never, ever again let our military heroes be treated like they were when they came home from the Vietnam War, when our Soldiers, Airmen, Seamen and Marines were spat on when they got off the plane.

**NEVER, EVER AGAIN.**

If you know of a military member that is returning home and you would like to surprise them with one of these heart-warming Welcome Home ceremonies, please contact Bryan Weiden of the Diablo Valley Flag Brigade at 925-212-9260 or to see pictures of past Welcome Home ceremonies or to be added to our E-mail list, go to:

www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com

www.warriorwatch.org  
spiker592000@yahoo.com

For Full Military Escorts : Welcome Homes, Funerals And All Veteran Events. An All Volunteer Patriotic Riding Group

Recognition of active-duty military service members is one of the most worthwhile activities VSO members are able to perform. Members of the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley - VFW #75 - American Legion #246 - Marine Corps League #942 make-up the San Ramon Valley Veterans. They attend & thank each returning veterans for serving & help with these other great organizations in providing the proper Welcome Home. Each returning service member is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the SRV Veterans.

***In 2012 Please Join Us!***



**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley** wants to thank and welcome all those returning along with **Diablo Valley Flag Brigade** - the Warriors Watch Riders - Blue Star Moms & the many support organizations.

To find out how and when these events are in your area and occur - visit the new website of the Diablo Valley Flag Brigade at [www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com](http://www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com).

This site have a video show of each Welcome Home event and the dates of all upcoming events & is updated daily. It is the best source for Welcome Home news!

### HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE AT A WELCOME HOME EVENT?

**It is easier than you might think...**

**Obtain the location, bring a flag, have a smile inside you or a handshake on you, keep a sincere thanks for their service in your heart - share all this with the returning service member when you see them.**

**You will feel good inside...**

***It's a Win - Win!***

**JOIN US!**



**Join friends - family - veterans & the community... along with the Blue Star Moms - MCL - VFW - Legion Warriors Watch Riders - Diablo Valley Flag Brigade - Military Family groups & many others...**

**As we conduct our local returning military "OPERATION WELCOME HOME" events for those serving from our community.**

**This is part of what being a VSO is all about... Remember when we came home... Never Again! We Welcome Home our Troops the Right Way!**



**DIABLO VALLEY FLAG BRIGADE - Welcomes Home the dedicated Military Men and Women that keep this Country Safe**

# Many THANKS to all of our BLUE STAR MOMS!

the VNVDV ask all members & organizations to...  
Visit their Websites often & Support their efforts!

## Contra Costa BLUE STAR MOMS - Chapter 20

Check website for year-round needs: [www.ccbluestarmoms.org](http://www.ccbluestarmoms.org)

## San Francisco East Bay BLUE STAR MOMS - Chapter 101

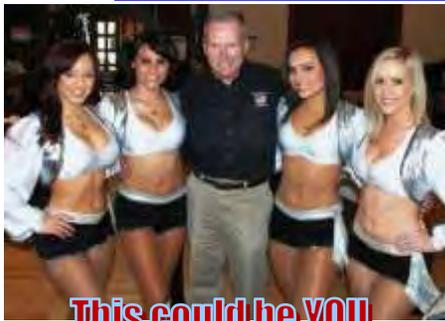
Check website for year-round needs: [www.bluestarmoms.org](http://www.bluestarmoms.org)

*Their hearts are on the line... with sons & daughters serving!*



# "BRING YOUR GOLD" to "Super Sunday" to Sell!

GOLD Jeweler/Dealer will be attending our 8th annual Crab Feed to value your old GOLD items & purchase your broken, old or unwanted GOLD necklaces, watches, rings & other jewelry items



**This could be YOU...**

**on "Super Sunday" at our Charity Crab Feed...  
Join us and the OAKLAND RAIDERETTES!**

**Signed-Up for Appetizers?  
Please Contact Gene Ghio  
by our Thursday Meeting  
with "specifics" on items  
you are volunteering to bring  
for our appetizer table Sunday.**

**& Thank You for Your Support**



**VENTURE RESEARCH**  
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Appraisers & Consultants

Helen S. Reese

PH: 925 / 935 - 4294

E: HReese@sbcglobal.net

Website: [www.VentureResearch.biz](http://www.VentureResearch.biz)

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Fax: (707) 644-2294

[movinginc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:movinginc@sbcglobal.net)



# THANK YOU to Event Supporters:

**Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary  
Wheelchair Foundation  
Blackhawk Chorus Members  
Blue Star Moms  
Sentinels of Freedom  
for purchasing tickets to attend!**

**Special Thanks  
to Rotary Club  
INTERACT  
Students for be-  
ing volunteer  
servers at the  
2012 event**



NOTE: If you volunteered to bring an "Appetizer Tray" to the Crab Feed -  
Please contact Gene Ghio no later than our meeting & give him the specifics please. Thank You.

**We Need all of our 2012 ANNUAL Members  
Your Membership is Very Important to Us &  
Every Member Makes a Difference & we Appreciate Your Support  
Please join & Stay with Us Annually!**

Contact VNVDV Treasurer Marty De Venuta to *Renew* @ [VNVDV.Treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:VNVDV.Treasurer@gmail.com)

For Membership Information contact Bill Chew @ 925/829-3658 or E: [WBChew@comcast.net](mailto:WBChew@comcast.net)

See our activities on-line at our website @ [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)



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**See the New AD layout in the newsletter?  
 You Should Advertise your business in the INCOMING!  
 Current business card advertisers... Please renew  
 & update your ads for our 2012 editions with Treasurer.  
 Your Support is appreciated by our Members & Readers!**

Business Card Rates: \$50. YR. For members - \$100. YR. for non-member/commercial - ADS run one-year: Jan-Dec in the Incoming

**Our new VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING "DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE"**

**BOARD MEETING - FIRST MONDAY - EVERY MONTH @ 1830**

**HAP MC GEE PARK - SWAIN HOUSE - DANVILLE - *Please Attend!***



**We Welcome the U.S. Coast Guard & other military to our  
 Charity "CRAB FEED" on Sunday**

**How does Your County  
 Veterans Affairs Staff  
 Work for You?**

Our Veterans Service Representatives (VSR's) are thoroughly trained and accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to represent you. Contra Costa County Veterans Service office are not employees of the federal government. They are county employees ready to assist you with any veterans claim Stop in the Martinez VSO office for a benefit check-up. If not for yourself,, do it for your family. And remember thank a vet!



**March Featured Speaker**

**Jerry Yahiro**

**Wheelchairs for  
 VietNam...  
 the 2012 Return**

Past President Jerry Yahiro will provide an update on the plans developing for the VNVDV's return to VietNam in November of 2012. Working with the Wheelchair foundation's Joel Hodge who provide excellent program guidance and oversight on our 2006 wheelchair distribution trip is again working with us in finding host organizations in country. Find out more about the Wheelchair Foundation and our planned distribution in VietNam. Join us in March.



**DENNIS MARGUET**  
 who traveled to  
 VietNam in 2006  
 to distribute  
 wheelchair has  
 produced his  
**VNVDV video of  
 our trip. This great  
 video will be fea-  
 tured at our March  
 meeting giving you  
 a great idea of our  
 trip. Don't miss it!**

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## Sweethearts for Gold Stars Concert & Dinner-Dance

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2012 from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM

### Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel

609 Sutter Street, San Francisco

Please help us honor the parents of our fallen by joining us for a Valentine's Concert & Dinner-Dance to benefit the 2012 Gold Star Parents Event.

Bring your Valentine out for a special evening of Cocktails - Hors d'Oeuvres - Dinner & Wine Fabulous Live Music - Dancing - Silent Auction

With a show performance and dance music from the WWII era by The Starduster Orchestra with featured vocalists Noah Griffin and Sheilah Glover.

TICKETS: \$150 per person (includes a \$50 tax-deductible donation

to help support the **Marines' Memorial Association's 2012 Gold Star Parents Event.**

Contact the Marine's Memorial Association on their website at: [MarinesMemorialClub.com](http://MarinesMemorialClub.com) or call: 415-673-6672—Ext.229

Club Members may e-mail: [Member@MarineClub.com](mailto:Member@MarineClub.com) for assistance

Active Duty Members, please call for special rates at (415) 673-6672 x 215.

# Please Join Us each First Thursday at 1700!

You can Help Save \$\$\$ (processing fees) for the VNVDV at all Dinners by Paying by CHECK - Made Payable to the "VNVDV" -

Save Time Writing it in Advance - for the Correct Amount.

## Our "Regular Monthly Meeting" Buffet Dinner is \$25. members /guests

You are also welcome to pay by CASH or use a Major Credit Card...

Friendly reminder - the VNVDV is charged a percentage - "a processing fee" for all Credit Cards purchases.

### FOR SALE: 1974 1/2 MGB Roadster



E-Mail [John](mailto:John) at: [JGReeseUSN@sbcglobal.net](mailto:JGReeseUSN@sbcglobal.net) & request details

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San Francisco - Oakland - San Jose  
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**Your Organization or Group  
can Sponsor a Team of Walkers  
in our 2012 Walk of Honor . . .**

**WALK OF HONOR**  
FOR OUR  
**VETERANS**



**Armed  
Forces  
Day  
2012**

**Join Us  
on MAY 19th**

Honoring the Men and Women  
who Served Our Nation

**WALK OF HONOR**  
FOR OUR  
**VETERANS**

Sponsorship Includes -  
"Participant - Walker  
Team Packages"

**Be a part of a very special local  
community event in West Con-  
tra Costa... join us on Armed  
Forces Day - Saturday - May 19  
in our 2012 "Walk of Honor" for  
our Veterans. Fun for the Family**

**Sponsorship Opportunities**  
ConocoPhillips SFR Rodeo Refinery and  
Carbon Plant invites you to partner with  
us and become a corporate sponsor of

Plan NOW to be a  
2012  
"Individual"  
or  
WALK of HONOR  
"Tribute"  
Walker!

Following the "Walk" across the Alfred  
Zampa Memorial Bridge, all registered  
participants are invited to gather  
together for a barbeque luncheon  
and celebration. Many local veteran  
service organizations will be on hand  
providing information regarding their  
services. There will also be a Huey  
helicopter for you to view and, other  
military artifacts on display.

We hope you will join with us in  
support of the men and women who  
have given so much to protect the  
freedom we all enjoy.

*Walk "In Honor" of a Veteran  
Your grandfather - brother - sister -  
father - son - daughter or a friend.*

Phone: 510-245-5130  
Fax: 510-245-4617  
Email:

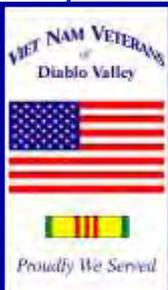
[aimee.lohr@conocophillips.com](mailto:aimee.lohr@conocophillips.com)

ConocoPhillips  
"WALK of HONOR"  
SAT. MAY 19th - 8AM  
Special Veteran Benefit  
Information Available  
Before - During - After +  
Custom Ball Caps Available!

The "Walk of Honor"  
benefits the Crockett Community  
Foundation enhancement of the  
Veteran's Memorial Building  
& aids the VietNam Veterans  
of Diablo Valley help fellow  
veterans in the East Bay.

**YOUR COMPANY CAN BE A SPONSOR**

**Contact "ConocoPhillips" NOW to be a "Walk of Honor" Sponsor this coming May.  
Step-Out... Be a Sponsor in the 2012 "Walk of Honor"**



# Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

## Mailing Address:

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley  
Post Office Box 2079

Danville, CA 94526 - 2079

E-Mail: [VNVDV1@gmail.com](mailto:VNVDV1@gmail.com)

Web: [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com)

# FEB 2012

## Electronic Edition



### 2012 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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**Michael Slattengren**

#### Vice President -

**Ray La Rochelle**

#### Treasurer -

**Martin De Venuta**

#### Secretary -

**Cliff De Cuir**

#### Director-at-Large -

**Dennis Giacovelli**

#### Membership -

**Bill Chew**

#### Public Relations -

**John G. Reese**

#### Information -

**Currently OPEN**

#### Events -

**Currently OPEN**

#### Speakers -

**Bill Green**

#### Procurement -

**Gene Ghio**

#### PAST PRESIDENTS

- Jerry Yahiro
- John Estes
- Del Loewe
- Tim Hart
- Mike Weber
- Mike McDaniel
- Rich Lambert
- Ron Azarcon
- Bill Picton
- Norm Mahalich

**LINDA SCHARDT - Coordinator**

#### “INCOMING” NEWS

**John Garfield Reese**

#### EDITOR

**Public Relations Director**

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**



**Proudly We Served**

# To:

**VNVDV Members & VIPs**

The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley was established in 1991 as a non-profit Veterans organization to promote and enhance the image of the VietNam Veteran through Community Service & Support of fellow Veterans. Our new Danville Veteran's Memorial Building is under construction.

The VNVDV meets each month on the **1st Thursday** of every month in the Diablo Valley @ **Crow Canyon Country Club**. Our Board of Directors Meetings are held on the **3rd Thursday** of each month also at Crow Canyon country Club. To find out more about programs we support... visit our website at [www.VNVDV.com](http://www.VNVDV.com). All veterans are welcome to attend our membership meetings. We are a casual - fun - social veterans group - always looking for new members who enjoy friendship & the special bond as military veterans. We are Proud of our Military Service... and of our continued contributions to fellow veterans and our community. Our dinner meetings consist of social - dinner and a guest speaker of interest to veterans & military. All of our meetings are **OPEN** meetings... fellow veterans - active duty military - history buffs ... **Join us each month.**

## **OPEN - SOCIAL DINNER MEETINGS - JOIN US!**

# VIET NAM VETERANS of Diablo Valley

**MONTHLY DINNERS with GUEST SPEAKERS**

**1st THURSDAY of each Month**

**at CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB in San Ramon**

**Social Hour starts at 1700 - Dinner at 1815**

**Featuring “Chef’s Special Buffet Dinner” - \$25.**

**Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley  
“February 2012 Edition of INCOMING”**