

INCOMING NEWS



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

SEP 2025

VNVDV SEPTEMBER 4TH DINNER MEETING BRIDGES GOLF CLUB, SAN RAMON



Dennis
Giacovel II
VNVDV
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that you all will come join us for the annual **9/11 Ceremony** honoring the lives lost and the heroes who served on that day and in the years since. The ceremony is at Oak Hill Park at the All Wars Memorial and starts at 5:30. It is a short remembrance which includes a guest speaker, wonderful high school chorus singing patriotic songs, and even free ice cream when it is over.

The speaker this year is **Palo Alto Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman** who not only travelled back to New York just after the terrorist attacks on 9/11, but also led his crew to New Orleans just after Katrina, and to Oklahoma City after that bombing in 1995. Truly an American Hero.

And speaking of the **All Wars Memorial**, when you get to the 9-11 ceremony, you will notice several enhancements to the Memorial. We are about $\frac{3}{4}$ complete in our "years in the making" project. The final pieces were a "tariff" setback so new completion date is November.

9/11 Remembrance...

*a Community Ceremony at the
All Wars Memorial in Danville
to remember & honor.* Featured
speaker

9/11 Patriot Day is a
Public / Community Ceremony
on - THUR Sept 11 at 5:30 - 6:30
PM in Oak Hill Park
3500 Stone Valley Road Danville

Next to Monte Vista High
**Please Share this Event &
Bring the Family**

SPEAKER for the SEPTEMBER 4TH DINNER MEETING will be Dr. Harold Strunk, retired Navy Captain and a medical officer who served in Iraq. Dr. Strunk has researched and will discuss the events leading to the attacks on 9/11.



The Blue Star Moms will be having a fundraiser at Hazy BBQ on September 11 all day long. Go for lunch or after the ceremony. Please help out the BSMs. See newsletter for more information.

On Wednesday September 24th from 5pm-8pm, the Veterans Memorial Building will be holding a much-needed fundraiser at Virtue and Vice Restaurant. See newsletter for more details.

And if you were not at the Veterans Memorial Building last Saturday when it was unveiled, come on down and see the **Pool Table** on the second floor. Changes are happening.

That's it, see you on Thursday Night

Dennis Giacobelli
President
PH (925) 323-9404
houseworks@pacbell.net



9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY 2024



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 VNVDV OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President **Dennis Giacobelli** selected our 2025/2026 Nomination Committee. Dennis selected the very experienced Past President **Jim Hill** Chair and **Dave Smith** to assist in the selection of our new & future leaders & potential Board Members & Committee Chairs. We encourage all VNVDV members to find out more about the organization and the various positions available. VOLUNTEERING in a leadership position can be

EXTREAMNLY REWARDING PERSONALLY! Find out **more... if** you have any questions about any position or the duties of any Board Positions please contact Jim (jamauihill@yahoo.com) or Dave (dejsmith1@comcast.net). Elections are held at our Annual Meeting in the month of November by Ballot.

**YOU CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**



SAN RAMON VALLEY, CA

24th Annual

9-11 Remembrance Ceremony

Keynote Speaker

Chief Harold Schapelhouman

Firefighter - Emergency Response - American Hero



**September 11th
5:30 - 6:30 PM
Oak Hill Park
Danville**

Monte Vista Choir * Free Ice Cream * 9-11 Essay Awards Contest

<https://srvexchangeclub.com>

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE DROP-IN REMEMBERS “PAPA JAKE” LARSON WWII VETERAN WHO PASSED IN JULY AT 102 YEARS. PAPA JAKE VISITED THE VMB FOR COFFEE IN AUGUST 2024.

JAKE LARSON AT THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY



SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JAKE LARSON A MEMBER OF THE THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH GROUP THE MEETS IN CONCORD. JAKE WAS ASSIGNED TO G-3 5TH CORPS (1ST AND 29TH ID) AND LANDED ON OMAHA AT 1000 ON 6 JUNE. JAKE WAS STILL WITH 5TH CORPS IN EUPEN, BELGIUM ON 16 DEC 44 FOR THE START OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE. JAKE ATTENDED THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE. IN ADDITION, JAKE SURVIVED THE SLAPTON SANDS REHEARSAL FOR THE D-DAY LANDING WHEN A GERMAN E-BOAT TORPEDOED THREE (3) LANDING CRAFT (LST) RESULTING IN 794 DEATHS AND FORCING THE 90TH INFANTRY TO BE ADDED TO THE 4TH ID TO REPLACE LOST SOLDIERS.



“PAPA JAKE” WAS HONORED AT THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORMANDY INVASION IN NORMANDY JUNE 6, 2025

D-DAY ANNIVERSARY WORLD WAR TWO VETERANS RETURN TO NORMANDY



Joybound
PEOPLE & PETS

2890 Mitchell Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

At Joybound, we recognize the profound impact that animals can have on the lives of military Veterans and servicemembers. The companionship, loyalty, and unconditional love of a pet can provide comfort, purpose, and healing. We're proud to offer programs designed to connect Veterans with adoptable animals, provide resources for pet care, and strengthen the human-animal bond. Whether you're looking for a new best friend, need assistance caring for a pet, or want to experience the therapeutic benefits of animal companionship, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Free Veterinary Wellness Clinics

Joybound's veterinary wellness clinics for Veterans' pets provide essential services including vaccinations, deworming, heartworm medication, and FeLV/FIV testing for Veterans' pets — all at no cost. Services are offered solely for dogs and cats, with a limit of two pets per household per clinic date and a maximum of six pets per Veteran total.

These free clinic services are offered by appointment only. For information or to schedule an appointment, please call (925) 296-3125 (select option 7) and leave a message. Clinic staff will call you back for scheduling. The dedicated Veterans' clinic entrance can be found at Joybound's Walnut Creek headquarters, just past the main adoption entrance, around the corner from the spay/neuter clinic entrance. Services are by appointment only on Wednesdays.

Please note: in order to continue serving our current patients while accommodating new requests, we are scheduling a limited number of new clients each week. Thank you for your understanding and support!

AUGUST 2025 VNVDV DINNER MEETING



VNVDV PROMOTE DONATIONS FOR WHEELCHAIRS AT THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT



TOM AMATO AND JOE CALLAWAY, VNVDV MEMBERS, SPONSORED THE VNVDV HOLE THAT RECEIVED DONATIONS FOR 100 WHEELCHAIRS FROM TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS



2025 - One Show Only
September 7th, 2025 from 11:00a - 4pm

MILITARY VETERANS

Meet the VA Palo Alto
Mobile Medical Team

HAVE YOU SERVED IN THE US MILITARY? CLAIM YOUR EARNED VA BENEFITS

1

Visit Pleasanton Library

The VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Team will be in front of the library with the mobile medical unit or inside the library if the mobile vehicle is not available.

2

Review Service-Earned Benefits

Meet with a VA benefits specialist to review veteran benefits earned through service in the US military.

3

Register with VA Palo Alto Health System

VA benefits have changed. VA care may supplement current health coverage.

4

Receive Care or Referral

Veterans who are registered with the VA Palo Alto Health System may receive medical care or referrals in the privacy of the mobile medical unit.

**VETERANS, SPOUSES, CAREGIVERS, FAMILY MEMBERS,
AND SURVIVORS ARE WELCOME**

DROP IN - NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

VETERANS NOT YET ENROLLED WITH VA PALO ALTO HEALTH SYSTEM,
PLEASE BRING COPY OF FORM DD-214 (PROOF OF SERVICE)

LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Mondays: August 25, September 22,
October 27, November 24**



Pleasanton Public Library



400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton



(925)931-3400 extension 4

www.pleasantonlibrary.org





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VMB Fundraiser Dinner



Join us at Virtue and Vice in Danville for dinner, and help us raise much needed funds to cover the operating costs for the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville, so we can continue serving our Veteran Community!

Blue Star Moms Chapter 101 will be the servers. 10% of all sales and 100% of all tips go towards the VMB fundraiser!



Wednesday, September 24th, 5pm-8:30pm
Virtue and Vice, 267 Hartz Ave, Danville, CA

Please call 925-406-4867 to make reservations for dining in, or let them know you want take out. **It is very important to make reservations AHEAD of the event please!**

virtueandvicedanville.com

VIET NAM VETERANS DIABLO VALLEY **AUGUST** BIRTHDAYS

Fred Granados	Army	George Coughlin	Army
Don Loeffler	Army	Steve McCrerry	Marine
Dave Smith	Army	John McPartland	Army
Bart Gilbert	Army	Julian Mathews	Navy
John Sullivan	Air Force	Steve Frew	Navy
Mike Hurder	Army	Robert Miller	Navy
Bill Tharp	Army	Dan Young	Army
Karen Born Navy			

Thanks to the **AUGUST** speaker, Hilary Grabowska, NPS Supervisory Interpretive Ranger for her presentation on the Port Chicago munitions explosion during WWII that killed close to 300 Sailors and the story of the Port Chicago 50 who were charge with mutiny for not returning to work due to safety considerations.



If you have any questions or would like to schedule a viewing, call or email me.

Mike Weber

925.487.7609

mike@mikeweberrealtor.com



Bill LaVigne

President & CEO

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NPS Supervisory

Nominations Open for Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley 2026 Officers & Board of Directors Election at November 6th Meeting

Nominations are OPEN for 2026 Officers & Directors - as announced at the September Membership Dinner Meeting & mentioned in the INCOMING News. President Dennis Giacobelli appointed Past President Jim Hill Chair of the Recruitment & Nomination Committee for 2026. He also appointed Dave Smith to serve as official member of the 2026 committee for the Election of Officers & Directors for the VNVDV. Past President Jim Hill expressed he is *looking for a few good men...* to serve on the Board in 2026. The President needs a solid team behind him... so all members are encouraged to find out more about these positions from any of these Past President... Mike Weber. The Official Ballots will be distributed at the November 6th dinner meeting with the names of those nominated to-date. You can nominate yourself - or members can nominate other current members in good standing. Any election questions about the "responsibilities" of each office should be directed to any of these three members of the election committee. **Elections/Voting (turning in your written ballot)** will be held at the General Membership Meeting on **Thursday - November 6, 2025**. Ballots may also be returned by mail to the VNVDV official mailing address. All "mailed ballots" must be "completed in full" and received no later than **November 20, 2025** to be counted in the final results. Election results will be announced by the President & Election Committee at the **December meeting** & announced in the ***Incoming*** electronic newsletter.

The 2025 Election is for the 2026 VNVDV Officers & Board of Directors positions listed:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Director of Public Relations

Director of Membership

Director of Events

Director At Large

Director of Information

Director of Procurement

Director of Speakers

The Election Committee has received nominations for each position and encourages members to find out about each leadership role and become involved in our Board of Directors meetings. All positions are OPEN and we encourage members to run for whatever position they desire by notifying the Nomination Selection Committee by e-mail (please copy Election Committee members). The duties & responsibilities of all "Officers & Directors" positions listed above are outlined in our organizational by-laws. We encourage new members - as well and those now with time available - to attend our October Board of Directors meetings this month on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Danville Veteran's Memorial Building at 1800. This is a good way to find out what each position is responsible for and gives you a better understanding and background of the organization. All members are welcome to attend any Board meeting. If you have questions about the positions - speak one of the members of the nomination/election committee. Co-Chairs and Assistants are "appointed" by the President - and are needed in most areas. This is a great way to learn about the duties - help in a significant way - and keep our organization strong & active in helping fellow veterans - those serving and our community. **Past President Jerry Yahiro noted... "The quality of an organization depends on its current leaders' and the members' willingness to participate in the administration of the organization."** We encourage all members to "strongly consider" becoming more active & involved in "the program of your choice" in our organization.

President Dennis Giacobelli previously indicated there are many enjoyable positions to serve - making a difference in the direction of this amazing organization and he strongly encourages all members to consider joining the 2026 team which he promises will be another fun & exciting year. Our events & activities are so varied... there is truly something for everybody! You can make a difference. Join the team.

San Damiano & The Franciscan Way



55 acres in the
beautiful hills of
the San Ramon
Valley, CA

San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, CA takes its name from the small chapel where St. Francis of Assisi had his transformative encounter with Christ. When Francis heard Christ say, "Go repair my house, which is falling into ruins," he initially took it literally but eventually understood it as a call to renew the Church through simplicity, joy, and service.

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Embracing Vulnerability: Seeing vulnerability as a sacred space for authentic connection.

Practicing Generous Simplicity: Holding possessions lightly and creating space for what matters.

Reading the Book of Creation: Finding God revealed in nature.

Building Peace Through Encounter: Engaging across differences with respect and curiosity.

We welcome all who would like to join as volunteers. Ask about our sponsorship opportunities as well!

Contact Us: www.sandamiano.org

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in the Franciscan tradition.*

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Upcoming Events & Retreats

July 2025

- ★ Saturdays with St. Francis
July 12th 10am - 2pm & monthly
through December
- ★ Hope in Action: Collaborating for a
More Just and Loving World
July 13th 9:00am - 4:00pm
- ★ Women's All-Fellowship 12-Step
Recovery Retreat (Weekend Retreat)
July 18th - 20th

August 2025

- ✓ The Inspiring Lives of Unsung Heroines
in Scripture: Women of the New
Testament (Part 2) (Weekend Retreat)
August 1st - 3rd
- ✓ St. Clare of Assisi on Pathways to
Resilience for our Times (Weekend
Retreat) August 15th - 17th

August cont...

- ✓ Healing Retreat for Those Who Are
Grieving (Day Retreat)
August 23rd 9:00am - 4:00pm

September 2025

- ★ Your Story, Your Legacy:
Reflections into the Heart of Who
You Are (Weekend Retreat)
September 12th - 14th
- ★ Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction
(MBSR) An 8-Week Science-Based
Program: Inviting Peace
Online beginning September 13th
with In-Person Day Retreat
November 1st

★
San Damiano's Annual
Jazz Festival!
Sunday September 21st
4:00pm
★

Nov - Dec 2025

- ✓ Retirement & Purposeful Aging -
What's Next in My Life (Weekend
Retreat)
November 7th - 9th
- ✓ Pathways Through Grief: A Healing
Journey (Grief Retreat Weekend)
November 21st - 23rd

From Payback to Love Back:
Relating Without Retaliating
A Day Workshop with David
Richo
Saturday December 13th

We have more events &
retreats on our website!
For more information:
www.SanDamiano.org



To book your own event or retreat:
email Booking@SanDamiano.org

Thanks to Procurement Director John "T.J." Trujillo for his monthly display of VNVDV Hats and Shirts. Order your VNVDV NAME TAGS contact "T.J."

**For all
your
VNVDV
Shirts and
Hats team
with TJ
and Pow-
er Stitch**



John T.J. Trujillo
Director of Procurement

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
P.O. Box 2079
Danville, CA 94526

925-997-5253
trujillo.tj.john@gmail.com
www.VNVDV.com

**VNVDV Hats and Shirts
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VNVDV Members THANK David Behring

**Wheelchair
Foundation**



"Serving the World"



Looking for a
unique BIRTHDAY Gift?
Donate a new
WCF wheelchair
in their honor...
great for someone
who has everything!

The VietNam Veterans made 3 Wheel Chair distribution trips,
2006, 2012, 2019 and 2024 to VietNam.. Wheel Chairs
Provide freedom of mobility for those lacking this basic need.

We Thank David Behring & the Wheel
Chair Foundation for the support of
VNVDV & our four amazing wheel chair
distribution trips to Vietnam.

**The VNVDV participated in the distribution of 460 Wheelchairs during the NOV 2019 and 2024 trips to Vietnam.
Thanks to the support of the Wheelchair Foundation & Supporters**

**VietNam 50th Commemoration Honors
our VietNam War Veteran Members**

**VNVDV LIFE MEMBERSHIP
Special 50th VN Commemoration -
Honoring Your Service - ONLY \$50.**

Danville VMB's County Veterans Service Office
OPEN every Wednesday 10-2, appt reqd. 925-313-1481

All Wars Memorial

Oak Hill Park Memorial Expands
The New Paver Section with 600 Pavers
Do you have an AWM Paver? Don't wait -
Honor a veteran, friend, neighbor, family member
or patriot with a special AWM Paver Tribute!
1st ENGRAVING COMPLETED—Hopefully 1 in May!
Custom Engraving is performed Spring & Fall.
Take time to visit the AWM - then the website
for an application form. Order your AWM Paver
www.AllWarsMemorial.org
Questions? See link on AWM Website

Please SUPPORT & FOLLOW NEWS from some of our SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS WEBSITES:
Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office - Call the County VSO Office for Assistance - call 925 / 313-1481 for Appt.
All Wars Memorial and obtaining AWM Pavers at Oak Hill Park - visit: www.AllWarsMemorial.org
Marines Memorial Association / Hotel / Club in SF - Visit their website at: www.MarineClub.com
Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation - visit: www.SentinelsOfFreedom.org
Wheelchair Foundation & Wine for Wheels - Support our those in need of mobility - Visit: www.WineforWheels.org
Blue Star Moms #101 website: www.bluestarmoms.org & Blue Star Moms #20 website: www.ccbluestarmoms.org
VNVDV website to see more about the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley at: www.VNVDV.org

VISIT THE WEBSITE for the VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING at: www.VMBSRV.org

SUPPORT OUR BLUE STAR MOMS "DROP-OFF" LOCATIONS



Department of
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Martinez, CA 94553

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FLU IS CAUSING SERIOUS ILLNESS & DEATH!

Please visit one of our VA Clinics in Martinez

- Oakland or other locations now to obtain your

FLU shot - available to all Veterans! Don't Wait!

Veterans
It's that
time of year

GET YOUR FLU SHOT

MARTINEZ CLINIC



Martinez Clinic

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. PT

Appointments available

Call 1-[800-382-8387](tel:800-382-8387), press 2 and then option 3, or stay on the line to schedule an appointment.

**Visit our VNVDV Website
for more Benefit details.**

"VETERAN VOICES" THE SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**Monthly Show Topics IMPORTANT to VETERANS & Recently Discharged/Returning VETS
SUPPORT ~ our Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer**



A Live, Interactive TV Show for Vets by Vets!

Join us live on the 2nd Monday of each month to discuss relevant issues facing our veterans.



7:00 PM CCTV, Hosted by the
Veterans Service Office Contra
Costa County



Contra Costa TV is channel 32 on Astoria, channel 27 on Comcast, and channel 89 on AT&T U-verse.
Episodes Re-run: Mondays @ 7pm, Wednesdays @ 11pm & Saturdays @ 9am

"VETERAN VOICES"
on SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH

**TUNE-IN AND ASK YOUR
QUESTIONS ABOUT VETERAN
SERVICE OR VETERAN ISSUE.**



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Official Mailing Address:

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley
Veterans Memorial Building of SRV
400 Hartz Avenue
Post Office Box 2079

Danville, CA 94526 - 2079

E-Mail: VNVDV1@gmail.com

Web: www.VNVDV.org

Electronic News

To:

VNVDV Members & VIPs

2025 OFFICERS & BOD

PRESIDENT -

Dennis Giacobelli

VICE PRESIDENT -

Jim Hill

TREASURER

Ed Baffico

SECRETARY

Carl Swanson

MEMBERSHIP

Rod Guyette

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Larry Tehero

DIRECTOR of EVENTS

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Jon Robbins

PROCUREMENT

John "T. J." Trujillo

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John "Jgr" Reese

WEBSITE

Chelle Clements

Jonathan "JON" Robbins

Director of Information

Editor / Publisher "INCOMING" News

News E-Mail: VNVDV.News@gmail.com

Keep your e-mail address current please!

Visit the VNVDV Web
Past Newsletters & our
latest news on-line

www.VNVDV.org



The VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley - established in 1991 as a local, grass-roots, non-profit, & all-volunteer Veteran Service Organization (VSO) to promote & enhance the image of the Viet Nam Veteran through Community Service & Support of our fellow Veterans, and value & maintain a high level of dignity & respect for the young men & women currently serving our nation today in all branches of our military services. **Danville's Veteran's Memorial Building for the San Ramon Valley** is home for the VNVDV and designed for the next 100 years - to serve our veterans now - those returning & our future veterans - while serving as a lasting reminder & Memorial for all those who served before us in the name of Freedom... **leaving a "legacy"**

The VNVDV meets monthly on the **1st Thursday of every month** at the **Bridges Golf Club, San Ramon.**

VNVDV monthly Board of Directors Meetings are held on the **3rd Thursday** each month at the Veterans Memorial Building in the Library / Board Room at **1800 Hrs.** in Danville. To find out more about programs & projects the VNVDV supports & events sponsored... visit the website at: www.VNVDV.com. All veterans & guests are welcome to attend our **"open"** membership meetings. This VNVDV is 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...** & of our continued contributions to fellow veterans & community. Our dinner meetings consist of a social dinner & guest speaker of interest to veterans & military. Please join us... All dinner meetings are **OPEN** - bring fellow VietNam veterans - active duty military - history buffs - friends - community supporters... *see what a difference volunteering makes in the lives of others. All veterans welcome!*

PAST PRESIDENTS

Jim Hill

Steve Burchik

Dennis Giacobelli

Gary Estrella

William "Bill" Green

Ray La Rochelle

Michael Slattengren

Jerry Yahiro

John Estes

Del Loewe

Tim Hart

Mike Weber

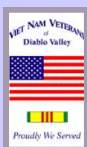
Mike McDaniel

Rich Lambert

Ron Azarcon

Bill Picton

Norm Mahalich



DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH
BRIDGES GOLF CLUB SAN RAMON
DINNER COST WILL BE \$35

"INCOMING" News - Official Newsletter of the VNVDV