

INCOMING NEWS



Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley

SEP 2026



Dennis
Giacovelli
VNVDV
President

VNVDV SEPTEMBER 3RD MEETING BRIDGES GOLF CLUB, SAN RAMON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Honoring the 25th Anniversary of
September 11, 2001

On **September 11, 2026**, our nation will mark the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. For many Americans, that morning remains a living memory: the shock, the loss, the courage of first responders, and the unmistakable call for our country to stand together. For younger generations, however, 9-11 is history rather than memory. That is why our presence at this anniversary recognition event matters.

As Viet Nam Veterans, we understand what it means when history is not only read in books, but carried in the hearts of those who served, sacrificed, and came home to continue serving their communities. We know the cost of freedom, the burden of remembrance, and the importance of standing shoulder to shoulder when the nation pauses to honor its dead and thank those who answered the call.

The events of **September 11** took the lives of nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. They also revealed the best of America: firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, military members, neighbors, and ordinary citizens who acted with courage, compassion, and unity. The **25th anniversary** is more than a date on the calendar. It is a solemn opportunity to say, once again, that we will never forget.

President's Message (Continued on Page Two)

9/11 Remembrance...

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

Featured speaker

COL CHRIS STARLING, USMC (RET)

9/11 Patriot Day is a

**Public / Community Ceremony on—
FRI 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
3RD DINNER meeting will be Van Hansen who will discuss his many years with the Civil Air Patrol.**



Our attendance sends an important message. It tells the families of the fallen, the first responders who still bear the scars, and the men and women who served in the years that followed that their sacrifice is remembered. It also reminds our community that veterans remain guardians of memory, patriotism, and civic duty long after our uniforms have been put away.

I ask each member of our organization to make every effort to attend this recognition event. Come not only as individuals, but as representatives of a generation of veterans who know the value of remembrance and the responsibility of passing it forward. Wear your cap, stand proudly, greet our first responders, thank the families, and help show that our organization remains committed to honoring all who served and all who sacrificed.

This anniversary calls us to remember, to reflect, and to renew our promise of service. Let us be present. Let us be visible. Let us stand together as Viet Nam Veterans and as Americans.

See you there,

Dennis

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



9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY 2025



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2027 VNVDV OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President **Dennis Giacobelli** selected our 2026/2027 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**

EXTREMELY 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!**



EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE CLUB OF SAN RAMON VALLEY, CA

25th Annual 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony

September 11th - 5:15 - 6:30 PM

Oak Hill Park, Danville



Featuring Keynote Speaker

Colonel Chris Starling, USMC (Ret.)



Col. Starling is an American Patriot,
Commanding Officer, Battalion
Landing Team, Persian Gulf War, with
ten overseas deployments and three
combat tours in Desert Shield, Desert
Storm, and Iraqi Freedom.



**Pledge by Pearl Harbor Survivor Chuck Kohler * New All-Wars Memorial *
Monte Vista Choir * Free Ice Cream * 9-11 Essay Awards Contest**

KIDS ARE WELCOME

STAND UP ON THE DELTA

★ VETERANS SERVED THEIR COUNTRY.
VETERANS SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES. ★

★ FREE VETERANS ★

FISHING EVENT AT THE ANTIOCH BRIDGE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

★ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM ★

FIRST
50
★ VETERANS ★
THAT CONTACT
JIM ETHERINGTON

**50 VETERANS
FISHING LIMIT!**

EACH PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE:

- ✓ Backpack
- ✓ Collapsible Rod & Reel
- ✓ Fishing Tackle *They Can Keep!*
- ✓ Food, Snacks & Drinks Provided!



ENJOY A DAY OF:



FISHING
ON THE PIER



EDUCATIONAL
CLASSES



GAMES &
ACTIVITIES



FOOD, SNACKS
& DRINKS



LOCATION:
ANTIOCH BRIDGE FISHING PIER
BRIDGEHEAD RD AT WILBUR AVE,
ANTIOCH, CA 94509



★ VETERANS ★

INFORMATION & RESOURCE FAIR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

★ 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM ★



**ANTIOCH JOHN McMULLEN
VFW POST 6435**
815 FULTON SHIPYARD ROAD
ANTIOCH, CA 94509

**A DAY OF RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
FOR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES**

- ✓ VA Benefits & Services
- ✓ Employment & Career Support
- ✓ Healthcare & Wellness
- ✓ Housing & Homeless Services
- ✓ Disability Support
- ✓ Education & Training
- ✓ Legal & Financial Resources
- ✓ And More!



CONNECT.



LEARN.



ACCESS.



SUCCEED.

TO REGISTER FOR THE FISHING EVENT OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:

✉ JimLEtherington@gmail.com | ☎ (925) 687-0714

PRESENTED BY:



TWO EVENTS. ONE MISSION.
SUPPORTING VETERANS ON AND OFF THE WATER.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Nominations Open for Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley 2027 Officers & Board of Directors Election at November 5th Meeting

Nominations are OPEN for 2027 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 2027. He also appointed Dave Smith to serve as official member of the 2027 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 2027. 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 5th 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 5, 2026**. 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 19, 2026** 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 2026 Election is for the 2027 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

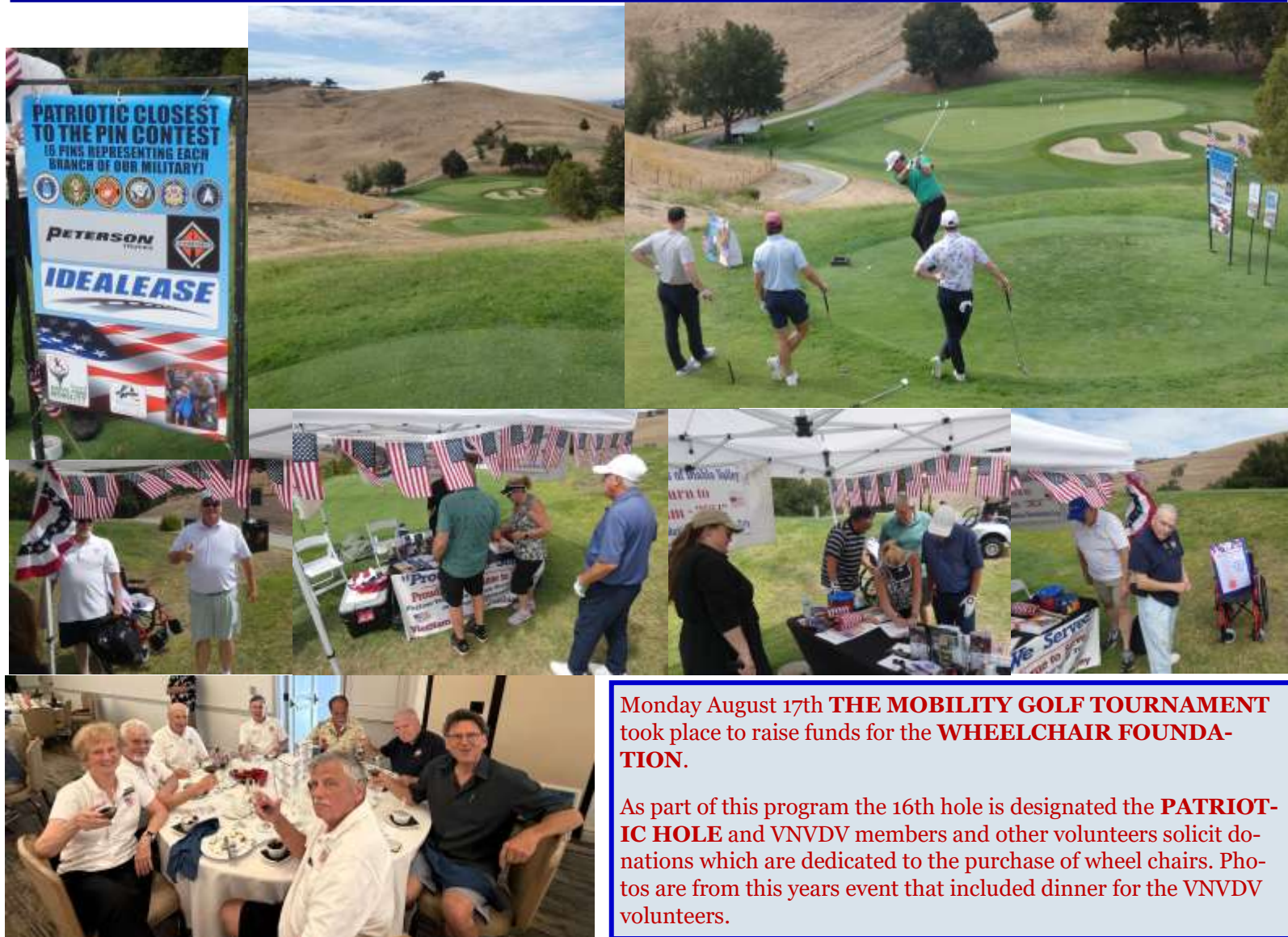
The Election Committee has received nominations for each position and encourages members to find out about each leadership role and become involved in our Board of Directors meetings. All positions are OPEN and we encourage members to run for whatever position they desire by notifying the Nomination 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 2027 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.

AUGUST 2026 VNVDV DINNER MEETING



VNVDV PROMOTE DONATIONS FOR WHEELCHAIRS AT THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT



Monday August 17th **THE MOBILITY GOLF TOURNAMENT** took place to raise funds for the **WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION**.

As part of this program the 16th hole is designated the **PATRIOTIC HOLE** and VNVDV members and other volunteers solicit donations which are dedicated to the purchase of wheel chairs. Photos are from this years event that included dinner for the VNVDV volunteers.

VNVDV SUPPORTER DAO NGUYEN WORKING WITH VETSBOATS PROVIDED A SAILING TRIP ON THE BAY FOR VETERANS



VIET NAM VETERANS DIABLO VALLEY SEPTEMBER 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 Jennifer Theate for her presentation discussing Wills, Trusts and Probate.



BIG SHOUT OUT TO VNVDV VOUNTEER **KIM HOLMES** FOR RECORDING THE SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2026 VETERAN DROP-IN FOR COFFEE. IT WAS A PERFECT MORNING TO ENJOY THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING, BALCONY AND AWNING.



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

Mike Weber
925.487.7609
mike@mikeweberrealtor.com



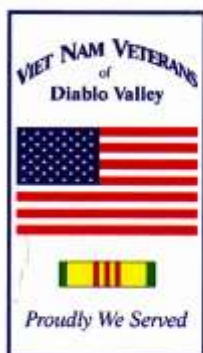
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Contact Procurement Director John "T.J." Trujillo for White VNVDV Hats and Shirts, part of the VNVDV uniform for the Fourth of July Parade.

**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 SHIRT HAT
DISPLAY AT SEPT
MEETING**

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
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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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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Advice Nurse-Appointment Line
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Pharmacy (Toll Free) Line
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Martinez, CA 94553

Fax: (925) 372-2804

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Martinez Clinic

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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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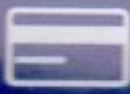
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Official Mailing Address:

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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

John Kelly

MEMBERSHIP

Rod Guyette

DIRECTOR - at - LARGE

Larry Tehero

DIRECTOR of EVENTS

Robin Lemmo

SPEAKERS BUREAU

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PROCUREMENT

John "T. J." Trujillo

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Chelle Clements

Jonathan "JON" Robbins

Director of Information

Editor / Publisher "INCOMING" News

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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

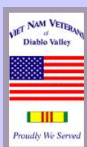
Mike McDaniel

Rich Lambert

Ron Azarcon

Bill Picton

Norm Mahalich



DINNER MEETING
THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 3RD
BRIDGES GOLF CLUB SAN RAMON

5 PM SOCIAL 6 PM DINNER

DINNER COST WILL BE \$35

After Buffet Dinner - A Featured Speaker!

"INCOMING" News - Official Newsletter of the VNVDV