



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another"

FEBRUARY 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

Feb. 10, 2016 | 6:00 pm
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta
Dinner Available
\$8.00 per person

Greetings to the Membership:

With the New Year well underway, we are in the process of forming committees, hiring a public relations firm, establishing contacts with previous vendors, preparing to go public in our fundraising efforts and pulling onto the fast track for the presentation of "The Moving Wall" in Santa Barbara at Chase Palm Park on October 13-17, 2016.

I can't stress enough the need for all members—Veterans and Associates—to step up and be a part of this exhibit in any way you can, even if it's just turning out at The Wall when it's on display. It'll be five years to the month since it was last seen here.

We're also seeking "ambassadors"; those who can help get the word out by speaking to classrooms at the elementary, Jr. High and High School level as well at UCSB and Santa Barbara City College. We also want to make appearances before civic and fraternal organizations. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members to tell their stories and especially help those born during the past 40 years to gain a better understanding of the war and its aftermath. (I was there and I'm still trying to get a better understanding of the who, what and why of it!).

If "going public" isn't your bag, then perhaps you can contribute a written story, or record your reminiscences on video or audio tape (an old school term quickly fading away these days!). Sometimes, just reading the letters you sent home or the journal you kept while in-country or posted elsewhere in the world can be as powerful a story as anything experienced in combat. Your story counts, no matter where you served during the era.

In the meantime, we need to determine where and how we will participate in the nationally recognized "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" on Saturday, March 26. And then there's the annual election of officers and board members of the chapter coming up in April.

So, plan to join us as we have lots to discuss at our next monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 10 at 6pm at the Elks Lodge in Santa Barbara. (The spaghetti dinner served by the Elks is just \$8).

If you have ideas, thoughts, questions or concerns you can always send them to me: E-mail is peterbie@cox.net or call or text my cell: (805) 259-9779. Your input is welcome and vital to the future of the chapter. See you at the meeting!

Peter

Peter Bie
President

OUR HUEY NEEDS A NEW HOME



Our Huey Helicopter—a true iconic symbol of the Vietnam War—has been parked outside at the National Guard Armory in Santa Barbara for many years. Now, in order to do the necessary rehab work (replace the “glass”/ new coat of paint, etc.) we need to find her a new home—protected from the sun and the elements. If

you’re aware of such a spot in the greater Santa Barbara or Goleta area where the bird could be parked (free or for a fee) please let me know and I’ll pass the word along to our Huey committee to follow up.

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE” AT THE LOBERO THEATER

As part of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival there is a free screening of the feature length documentary “Thank You for Your Service” on Saturday, February 13th at 2pm at the Lobero Theater, 33 E. Canon Perdido, Santa Barbara. A great number of former military and government leaders share their personal views of regret and lack of preparedness for the homecoming and transition needs of Veterans (and their family members) from the Vietnam War to the present. A 90-minute panel discussion will follow the screening.



There are no advance tickets; all you need do is show up 30 minutes before the event. The sponsors of the film have 400 seats available for Veterans and their family members from Ventura to San Luis Obispo, so pass the word.

A local Iraq Army Combat Veteran, William Rodriguez, is prominently featured in the film and will be at the screening to answer questions. After the panel discussion a free reception will be held at a nearby restaurant (locale to be announced) to allow attendees

to continue the discussion and their reactions to the movie in a more informal setting. **For more info on the film see the attached flyer.**

AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

I’ve saved the best news for last. At our meeting in January, member and attorney Steve Penner rose to announce that the chapter was being gifted with a check for \$50,000(!) from the estate of the late Mary Staves, a longtime Santa Barbara resident who had a soft spot in her heart for Veterans. You can imagine the disbelief and cheers that followed! Our chapter has never been in a better financial position as we now have over \$70,000 in the general fund and over \$60,000 in the Vance Fund (the special fund gifted many years ago to specifically help disabled and in-need Veterans). The chapter is most grateful to Mary for her generous and unexpected gift.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Dates to save and post—on the frig or on your smart phone:

Sunday, February 14: Valentine’s Day

Monday, February 15: President’s Day Holiday

Wednesday, March 9 at 6pm:
Chapter 218 meeting at the Elks

Saturday, March 26:
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (location TBD)

Sunday, March 27: Easter

Wednesday, April 13:
Chapter 218 meeting at the Elks
(Election of officers/board members)

Saturday, April 23: Passover

Sunday, May 8: Mother’s Day

Wednesday, May 11:
Chapter 218 meeting at the Elks

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day Ceremonies
(Goleta, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria)

BTW: July 4 is on a Monday; Veterans Day falls on a Friday and Christmas is on Sunday this year... just in case you’re planning ahead!

Attention Veterans and Family Members from Ventura to SLO

FREE SHOWING OF THE NEW DOCUMENTARY THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Saturday, Feb 13th at 2pm

At the Lobero Theatre 33 E. Cannon Perdido St. Santa Barbara

Candid interviews about the challenges of military transitions from:

Defense Secretary Robert Gates
General David Petraeus
General Peter Chiarelli
General James "Spider" Marks
Brigadier General Loree Sutton
General Frank Hagenbeck
Admiral Mike Mullen
(Fmr Chair, Joint Chiefs of Staff)
Senator Patty Murray
Congressman Jeff Miller
(Chairman, Veteran Affairs Committee)
Congressman Jim McDermott
Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson
Bob Woodruff (News Anchor, ABC News)
Congressman Walter Jones
Author Sebastian Junger
Mayor Rudy Giuliani
Dr. Charles Hoge (Army Psychiatrist)
Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen (Founder, Give an Hour)
Dexter Filkins (NYT war correspondent)
Colonel Jim Johnson
Author/Veteran Karl Marlantes
Paul Sullivan (Veterans for Common Sense)
Actor/Activist Gary Sinise
Author/Veteran Craig Mullaney
Dr. Mark Russell (Navy Psychologist)
Rick Weidman & Bobby Muller (Vietnam Veterans of America)
Congressman Tim Ryan
Dr. Francine Shapiro (Creator, EMDR)



For more information

Contact

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CO-Founder

Purple Star Veterans and Families

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Or William Rodriguez MSW, ACSW

Peer Advisor

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