



# Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

# RECON REPORT

*“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another”*

**AUG-SEPT 2020**

**“Together then,  
Together now”**



## **Chapter 218**

P.O. Box 4862  
Santa Barbara, CA 93140  
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### **Officers & Board Of Directors**

President: Peter Bie  
Vice President: John Blankenship  
Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Elliott  
Rick Carter  
Fred Cota  
Hap DeSimone  
Ed Foster  
Chris Galbraith  
Fred Golin  
Don Matter  
Rik Peirson  
Mario Pintor  
Pat Rumpza

Membership Director: Peter Bie  
Chaplain: Pattie Murdy

### **Vance Memorial Fund**

The Chapter's Vance Committee distributes assistance funds to qualified American veterans of all eras.  
Fred Golin (Chair)  
Chris Galbraith  
Don Matter

Greetings to the Membership:

Greetings to everyone in California and those across the country! It certainly has been a trying time for all of us as we, and the country, continue to battle COVID-19. Here in the Golden State we're also battling a number of huge wildfires, most of which were caused by "dry" lightning strikes over the past two weeks. Hundreds of thousands of people have evacuated their homes; made worse by the dense smoke that continues to linger like something out of an apocalyptic movie. If you're in the fire zones, please stay alert and stay safe. If you've had to evacuate, know that our concerns and prayers are with you. And let's all of us continue to wear our masks and help to keep this nasty virus from spreading. We're not out of the woods yet, so caution is the by-word.

### **JULY ELECTION RESULTS**

After postponing our usual April election meeting due to the pandemic, we were finally able to meet via teleconference in mid-July. Twenty-one members were on the call. I'm proud to announce the officers and additional board members who will be serving until April, 2021: Peter Bie, President. John Blankenship, Vice President. Tom Elliott, Secretary/Treasurer. (This is now a combined position, requiring a change in the chapter by-laws, which was approved by those on the call). The three officers also serve as board members. Additional board members include: Rick Carter, Fred Golin, Rik Peirson, Pat Rumpza, Fred Cota, Ed Foster, Chris Galbraith, Don Matter and Mario Pintor. Hap Desimone continues as our representative to the California State Council. Our Vance Fund Committee is Fred Golin, Chris Galbraith and Don Matter. Associate member Patty Murdy continues as our Chaplain. Yours truly will also serve as membership director. Congratulations to all and my thanks for your willingness to serve the chapter for another year! I'm not sure when we'll be able to meet in person as Santa Barbara County is still on the state watchlist for COVID. The next health directive will be out in early to mid-September. We'll see.

### **218 FEATURED IN THE 2021 NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR MUSEUM CALENDAR!**

What a surprise to open the 2021 calendar of the soon-to-be Vietnam War Museum and to see our chapter highlighted in the month of July! (See last page of newsletter) The pix was taken during a 4th of July parade in Santa Barbara. If you donate to the museum, you've already received your copy. If you don't, I'll be contacting the museum to request additional copies for distribution to the chapter. It was so wonderful to see the late Charlie Franco right smack in the middle of the picture holding his end of the 218 Banner. So, here's the mystery: Our photog, Rick Carter, says he didn't take the picture. So, who did? And who submitted it to the War Museum? I'd really like to know so we can properly thank them. Contact me at info@vvachapter218.org. What an honor for 218 to be featured in a calendar that goes out to thousands of the museum's donors across the country!

### LOOKING FORWARD TO NOVEMBER 3

Wherever you are in this great country of ours, vote this November. If you recently moved be sure to get registered to vote. Time is getting short and some states have recently passed very stringent rules on when, how and where you can register. If you can, request a mail-in or absentee ballot. Some states are refusing to issue mail-in ballots or deny absentee ballots, going so far as to have their legislature pass a law, or have a judge or their state Supreme Court rule that the COVID pandemic is **not an excuse** for staying home on election day! Be sure to check your ballot for the various state propositions or initiatives that could have a direct impact upon your livelihood; medically, financially and otherwise. In CA, pay particular attention to Prop 15, Prop 21 and Prop 23. Voting is a guaranteed right and a privilege of living in the USA and it should not be taken lightly, so, no excuse this time: VOTE!

### STAY IN CONTACT

It's important that I'm able to keep accurate info on our members. If your mailing address, email or phone number has changed, please contact me via email: [info@vvachapter218.org](mailto:info@vvachapter218.org) or by calling or texting my cell phone: 805-259-9779.

### AND NOW A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

#1 Songs for Aug/Sept 1968: *Hello, I Love You/The Doors, People Got to Be Free/The Rascals, Harper Valley PTA/Jennie C. Riley, Hey Jude/Beatles.*

#1 Songs for Aug/Sept 1963: *So Much in Love/The Tymes, Fingertips (Part II), Little Stevie Wonder, My Boyfriend's Back/The Angels, Blue Velvet/Bobby Vinton.*

#1 Songs for Aug/Sept 1958: *Poor Little Fool/Ricky Nelson, Volare (Nel Blu Dipinto di Blu)/Domenico Modugno, Little Star/The Elegants, It's All in the Game/Tommy Edwards.*

### TV SHOWS TO REMEMBER

1968: Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In, Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C. (which never once mentioned the Vietnam War), Bonanza, The Lucy Show, Gunsmoke, Family Affair, Julia, Bewitched, Mayberry R.F.D., The Red Skelton Hour.

1963: The Beverly Hillbillies, The Dick Van Dyke Show, Ben Casey, The Andy Griffith Show, Candid Camera, Dr. Kildare, My Favorite Martian, Rawhide, McHale's Navy, The Ed Sullivan Show.

1958: Have Gun-Will Travel, The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp, G.E. Theater, Cheyenne, You Bet Your Life, The Rifleman, Maverick, Wagon Train, Perry Mason, Father Knows Best.

Until next time, be safe, be well. And wear that darn mask!

Welcome Home!



Peter Bie  
President



Vietnam War Vets take part in the July 4th parade in Santa Barbara, California.



*"I was a stretcher bearer for the sergeant major...He had been a POW on Corrigidor during World War II. He was a fine gentleman. It was pretty apparent to me that it was going to be close if we could get him to Dong Ha in time. He had massive head wounds. But he died on the way...that still sticks with me. For many years, I didn't want to believe that he actually died in my arms."*