



Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

RECON REPORT

“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another”

NOVEMBER 2019

*“Together then,
Together now”*



Chapter 218

P.O. Box 4862

Santa Barbara, CA 93140

www.vvachapter218.org

Email: info@vvachapter218.org

Officers & Board Of Directors

President: Peter Bie

Vice President: John Blankenship

Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott

Treasurer: Wilson Hubbell

Rick Carter

Fred Cota

Hap DeSimone

Ed Foster

Chris Galbraith

Fred Golin

Don Matter

Rik Peirson

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

Next Regular Chapter Meeting

November 13 | 6:00 pm social

6:45 pm meeting

Santa Barbara Elks Lodge

150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta

Dinner Available: \$9.00 per person

To the Membership:

Whoa, here we go into the final months of 2019! As they say, the older we get the faster the days go by so let's get to it....

CALENDAR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Saturday, Nov. 2, 5pm-10pm: The 23rd annual Military Ball presented by the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation (PCVF) at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachside Resort, 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd., honoring Women in Service. Live music, dancing, dinner and a silent auction. Formal dress and/or military uniform required. Tickets at (805) 259-4394 or go to: pcvf.org.

Saturday, Nov. 9, 12noon: The annual Veterans Day parade in Santa Barbara presented by the PCVF, forming up near the corner of State and Sola by 11:30am with the parade kicking off at 12noon. However, our Huey will be on site by 10:30 in order to accommodate the placement of other military vehicles. We need five flag bearers, plus two folks to handle the 218 Banner. I'll bring the flags and harnesses. See you there!

Saturday, Nov. 9, 12noon to 9pm: The annual Salute to the Vets at the Santa Barbara Carriage and Western Art Museum, 129 Castillo Street, featuring live music, food and military displays.

Monday, Nov. 11: Take time to remember and honor all Veterans as this day marks the end (101 years ago) of WW I—often referred to as “the war to end all wars”, but more officially as The Great War. It's disheartening and sad that the hope for ending all wars has never, ever been fulfilled.

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6pm: Join us for our Chapter meeting at the Elks Lodge in Santa Barbara. The invitation is open to all members, including Associates. There is no meeting in December so our first gathering of 2020 will be Wednesday, January 8. (Never thought I'd be saying “2020”—sounds like something out of a sci-fi movie).

Thursday, Nov. 28: Have a very happy Thanksgiving!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Our Chapter continues to grow in membership, slow but sure. Welcome Larry Youngblood (Louisville, Kentucky) and Mike Cahill (Santa Barbara) to our ranks. (Larry and I served together at II Field Force, Long Binh in '67-'68 and had a bang up time celebrating Tet '68!) I figured if we're going to recruit new members, I might as well reach out to fellow Vets I know; I encourage you to do the same. (Larry was Army, Mike was Navy).

Also awaiting word from the national office that Doug Murray (Santa Barbara) has been officially affiliated with our chapter. And Patrick Murphy (Carpinteria) is submitting his paperwork and should soon be on our roster. That will give us a total of 102 members!

If you know of any Vietnam-era Vet who has not joined a Chapter, or is an at-large member, let's encourage them to sign up with the 218. Many of our fellow Vets purposely stayed away from joining ANY type of Veterans service organization, especially after the treatment they received when they got home. In some cases, they drifted away from their local chapter, not wanting to deal with all the anger and dysfunction. But time, age and wisdom are leading them back. Even if they live in another state, they can be affiliated with us. So, get the word out!

Speaking of members, does anyone know the whereabouts of Mark Heinz? I have an incomplete mailing address (in Carpinteria) for him and no e-mail address, so I've been unable to contact him. You can let me know at: peterbie@cox.net or call my cell: 805-259-9779.

Reminder: If you should move, either within CA or to anywhere else, please let me know your new location. It's important that we stay in touch and that the national office has your correct address. (BTW: If you do not have a regulation Chapter 218 polo shirt w/Life Member patch contact me).

WANT THE RECON REPORT VIA U.S. MAIL?

Most of you get this Recon Report via e-mail as a PDF. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy via snail mail, I'm happy to send it to you. I know that a lot of folks don't like dealing with e-mail and/or opening attachments (some of you don't do internet/e-mail at all). Heck, I miss my old flip phone! Let me know and I'll switch you over to postal delivery.

KUDOS GO OUT TO:

All the members and associates who turned out for the Huey display at Fosters Freeze in Carpinteria on Aug. 31 and the PEP Touch-A-Truck event at Santa Barbara City College on Sept. 22. Your continued presence at these events is a great help to the Chapter and keeps us in the public eye. Folks love the Huey! And I would be remiss if I didn't thank owner Kristina Duckworth and all the drivers at Thomas Towing who keep the bird moving and show amazing skill at getting it placed in some tight situations!



Photo Credit: Rick Carter



Photo Credit: Rik Peirson



Photo Credit: Gage Smith



Photo Credit: Rik Peirson

Welcome Home!

Peter Bie, President

E-mail: peterbie@cox.net | Website: www.vvachapter218.org