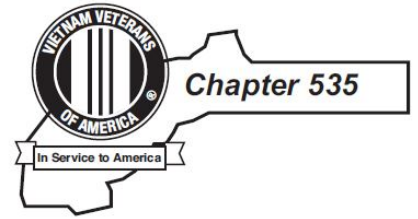




# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## CHAPTER 535



Website: [www.vva535.org](http://www.vva535.org)

Volume 29 Issue 6

June 2019

### President's Message

My fellow veterans. Thank you for your service to America. Memorial Day for us that served really know the meaning of the day. It is not for barbecues, fun in the sun, etc. It is the day we recognize and honor all of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of this nation. I think about the families who have had to endure the loss of their loved one. In those difficult times we commend their courage and strength that they have shown throughout these most difficult times. More than 1.1 million men and women have died in wartime throughout the span of our nation's history. This does not even begin to take into account those who were wounded or went missing. Many of our members are recipients of the Purple Heart. I think this would advance the number to almost 2.8 million. These numbers should truly humble us as they represent people – individuals who were brothers, husbands, mothers, sisters, and friends. These were people woven into the fabric of communities across the nation. They were loved. They were mourned. And they were missed. I recently just found a death notice sent to my grandmother regarding the death of her brother in World War 1. My grandmother never talked about the loss of her brother! So, too, have been the telegrams, the middle-of-the-night phone calls and the chaplain standing at the front door of the next

of kin to tell them their loved one has been killed. I have had to deliver these notices in the past and the stress was extreme. It is all too easy for those who have never suffered such losses to see past the holes that were left in the families and communities. That is simply human nature. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them." Memorial Day is a chance to reconnect to the genesis of our nation's numerous freedoms. It is an important day on which we ground ourselves to the reality that every Gold Star Family knows: Our way of life has been shaped and made possible by those who have served and by those who were lost. I wish you all the best on this Memorial Day.

Keith G.

### VVA Chapter 535 Mission Statement

*To foster camaraderie among members and assist those with disabling mental and physical injuries, to promote the welfare of our brethren affected by the war, and to engender public understanding of the sacrifice, patriotism and bravery of those who served, those who gave all, and those left behind.*

### **Attention**

If you do not drive and need a ride to a meeting or any VVA-535 function, please contact Bart Ruud or any local VVA -535 member and we will do our best to arrange transportation for you.

### **Guest Speaker for June 6, 2019**

We are not planning for a guest speaker at our June meeting.

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### **Upcoming Events**

NCCVC Meeting – June 6, 2019  
General Meeting – June 6, 2019  
Director's Meeting – June 6, 2019  
National VVA Convention – 7/16 – 7/21/19  
Nevada County Fair – August 7 – 11, 2019  
Roamin Angels Car Show – 9/6 – 9/8, 2019  
Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down – October 18 – 19, 2019  
Victorian Christmas – Dec. 8,11,15,18, 22, 2019

### **Chapter 535 Officers**

President Keith Grueneberg  
kgberg0178@sbcglobal.net  
(H) 530-265-1946(C) 916-425-1121

Vice-President  
Enrique Vasquez .....530-575-4416

Treasurer  
Ralph Remick .....559-7716

Secretary  
Gary Barnes ..... 530-333-7391

### **Directors**

Dave Chaix .....269-1431  
Dick Corn ..... 277-8856  
Dale Epps ..... 368-6156  
Ray James ..... 478-1126  
Dave Johnson ..... 887-8297  
Dave Middleton ..... 205-9375  
Bart Ruud ..... 823-1368  
Ric Sheridan ..... 274-1413  
Mike Underwood ..... 925-759-2924  
Tom Woollard ..... 432-1212

### **Committee Chairs**

Finance .....Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson  
Parade and Honor Guard ..... Dick Corn  
Membership Affairs .....Ric Sheridan  
Newsletter ..... Interim editor Bart Ruud  
Victorian Christmas ..... **Vacant**  
Nominations ..... Ralph Remick  
Veterans Assistance ..... Keith Grueneberg  
NCCVC ..... Dick Corn  
Speakers Bureau ..... Tom Woollard  
Web Master ..... Ralph Remick  
Quartermaster ..... Dick Corn  
Facebook Master ..... Mike Laborico  
Nevada County Fair ..... Dave Middleton  
VSO Liaison ..... (Open opportunity)  
CA State Council Rep. .... Mike Underwood

### **Nevada County Veterans Service Officer**

VSO Officer -David West (530) 273-3396 office  
(530) 913-5046 cell  
988 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley 95949  
[ncvso@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:ncvso@co.nevada.ca.us)

Thursday, 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 – 4:00 is a “Walk-In” day.

### **Placer County Veterans Service Officer**

Suzi Vinci .... 916-780-3290.

1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA

Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### **Matters of interest as outlined at Board Meeting of May 2, 2019**

The shadowbox in the basement hallway has been completed. Determinations need to be made as to what to install in the shadow-box.

The Board approved a donation of \$3,000 to FVSO to be delivered when the annual fund drive is initiated in the Fall months.

We need to obtain a new pop-up shelter for use at the Nevada County Fair and at Victorian Christmas.

A committee needs to be formed to assist with development of principals regarding the Harold Graves scholarship.

### **Why Stennis is coming to Norfolk**

By: Mark D. Faram Navy Times May 13, 2019



An MH-60S Sea Hawk, from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 14, flies alongside the aircraft carrier John C. Stennis in the Atlantic Ocean on May 9.

NORFOLK — Many of the nearly 4,500 sailors on the aircraft carrier John C. Stennis weren't even born the last time the Navy's seventh

Nimitz-class warship arrived in Hampton Roads.

All that will change on Thursday, when the flattop is slated to arrive at Naval Station Norfolk more than 21 years after its last appearance here, according to a Fleet Forces Command announcement.

Stennis and its strike group departed on its former homeport in Bremerton, Washington, on Oct. 15 for a deployment that sailed across Mediterranean and Atlantic waters.

The carrier is coming to Norfolk so that it later can begin its midlife Refueling Complex Overhaul at Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding, where the flattop was delivered more than 23 years ago. The RCOH will start once workers finish refueling and modernizing sister carrier George Washington.

While Stennis is stopping in Norfolk, the rest of the carrier strike group isn't. The guided-missile destroyers Stockdale, Spruance and Chung-Hoon detached from the group in April to return to their homeports in San Diego and Hawaii.

The guided-missile cruiser Mobile Bay escorted Stennis across the Atlantic but is expected to continue on to its homeport in San Diego, too.

### **Why the US Navy has 10 ships, 130 aircraft and 9,000 personnel in the Mediterranean**

By: Mark D. Faram April 24, 2019 Navy Times



The aircraft carriers Abraham Lincoln, left, and John C. Stennis carrier strike groups, led by the Spanish Aegis Frigate Mendez Nunos take a break before commencing high-end training.

Two deployed aircraft carriers, heading opposite directions, met up in the Mediterranean Sea to do some high-end ops and snap some selfies to commemorate the event. The event happened after the carrier John C. Stennis strike group transited the Suez Canal, entering the Mediterranean, where the Abraham Lincoln strike group awaited.

The combined strike groups means that, right now, more than 130 U.S. aircraft, 10 ships and 9,000 sailors and Marines are now operating in close proximity in the eastern Mediterranean. Only twice before in the past two decades have two U.S. aircraft carriers operated together in the Mediterranean Sea at the same time. The last time was [three years ago](#), when the carriers Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower crossed paths in June 2016 at the end and beginning of their respective cruises, operating together for a time.



An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter from the "Nightdippers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5 flies past the aircraft carrier

## USS Abraham Lincoln during a photo exercise with carrier John C. Stennis (US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeremiah Bartelt/Navy)

Before that, you have to go back to 2003, when the Harry S. Truman and the Theodore Roosevelt both operated from the eastern Mediterranean flying combat sorties into Iraq during the opening days of Iraqi Freedom. But this time, it's the Russians who are most likely to pay attention to the Navy's armada as tensions have risen in the adjacent Black Sea in recent months as the two Cold War adversaries have again become near-peer competitors.

"It's a rare opportunity to train with two carrier strike groups together," Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, commander of U.S. 6th Fleet, said in a April 22 statement as the Stennis arrived in the region.

"Dual carrier operations here in the Mediterranean showcase the inherent flexibility and scalability maritime forces provide to the joint force, while demonstrating our ironclad commitment to the stability and security of the region."

The two strike groups began dual operations April 23, according to a statement from U.S. 6th Fleet in Naples. The release said the pair of carriers will "complete high-end warfighting training" by working "multiple scenarios integrating the two air wings and surface ships with key allies and partners in the European theater."

Observing the operation kick off from the Lincoln, Adm. James G. Foggo III, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, said in an April 23 statement that "one carrier strike group provides tremendous operational flexibility and agility" while "two carrier strike groups operating simultaneously" with allied and partner navies "provides an



unprecedented deterrent against unilateral aggression.”

**Go For Broke Day - Japanese-American Army Unit is the Reason We Celebrate it Nationally**

Army Times | Joshua Axelrod | April 5, 2019

That phrase was allegedly coined by Hawaiian Pidgin craps players to mean, “bet everything on a single roll.” But it was popularized as the motto of the Army’s famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. In fact, National “Go For Broke” Day is celebrated on 5 APR every year likely because it was on April 5, 1945, that Pfc. Sadao Munemori - the 442nd RCT’s first Medal of Honor recipient — was killed in action near Seravezza, Italy, according to a Department of Defense history of that highly decorated unit.

The 442nd RCT was made up entirely of Japanese-American soldiers and was formed during a time when that ethnic group was banned from military service after the attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor. The Army eventually allowed Japanese-Americans (known as “Nisei”) to serve through the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service and the 442nd RCT, which was officially activated on Feb. 1, 1943. After finishing their training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, the soldiers of the 442nd RCT deployed to Italy in June 1944 to fight alongside the 100th IB. By mid- August, the 100th was absorbed into the 442nd and the “go for broke” motto became an ingrained part of the unit’s identity.

In September 1944, the 442nd was reassigned to southern France where they helped liberate a few cities from German control. They were reassigned again in March 1945 and helped - along with the 92nd Infantry Division, an all-black unit - drive German forces out of

northern Italy. Their accomplishments in battle inspired the U.S. to reinstate the draft in Japanese-American internment camps back home to allow them to fight as well. The 442nd RCT was inactivated about a year after the war ended. It was only around for two years, but soldiers in the 442nd RCT and 100<sup>th</sup> IB earned seven presidential unit citations, two meritorious service plaques, 36 Army Commendation medals and 87 division commendations between them. Individual soldiers from both units earned 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 15 Soldier’s Medals and 9,500 Purple Hearts, among many other honors. On a more somber note, 650 men from those two units were killed during WWII, 3,700 were wounded in action and 67 were declared missing in action. In 2011, 450 Japanese-American soldiers from the 442nd RCT and 100th IB were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the United States’ highest civilian award for service. That unit also inspired a 1951 Hollywood movie aptly titled “Go for Broke.” So every 5th of April remember the 442nd RCT and the 100th IB for their groundbreaking role in re-integrating the military and the motto with which they served their country.

**A Link to the Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage website:**

**<https://www.friendsofvso.org>**

**Writing Your Story for INCOMING**

(Ongoing repeat solicitation)

**Ideas for your story:**

- Think about what you appreciated about the Vietnam experience. There is surely a means to segue into that with very little reflection on the negative aspects of war.
- What did you appreciate about the Vietnamese people during your

deployment?

- Can you steer away from the bad stuff and \reflect on the best experience you had in the Nam?
- Surely you had a close buddy and you supported each other. Maybe there is a story in that.
- What really got you through the day-to-day anxieties and fears? There might be a positive recollection in that regard.
- How did your experience instill in you a sense of patriotism that you possibly express every day of your life.

So far we have heard from Ruud, Epps, Chaix, Hamer, Chuck Holmes, current Marine LCpl. Jesse Hernandez, Kent Hawley, and Mike Laborico. (Thank you!)

No writer needs to dwell on the negatives of war. Each of us who was there lived the negatives, and all of us are better people for having served, especially when we look at how we matured as a result of our experiences. Each of us has derived a sense of being and an energy that is different from what it might have been had we not been sent across the pond.

Do share with us, in your own words, something of that chapter of your life. And, thank you for your service.

Forward your story to Bart Ruud at [bruud45@gmail.com](mailto:bruud45@gmail.com) or hand deliver to Bart.

### **Nevada County Fair Planning**

Our 2019 fair is scheduled for August 7 – 11, 2019. Plan to add your name to the Booth schedule at our June meeting, but stand by for possible changes. **Why?** Dave Middleton, who has taken the lead for planning our presence at the fair, was among those who coordinated for a meeting scheduled on May 14, 2019 that would break new ground for Veterans' representation at the fair. The concept is to establish a **Veteran's**

**Pavilion** that would be staffed by representatives of numerous Veterans organizations. It's possible that VVA-535, the VFW, Welcome Home Vets, the Marine Corps League, the American Legion and representatives from the Nevada County Veteran Services Office would participate. In addition, the national organization, "Unfolded Flags," wants to gather stories of veterans of our era before we disappear. Add to that the desire of the Nevada County Library to gather copies of post-WW II conflicts photos from area Veterans, and we could have a dynamic, new Veteran recognition in the area.

Stay tuned for developments.

### **Roamin Angels Car Show**

Mike Hauser has offered every Veteran's organization in Nevada County the opportunity for a free booth at the September 6 – 8, 2019 car show to be staged at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. Mike notes that there is an anticipated attendance of 3,000. That would bode well for exposure to the public VVA-535 if it elected to participate.

**Application For Membership**  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC., CHAPTER 535

P.O. Box 37, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in **any duty location** between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Chapter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am already a VVA member and I want to become a Life Member. My VVA Number is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Membership:** Individual Life Membership: \$50. (Effective Oct. 20, 2018)

**ATTENTION New members:** You must submit a copy of your DD-214 form along with this application and dues payment.

Payment Method: \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_ Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover)

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return your completed application, payment and a copy of your DD-214 to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Chapter 535  
P.O. Box 37  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Revised: January 2019



Photo Courtesy of Ralph Remick

Left to right: Dave Johnson, Ralph Remick, Dick Corn, Keith Grueneberg, Ric Sheridan, Enrique Vasquez, Bart Ruud, Gary Barnes, Ray James, Dale Epps, Dave Middleton, Mike Underwood. (Missing: Dave Chaix, Tom Wollard) (Photo date: May 2, 2019)



# MAY

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting	3	4
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8 V-E Day (1945)	9	8	10
11 Mother's Day	12	14	15 Peace Officers Memorial Day	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22 Maritime Day	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Ascension Day	31	

# JUNE

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)	5	6 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting  D-Day (1944)	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day  Army's Birthday (1775)	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Summer	22 Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942)  GI Bill Signed into Law (1944)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 First US Ground Forces Arrived in Korea (1950)
30						

# JULY

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 US Army Air Corps Established (1926)	3	4 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting  Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Final U.S. Ground Combat of Korean War Began (1953)	25	26	27 Korean War ended (1953)
28	29	30	31			

Nevada County Fair VVA-535 Booth **Schedule V.1**  
 August 7, 2019 - August 11, 2019  
**Project Chair:** Dave Middleton

Set-Up: Tuesday, August 6, 2019. Volunteers –  
 Take-Down: Monday, August 12, 2018. Volunteers –

Time Slot	10:00 – 2:00	2:00 – 6:00	6:00 – 10:00
Wed. Aug. 7, 2019  Booth Captain: D. Chaix	Name: D. Chaix  Phone:  Name: B. Ruud  Phone:	Name: D. Chaix  Phone:  Name: B. Ruud  Phone:	Name: D. Chaix  Phone:  Name: B. Ruud  Phone:
Thurs. Aug. 8, 2019  Booth Captain:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:
Fri. Aug. 9, 2019  Booth Captain:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:
Sat. Aug. 10, 2019  Booth Captain:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:
Sun. Aug. 11, 2019  Booth Captain:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone:	Name:  Phone:  Name:  Phone: