

Vietnam Veterans of America  
*Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*  
**CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

Monday January 15, 2018

Attendees:

Edward Aki	USMC	Robert Kadlec	USAF
Jim Barry	USA	Fran McVey	USN
Walter Carroll	USAF	James Medeiros	USA
Cang Kim Dong	AVVA	Casimiro Morin	AVVA
Gerald Cederholm	USA	Richard Paulsen	USA
Gene Fanucchi	USA	K.D. Poynter	USAF
Dennis Foggie	USAF	David Sanders	USAF
Richard Francis	USN	Burton Smith	USN
Michael Frangadakis	USA	William Thai	AVVA
John Hassenplug	USN	Richard Veit	USA
Dan Heckerman	USA	Jack Wells	USMC
Clyde Horn	USA	Dennis Whittaker	USA

I. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gene Fanucchi at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms John Hassenplug presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Acting Chaplain Dennis Whittaker provided the invocation.

**II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:**

President – Warren Finch (Excused)  
Vice President – Gene Fanucchi  
Secretary – Stephen Thompson (Excused)  
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie  
Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug  
3-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker  
2-year Board Member - Randy Sessler (Absent)  
1-year Board Member –Randy Richmond (Excused)

**III. Guests:**

Alexa Aki  
Paul Hernandez

**IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the November and December 2017 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by John Hassenplug and seconded by Richard Veit.

**V. Correspondence:**

Received a 2018 calendar from U.S. Congressional Representative Zoe Lofgren.

## **VI Finance Report:**

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed.

Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Michael Frangadakis and seconded by John Hassenplug. Approved subject to audit.

## **VII. Officer Reports:**

Board Director Dennis Whittaker reported that the following individuals have advised that they will seek re-election during the April 16th Election: Warren Finch, President; Gene Fanucchi, Vice President; Steve Thompson, Secretary; and Dennis Foggie, Treasurer. Additionally, Randy Sessler automatically moves up to the one-year Board Director position, replacing Randy Richmond; Dennis Whittaker moves up to the two-year position leaving open the three-year position. Dave Sanders volunteered to accept nomination for the three-year Director position.

## **VIII. Board Of Directors Report:**

In accordance with Article VII, Section 1(b) of the Chapter 201 Bylaws (nee Constitution), as amended; the Board of Directors (BOD) approved a proposed budget on January 9, 2018. The BOD recommended that the Chapter membership review the proposed budget and vote to approve a final budget, for the Fiscal Year beginning March 1, 2018, during the Chapter meeting to be held on February 19, 2018.

## **IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Dennis Foggie will attend the January CSC Conference in Fresno between 26 and 28 January.

## **X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

UVC President Fran McVey presented an update on UVC activities. There was no meeting in January due to the city closing the library.

UVC representatives will be meeting with the Oak Hill staff during the week of 22 January to begin plans for Memorial Day.

Within the next couple of weeks the UVC will begin planning for this year's Veterans' Day Parade honoring the centennial of Armistice Day. The Grant Closeout Report for 2017 has been submitted to the city and the Grant Application for 2018 was submitted today.

The Santa Clara County Veterans Commission is currently limited to only one organization that it is permitted to partner with. Therefore, the County Board of Supervisors has given approval for the Veterans Commission to now interface/partner with the UVC as well as other Veteran Organizations within Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor Cindy Chavez has reported the passing of a County Resolution recognizing 2018 as the 100th anniversary of the Armistice to end World War One. This will permit planning of events to promote services that the County can provide for veterans.

## **XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee: December Membership VVA-201 stands at 101 (16 individual, 82 life & 3 incarcerated). December AVVA-201 Membership at 128 (11 individual & 117 life).

POW/MIA Committee: - Committee Chairman Dave Sanders reported information that he has received from Becky Thomas (sister of Chapter 201 namesake Darwin Thomas). The Crash site of Darwin's aircraft was located in 2014 and wreckage was recovered. Work was suspended until 2016 and excavation was completed in November of 2016. No remains have been located to date. Becky advised that she would like to present a U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration Certificate of Honor to Chapter 201 in Darwin's name. It is proposed that she could do this during our May 21st meeting, just prior to the Memorial Day Weekend.

Agent Orange Committee: Committee Chairman Dave Sanders reported that additional "presumptives" will be added to Agent Orange list. Updates can be located at the [WWW.VA.ORG](http://WWW.VA.ORG) web site under tab for Agent Orange. Additionally, Agent Blue (small animal/snake insecticide) presumptives may also be added as VA Veteran health issues.

Community Services Committee: Committee Chairman Michael Frangadakis reported that the Fisher House gathering was successful. There will be a Luncheon, sponsored by the Rotary Club, on Tuesday (16 January) at the Los Gatos Lodge to honor Marine SGT Stuart Dipaolo who was severely injured in an accident at Camp Pendleton and spent over two years at the Palo Alto VA Hospital recovering. Additionally, Michael Frangadakis reported that the Lions Club will donate \$25,000 to the Los Gatos Veterans Memorial and the Devcon Construction Company (builders of the memorial) may also provide "in kind" contributions to the memorial's construction.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee: Committee Chairman Dennis Foggie reported that planning is underway for at least four events at Moffett Field. The first fund-raising efforts may be in April with additional events during the month of May.

Public Affairs Committee: Committee Chairman Bob Kadlec reported that updates to the Chapter Web Site will be forwarded to our webmaster by the end of January. There are a significant number of updates including a new section that will contain a newsletter page. For many years the Chapter has published a newsletter titled "The Observation Post." This newsletter has been dormant for at least five years. The Chapter is looking for a volunteer to take over as the newsletter editor. In the meantime, the newsletter page on the web Site will contain copies of the Chapter's articles submitted to the California State Council's quarterly Zephyr newspaper. Dave Sanders indicated that he has a large collection of past Observation Post newsletters going back to 1987. He will make them available for review and perhaps they could be donated to De Anza College to be achieved.

Incarcerated Veterans Committee: Committee Chairman Jack attempted to talk to the District Attorney, however he was unable to obtain any information to confirm the status of the chapter's three incarcerated VVA members. Jack will be in touch with Santa Clara County Veteran Service Officer, Marion Moses, to obtain information through her contacts.

## **XII. Unfinished Business:**

The Chapter's annual Holiday Luncheon at The Spaghetti Factory was a total success. Over 80 VVA and AVVA members and guests enjoyed a spaghetti feast and were honored with a presentation by author Richard Botkin. Richard is a former Marine infantry officer and author of "Ride the Thunder: A Vietnam War Story of Honor and Triumph."

Harry's Hof Brau Restaurant has been reserved for the 2018 Holiday Luncheon in December.

## **XIII. New Business:**

The American Legion's Annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service will be held on 3 February 2018 at St. Frances Cabrini Church at 15333 Woodard Road San Jose, CA 95125. The Chapter is invited to post its colors for the service. The official muster time is 9:00am with the service beginning at 10:00am. Dick Francis and Jack Wells have volunteered to post the Chapter's VVA Colors.

On March 4, 1968, San Mateo City Council voted unanimously to adopt Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army in hopes of improving morale among the fighting troops during the Vietnam War. Support from the city and its residents were so strong that at the end of the Vietnam War, San Mateo held the only homecoming parade in the United States honoring returning Vietnam veterans.

The City of San Mateo will hold its first Operation Eagle Visit Parade since 2012 on March 24th to celebrate 50 years of continued support for the men and women who have served in harm's way with Company A. A contingent from the 101st of Kentucky will be participating and celebrated in this parade. In 2012, Chapter members Bob Johnston and Bob Kadlec joined with Redwood City's VVA Chapter 464 for the last Operation Eagle Visit Parade.

The question now is, is the Chapter willing and able to assemble at least four members to provide a Color Guard for this year's parade? The deadline for registering for the parade is March 1st, therefore we will need a firm commitment from volunteers to march in the parade during the next meeting on February 19th.

Jack wells reported that there will be a monument dedicated at Camp Pendleton in honor of the 2,706 who were killed during the Vietnam War. Jack made a motion to donate \$100 to the 5th Marine Vietnam Memorial. Seconded by Dave Sanders. Approved.

Dennis Whittaker reported that there will be a ceremony at the Joaquin Miller Middle School at which Nicole Gasparik (a new AVVA member) will be honored for her efforts to have students honor veterans at the school during Veterans' Day. The UVC will present her with a Certificate of Appreciation and the American Legion and VFW are being asked to recognize her as well. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Mike Frangadakis, that the chapter prepare and present a Certificate of Appreciation to Nicole Gasparik during the ceremony to be held on April 3rd.

Edward Aki reported that he visited his son in Oregon during Thanksgiving in 2017. He reported that his granddaughter asked him to speak to her classmates about his military experience at her school. Ed related that he was provided with questions from the students in advance and suggested that, should the chapter be able to resurrect its "speaker's bureau," and received requests to speak at student gatherings, we might want to ask the school(s) if they could provide a few questions in advance so we could "focus" our discussions with the students.

**XIV. AVVA Report:**

Cang Kim Dong will advise of AVVA participation in the San Mateo Operation Eagle Visit Parade at the February 19th meeting.

**XV. Good of the Order:**

Chapter 201 received a Certificate of Appreciation from the UVC for its support to the 2017 Veterans Day Parade and Honor on the Row Events in November 2017.

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King and February is Black History Month.

American Legion District 13 will hold their annual President's Day event at the Menlo Park VA from 10:00am to 2:45pm on 19 February. This is a "game day" diversion for the patients from both the Menlo Park and Palo Alto VA Hospitals.

**XVI. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday February 19, 2018 (Presidents Day) at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM (2017 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Signed*

Robert J. Kadlec  
Acting Secretary  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America  
*Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*

**CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

Monday February 19, 2018

Attendees:

Edward Aki USMC	Clyde Horn USA
Gerald Arnold USN	Robert Kadlec USAF
Jim Barry USA	Bill McCorquadale
Walter Carroll USAF	Fran McVey USN
Milo Casimoro AVVA	James Medeiros USA
Cang Kim Dong AVVA	Richard Paulsen USA
Gerald Cederholm USA	K.D. Poynter USAF
Tito Cortez USA	Randall Richmond USA
Larry Doutherd	David Sanders USAF
Gene Fanucchi USA	Carmen Sanders AVVA
Warren Finch USA	Randy Sessler USA
Dennis Foggie USAF	Mary Sessler AVVA
Richard Francis USN	Burton Smith USN
Michael Frangadakis USA	William Thai AVVA
John Hassenplug USN	Stephen R Thompson USN
Dan Heckerman USA	Richard Veit USA
Rose Herrera USAF	Jack Wells USMC
	Dennis Whittaker USA

I. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Finch at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms John Hassenplug presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation.

**II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:**

President – Warren Finch  
Vice President – Gene Fanucchi  
Secretary – Stephen Thompson  
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie  
Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug  
3-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker  
2-year Board Member - Randy Sessler  
1-year Board Member –Randy Richmond

**III. Guests:**

Ann M. Aki  
Tiara Cortez-Miller Sacred Space Memorial  
Barry Bamford Sacred Space Memorial  
Penny Whittaker  
Monique August USO  
Romish \_documentary film maker

**IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the January 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. There was a motion by Fran McVeigh to correct January minutes regarding the Veterans Commission of Santa Clara. In reviewing the tape of the meeting, the January minutes were correct, and the corrections noted appear to have been done at a Supervisor meeting was after the January meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Randy Richmond and seconded by Mike Frangadakis.

**V. Correspondence:**

Letter regarding HGDP presented for President signature and return for future HGDP allocations.

Letter from a New York vet seeking financial assistance. Noted we are unable to assist and that there are programs in New York that should be able to assist.

Copies of Certificates of Appreciation presented to the Secretary to file with Correspondence.

**VI Finance Report:**

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Finance report as submitted and subject to audit by Randy Richmond and Second by Mike Frangadakis.

**VI. Officer Reports:**

Presidents Report – Military Veterans Chorus will be performing May 5 at the USS Hornet. Attended event in Texas January 20 and was to be a part of the Color Guard involved in the Half time services.

Dave Sanders noted that Warren Finch has been promoted to Full Colonel – US Volunteers of America and is now the National Deputy Chief of Staff-Personnel.

**VII. Board Of Directors Report:**

Changes made to the original proposed budget to reflect changes in overall assumptions for revenue and expenses. Revised budget approved.

**VIII. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Written report submitted by Dennis Foggie.

Sometime in April 2018 payment to Chapters will be made which will cover the months of Janu, Feb and Mar. However, monies will be received in May, because the accounts will be figured out in the last week if April after the National Board Meeting,

All participating to HGDP, the Chapter President must sign and return agreement to CSC, (Done at the meeting).

The HGDP Chapter report (different from above) is due to Barry prior to March 18.

Public Affairs: Want members to do a personal history and post on Facebook. Want to know what you did, where and how did you get to your situation now? They would like VVA 201 to open a FB page and talk/post about our activities, etc.

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

## XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: January 2018 Membership VVA-201 stands at 101 (16 individual, 82 life & 3 incarcerated). December AVVA-201 Membership at 128 (11 individual & 117 life).

POW/MIA Committee: -

Agent Orange Committee: Committee Chairman Dave Sanders reported that additional "presumptives" will be added to Agent Orange list. Updates can be located at the [WWW.VA.ORG](http://WWW.VA.ORG) web site under tab for Agent Orange

Community Services Committee: Mike Frangadakis reported on the Veteran memorial in Los Gatos and that the construction company Devcon, whose owner lives in Los Gatos, volunteered to cover the expense of building the memorial and the center piece which is estimated to cost \$500,000 - \$600,000.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee: Dennis Foggie noted that we are looking to do four (4) Fund raisers at Moffett Field. Randy Richmond is following up with the Commissary regarding dates and approval.

Public Affairs Committee. Ponce (San Mateo VVA Chapter) looking for VVA 201 and AVVA 201 members to be a part of the Operation Eagle Parade on March 24. A Number of the members (VVA and AVVA) have agreed to be a part of the parade and Bob Kadlec will be submitting the names.

Ponce also noted that their chapter is preparing a video history of Vietnam Veterans using a pre-prepared series of questions. Ponce will submit a copy of questions to Steve Thompson for VVA 201 consideration.

HGDP – Questions regarding how to provide donations to the VVA program for HGDP and it was noted that the link can be found on the VVA 201 website ([www.vvadonations.org](http://www.vvadonations.org)).

Constitution By-Laws Committee: Nothing new to report.

Publicity Committee: Website is current.

Government Affairs: Fran Mc Vey attended an event discussing Identity Theft among Veterans. Copy of meeting summary attached to the minutes.

County Board Approved Veterans Commission of Santa Clara County can participate in community events of various types, not just County sponsored events. The Commission will now partner with other quality veteran organizations and service providers

UVC is in process of planning the next Veterans Day parade which marks the 100-year anniversary of the ending of World War I. Looking to make this a memorable event for all veterans and the community.

Veterans Benefits: Gerald Arnold noted that the new VA Clinic to be located at 5855 Silver Creek Valley Place will not have a pharmacy or pharmacists available at the site. This is seen as a major disservice to veterans and seeking some form of resolution of concern from VVA and other organizations. No action taken at this time.

Incarcerated Veterans Committee: Jack has reached out to Marion Moses at the Santa Clara VSO for more information.



**XII. Unfinished Business:**

2018/2019 revised budget presented. Motion to accept from Dave Sanders and seconded by Randy Richmond. Approved as submitted.

San Mateo parade seeking color guard from VVA 201 and AVVA 201. Bob Kadlec to coordinate the following volunteers for this event.

Gerry Arnold  
Gene Fanucchi  
Dick Francis  
Mike Frangadakis  
Dan Heckerman  
Rose Herrera  
Robert Kadlec  
Richard Paulson  
Randy Richmond  
Dave Sanders  
Steve Thompson  
Dennis Whittaker

Speaker Bureau discussed and if anyone is interested in participating, please contact Dennis Whittaker.

**XIII. New Business:**

All vets day in Sacramento on March 14.

Dave Sanders made a motion for VVA 201 to adopt 129<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard rescue unit. Seconded by Rose Herrera and passed unanimously.

**XIV. AVVA Report:**

Cang expressed gratitude to the VVA 201-chapter members who attended the Vietnamese Flag Raising Ceremony on Sunday February 18. It was a beautiful ceremony and had a strong attendance.

**XV. Good of the Order**

Election for Slate of Officers – Dennis Whittaker interviewed all current Board Members and they elected to remain in their current positions. Still looking to fill the 3 year Board Member position.

If veteran receiving Social Security benefits, there is a possibility of receiving additional benefits, Need to take a copy of your DD-214 to Social Security Office to determine.

Dennis will present Certificate of Appreciated from VVA 201 to Nicole at their April 3 School Board meeting.

Need to produce a Certificate to the Colonel of the 129<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard Rescue Unit. Mike Frangadakis, has agreed to present certificate upon completion.

Received an E-mail from Sherry Dees, a 6th grade teacher at Stonegate School, asking for veteran participation in an American Cultural Program she will be holding on April 27th. In addition to the Vietnamese, Chinese, Mexican and other cultures setting up displays and programs she will have, she would like to include American Military/veteran cultural information as well. For additional information, Sherry can be contacted at: Stonegate School [2605 Gassmann Drive, San Jose, CA 95121](mailto:2605Gassmann Drive, San Jose, CA 95121), 408-363-5625.

This could be a way to get our foot in the door for future Speakers bureaus presentations. The problem is that they are looking for some form of presentation and we do not appear to have anything that may work for this process. Rose Herrera will check to see if she knows of anyone that may be able to assist.

**XVI. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday March 19, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM (2030 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Signed*

Stephen R Thompson

Secretary

Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201

Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America  
*Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*

**CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

Monday March 19, 2018

Attendees:

Gerald Arnold	USN	James Medeiros	USN
Jim Barry	USA	Richard Paulsen	USA
Walter S Carroll	USAF	K.D. Poynter	USAF
Gerald Cederholm	USA	Randall Richmond	USA
Larry Doutherd	USA	Burton Smith	USN
Gene Fanucchi	USA	Stephen Thompson	USN
Dennis Foggie	USAF	Rich Veit	USA
Richard Francis	USN	Dennis Whittaker	USA
John Hassenplug	USN	Cang Kim Dong	AVVA
Dan Heckerman	USA	Casimiro Morin	AVVA
Robert Kadlec	USAF	William Thai	AVVA
Bill McCorquadale	USN		

I. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gene Fanucchi at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms John Hassenplug presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation.

**II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:**

President – Warren Finch – Excused  
Vice President – Gene Fanucchi  
Secretary – Stephen Thompson  
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie  
Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug  
3-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker  
2-year Board Member - Randy Sessler - Excused  
1-year Board Member –Randy Richmond

**III. Guests:**

Lucia Carroll

**IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the February 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. It was noted that Bill McCorquadale and Larry Doutherd were inadvertently left off the February minutes and have been added to the master meeting list. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Dennis Whittaker and seconded by Randy Richmond.

**V. Correspondence:**

Nothing relevant to chapter business.

**VI. Finance Report:**

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:  
Motion to approve Finance report as submitted and subject to audit by Randy Richmond and Second by Dennis Whittaker.

**VII. Officer Reports:**

Vice President Report – Nothing to report.

**VIII. Board Of Directors Report:**

Nothing to report.

**IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Randy Sessler will be the VVA 201 delegate to the April 27-29 Conference in Fresno.

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

Fran McVey provided a brief overview report for the Veterans Day Parade. The San Jose County Board of Supervisors has officially decreed that 2018 will be considered the year of Armistice to commemorate the end of WWI. Event is expected to be large with family attractions, various military and civilian vehicles and other military vehicles and planes.

K.D. Poynter reported on his meeting with the Santa Clara County ROTC group, which encompasses more than 1,062 members and have demonstrated a strong commitment to the ROTC. Cang Kim Dong represented AVVA and was able to attract some additional student volunteers.

Gold Star Mothers celebration to be held April 14.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee: February 2018 Membership VVA-201 decreased to 100 (15 individual, 82 life & 3 incarcerated). One member who expired in February has committed to sending in renewal. Secretary reaching out to other members who will need to renew this year to encourage them to commit to a lifetime membership. February AVVA-201 Membership at 128 (11 individual & 117 life).

POW/MIA Committee: - Nothing to report

Agent Orange Committee: Nothing to report.

Community Services Committee:

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee: Dennis Foggie indicated that we will be holding a fund raising on Saturday April 7 and April 14. We may also do a fund raising on Sunday dependent on Saturday receipts.

Public Affairs Committee. Articles to be submitted to the Zephyr covering election and San Mateo celebration.

HGDP – Questions regarding how to provide donations to the VVA program for HGDP and it was noted that the link can be found on the VVA 201 website ([www.vvadonations.org](http://www.vvadonations.org)).

Constitution By-Laws Committee: Bob will be reviewing possible changes to the By Laws after the June CSC convention. Any other changes noted by members needs to be submitted to Bob as quickly as possible.

Publicity Committee: Website is current.

Government Affairs: Fran Mc Vey attended a legislative meeting in Sacramento and several bills were being discussed. The three that are strongly supported are:

AB 2254 - Provide for the full exemption of property taxes for the full value of the principal place of residence of a disabled veteran (as defined in the law) or veterans spouse and the unmarried surviving spouse of the veteran. The current law allows exemption up to \$100,000 or \$150,000 if the household income does not exceed \$40,000.

SB 1043 – Increase local funding for Veteran Service Offices from \$5.6 Million to 7.0 Million to allow for increased staffing and training. Fran, as president of the UVC provided a letter of support for increased funding and staffing.

AB1873 - Veteran designation on driver licenses.

SB1357 - Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue special license plates under a special interest license plate program, as specified, and authorizes organizations, including veterans' organizations, to participate in that program. Authorizes any person who is the registered owner or lessee of a vehicle to apply for a special interest license plate that has a distinctive design or decal that honors all veterans or veterans who served in a war or armed conflict.

Fran also noted that there was some discussion about the poor quality of services provided by VSO's in their areas, Fran used this opportunity to praise Marion Moses and it was noted that she is an outstanding VSO Director who is often tasked to mentor others.

It was noted that Marion Moses is working on improving the overall status of incarcerated veterans.

Discussion around the recent tragedy at the Veteran Home in Yountville, which is ranked among the top 10% in the Nation. It was a tragedy to see the loss of the three women that day.

Veterans Benefits: Gerald Arnold noted that the new VA Clinic to be located at 5855 Silver Creek Valley Place will not have a pharmacy or pharmacists available at the site. This is seen as a major disservice to veterans and seeking some form of resolution of concern from VVA and other organizations. No action taken at this time.

Incarcerated Veterans Committee: Jack has reached out to Marion Moses at the Santa Clara VSO for more information.

**XI. Unfinished Business:**

Operation Eagle Visit is a 3-day event starting on Friday March 23 through Sunday March 25. VVA201 in conjunction with VVA 464 will be providing a color guard and others for the event. During the February meeting, 12 people noted that they would be in attendance and Bob Kadlec is coordinating. Dennis Whittaker noted that his band will be performing at 12:30 in Central Park and there are several activities planned to include a Bar B Que.

Adoption of 129<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard needs to be finalized as to how to accomplish.

Election Committee Update – Dennis Whittaker indicated that most members of the Board will remain for another year and still looking for a 3-year Board Member. Any interested party needs to contact Dennis Whittaker. Final election to be held at the April 2018 meeting.

Discussion regarding attendees for the CSC conference were noted as Randy Sessler (Primary), Dennis Foggie, Dave Sanders and Steve Thompson as possible alternates. Warren Finch to make the final decision.

**XII. New Business:**

Motion from Dennis Whittaker for the chapter to donate \$100 per person to the Yountville victims and seconded by Randy Richmond. During discussion, the members decided to take up a collection and received \$471.00. Unanimous vote for Dennis Foggie to send the money to the Yountville relief fund in the name of the three victims. Donations to be sent as follows:

3BraveWomenFund  
c/o Mentis  
709 Franklin Street  
Napa, California 94559

Motion from Gene Fanucchi and seconded by Randy Richmond to reimburse Dennis Foggie in the amount of \$345.23 for the following expenses:

Travel to CSC in Fresno  
Pop up tent to be used for fund raising.  
Approved unanimously.

**XIII. AVVA Report:**

Cang noted the positive response at the ROTC event. AVVA is preparing a float for the San Mateo parade.

**XIV. Good of the Order**

KD noted that there has been approval for victims of Agent Blue (This is not to be confused with Blue Water Navy issues). Agent Blue was usually sprayed 24 hours after Agent Orange to kill rodents, snakes and other animals under approximately 12 pounds. Most to the membership were unaware of this issue and there is an informational event at the end of June and KD will send the flyers to Bob Kadlec for distribution. Symptoms are similar to Agent Orange, but a more notable issue is with the potential of Decubitus Ulcers that will not heal.

KD Noted that the Veterans Day Parade brochure page will be dedicated to the three victims from the Yountville veterans home.

**XV. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be the annual Election Meeting on Monday April 16, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM (2045 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Signed*

Stephen R Thompson

Secretary

Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201

Vietnam Veterans of America

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*Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*

**CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

Monday April 16, 2018

Attendees:

Gerald Arnold	USN	James Medeiros	USN
Jim Barry	USA	Richard Paulsen	USA
Walter S Carroll	USAF	K.D. Poynter	USAF
Gerald Cederholm	USA	Randall Richmond	USA
Larry Doutherd	USA	Burton Smith	USN
Gene Fanucchi	USA	Stephen Thompson	USN
Dennis Foggie	USAF	Rich Veit	USA
Richard Francis	USN	Dennis Whittaker	USA
John Hassenplug	USN	Cang Kim Dong	AVVA
Dan Heckerman	USA	Casimiro Morin	AVVA
Robert Kadlec	USAF	William Thai	AVVA
Bill McCorquadale	USN	Mike Frangadakis	USA

I. The meeting was called to order President Warren Finch at 7:02 PM (1902 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms John Hassenplug presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation.

II. **Roll Call of Chapter Officers:**

President – Warren Finch  
Vice President – Gene Fanucchi  
Secretary – Stephen Thompson  
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie  
Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug  
3-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker  
2-year Board Member - Randy Sessler - Excused  
1-year Board Member –Randy Richmond

III. **Guests:**

Al Sickle (CSC Central District Director)  
Antonette Sickle  
Alexi Aki  
Jose Rodriquez  
Lucia Carroll  
Gwen Arnold

IV. **Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the March 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by John Hassenplug and seconded by Randy Richmond.



**V. Correspondence:**

Request for Donation from Salvation Army  
Request for Donation from Military Moms

**VI. Finance Report:**

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:  
Motion to approve Finance report as submitted and subject to audit by Randy Richmond  
and Second by Dennis Whittaker.

**VII. Officer Reports:**

President – San Mateo had a great turnout from VVA 201 and AVVA 201. VVA 464 led the group. Followed by Randy Richmond and Rose Herrera carrying the 50-year banner, followed by VVA 201 and AVVA 201.

San Jose Veterans choir will be performing on USS Hornet.

**VIII. Board Of Directors Report:**

Field of Honor for Memorial Day at Oak Ridge. Need 4 volunteers to post the colors and should be at the Field of Honor by 1:45 PM.

Also need 2 flag carriers for 11 AM opening ceremony as well as volunteers to carry and present wreaths.

Dress attire preferred is Gray slacks, Black or Blue Blazer, Shirt, Tie, beret or cap. If no sport coat available, then shirt, slacks, tie, cap or beret.

**IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Steve Thompson will be the VVA 201 delegate to the April 27-29 Conference in Fresno.

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

Fran McVey provided update for the Gold Star Memorial Event at Oak Hill on April 14. The event was very well attended, extremely well received and a true tribute to the Gold Star Families. Many positive comments were received and even had coverage from NBC News.

Memorial Day Update – Oak Hill is increasing their monetary support this year and hoping to have a fly over from either a Huey or a Chinook with the helicopter landing near the Field of Honor. In addition, there will be Model T's and other vintage cars to celebrate the end of WWI.

KD indicated that Hollywood is supposed to provide a back drop of a WWI Beach landing along with Sandbags and gear for pictures.

Dave Sanders has been selected as the newest Commissioner for the council.

Veterans Day Parade is moving along and working aggressively on the fund raising. Overall costs of this event runs approximately \$60 – 65, 000.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee: Deferred

POW/MIA Committee: - Deferred

Agent Orange Committee: Deferred

Community Services Committee:

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee: Dennis Foggie indicated that we will be holding a fund raising on Saturday April 21 and 22.

Public Affairs Committee: Deferred

HGDP – Deferred

Constitution By-Laws Committee: Deferred

Publicity Committee: Deferred.

Government Affairs: Deferred

Veterans Benefits: Deferred

Incarcerated Veterans Committee: Jack indicated that Marion at SJ VSO does not show any veterans incarcerated. Steve Thompson to follow up with National.

**XI. Unfinished Business:**

Nothing to report

**XII. New Business:**

Dave Sanders made a motion to donate \$500 to Military Moms. Second Rose Herrera, passed unanimously.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

President – Warren Finch

Vice President – Gene Fanucchi

Secretary – Steve Thompson

Treasurer – Steve Thompson

3 Year Board Member – Dennis Foggie

2 Year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker

1 Year Board Member – Rose Herrera

(This position has been vacated due to Randy Sessler moving to Florida)

1 Year Transitional Board Member – Richard Veit

(This is a new position due to the role of Secretary and Treasurer being combined and the need for an odd number of members to break a tie). Gerald Arnold and Richard Veit both sought this position so a vote of the membership was conducted and Richard Veit received the most votes. Votes were counted by Dave Sanders and witnessed by Bob Kadlec.

2018 – 2019 Delegates to CSC

Steve Thompson – Delegate

John Hassenplug – Alternate

Dennis Foggie – Alternate

2018 – 2020 State Convention Delegates

Steve Thompson – Delegate

Dave Sanders – Delegate

John Hassenplug – Delegate

Election Committee

Dennis Foggie

Mike Frangadakis

Dennis Whittaker

Officers and Directors were administered the oath of office by Al Sickie, VVA California Central District Director and affirmed by the membership.

## **AWARDS:**

Warren Finch provided awards to the following for excellent service to the Chapter during the year  
Gene Fanucchi  
Bill McCorquadale  
Dennis Whittaker  
Bob Kadlec

### **XIII. AVVA Report:**

Nothing to report

### **XIV. Good of the Order**

Reminder that we need a minimum of 4 people to assist in the posting of colors at the Field of Honor and at least 2 – 4 additional people to assist in the presentation of Wreaths. All interested parties can contact Steve Thompson ([Srbthompson@Gmail.com](mailto:Srbthompson@Gmail.com)), Warren Finch ([wfinch@att.net](mailto:wfinch@att.net)) or Bob Kadlec ([kybob@aol.com](mailto:kybob@aol.com)).

Dave Sanders presented a POW/MIA challenge coin to Warren Finch.

Dave Sanders discussed a web site his son is working (<https://strengthandhope.com/>). Site has been created to help families with addiction.

Ed Aki requested all members respect the time of prayer while the chaplain speaks.

Mike Frangadakis updated the Chapter regarding the Veterans Memorial in Los Gatos. Currently have approximately, \$ 400,000.00 in pledges and donations. Looking at November 10 as the dedication date.

Gerry Arnold indicated that the pharmacy space at the new CBOC will be re allocated.

Warren requested people to consider assuming the Chair for one or more of the open committees as follows:

- Membership – Steve Thompson
- POW/MIA
- Agent Orange
- Constitution By Laws
- Community Services
- Government Affairs
- Finance and Fund Raising
- Public Affairs
- Veterans Benefits
- Veterans Incarcerated

#### **ALSO:**

- Chaplain
- Alternate Chaplain
- AVVA Liaison
- Veteran Service Officer
- Sergeant at Arms
- UVC Delegates

**XV. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be on Monday May 21, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM (2015 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Signed*

Stephen R Thompson

Secretary

Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201

Vietnam Veterans of America

# Vietnam Veterans of America

## *Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*

### **CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday May 21, 2018**

#### Attendees:

David Ackerman	USMC	Robert Kadlec	USAF
Gerald Arnold	USN	Neil Lichtman	USA
Jim Barry	USA	Donald MacDougall	USA
John Briggs	USN	Richard McCoy	USA
Walter Carroll	USAF	William McCorquodale	USN
Cang Kim Dong	AVVA	Fran McVey	USN
Gerald Cederholm	USA	James Medeiros	USA
Larry Doutherd	USA	Gary Roberts	USA
Gene Fanucchi	USA	David Sanders	USAF
Warren Finch	USA	Burton Smith	USN
Dennis Foggie	USAF	William Thai	AVVA
Michael Frangadakis	USA	Richard Veit	USA
John Hassenplug	USN	Jack Wells	USMC
Dan Heckerman	USA	Dennis Whittaker	USA
Rose Herrera	USAF	Reuben Willhite	USMC

I. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Finch at 7:02 PM (1902 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms John Hassenplug presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Assistant Chaplain William McCorquodale provided the invocation.

#### II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

President - Warren Finch  
Vice President - Gene Fanucchi  
Secretary - Stephen Thompson (Excused)  
Treasurer - Stephen Thompson (Excused)  
Sergeant at Arms - John Hassenplug  
3-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie  
2-year Board Member - Dennis Whittaker  
1-year Board Member - Rose Herrera  
1-Year Rotating Board Member - Richard Veit

#### III. Guests:

Lucia Carroll  
Ashok Lahiri (Eagle Scout Father)  
Graham Lahiri (Eagle Scout)  
Joanne McDougall  
Joe Rodriguez, USMC  
Matt Wahlin

#### **IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the April 16, 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by John Hassenplug.

#### **V. Correspondence:**

- Thank you note from Nicole Gasparik for the Certificate of Appreciation the chapter presented to her for her efforts at Joaquin Miller Middle Schools Honoring of Veterans last November.
- Thank you from American Legion Post 642 for the donation of \$299 for Wreaths Across America last December.
- Pathway Home thank you for the Chapter donation of \$471 for the 3 Brave Women donation made in March.

#### **VI Finance Report:**

A copy of the Financial Report has been distributed. During March we received income from a membership donation collection for 3 Brave Women (\$471) as well as income during from an HGDP deposit (\$234) and new membership dues. Our expenses were for membership dues, a philanthropic donation and costs for a pop-up tent for fund raising and purchase of award plaques.

Our income during April included over \$684 from the Moffett fund raising. Our expenses included membership dues and a philanthropic donation.

Motion to approve Treasurers Report by John Hassenplug and seconded by Rose Herrera. Approved subject to audit.

#### **VII. Officer Reports:**

President Warren Finch reported that he will be on travel during June and Vice President Gene Fanucchi will be in charge of the 18 June meeting.

#### **VIII. Board Of Directors Report:**

The Board of Directors will hold their first meeting of the new fiscal year on 31 May 2018 to review a possible budget change/update to include new HGDP information reports during the April CSC Conference.

#### **IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Steve Thompson represented the Chapter at the April CSC Conference. The next CSC gathering will be the biannual convention to be held in Fresno between 22 and 24 of June 2018. Chapter delegates to the convention are John Hassenplug, Stephen Thompson and David Sanders.

#### **X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

UVC President Fran McVey presented an update on UVC activities. All families and friends are invited to attend the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Oak Hill on 28 May. There will be a number of military vehicles, and a fighter cockpit from the USS Hornet, on display, Eagle Scouts will be providing support to the UVC and posting the UVC Colors during the opening ceremony. A restored Vietnam era UH-1 Huey helicopter will conduct a fly over during the opening ceremony and is planned to land and be on display at the Field of Honor.

The UVC will be holding its first planning meeting for the November Veterans Day Parade on 24 May.

Fran McVey, President of the County Veterans Commission, spoke at the county Board of Supervisors Veterans Sub-Committee and provided a work plan for the coming year.

## **XI. Committee Reports:**

President Warren Finch appointed the following Chairpersons for the 2018-2019 committees:

Membership Committee Chair: Stephen Thompson

- April membership stands at 104 with 13 individual memberships who are encouraged to consider upgrading the Life Membership (at \$100).

POW/MIA Committee Chair: David Sanders

- Becky Thomas reported that the Darwin Thomas crash site in North Vietnam has been excavated and the remains have been sent to Hawaii for forensic analysis.
- The POW/MIA Dedication Plaque at the Freedom Tree in Downtown San Jose, that was re-dedicated in 1989, is in ill repair. Suggest that the Chapter consider replacing the plaque and holding another "re-dedication," perhaps on POW/MIA Day (2019).

Agent Orange Committee Chair: David Sanders

Constitution/Bylaws Chair: Robert Kadlec

Community Services Committee Chair: Mike Frangadakis

- The Los Gatos Veterans Memorial Support Foundation continues and will hold a dedication on 10 November. So far, the Foundation has raised \$800,000 in pledges for the memorial.

Government Affairs Committee Chair: Fran McVey

Finance & Fund-Raising Committee Chair: Stephen Thompson

Public Affairs Committee Chair: Rose Herrera

Veterans benefits Committee Chair: Gerald Arnold

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair: Jack Wells

## **XII. Unfinished Business:**

President Warren Finch published Chapter Order Number One listing the results of the annual election as follows:

President	Warren Finch
Vice President	Gene Fanucchi
Secretary	Stephen Thompson
Treasurer	Stephen Thompson
Three-year Board Director	Dennis Foggie
Two-year Board Director	Dennis Whittaker
One-year Board Director	Rose Herrera
One-year Rotating Director	Richard Veit
CSC Convention Delegate	Stephen Thompson
CSC Convention Delegate	John Hassenplug
CSC Convention Delegate	David Sanders
Election Committee:	Dennis Foggie; Michael Frangadakis; & Dennis Whittaker

President Warren Finch published the following Chapter orders:

Chapter Order Number Two announced the appointment of Randall Richmond as the Chaplain, William McCorquodale Assistant Chaplain, John Hassenplug as Sergeant-At-Arms, Gerald Arnold as Veteran Service Officer and Randall Richmond as Chapter 201 Liaison Officer to the Chapter 201 Associates.

Chapter Order Number Three announced the appointment of the Chairpersons for the Chapter 201 Committees (listed above) and the delegates to the United Veterans Council; Rose Herrera, K.D. Poynter and Steve Thompson.

Chapter Order Number Four announced the appointment of the membership of the Finance Committee whose responsibility is to conduct reviews of all Chapter 201 records, funds and accounts in lieu of an audit. In Accordance with Chapter 201 Bylaws (Article VII, Section 4) the Finance Committee members are:

Treasurer Stephen Thompson  
Board Direction Richard Veit  
Chapter Member at large Robert Kadlec

## **XIII. New Business:**

The Chapter will participate in both the United Veterans Council (UVC) Memorial Day Ceremony at Oak Hill's Veteran Section and the VVA service at the Oak Hill Field of Honor. The individuals will post the Chapter's National Colors and the VVA Colors during the opening ceremony at 11:00am will be Dennis Whittaker and William McCorquodale.

The following individuals will be placing wreaths during the UVC ceremony"

- Stephen Thompson will place the Medal Of Honor Wreath.
- Linn Malaznik will assist Vietnam War Veteran Ron Wecht, USMC, with multiple Purple Hearts, place the Purple Heart wreath. Additionally, as a Wounded Warrior and descendent of a Union Civil War officer, Linn Malaznik will have the honor of raising the National Colors at noon during the UVC Ceremony.



- Cang Kim Dong will place the POW/MIA wreath along with Joseph Tran, both former Vietnam POWs.
- Warren Finch and Rose Herrera will place the Vietnam War wreath
- Robert Kadlec will place the Grand Army of the Republic Decoration Day Tribute.

Following the UVC Ceremony, the Chapter will conduct its annual ceremony at the Field of Honor, including the Missing Man Table Service beginning at 2:15 pm.

Warren Finch will be the master of Ceremonies with Randall Richmond acting as Chaplain. The Chapter's colors will be posted by:

- Stephen Thompson (National Colors)
- Gerald Arnold (POW/MIA Flag)
- Gene Fanucchi (VVA Flag)
- Rose Herrera (Chapter 201 Flag)

AVVA Chapter 201 President Cang Kim Dong will have AVVA Members posting the Vietnamese and AVVA Colors following the posting of the Chapter colors. The AVVA will place the Vietnam War and POW/MIA wreaths and fire the honor volley and the playing of Taps.

The Missing Man Table Service will be conducted by U.S. Volunteers Major Scott Cassell. Assisting at the Missing Man Table will be Stephen Thompson and Dennis Whittaker.

Rose Hererra reported that the ship's bell and flag from the World War Two ship USS San Jose, named after the City, has been donated to the San Jose City Hall. Rich McCoy made a motion, seconded by Mike Frangadakis, to support the donation and send a letter of support to San Jose Councilman Johnny Khamis [donation sponsor] from the Chapter.

Richard McCoy reported that the POW/MIA flag at the San Jose Veterans Memorial on Park Street is missing. Richard McCoy made a motion, seconded by Mike Frangadakis, to request that the City of San Jose fly the POW/MIA flag below the American flag at the San Jose Veterans Memorial.

#### **XIV. AVVA Report:**

AVVA President Cang Kim Dong reported that the Associates will hold a ceremony on 27 May between 10:00am and 2:00pm at the Vietnamese Heritage Gardens (1499 Roberts Avenue).

Cang also reported that the former Vietnamese military will hold its annual event on 17 June between 10:30am and 3:00pm.

#### **XV. Good of the Order:**

Oak Hill will again this year provide a free dinner for Korean and Vietnam War Veterans at Mariani's Restaurant. The dinner will be at 5:30PM on Saturday, June 23rd. The "Swingin' Blue Stars" will provide entertainment. Anyone wishing to partake should call Karen Carter at Oak Hill to make reservations.

The VVA National Leadership Conference will be held in Palm Springs from 23 to 28 July. Anyone can attend. The deadline for pre-registration is 30 June. After that, the cost goes up from \$85 to \$125 for the registration. The conference is composed of a series of workshops including Secretary and Treasurer responsibilities, Service Officer training, Veterans Incarcerated, etc. There are five luncheons or supper shows over four days at \$35 each and the Awards Banquet for \$50 on the last day. No one is required to attend these. I have a few copies of the agenda and registration forms if anyone is interested, or you can register online at: [vva.org/leadership-conference/2018/](http://vva.org/leadership-conference/2018/).

John Hassenplug suggested that everyone should have a fire extinguisher in their home (recent personal experience). Mike Frangadakis also suggested that everyone have a first aid kit.

Dave Sanders reported that the Chapter donated \$500 to Military Moms (April 16, 2018). Over 100 Gold Star and Blue Star families attended a brunch in Saratoga (at \$85 per person). A total of \$4,500 was donated by VVA, UVC and American Legion organizations to the Military Moms.

Warren Finch handed out VVA 40th Anniversary coins to Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans. The coins were from an anonymous donor and a \$5 donation to the Chapter would be welcome.

Dennis Whittaker advised that he would be unavailable in November and someone will have to volunteer to interface with from Nicole Gasparik at Joaquin Miller Middle School for their annual Veterans Day event Honoring of Veterans in November.

Gary Roberts reported that the Palmer College of Chiropractic West, at 90 East Tasman Drive (at First Street) in San Jose, will offer free chiropractic service to veterans.

## **XVI. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday June 18, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM (2000 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Signed*

Robert J. Kadlec  
Acting Secretary  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America

# Vietnam Veterans of America

## *Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*

### **CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday June 18, 2018**

#### Attendees:

Edward Aki	USMC	Richard McCoy	USA
Gerald Arnold	USN	James McMann	USA
Jim Barry	USA	James Medeiros	USA
Walter Carroll	USAF	Casimiro Morin	AVVA
Cang Kim Dong	AVVA	Richard Paulsen	USA
Gene Fanucchi	USA	K.D. Poynter	USAF
Michael Frangadakis	USA	Randall Richmond	USN
John Hassenplug	USN	David Sanders	USAF
Dan Heckerman	USA	William Thai	AVVA
Clyde Horn	USA	Richard Veit	USA
Robert Kadlec	USAF	Jack Wells	USMC
William McCorquodale	USN		

I. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gene Fanucchi at 7:02 PM (1902 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms John Hassenplug presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Assistant Chaplain Randall Richmond provided the invocation.

#### II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

President - Warren Finch (Excused)  
Vice President - Gene Fanucchi  
Secretary - Stephen Thompson  
Treasurer - Stephen Thompson  
Sergeant at Arms - John Hassenplug  
3-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie (Excused)  
2-year Board Member - Dennis Whittaker (Excused)  
1-year Board Member - Rose Herrera (Absent)  
1-Year Rotating Board Member - Richard Veit

#### III. Guests:

Alexa Aki  
Lucia Carroll  
Richard J. Salciccia  
Larry Wilkinson  
Donna Zolezzi (President Blue Star Moms)

Jack Wells has requested to have Channy Chi Laux, author of Short Hair Detention as a guest in August. She was a witness to the Khmer Rouge atrocities. Will confirm with President Warren Finch.

KD Poynter has requested to have an Air Force Major General attend the next meeting to discuss the Air Force Program "Education for Kids."

Donna Zolezzi presented an overview of the role of the Blue Star Moms, which is any mom with a son or daughter serving in the military. They provide packages to known service members which may include snacks, personal care items, cooling scarves for military personnel serving in Afghanistan or Iraq. In addition, they have worked with and helped to fund the Fisher House at Palo Alto VA Medical Center and working to fund a second Fisher House at the same location.

The Blue Star Moms receive flat rate boxes from the Post Office and fill as full as possible for the flat rate. They must pay all postage and rely upon donations to help fund the postage and other costs.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Blue Star Moms can contact Donna Zolezzi, PO Box 60907, Sunnyvale, CA, 94088-0907.

Phone: 408-829-8171 or E-Mail: [President@southbaybluestarmoms.org](mailto:President@southbaybluestarmoms.org).

Website is [www.southbaybluestarmoms.org](http://www.southbaybluestarmoms.org)

#### **IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the May 21, 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by John Hassenplug and seconded by Mike Frangadakis.

#### **V. Correspondence:**

- Request for Donation from Salvation Army.
- Newsletter from Children of Vietnam.
- Correspondence from James Fife Estate. The estate is still in motion and there is a hearing scheduled for August to discuss the overall distribution of funds. The amounts are still under discussion and the actual use or restriction, if any, of how the funds are to be used.

In discussion with the Executor, the goal is to try and finalize all of this during the August meeting, but there can be delays. In evaluating this potential receipt of money. The Treasurer will be discussing overall handling of the funds with the Board to determine the best way to use, preserve the principal and provide the greatest benefits to our Chapter and to Veterans.

#### **VI Finance Report:**

Treasurer Stephen Thompson reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Randy Richmond and Second by Mike Frangadakis.  
Approved subject to audit.

#### **VII. Officer Reports:**

Nothing To Report.

#### **VIII. Board Of Directors Report:**

Revised Budget presented. HGDP Funding was finalized and amount was greater than budgeted. Expenses reflecting this increase were noted and the membership is advised to review and send any potential changes to the distribution of the HGDP funding to the chapter at [chapter201@vva201.org](mailto:chapter201@vva201.org) prior to the next meeting.

**IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Steve Thompson, Dave Sanders and John Hassenplug to attend Conference June 22 in Fresno. Report of the conference will be presented at the next meeting.

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

KD Poynter reported in Fran McVey's absence. Met with Google (new parking lot owners) and have received approval to use the parking lots for the Veteran Day Parade staging and in fact have agreed to provide the use of an additional parking lot.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee (Stephen Thompson): - As of May 31, we have a total of 106 members. 88 Life Time and 18 individual memberships. There are two members expiring in August and I will be notifying them separately. We have had a few new applications this month and they should be reflected for the June membership. May AVVA-201 Membership at 128 (11 individual & 117 life).

POW/MIA Committee (David Sanders): - Noted that there is a cemetery 4.5 KM South of Da Nang for Americans that have married Vietnamese women, received dual citizenship and passed away while living in Vietnam.

Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders): Nothing to report

Constitution By-Laws Committee (Robert Kadlec): Deferred until after CSC Convention.

Community Services Committee (Mike Frangadakis): Los Gatos Veterans Memorial is in process and the original planned dedication for Veterans Day weekend 2018 has been changed to an unveiling. The foundation has received approximately \$1.1 Million in Donations and pledges and hope to have the memorial ready for dedication Veterans Day Weekend 2019. Still accepting donations and goal is to collect \$100K per year to assist Veterans in need. Mike Frangadakis would like for a member to act as a liaison with the foundation to assist in the allocation of funds.

Government Affairs Committee (Fran McVey): Santa Clara County Veterans Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, June 21st.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee (Stephen Thompson): Steve Thompson and Randy Richmond trying to secure July 14 for a fund raising event at Moffett Field.

Public Affairs Committee (Rose Herrera): Nothing to report

Veterans Benefits (Gerald Arnold): Nothing to Report

Incarcerated Veterans Committee (Jack Wells): Steve Thompson will talk to the incarcerated members committee at the CSC Convention to resolve issue of 3 members noted as incarcerated.

**XII. Unfinished Business:**

During a prior meeting a motion was made for VVA to Adopt the 129th Rescue Wing, but nothing further has been discussed. Vice President Fanucchi noted that the motion did not have any substance, and this has created the void. Dave Sanders to contact the leadership at the 129th and work to develop a plan for discussion and consideration. This will remain on future agendas.

**XIII. New Business:**

Dave Sanders made a motion to approve a Not to Exceed amount of \$325 for each of the three members attending the CSC Conference in Fresno the weekend of June 22. Seconded by Randy Richmond. Approved

Steve Thompson made a motion to send \$100 to the Salvation Army, as per prior history. Seconded by Randy Richmond. Approved.

KD Poynter advised he would like to invite a Major General to next meeting to discuss the Air Force Program of "Education for Kids." Dave Sanders noted we should pay for his meal and this was agreed and will be a part of the President Discretionary Fund.

It was noted that it would be a good idea to have some business cards prepared that have our basic chapter information on the front and a map of Holders Inn and address on the back. These cards could be used to hand out to potential members. Steve Thompson to work out a template and see about having some cards printed by Vista Printing.

**XIV. AVVA Report:**

AVVA President Cang Kim Dong reported that Dave Sanders, Fran McVey and KD Poynter attended the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day on Sunday June 17th.

**XV. Good of the Order:**

Dave Sanders noted that Steve Thompson and Dave Sanders attended an event at the Vietnamese Heritage Gardens honoring all the countries that assisted the South Vietnamese Army.

Dave Sanders noted that the pins on display at back of the room were purchased approximately 15 years ago by the chapter and members are encouraged to take what they would like and to donate to the chapter. Collected \$100.00 in donations.

KD Poynter noted that Doug Boyles (Eagle Foundation) is restoring a historic South Vietnamese Tank for use during upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

Randy Richmond read a posting advising of the sudden passing of Beverly Balsey, Gold Star Mother, who lost her son Michael in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. It was noted that she has been an active member of Gold Star Mothers and an inspiration to many.

**XVI. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday July 16, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM (2015 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Signed*

Stephen R Thompson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
DARWIN J. THOMAS  
MEMORIAL CHAPTER 201  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

**Chapter Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday July 16, 2018**

**Attendees:**

David Ackerman	USMC	Bill McCorquadale	USN
John W Briggs	USN	Richard McCoy	USA
Cang Kim Dong	AVVA	Francis Mc Vey	USN
Gene Fanucchi	USA	Casimiro Morin	AVVA
Warren Finch	USA	Richard Paulsen	USA
Dennis Foggie	USAF	Randall Richmond	USA
Richard Francis	USN	Burton Smith	USN
Mike Frangadakis	USA	William Thai	AVVA
Dan Heckerman	USA	Stephen Thompson	USN
Robert Kadlec	USAF	Rich Veit	USA
Donald MacDougall	USA	Oleta Wilhite	AVVA
James Madeiros	USA	Reuben Wilhite	USMC

I. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Finch at 7:0 PM (190 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. President Finch led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation.

**II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:**

- President – Warren Finch
- Vice President – Gene Fanucchi
- Secretary/Treasurer – Stephen Thompson
- Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug – Excused
- 3-year Board Member – Dennis Foggie
- 2-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker - Excused
- 1-year Board Member – Rose Herrera – Excused
- 1-year "Rotating" Board Member – Richard Veit

**III. Guests:**

Christine Ackerman  
Gloria Cervantes  
Jeanne MacDougall  
Grace Witt

Grace Witt provided a history and overview of the Adopt a Military Mom for Mother's Day history and ongoing purpose. She originally thought of doing something for moms after the 9/11/01 terrorist attack. She initially started the Adopt a Military Moms for Mother's Day in 2014 and it was a small gathering at a cost of approximately \$500. Over the years this event has grown along with the setting and now costs approximately \$15,000. She relies upon donations from various organizations and individuals and will fund the remainder out of pocket if enough donations are not received. The other three guests, two Blue Star Moms and one Gold Star Mom also made a small presentation and further acknowledged the supportive benefit they all receive during this day, which is the Saturday prior to Mother's Day.

At the end of the presentation, they presented the group with a large Mrs. Fields Chocolate Chip cookie which was heartily received.

**IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the June 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Richard Veit and seconded by Randy Richmond.

**V. Correspondence:**

Request for Donation from Salvation Army  
June Bank Statement from Chase Bank

**VI. Finance Report:**

Treasurer Stephen Thompson reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Finance report as submitted and subject to audit by Randy Richmond and Second by Richard Mc Coy.

**VII. Officer Reports:**

Warren Finch provided brief overview of his recent trip and highlights of Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Monument

**VIII. Board of Directors Report:**

Board of Directors are planning to meet during August and will report updates at next Board Meeting.



**IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Typed minutes were presented. Overall issues were discussion of some procedural resolutions and election of officers.

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

Planning for Veterans Day parade is in full swing and there will be more areas for overall staging,

Los Gatos Veterans Memorial unveiling scheduled for November 10.

Veterans work plan approved by the City Council. In addition, agreement has been reached to develop criteria for a Veteran of the Year Award.

Nothing new to report on the Mare Island Cemetery ownership change.

Fran McVey has met with the new commander of the 129th. Air Rescue Wing and hope to have him attend a future meeting.

UVC is going to have booth at the Spirit of '45 event and VVA 201 is welcome to share the table.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee (Stephen Thompson): As of June 30, we have a total of 109 members. 90 Life Time and 19 individual memberships. There are two members expiring in August and one member whose status expires June 30. I have been in touch with each of these members and await their response.

May AVVA-201 Membership at 128 (11 individual & 117 life).

POW/MIA Committee (David Sanders): - Nothing to report.

Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders): Nothing to report

Constitution By-Laws Committee (Robert Kadlec): Working on some draft changes to be presented at a future meeting.

Community Services Committee (Mike Frangadakis): Los Gatos Veterans Memorial is in process and has a committed funding from D.R. Horton Bank. Goal is to set up a working foundation to provide benefits to veterans, especially within Santa Clara County, but will consider other veterans as deemed appropriate.

Government Affairs Committee (Fran McVey): Nothing to report.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee (Stephen Thompson): Fund Raising event planned for August 11 and 12 at Moffett Field.

Public Affairs Committee (Rose Herrera): Nothing to report

Veterans Benefits (Gerald Arnold): Nothing to Report

Incarcerated Veterans Committee (Jack Wells): Met with State representative at California convention and he will look into the discrepancy.

**XII. Unfinished Business:**

129th Air Rescue Wing to remain on agenda as we plan overall approach.

Business Cards distributed, and membership advised we will print more for general use in recruitment of new members,

**XIII. New Business:**

Discussed Spirit of '45 and fact DAV has purchased a booth for the day. VVA has been invited to share, although appears they will share space with the UVC.

**XIV. AVVA Report:**

Cang reported that they attended and participated in the Red, White and Blue parade and won the First Prize. CONGRATULATIONS to AVVA 201.

**XV. Good of the Order**

Bill McCorquadale distributed hand-written letter from local school children written at random to veterans expressing gratitude.

Bill will also be visiting a Vietnam Marine on Monday that is in a Hospice in Martinez.

Mike Frangadakis reminded group that we had previously discussed having a member at each meeting share a bit of their story for a 5 – 10-minute presentation. This will be added to the agenda and Mike has volunteered to be the first presenter

Bob Kadlec noted that the first Quarterly Observation Post Newsletter was available at the sign in table. The newsletter covers April through June.

Articles have been submitted to the Zephyr,

**XV. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be on Monday August 20, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM (2015 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen R Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'S'.

Stephen R Thompson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
DARWIN J. THOMAS  
MEMORIAL CHAPTER 201  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

**Chapter Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday August 20, 2018**

Attendee

Gerald Arnold	USN	Rose Herrera	USAF
Jim Barry	USA	Robert Kadlec	USAF
John W Briggs	USN	Julian (John) Macias	USMC
Albert Carillo, Sr	USA	Richard McCoy	USA
Walter S. Carroll	USAF	Francis Mc Vey	USN
Cang Kim Dong	AVVA	James Madeiros	USA
Larry Douthard	USA	Richard Paulsen	USA
Gene Fanucchi	USA	KD Poynter	USAF
Warren Finch	USA	Burton Smith	USN
Dennis Foggie	USAF	Stephen Thompson	USN
Richard Francis	USN	Rich Veit	USA
Mike Frangadakis	USA	Dennis Whittaker	USA
John Hassenplug	USN	William Thai	AVVA
Dan Heckerman	USA		

I. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Finch at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sargent at arms John Hassenplug led the Pledge of Allegiance and guest Chaplain Richard Veit provided the invocation.

**II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:**

- President – Warren Finch
- Vice President – Gene Fanucchi
- Secretary / Treasurer – Stephen Thompson
- Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug
- 3-year Board Member – Dennis Foggie
- 2-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker
- 1-year Board Member – Rose Herrera
- 1-year "Rotating" Board Member – Richard Veit

**III. Guests:**

Joni Maldolora  
Channi Laux  
Kent Laux  
Lucia Carroll

John Macias also will be transferring his At Large membership to Chapter 201 and we welcome him to our group.

Channy Chhi Laux shared her experiences as a 13-year-old girl caught up in the Bloody take over of Cambodia by the Khmer. This was a challenging time and she has written a book called the "Short Hair Detention" which is written from the eyes and thoughts of a 13-year-old girl. President Finch presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation from the chapter

**IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the July2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Richard Veit and seconded by Whittaker.

**V. Correspondence:**

Donation from Moose Lodge 2049 in amount of \$100 – Thank you Dave Sanders

Donation from Truist (Costco)

**VI. Finance Report:**

Treasurer Stephen Thompson reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Finance report as submitted and subject to audit by Rose Herrera and Second by Jerry Arnold.

**VII. Officer Reports:**

Veterans Chorus will be performing Sunday 8/26 at 3:00 PM. They are also performing at Santana Row after the Veterans day parade and at Gate of Heaven Cemetery on December 15 as part of the Wreaths across America. They will also be doing a fund raising event in December for homeless veterans and information to follow.

**VIII. Board of Directors Report:**

Board of Directors met on August 16 and approved ongoing for the sponsoring of 2 additional Vietnamese Children, bringing the total to 6.

Reviewed overall finances and budget to date and all appears in order.

Discussed recent correspondence regarding the estate of James Fife and more to be presented as soon as we know more.

**IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Steve Thompson to attend the next quarterly meeting on August 25 - 26

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

Planning for Santana Row appears to be on target and almost complete. Planning for the Veteran Day Parade is due to start this week and UVC is looking at various organizations that may want to assist.

There is a special Veteran Appreciation Ceremony at Mt. Umunhum this Sunday and Dennis Whittaker and Fran McVey will speak of some of their experiences during the Sacred Native American Ceremony.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee (Stephen Thompson): As of July 31, we have a total of 109 members. 81 Life Time, 15 individual memberships and 3 incarcerated. Steve to review the incarcerated issues at CSC to determine how to have them removed. One individual member converted to Life member during July. There is one member expiring in August and I have been in touch and have not heard from this individual. July AVVA-201 Membership at 128 (11 individual & 117 life).

POW/MIA Committee (David Sanders): - Nothing to report.

Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders): Nothing to report

Constitution By-Laws Committee (Robert Kadlec): Changes to the Constitution need to be to the BOD by October for review and presentation to full membership in January. Final review and approval by membership must occur in April. Members are encouraged to review By Laws on web site and send any recommended changes to Bob Kadlec.

Community Services Committee (Mike Frangadakis): Los Gatos Veterans Memorial is in process and continuing to receive additional funding. Overall support is very high for the memorial

Government Affairs Committee (Fran McVey): Fran Mc Vey is still following the progress on the transfer of Mare Island Cemetery from the City of Vallejo to the VA.

Rose Herrera noted that the City Council is still looking at the placement of the City of San Jose Bell. The person that currently has the bell will donate, but only if it is placed in City Hall. Will keep membership posted.

KD noted that there is a C130 called the City of San Jose and was the last C130 to fly out of Danang and currently housed at the 129th Air Rescue Wing and needs to be moved. Discussion regarding possibly adding to the Moffett Air Museum, but at this time there is no room available.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee (Stephen Thompson): Fund Raising event at Moffett Field went well and we collected \$220. Looking at a future event in October.

Public Affairs Committee (Rose Herrera): Nothing to report

Veterans Benefits (Gerald Arnold): Nothing to Report

Incarcerated Veterans Committee (Jack Wells): Steve Thompson to work with CSC to resolve

**XII. Unfinished Business:**

129th Air Rescue Wing to remain on agenda as we plan overall approach.

Business Cards distributed, and membership advised we will print more for

general use in recruitment of new members,

**XIII. New Business:**

Veteran Day Parade – We need a minimum of 8 people to carry the colors and the VVA Banner. Members are encouraged to contact Steve Thompson if they wish to be a part of the parade.

Discussed the Vietnam Veteran patch to see if anyone was interested and if we should purchase some for the membership. Limited interest expressed, so no action taken.

**XIV. AVVA Report:**

Cang thanked the members of the VVA and AVVA that joined in the celebration for AVVA winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Red White and Blue ceremony.

**XV. Good of the Order**

Wreaths across America will be held at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery on December 15 and all are encouraged to attend by 9:30 AM to hear the Veterans Chorus sing.

Cupertino Veteran Golf Tournament to be held Tuesday August 28 and Dennis Whittaker's company will sponsor two golfers for the event.

Miller Middle School will hold their annual honor a veteran on November 9. This is a very special event and all are encouraged to be a part of this event. More information to follow.

Rose Herrera noted that she will be attending a Mental Health Summit focusing on ageing and women veterans.

**XV. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be on Monday September 17, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM (2015 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen R Thompson  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America

# Vietnam Veterans of America

## *Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*

### CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

#### Chapter Meeting Minutes Monday September 17, 2018

Holder's Country Inn  
998 South DeAnza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

#### Attendee

Gerald Arnold	USN	Rose Herrera	USAF
Jim Barry	USA	Robert Kadlec	USAF
John W Briggs	USN	Bill McCorquadale	USN
Walter S. Carroll	USAF	Francis Mc Vey	USN
Cang Kim Dong	AVVA	James Madeiros	USA
Jeff Driskell	USA	Richard Paulsen	USA
Gene Fanucchi	USA	Randall Richmond	USA
Warren Finch	USA	Burton Smith	USN
Dennis Foggie	USAF	William Thai	AVVA
Richard Francis	USN	Stephen Thompson	USN
John Hassenplug	USN	Dennis Whittaker	USA
Dan Heckerman	USA		

I. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Finch at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sargent at Arms John Hassenplug led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation.

#### II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

- President – Warren Finch
- Vice President – Gene Fanucchi
- Secretary / Treasurer – Stephen Thompson
- Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug
- 3-year Board Member – Dennis Foggie
- 2-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker
- 1-year Board Member – Rose Herrera
- 1-year "Rotating" Board Member – Richard Veit – Excused

#### III. Guests:

Frank Lim  
Jose Salcido



**IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the August 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by John Hassenplug and seconded by Randy Richmond.

**V. Correspondence:**

Thank you letter from Children of Vietnam, solicitation and book from an attorney that handles appeals and bank statements

**VI. Finance Report:**

Treasurer Stephen Thompson reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Finance report as submitted and subject to audit by Randy Richmond and Second by Rose Herrera.

**VII. Officer Reports:**

Warren acknowledged the excellent level of effort and work by Randy Richmond and others to plan and finalize the POW/MIA Day at San Jose Coty Hall on Friday September 21, 2018. A special thank you also to Jose Salcido from the City of San Jose in making sure that this happened as planned. Given the short time frame to complete, a great deal was accomplished.

Military Veterans Choir will be performing as follows:

Honor on the Row – November 11

Gate of Heaven Cemetery December 15 as part of Wreaths across America

Annual Fund Raiser in Sunnyvale – more information to follow but planned for December 8.

There will a Board of Directors Meeting in October.

**VIII. Board of Directors Report:**

Will report after October meeting

**IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Prepared Minutes were presented and important take away was the need to be very aware of ID fraud.

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

There are some challenges to the Veterans Day Parade due to current Non-Profit Status of the UVC and a number of disparaging comments and claims made by a prior delegate to the UVC. UVC members are working hard to get this resolved and be able to save the parade.

Gene Fanucchi is working with various parties to assure that Honor on the Row goes off as prior years.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee (Stephen Thompson):

As of July 31, we have a total of 109 members. 81 Life Time, 15 individual memberships and 3 incarcerated. Steve has been working with National to have the incarcerated members removed. There is one member that expired end of August and after repeated contacts, has chosen to not renew their membership.

July AVVA-201 Membership at 128 (11 individual & 117 life).

POW/MIA Committee (David Sanders): - Nothing to report.

Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders): Nothing to report.

Constitution By-Laws Committee (Robert Kadlec):

Changes to the Constitution need to be to the BOD by October for review and presentation to full membership in January. Final review and approval by membership must occur in April. Members are encouraged to review By Laws on web site and send any recommended changes to Bob Kadlec.

Community Services Committee (Mike Frangadakis): Nothing to Report.

Government Affairs Committee (Fran McVey): Fran Mc Vey reminded the group of the event in Sacramento on October 13.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee (Stephen Thompson): Working to contact Moffett Commissary Manager to set a weekend in October.

Public Affairs Committee (Rose Herrera): Nothing to report

Veterans Benefits (Gerald Arnold):

DAV has been working with VSO Officers to be available on 11/1 at the American Legion Hall, 958 Homestead from 9 -2. They will be working with any veteran seeking additional assistance of information regarding claims or benefits. Town Hall meeting will be held Tuesday 9/18 at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in San Jose and all are encouraged to attend.

Incarcerated Veterans Committee (Jack Wells): Nothing to report.

**XII. Unfinished Business:**

129<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue Wing to remain on agenda as we plan overall approach.

**XIII. New Business:**

Nothing to report

**XIV. AVVA Report:**

AVVA will be active participant in POW/MIA Celebration.

**XV. Good of the Order**

A Guest (Frank Lim) that visited our booth at Moffett and is a Vietnam Era Veteran stood to introduce himself. He is evaluating becoming a member.

Miller Middle School, 6151 Rainbow Drive, San Jose 95129, will hold their annual honor a veteran on November 9, 2018. This is a very special event, and all are encouraged to be a part of this event. Point of contact for this event is Warren Finch wfinch@att.net.

Jose Salcido advised the group he is available to assist in any way possible.

**XV. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be on Monday October 15, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM (1950 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen R Thompson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
DARWIN J. THOMAS  
MEMORIAL CHAPTER 201  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

**Chapter Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday October 15, 2018**

Attendee

Bill Briggs	USN	Robert Kadlec	USAF
Walter S. Carroll	USAF	Bill McCorquadale	USN
Cang Kim Dong	AVVA	Richard Mc Coy	USA
Gene Fanucchi	USA	Francis Mc Vey	USN
Warren Finch	USA	Randall Richmond	USA
Dennis Foggie	USAF	Burton Smith	USN
Richard Francis	USN	William Thai	AVVA
John Hassenplug	USN	Stephen Thompson	USN
Dan Heckerman	USA	Rich Veit	USA
Clyde Horn	USA	Dennis Whittaker	USA

I. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Finch at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant at arms John Hassenplug led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation.

**II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:**

- President – Warren Finch
- Vice President – Gene Fanucchi
- Secretary / Treasurer – Stephen Thompson
- Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug
- 3-year Board Member – Dennis Foggie
- 2-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker
- 1-year Board Member – Rose Herrera -Excused
- 1-year "Rotating" Board Member – Richard Veit

**III. Guests:**

Lucia Carroll  
David Cooper, USA

**IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the September 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by John Hassenplug and seconded by Dennis Whittaker.

**V. Correspondence:**

Quarterly VVA Veteran Newsletter and Bank Statement.

**VI. Finance Report:**

Treasurer Stephen Thompson reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Finance report as submitted and subject to audit by Randy Richmond and Second by Richard Veit.

**VII. Officer Reports:**

Warren reminded members of the Veterans Chorus performance on 12/8 which will raise funds to assist homeless veterans. The tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased via the San Jose Opera Website or at the door, if any tickets are remaining.

Chorus is also performing at Honor on the Row at Santana Row after the Veteran Day Parade on November 11. Also, at Heavens Gate Cemetery for Wreaths across America and the Blue Star Moms 10/27.

Holiday Luncheon at Harrys Hofbrau on December 16.

**VIII. Board of Directors Report:**

Will report after October meeting.

**IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Quarterly meeting is the weekend of October 26.

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

The Veterans Day Parade is moving along well and it is anticipated to be quite a success.

Honor on the Row is being handled by Doug and Tina Boales and also appears to be a success.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee (Stephen Thompson):

As of September 30, we have a total of 108 members. 81 Life Time, 14 individual memberships and 3 incarcerated. Steve will discuss options for how to handle the incarcerated that we are not able to locate, at the next CSC meeting. An option is remove them from the roster, but this will need a full member vote. There is one member that expired end of August and has chosen to not renew their membership. July AVVA-201 Membership at 129 (12 individual & 117 life.

POW/MIA Committee (David Sanders): - Nothing to report.

Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders): Nothing to report

Constitution By-Laws Committee (Robert Kadlec): BOD will review during the October Board meeting and present to membership at the next meeting.

Community Services Committee (Mike Frangadakis): Nothing to Report.

Government Affairs Committee (Fran McVey): Nothing to Report.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee (Stephen Thompson): Tentative dates for Moffett are 11/3 - 11/4.

Public Affairs Committee (Rose Herrera): Nothing to report.

Veterans Benefits (Gerald Arnold): Nothing to Report.

Incarcerated Veterans Committee (Jack Wells): Nothing to Report.

**XII. Unfinished Business:**

129th Air Rescue Wing will be discussed with Dave Sanders at the next meeting to determine what or how we will accomplish this goal.

Veterans Day Parade Color Guard – Steve Thompson, Gerald Arnold, Jack Wells, Burton Smith, Dick Francis, Bob Kadlec, Randy Richmond and Walter Carroll. We always welcome more members to assist.

Steve to contact the parade planner to make sure that AVVA is also a part of the parade

**XIII. New Business:**

Flag lowering ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery on Sunday October 28. Volunteers from VVA 201 to include Warren Finch, Burton Smith and Randy Richmond. AVVA will also be represented.

Dennis Foggie made a motion to send a maximum of \$400 for 10 trees to the Battaglia Tree Farm in Morgan Hill for "Trees for Troops". Second by Randy Richmond and approved. A review of the web site shows cost of trees is \$39.95 each and the Treasurer will send a check.

**XIV. AVVA Report:**

Cang and Randy Richmond will be visiting the Palo Alto Medical Center for Thanksgiving.

**XV. Good of the Order**

Miller Middle School, 6151 Rainbow Drive, San Jose 95129, will hold their annual honor a veteran on November 9, 2018. This is a very special event, and all are encouraged to be a part of this event. Point of contact for this event is Warren Finch wfinch@att.net.

Warren shared an E Mail advising the group of discounts and other tributes for veterans in Branson Missouri. Web site is Branson.com.

SAMS participated in the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sacramento. It was a cherished event and well attended.

Web site will be updated soon with additional pictures and the current Observation Post newsletter.

We had a guest attend toward the end of the ceremony (David Cooper, USA). He was an airborne Ranger in Vietnam and the members welcomed his and encouraged him to become a member.

**XVI. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be on Monday November 19, 2018 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begin at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM (2005 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen R Thompson  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
DARWIN J. THOMAS  
MEMORIAL CHAPTER 201  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

## **Chapter Meeting Minutes** **Monday November 19, 2018**

### Attendee

Gerald Arnold	USN	Richard Mc Coy	USA
Bill Briggs	USN	Francis Mc Vey	USN
Gene Fanucchi	USA	Randall Richmond	USA
Warren Finch	USA	Gary Roberts	USA
Dennis Foggie	USAF	Dave Sanders	USAF
Richard Francis	USN	Burton Smith	USN
John Hassenplug	USN	Stephen Thompson	USN
Dan Heckerman	USA	Rich Veit	USA
Clyde Horn	USA	Jack Wells	USMC
Robert Kadlec	USAF	Cang Kim Dong	AVVA
Julian John Macias	USMC	William Thai	AVVA

I. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Finch at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant at arms John Hassenplug led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation.

### II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

- President – Warren Finch
- Vice President – Gene Fanucchi
- Secretary/Treasurer – Stephen Thompson
- Sergeant at Arms – John Hassenplug
- 3-year Board Member – Dennis Foggie
- 2-year Board Member – Dennis Whittaker - Excused
- 1-year Board Member – Rose Herrera - Absent
- 1-year "Rotating" Board Member – Richard Veit

### III. Guests:

Dwight George Black	USN Naval Air
David A Cooper	USA
Paul Davis	USA
Frank Lem	USAF

Paul Davis is a contractor with Moving Forward, a PTSD Program that is set up on a Mobile APP for use in conjunction with a weekly follow up call from Paul. There are 8 modules for approximately 30 minutes once a week. If interested and complete, there is a payment of \$30 from the VA.



**IV. Reading of Minutes:**

Minutes of the October 2018 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Richard Veit and seconded by Randy Richmond.

**V. Correspondence:**

Chapter Bank Statement.

**VI. Finance Report:**

Treasurer Stephen Thompson reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed. Motion to approve Finance report as submitted and subject to audit by Randy Richmond and Second by John Hassenplug.

**VII. Officer Reports:**

President: -

Special thanks to all that assisted with the Veterans Day Parade.

Anna Eschoo has introduced legislation to allow Veteran Organizations to qualify as a 501( c ) (19) and to include Spouses and dependents to be considered in the count of the chapter membership.

Holiday Luncheon at Harrys Hofbrau on December 16.

Chaplain: - Ed Aki is in a nursing home in Morgan Hill recovering from Heart Valve Replacement. He is at Pacific Manor Nursing Home in Morgan Hill.

**VIII. Board of Directors Report:**

Draft budget for 2019-2020 approved and will be presented to membership during January 2019 Meeting.

Draft By Laws were approved and will need member approval prior to April 2019 meeting.

**IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:**

Biggest change is that National VVA has flattened memberships and there will only be one membership going forward and that is that it will be a \$50 fee for Lifetime. There was some discussion as to whether the chapter should or could cover the differences in fee for a member that is unable to pay the full \$50 fee. The motion was deferred until such time as an actual issue arises

**X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:**

The Veterans Day Parade was a very large success even with the light attendance due to the smoky air.

Honor on the Row was also successful and a huge thank you goes to the Eagle Foundation for taking this task on with such short notice.

Work has already begun on the Memorial Day celebration for 2019.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee (Stephen Thompson):

As of October 31, we have a total of 109 members. 97 Life Time, 11 individual memberships and 3 incarcerated. National has been advised to remove the three as incarcerated and forward any dues notice to the chapter PO Box.

July AVVA-201 Membership at 129 (12 individual & 117 life.

POW/MIA Committee (David Sanders): - Nothing to report.

Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders): Newest presumptive in High Blood Pressure.

Constitution By-Laws Committee (Robert Kadlec): Draft By Laws need final member approval by April 2019 meeting.

Community Services Committee (Mike Frangadakis): Nothing to Report.

Government Affairs Committee (Fran McVey): Nothing to Report.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee (Stephen Thompson): Raised \$ 436 at last fund raiser for Moffett.

Public Affairs Committee (Rose Herrera): Nothing to report.

Veterans Benefits (Gerald Arnold): VA CBOC is moving effected November 26.

Incarcerated Veterans Committee (Jack Wells):

**XII. Unfinished Business:** 129<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue Wing was discussed, and Dave Sanders will talk with Rose Herrera to see what we will need to do.

Special Acknowledgements as follows:

Rose Herrera very instrumental in securing the fly over during the parade.

Fran did a great job of coordinating the vehicles and other areas of the parade, even though this negated his appearance as the President of UVC

Gene worked tirelessly from 6AM until at least 6 PM on the day of the parade to assure all areas ran smoothly

**XIII. New Business:**

Holiday luncheon will be on Sunday December 16 at Harrys HofBrau on Saratoga. Chapter will pay for one member and a guest for a Senior Dinner not to exceed \$13.25. Chits will be provided to the member and guest when they sign in. AVVA is welcome to attend and Steve will make chits for these attendees.

**XIV. AVVA Report:**

Cang and his AVVA Members visited Menlo Park and Palo Alto VA to hand out early holiday packages which included a warm shirt or sweat shirt, T Shirt and some socks. A wonderful gift to our veterans

**XV. Good of the Order**

Blue Star Moms invited the veterans chorus to their last fundraiser.

December 8 is the annual fund raiser for "All the Way Home" for homeless veterans. The chorus will be involved as they are each year.

A motion was made to donate \$ 250 to the VVA Chapter near the Camp fire if they need to assist veterans. Steve To contact Dean or some other members to determine their needs and where to send a check.

**XV. Closing Ceremony**

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be on Sunday December 16, 2018 at Harrys Hof Brau. Social time and lunch to begin at 11:30 AM with a short meeting to follow.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM (200 hours).

Respectfully Submitted20



Stephen R Thompson  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America

# Vietnam Veterans of America

*Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*

## CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Harry's Hofbrau, Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, California

In lieu of the December Chapter 201 social and business meeting, VVA and AVVA members, and guests gathered at Harry's Hof Brau in San Jose at 11:20 AM on Sunday, 16 December for a Holiday luncheon. This being our annual luncheon, all routine business was suspended until our next meeting.

- I. **President Warren Finch** introduced member MG Kent Hillhouse (USA, ret). MG Hillhouse presented an overview of his time in Vietnam as a young officer. The presentation was well received, and President Warren Finch presented Kent with a Certificate of Appreciation.
- II. **Interim Chaplain Bill McCorquodale** provided the opening and closing prayer and noted that the chapter chaplain, Randy Richmond, is at Palo Alto VA Medical Center for Back surgery.
- III. **President Warren Finch** presented Stephen Thompson with a certificate for his assistance during the annual Veterans Day Parade. A certificate was also presented to Rose Herrera for her timely assistance in working with the City of San Jose in the celebration of the annual POW/MIA Day. Last, but not least, a certificate in absentia was presented to Randy Richmond for his persistence work with the annual POW/MIA Day.
- IV. **AVVA President Cang Kim Dong** thanked all of the VVA members for their support during the Vietnam War and working with the South Vietnamese forces to try and stem the tide of communism.
- V. **President Warren Finch** adjourned the Luncheon and reminded all that the next gathering will be the monthly social and business meeting on the third Monday of the month on January 21, 2019 at Holder's Country Inn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen Thompson  
Secretary,  
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
Vietnam Veterans of America