



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

BULLETIN

February 2010

Lest We Forget

VOLUME 10 No. 2

President's Corner

Lots in Store for 2010. Enjoy!

Recently, as I sat staring out the window at another damp, foggy and cold day here in Lincoln Hills, feeling sorry for myself, I had an awakening. How lucky we are to live in a country where we enjoy the life that we do. However, it is more than that, more than the good old USA; it is our community. As I told someone once: it is not the company you work for, it really is your immediate superior, and his or her superior that will determine how you feel about getting up and going to work every day.

I think that this philosophy regarding our immediate contacts holds true to some degree about where we choose to live. How different our lifestyle would be if we lived in Sacramento, Roseville, or some other metropolitan community. Mary and I had friends living here in Lincoln Hills, so we had some insight into the community before we began to search for a new place to call home.



Having lived for almost three decades in the same house in San Jose, and then for almost three years in Placerville, in a home designed by Mary, moving was not a decision to be made lightly. Nevertheless, move we did, and I can honestly say that we have never been happier.

Shortly after we arrived, we began to look for ways to meet new people and make new friends. For me, it was contact with Steve Witmer, when I was seeking information on the Veterans Group, and reaching out to the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post so that I could transfer my membership. For Mary, it was the Low Speed Vehicles Group and game night with old and new friends.

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Next Meeting

Veterans History Project

Bob Stackhouse, a founding member of the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group and organizer of the Lincoln-area Veterans History Project, will be the featured speaker at the February 18 meeting at 1 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Presentation Hall.

The Veterans History Project (VHP) collects and preserves the remembrances of American war veterans and civilian workers who supported them. These collections of first-hand accounts are archived in the American Folklife



Center at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and to serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

The project collects remembrances of veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War (1990-1995), and Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present). U.S. civilians who actively supported war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, defense contractors, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

Here in Lincoln, Bob Stackhouse and Doug Cooper interview area veterans and submit their stories to the national archive. Copies of these interviews are given to the veterans themselves so that their stories can be shared with family members and friends.



Visit the Veterans Group Website at www.lhvets.org

**Lincoln Hills Veterans Group
2010 Officers and Directors**

President: Jon Hodson 543-4687
Vice Pres.: Steve Witmer 408-2455
Secretary: Vern Luke 253-3711
Treasurer: Rich Williams 543-4887
Director: Bob Dale 543-2133
Director: Vic Ioppolo 434-6113
Director: Lorraine Bivalec 408-7004

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Presidents: Steve Witmer 2008
 Vern Luke 2007
 Wayne Ford 2006
 Dick Schultz 2005
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 Mickey Haggard 2001
Membership: Larry Wilson 408-0667
Programs: Rich Williams 543-4887
Vets Resource: Tom Rainbolt 434-5555
Webmaster: Bob Stackhouse 645-5581
Social Events: Mary Hodson 543-4687
 Lorraine Bivalec 408-7004
 Lillian Nawman 408-2184
Chaplains: Alan Hearl 543-4860
 Joey Chisesi 408-1705
Public Relations: Steve Witmer 408-2455
Nominations: Bob Dale 543-2133

Meetings

The board of directors meets the Wednesday before the third Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. General membership meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m., normally in the Kilaga Springs Lodge Presentation Hall.

Membership

The purpose of the Veterans Group is to bring together resident veterans who have served honorably in any uniformed service of the United States or its allies during war or peace. Dues are \$10 a year. Life membership is \$100. For further information, please contact Larry Wilson at 408-0667 or any of the board members or committee chairs listed above.

Bulletin Contributions

Contributions to the monthly *Bulletin* are appreciated. Please send material for consideration to:

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 Lincoln, CA 95648
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Never did either of us imagine that in retirement we would need to use a calendar, and on some days a *watch*, to keep our schedules straight. Nevertheless, it is true. We both now rely on Blackberries (thanks to our daughter and son-in-law) to assure that we do not double- or even triple-book ourselves.

Scheduling is what your social chair and the board of directors have been doing. They've been putting together the social calendar for 2010. Events for the year will include an Evening Social March 12, a Flag Day Barbecue at the Sports Pavilion June 14, an Ice Cream Social in the afternoon of August 14 and the Holiday Luncheon December 16. Ceremonies are being planned for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and field trips are still being developed.

I hope that as you look forward into 2010, that you feel, as I do, that we are among those who have made a conscious decision to enjoy our lifestyle to the fullest. As I read in an email recently, "Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways—Sierra Nevada Pale Ale in one hand and a glass of merlot in the other—in a well-tattooed body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and screaming—"WOO HOO! What a ride!"

- Jon Hodson

In Memoriam

**Milton (Milt) Raasch
 Lawrence (Larry) Jones**
 Veterans of the U.S. Army

*The Veterans Group extends its sincerest
 condolences to Milt's and Larry's families and friends.*

Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, the group had \$4,195.65 in its checking/savings account and \$3,464.38 in a CD. Total assets at year-end were \$7,660.03.

Membership Report

As of January 6, the group's paid membership stood at 301, including 56 life members.

Welcome, New Members

New Life Members

**Phil Conley, U.S. Army
 Harold O'Neill, U.S. Army**

Calendar of Events

February

- 15** Presidents' Day* 
17 Directors Meeting
18 General Membership Meeting

March

- 17** Directors Meeting
18 General Membership Meeting

* National Holiday or Observance. Proudly fly the American flag.

Items of Interest to Veterans

Used Cell Phones Can Aid the Troops

Americans are expected to replace 130 million cell phones in 2010. By sending an old one to Cell Phones for Soldiers (CPFS), the value of that discarded phone can be applied to a calling card for a deployed service member.



The nonprofit CPFS was founded five years ago by Brittany and Robbie Bergquist, then 13 and 12. The Norwell, Mass. siblings collect and recycle cell phones and use the money to buy calling cards. CPFS now has 6,000 collection sites and has donated 500,000 cards.

For more information and to locate a nearby collection site, visit the CPFS website at: cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

- Family Circle

ICBM Anniversary Commemorated

Air Force officials gathered Oct. 7 at F. E. Warren AFB, Wyo., to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the nation's operational ICBM fleet. It was on Oct. 31, 1959 that three long-range, liquid-fueled Atlas D missiles (*photo at right*) armed with nuclear warheads went on full combat alert at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., ushering in a new era of strategic nuclear deterrence for the nation.



F. E. Warren is home to 20th Air Force, which oversees the current Minuteman III ICBM fleet, and the 90th Missile Wing, which oversees 150 of USAF's 450 ICBMs.

- Air Force Magazine

New Communications Satellite Supports the Fight

WGS-2, the Air Force's second Wideband Global SATCOM spacecraft, is now fully operational and supporting ground troops in Afghanistan and Iraq by relaying data and imagery across the battlespace at unprecedented high rates of speed, Boeing, the satellite's maker, announced in early October.



Launched in April and now in geosynchronous Earth orbit over the Indian Ocean, WGS-2 was cleared for use back in August by U.S. Strategic Command, the company said in a release Oct. 6.

WGS-2 is supplanting the commercial communications satellites that have been used over that region in the past to support the U.S. military. It is also designed, as all WGS spacecraft are, to replace the Air Force's legacy Defense Satellite Communications System spacecraft. Each WGS satellite has more than 12 times the throughput capacity of a single DSCS satellite, according to Boeing.

WGS-2 joins WGS-1, which sits over the Pacific Ocean and has been operational since April 2008, supporting U.S. military operations in the entire Pacific region.

- Boeing Integrated Defense Systems

Financial Aid Available for Caregivers to Disabled, Infirm Seniors

The Lincoln Hills Foundation, in conjunction with the Del Oro Caregiver Resource Center, can help with financial assistance to those caring for disabled or infirm senior veterans.

A federal assistance program offering a monthly payment from the Department of Veterans Affairs is designed to provide care for people who are disabled or frail and might have trouble living on their own. The money can be used to pay assisted-living bills or help to cover home health care. For information on the program, contact:

Del Oro Caregiver Resource Center
5725-D Marconi Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608
Phone: (916) 971-0893
Website: <http://www.deloro.org/>.

- Mark Dentinger

Visit the Veterans Group Website at www.lhvets.org

[Lest We Forget](#)

Pacific War Museum Dedicates New Bush Gallery in Fredericksburg, Tex.

Former President George H.W. Bush on December 7 cut a red ribbon and dedicated an expansive new gallery that carries his name at the National Museum of the Pacific War.

Bush and his wife, Barbara, were among some 4,000 people in Fredericksburg, Tex. to mark the day 68 years ago that the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor drew the United States into World War II.

The museum fulfills the obligation of passing along to future generations "the abject horror of war," Bush said, which he described as what happens "when mankind falls short of his highest aspirations."



"It's in the act of telling the full story of war, the heroism, the moral justice of a cause, as well as the great suffering, that makes this remarkable museum such a special place and a vital contribution to our country," the former president said.

The \$15.5 million expansion project, which adds 32,500 square feet of exhibit space and takes visitors on a chronological journey through the Pacific war, had been planned for about a decade. Fredericksburg, about 60 miles northwest of San Antonio, is hometown of Adm. Chester Nimitz, who commanded all American naval forces in the Pacific during World War II.

Visitors can see exhibits about the Pearl Harbor attack and historic battles during the war: Guadalcanal, Midway, Tarawa, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki also have displays. Some of the presentations use sound, video and animated special effects to put visitors in the middle of battles.

Besides Bush, the crowd included other World War II veterans, some of them proudly wearing uniforms or items representing their service. There are an estimated eight million Pacific War veterans, the youngest of them now in their 80s. Museum officials estimate that fewer than 1 million veterans who saw combat in the Pacific are alive today.

- Michael Graczyk, Associated Press

U.S. - Mexican War Ends with Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo February 2, 1848

The U.S.-Mexican War was an armed conflict between the United States and Mexico from 1846 to 1848 in the wake of the 1845 U.S. annexation of Texas. Mexico claimed ownership of Texas as a breakaway province and refused to recognize the secession and subsequent military victory by Texas in 1836.

The war began with a Mexican attack on American troops along the southern border of Texas on April 25, 1846. Fighting stopped nearly a year and a half later when U.S. Gen. Winfield Scott occupied Mexico City on September 14, 1847.

► **The Mexican Cession (in red), was acquired through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The Gadsden Purchase (in yellow) was acquired later, in 1853.**



The war officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848. In exchange for \$15 million, Mexico ceded to the United States 55 percent of its territory, including parts of present-day Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah.

Despite initial objections from Whigs and abolitionists, the war united the United States in a common cause and was fought almost entirely by volunteers. The army swelled from just over 6,000 to more than 115,000. Of this total, approximately 1.5% were killed in the fighting, and nearly 10% died of disease; another 12% were wounded or discharged because of disease, or both.



◀ **1,563 U.S. soldiers of the 1846-1848 war are buried in the Mexico City National Cemetery.**

For years afterward, Mexican-American War veterans continued to suffer from the debilitating diseases contracted during the campaigns. The casualty rate was thus easily over 25% for the 17 months of the war; the total casualties may have reached 35-40% if later injury- and disease-related deaths are added. In this respect, the war was proportionately the most deadly in American military history.

- Multiple Sources

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