



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

BULLETIN

June 2009

Lest We Forget

VOLUME 9, No. 6

President's Corner

I've been honored to be the president of the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group for nearly six months and I am reminded daily that I couldn't do this job solo. One of my enduring regrets is that I haven't always thanked those who have helped me along the way in my life. Teachers, scoutmasters, supervisors, commanders – many reflected the best of what we, as humans, have to offer. I can only hope to atone for my omissions by "paying it forward" and by trying to give credit where it is due to those nice folks who I have noticed doing good works, often with no thanks or recognition.



THANKS!

A number of fellow vets and their wives continue to make the Veterans Group what it is – a unique opportunity to both serve and socialize in what often seems to be a sometimes impersonal and unsocial world. Those whom I identify are, by no means, the only members who go the extra mile and I apologize for any omissions.

We had another successful coffee sale at the recent Community Parking Lot Sale. As in previous sales, Dick and Shirley Schultz took the lead, secured the coffee and doughnuts and set up and staffed the actual activity. Granted, some others of us were there as support; however, the credit really goes to the Dick and Shirley. The money earned will allow us to do some good works.

Mary Hodson continues to plan our social activities. After lots of planning and hard work, the Spring Fling was a total success and was enjoyed by all who attended. Mary continues to serve the group by planning the Flag Day Barbecue and other activities.

Bob Garry, who is generous to a fault, not only gets us all the ice cream we could ever use, he secures live entertainment for our socials as well.

Please turn to page 2, column 2

Next Event

Sign Up Now for Flag Day Barbeque



Plan now for an afternoon of great Texas BBQ and first-rate music and fun with your fellow veterans and guests.

Thursday, June 18
Sports Pavilion
4 to 8 p.m.

The barbeque will feature:

- Pork Ribs
- Cole Slaw
- BBQ Beans
- BBQ Chicken
- Potato Salad
- Rolls
- Cookies for Dessert

A no-host bar will be available

Music by the Jay Paulus Society Band

All this costs only \$15 per person (subsidized by the Veterans Group). Just fill in the form below and send it in by June 12.

We'll see you at the barbeque!

Veterans Group Flag Day Barbeque

Name(s) of Attendee(s):

Send this form and your check (\$15 per person), payable to *Lincoln Hills Veterans Group*, to

Mary Hodson
100 Turtledove Court
Lincoln, CA 95648

If you have questions, please call Mary at 543-4687.

Visit the Veterans Group Website at www.lhvets.org

Lincoln Hills Veterans Group 2009 Officers and Directors

<i>President:</i>	Doug Cooper	408-7173
<i>Vice Pres.:</i>	Steve Witmer	408-2455
<i>Secretary:</i>	Jon Hodson	543-4687
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Rich Williams	543-4887
<i>Director:</i>	Bob Dale	543-2133
<i>Director:</i>	Vern Luke	253-3711
<i>Director:</i>	Vic Ioppolo	434-6113

Advisors and Committee Chairs

<i>Past</i>	Steve Witmer	2008
<i>Presidents:</i>	Vern Luke	2007
	Wayne Ford	2006
	Dick Schultz	2005
	Mark Dentinger	2004
	Dick Meyer	2003
	Ed Foley	2002
	Mickey Haggard	2001
<i>Membership:</i>	Jon Hodson	543-4687
<i>Programs:</i>	Rich Williams	543-4887
<i>Vets Resource:</i>	Tom Rainbolt	434-5555
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Bob Stackhouse	645-5581
<i>Social Events:</i>	Mary Hodson	543-4687
	Lorraine Bivalec	408-7004
<i>Chaplain:</i>	Alan Hearl	543-4860
<i>Public Relations:</i>	Steve Witmer	408-2455

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. Surviving spouses of veterans are also invited to join. Dues are \$10 a year. Life membership is \$100. For further information, please contact Jon Hodson at 543-4687 or any of the board members or committee chairs listed above.

Bulletin Contributions

Contributions to the monthly *Bulletin* are appreciated. Photos and memorabilia will be scanned and returned. Please send material for consideration to:

Steve Witmer, Editor
1582 Summerhill Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648
switmer@starstream.net

President's Corner, continued from page 1

Steve Witmer creates this excellent newsletter, Bob Stackhouse maintains a great website, Vern Luke will sell a flag to anyone and Rich Williams continually provides great speakers for our meetings. To these members and to others who attend the board meetings and keep us on the right course, a sincere thanks. You all reflect the values of good citizens and friends.

- Doug Cooper

Treasurer's Report

As of April 14, the group had \$3,589.67 in its checking/savings account and \$3,426.02 in a CD.

Membership Report

As of April 15, the group's paid membership stood at 267, including 47 life members.

Welcome, New Members

Member	Service
Ronald Beaulac	Navy
Richard Hafenrichter	Air Force

Calendar of Events

June

- 14** Flag Day*
- 17** Directors Meeting
- 18** General Membership Meeting

July

- 4** Independence Day*
- 15** Directors Meeting
- 16** General Membership Meeting

* National Holiday. Proudly fly the American flag.

Items of Interest to Veterans

Rep. McClintock Addresses April Meeting

California's District 4 Congressman Tom McClintock addressed the April 16 general membership meeting. He expressed his thanks for the service of our members, shared some historical perspectives on effective government and political leaders, and briefed members on his legislative priorities for the current Congress.



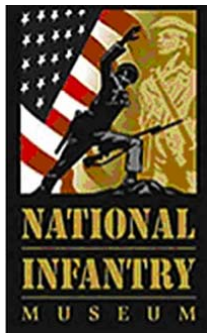
Visit the Veterans Group Website at www.lhvets.org

Parade Field Dedication Brings Together Infantry Heroes and New Soldiers

About 160 young men in B Company, 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment became the first to graduate on the new Soldiers Field at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park on March 19, 2009. The museum is located in Columbus, Georgia, just outside the gates of Fort Benning, the Home of the Infantry and one of the Army's largest installations.



The ceremony began with a Vietnam-era air demonstration by the Sky Soldiers, a team of veteran aviators that uses Hueys, Cobras and other assault helicopters to wow audiences and salute the military.



The Sacred Soil ceremony followed the air show. Soil collected from eight wars in Infantry history was sprinkled across the field by heroes of those wars or their descendants, accompanied by present day soldiers in period uniforms. Among the soil spreaders were

descendants of Alexander Hamilton, Theodore Roosevelt and Alvin York, as well as Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and Command Sergeant Major Basil Plumley, who led an historic assault on the Viet Cong at Landing Zone X-Ray. Each new soldier passing in review during graduation ceremonies from this date forward will march across the sacred soil, a tangible connection to the legacy they have just joined.



Actor Sam Elliott, who portrayed CSM Plumley in the movie *We Were Soldiers*, narrated the ceremony. Further information is available on the museum's website at www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com.

- National Infantry Museum

In Memoriam

Thomas Walter (Walt) Pickthall Veteran of the U.S. Army

The Veterans Group extends its sincerest condolences to Walt's wife, Jutta, his children, Thomas Walter Pickthall and Colleen Pickthall Hattman, and his many friends.

The Boats That Won the War

The LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle and Personnel), also known as a Higgins Boat, was used to carry first waves of infantry from ship to shore. After the first plywood, rampless vessels used in Operation Torch proved inadequate, an improved variant was designed — steel, diesel-powered, ramped craft that could carry 36 combat-equipped infantrymen or 3.6 tons of cargo from ship to shore. During World War II the United States produced more than 23,000 of

these boats. Gen.

Eisenhower called them the key to victory.



◀ *LCVPs group towards the line of departure in Empress Augusta Bay, off the Bougainville*

beachhead, November 20, 1943. These craft were photographed from a PT boat, one of whose twin .50 caliber machine guns is in the foreground.

The Higgins Boat was used for many amphibious landings, including Operation Overlord on D-Day in Normandy, Operation Torch in North Africa, the



Allied invasion of Sicily, Operation Shingle and Operation Avalanche in Italy, Operation Dragoon in southern

France, and in the Pacific Theatre at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Today, fewer than ten of these little craft survive in the U.S., with about four more in Europe.

- Multiple sources

Visit the Veterans Group Website at www.lhvets.org

Lincoln VFW Post 3010 Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Lincoln Post 3010 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrated its 75th anniversary with a ceremony and refreshments at the Lincoln Veterans Hall on April 11. Lincoln Mayor Spencer Short, VFW District 17 Commander Selso Cavazos, women of the auxiliary, family members and guests from the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group, American Legion and Semper Fi Association joined the celebration.

► **Lincoln Mayor Spencer Short (center) joins Post 3010 Commander Vic Ioppolo (left) and Sr. Vice Commander Bud Duncan following the presentation of a city council proclamation recognizing the post's 75th anniversary.**



◀ **District 17 Commander Selso Cavazos reads a certificate honoring Post 3010 from the VFW national commander on behalf of the 2.1 million members worldwide.**

The commander of VFW Post 3010 is Vic Ioppolo, who also serves on the Veterans Group's board of directors. This year's LHVG President Doug Cooper, 2003 President Dick Meyer and Secretary Jon Hodson also are active in the local VFW post. Congratulations to the Lincoln post for 75 years of serving the greater community and honoring the sacrifices of those men and women in uniform who have kept America free.

New Air Force Exhibit Opens

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, has opened a new exhibit called "Warrior Airmen." The exhibit highlights how today's airmen are contributing to the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq.

One section is dedicated to special operations forces, such as pararescuemen, tactical air controllers and combat weather personnel. Another section features other ground operations. The third section demonstrates how aircrews provide close air support, fly rescue aircraft and drop bombs on target.

- MOAA Magazine

Lest We Forget

June 14, 1775 – Continental Army Established by Congress

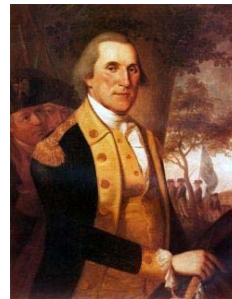
When the American Revolutionary War began at the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, the colonial revolutionaries did not have an army. Each colony previously had relied on its militia, made up of part-time citizen-soldiers, for local defense.

As tensions with Great Britain increased, training of militiamen also ramped up. After Lexington and Concord, thousands of militiamen from New England gathered to oppose the British troops who had been bottled up in Boston.



On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia decided to proceed with the establishment of a Continental Army for purposes of common defense, adopting the forces already in place outside Boston as the new army's first units.

On the following day, June 15, the Congress chose George Washington, a Virginian, to be commander in chief. The choice was made for geographical and political reasons, as well as for military



considerations. The choice proved fortunate. From the trials of eight years of war, he learned the essentials of strategy, tactics and military organization.

Washington brought to the task traits of character and abilities as a leader that in the end more than compensated for his lack of professional military experience. Among these qualities were a determination and a steadfastness of purpose rooted in an unshakable conviction of the righteousness of the American cause, a scrupulous sense of honor and duty, and a dignity that inspired respect and confidence in those around him.

Following the successful conclusion of the war with the Treaty of Paris, most of the Continental Army was disbanded in 1783. The remaining units are considered to have formed the nucleus of what was to become the United States Army.

- Multiple sources

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