



## LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

# BULLETIN

March 2010

Lest We Forget

VOLUME 10 No. 3

### President's Corner

## What is Wrong with Me?

I received an email from a member who told me he was not going to renew his membership. He went on to say that he had been a member for nearly six years, and that during his first year of membership he regularly attended meetings, including the Holiday Party. But after that first year, he only attended sporadically.



He went on to say that he and his wife had attended the Flag Day Barbecue this past June, but the only folks he spoke to were the ones at his table. He felt that this was typical of most of our gatherings—little or no social exchange, especially at membership meetings.

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## Spring Fling March 12

Make your reservations now for the Veterans Group's first social event of the New Year. Our annual evening mixer will be held on Friday, March 12, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Orchard Creek Ballroom.



The event will feature hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. The cost is \$16 per person. Advance reservations are required by Friday, March 5. Send the names of attendees and a check for \$16 per person (payable to **LH Veterans Group**) to Rich Williams, 640 Violet Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.

Contact Mary Hodson at 543-4687 for further info.



### Next Meeting

## The "Chosin Few" - Reflections of a Combat Marine in Korea

Dan Richard, a Marine veteran of the Chosin Reservoir campaign during the war in Korea, will be the featured speaker at the March 18 meeting of the Veterans Group at 1 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Presentation Hall.



After the liberation of Seoul in September 1950, Gen. Douglas MacArthur opened an offensive aimed at ending the Korean War. The U.S. X Corps was stretched out on Korea's east coast.

At the midway point, the First Marine Division was echeloned from Hungnam to the northwest along a mountain road to the Chosin Reservoir, location of an important hydroelectric plant.

On November 24, MacArthur began an "end-the-war" attack to the Yalu River. Days later, a massive Chinese counteroffensive erupted. The First Marine Division, its 5th and 7th Regiments now at Yudam-ni north of the reservoir, was ordered to shift its attack to the west to shore up the collapsed right flank of the Eighth Army. Overwhelming Chinese forces quickly brought the Marine advance to a halt. Temperatures dropped to  $-25^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit.



The 1st Marines, the division's third infantry regiment, held positions in battalion strength along the only road leading south from Yudam-ni. Maj. Gen. Oliver P. Smith, the division commander, pulled

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Visit the Veterans Group Website at [www.lhvets.org](http://www.lhvets.org)

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

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

**Advisors and Committee Chairs**

<i>Past</i>	Doug Cooper	2009
<i>Presidents:</i>	Steve Witmer	2008
	Vern Luke	2007
	Wayne Ford	2006
	Dick Schultz	2005
	Mark Dentinger	2004
	Dick Meyer	2003
	Ed Foley	2002
	Mickey Haggard	2001
<i>Membership:</i>	Doug Cooper	408-7173
<i>Flag Sales:</i>	Vern Luke	253-3711
<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
	Lillian Nawman	408-2184
<i>Chaplains:</i>	Alan Hearl	543-4860
	Joey Chisesi	408-1705
<i>Public Relations:</i>	Steve Witmer	408-2455
<i>Nominations:</i>	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 Doug Cooper at 408-7173 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:

**Steve Witmer, Editor**  
1582 Summerhill Lane  
Lincoln, CA 95648  
[switmer@starstream.net](mailto:switmer@starstream.net)

**President's Corner, continued from page 1**

Well, I thought, so what? Good riddance! But, knowing only too well that I have a tendency to react and then think, I consciously did not respond. I flagged his email for follow up, and moved on, thinking that when I calmed down, I was really going to smoke him.

When I went to bed that evening, I found myself asking the question, "What is wrong with *me*?" Here is someone who took the time to tell me why he wasn't going to renew his membership, and I am going to ignore him or, worse yet, abuse him for taking the time to try to help me make things better. Even worse than that, here is someone we did not make welcome or feel valued as a member.



I think to some degree we are all guilty of what I was being told. We have a tendency to become comfortable, and to reluctantly operate outside our

comfort zone, which includes that small circle of people that we call friends.

When I was manning the flag sales table recently, I made a new friend; a dear lady who was in the Navy before I was born. While we were waiting for customers, we had an enjoyable conversation. What did we have in common? On the surface, not much; but after just a few minutes we found we had more in common than I ever imagined. Would I have gone out of my way to talk to her at one of our socials, or before or after a meeting? Sadly, the answer is no.

So, given all of this, I am going to make the following offer to my email correspondent, followed by a challenge:

If you will give us another chance, I will pay your 2010 dues. You have absolutely nothing to lose, and everything to gain!



Now the challenge: come to the next meeting. Wear your Lincoln Hills badge. Walk up to someone you have never spoken to before. Hold out your hand, introduce yourself, and ask them a probing question. When did you serve? Which service were you in? Where did you serve? You get the idea. I am willing to bet that \$10.00 dues payment that you will end up having an interesting conversation with someone you genuinely like.

Now, my challenge to every member who is reading this: do the same thing! When you come to the next meeting, wear your badge, come early, don't immediately take your seat, join a group mingling in the lobby, or better yet, find someone in Presentation Hall and introduce yourself and start a conversation.



Here is yet another challenge. I need a couple of volunteers. Three or four would be better. When I belonged to Sons in Retirement, we had greeters, who welcomed every member to the meetings. I want some greeters. I want three or four of our more gregarious members to station themselves in the aisles of Presentation Hall to greet folks as they come into the room.

My hope is that these greeters will become the nucleus of small social groups, and that as we get to know each other better, we will spend more time talking to each other. The goal is to broaden our existing circle to encompass new friends. My personal aim is that never again will I hear from a member that they are resigning because we failed to satisfy something as important as making them feel valued as a member of our group.

- Jon Hodson

**"Chosin Few,"** continued from page 1

the 5th and 7th Marines back to Hagaru-ri. The breakout from there began on December 6.

Immeasurably helped by close air support and aerial resupply, the division reached Hungnam six days later. Of the some 15,000 Marines engaged, 4,400 were battle casualties.



Almost all the Marines suffered some degree of frostbite. The Chinese had lost perhaps 25,000 dead and did not oppose the evacuation of Hungnam by X Corps, which was accomplished by Christmas.

***In Memoriam***

**Dan Gilmore**

Veteran of the U.S. Navy

**Ed Law**

Veteran of the U.S. Navy

The Veterans Group extends its sincerest condolences to Dan's and Ed's families and friends.

**Treasurer's Report**

As of January 20, the group had \$1,725.83 in its checking/savings account and \$3,464.38 in a CD. Total assets totaled \$5,190.21.

**Membership Report**

The group's paid membership stands at 301, including 56 life members.

**Welcome, New Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Service</b>
Tom Barker	Air Force
Harry Chaney	Navy
Rodney Hannula	Army
Raymond Henry	Army
Lynn Lockenour	Navy
Scotty Story	Navy
Larry Webber	Navy
Arthur Wilson	Navy
Gene Wyrkus	Navy

***New Life Members***

**Patrick Emmert, U.S. Air Force**  
**Dennis Sudano, U.S. Navy Seabees**

**Calendar of Events**

**March**

- 12** Veterans Group Spring Fling, 6 p.m., OCL
- 17** Directors Meeting
- 18** General Membership Meeting

**April**

- 14** Directors Meeting
- 15** General Membership Meeting

**Items of Interest to Veterans**

**Aircraft Display Days Planned at Lincoln Regional Airport**

The Lincoln Regional Airport (Karl Harder Field) welcomes all residents to its monthly Aircraft Display



Day. On the third Saturday of each month, the airport and the Lincoln Regional Airport Association team provide visitors an opportunity to get

close to examples of the many aircraft that make up our local aviation community.

Visit the Veterans Group Website at [www.lhvets.org](http://www.lhvets.org)

Pilots from around the area bring their aircraft to Lincoln to engage in the camaraderie of flying and make their planes available for viewing by the public. All aviation enthusiasts and those just curious about what goes on at the Lincoln Regional Airport are invited to attend. Admission is free.

## VA Benefits Recipients Could Receive Suspect Co-pay Bills

Under certain circumstances, veterans who receive payments—such as disability compensation—from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), may be billed for co-payments that the VA failed to collect in the past. However, if the veteran has any question about the validity of those charges, he should contact the VA or the Placer County Veterans Services Officer (VSO) before sending payment.

The County Veterans Services Officer's role is to assist veterans in ensuring that they are being treated fairly and that they receive the benefits they have earned. Veterans who reside in Placer County can contact the VSO or VA as follows:

**Rick Buckman, Veterans Services Officer**  
1000 Sunset Blvd., Ste.115  
Rocklin, CA 95765  
Phone: 916-780-3290  
Fax: 916-780-3299  
Email: [veterans@placer.ca.gov](mailto:veterans@placer.ca.gov)

**VA Benefits & Assistance Help Line**  
Phone: 800-827-1000

## DoD Rushes Aid to Haiti After Quake

More than 15,000 U.S. military personnel, 24 ships and more than 120 aircraft are supporting operations to provide relief and care to more than three million Haitians who were affected by the Jan. 12 earthquake. The mission is designated Operation Unified Response.



◀ *Haitian citizens watch an SH-60F Sea Hawk helicopter deliver fresh water from the Guided Missile Cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52). (U.S. Navy photo)*

Initial U.S. military efforts were focused on expanding and securing the distribution network to speed delivery of aid to the Haitian people.

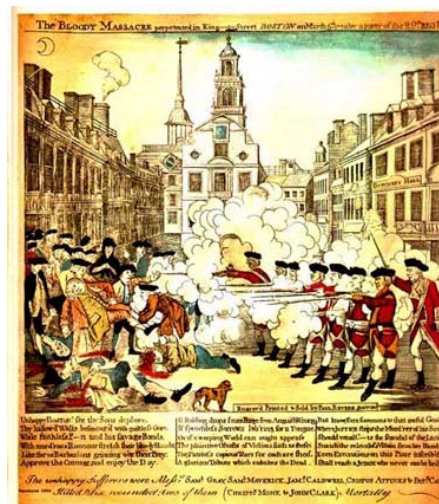
- U.S. Southern Command

## Lest We Forget

### March 5, 1770: Boston Massacre Inflames Zeal for Revolution

The Massacre was the 1770, pre-Revolutionary incident growing out of the anger against the British troops sent to Boston to maintain order and to enforce the Townshend Acts. The troops, constantly tormented by irresponsible gangs, finally on March 5, 1770, fired into a rioting crowd and killed five men: three on the spot, two of wounds later.

► *Paul Revere wasted no time in capitalizing on the Massacre to highlight British tyranny and stir up anti-British sentiment. Revere's historic engraving of the event is long on political propaganda and short on accuracy or aesthetics.*



The funeral of the victims was the occasion for a great patriot demonstration. The British captain, Thomas Preston, and his men were tried for murder, with Robert Treat Paine as prosecutor, John Adams and Josiah Quincy as lawyers for the defense. Preston and six of his men were acquitted; two others were found guilty of manslaughter, punished, and discharged from the army.

The Massacre became a legendary event of the American rebellion against the British with many controversies and myths surrounding the true facts. Even when the gun smoke faded away, the subsequent murder trial raised high emotions and the results were not considered fair by either side.

The impact of the incident on the cause of the American Revolution was profound. Despite the best efforts of the governing authorities to cool down anti-British sentiments, such as immediately removing the troops from Boston and postponing the trial by several months, the net result was the increase of support for independence. The next five years preceding the start of the Revolution gave Patriots many chances to put in practice the lessons learned during the Boston Massacre.

- Boston Massacre Historical Society

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