



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

BULLETIN

November 2009

Lest We Forget

VOLUME 9, No. 11

Special Event

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11

All Lincoln-area residents and guests are invited to the annual Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 11. The event this year will be held inside the Orchard Creek Lodge Ballroom to provide more seating for attendees and offer a venue protected from the sometimes blustery fall weather.



The Lincoln Hills Singers and the Roseville Community Concert Band will perform patriotic pieces for the event. Music will begin in the Ballroom at 10 a.m. and continue through the ceremony until noon.

President's Corner

Homecomings

I got up early recently (October 15), put on the coffee, went outside and retrieved the *Bee*. After the coffee pot had generated nearly a full cup, I poured myself one and headed for the recliner to catch the morning TV news while scanning the paper. There was the usual rehashing of the previous days' rain storms and how much cleaning up there was to do. There was a mention of the political battles going in Washington and in Sacramento. Not much new to report. Then the newscasters turned to a happy event that was about to occur at Mather Field, which many of us remember as Mather Air Force Base.

Several buses were arriving carrying precious human cargo to be delivered to the several hundred husbands, wives, kids, siblings, parents and friends of members of the Air National Guard's helicopter outfit that is located at Mather. The reporters were respectful of the reunions which were about to occur and discretely photographed these brave guys and gals who have spent the previous year in harm's way

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Next Meeting

Rosie the Riveter Historical Park Director to Speak November 19

Diane M. Hedler, secretary of the Rosie the Riveter Trust board of directors will be the featured speaker at the November 19 meeting of the Veterans Group at 1 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Presentation Hall.

As one of the early participants in support of the legislation and the development of Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park, her talk is titled: "Our War: Supporting the Troops from Cookies to Tanks."



While more than 16 million American men and women served in the military during World War II, many millions more waged war on the Home Front—in factories, hospitals, and schools in every community in the country. These workers supported the American troops and even the allies as well. These Americans did not think of themselves as heroic, but the victory in World War II could not have been achieved without them.



Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California is charged with preserving the stories

and physical evidence from this significant chapter in our country's history. Rosie the Riveter Trust, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, works in partnership with Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park to preserve the places and stories of the American World War II Home Front for future generations.

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
<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 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:

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Lincoln, CA 95648
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President's Corner, continued from page 1

...serving the United States.

These soldiers spent their long separation rescuing and transporting wounded soldiers as medevac operators in the Middle East. It goes without saying that they all made a difference and that they will carry memories of that effort with them for the rest of their lives. Welcome home. We're proud of you.

As I got farther into the paper, I noticed an obituary for a young soldier, Joshua Mitchell Hardt, a 2004 graduate of Placer High School. Joshua was an infantryman, a proud member of the 4th Infantry Division, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on October 3. He also was coming home that day. He



leaves behind a wife and other family members. Josh is a hero, plain and simple. We're all very proud of how he lived his life and how he was willing to "give the last full measure."

Veterans Day is only a few weeks away and once again we'll get together with our fellow vets and

celebrate the sacrifices of those who gave their all. It's sobering to realize that we will always have a need for soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen, and that those serving today will replace us as veterans some time soon.

If anyone has the honor of meeting one of these courageous young men or women, in addition to giving them a handshake, a hearty welcome home and well done, tell them "thank you for your service."

- Doug Cooper

Treasurer's Report

As of September 30, the group had \$4,017.70 in its checking/savings account and \$3,438.48 in a CD.

Membership Report

As of October 15, the group's paid membership stood at 295, including 50 life members.



Welcome, New Members

Member
Morris Bloom
Al Roten
John Souffell

Service
Marine Corps
Air Force
Navy

Calendar of Events

November

- 11** Veterans Day* 
18 Directors Meeting
19 General Membership Meeting
26 Thanksgiving Day* 

December

- 7** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day* 
16 Directors Meeting
17 Holiday Luncheon

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

Items of Interest to Veterans

Recent News Items Address Topics of Interest to Veterans

Burial in a National Cemetery. Despite the opening of several new national cemeteries, the increasing number of World War II and Korean War veterans has resulted in limited availability in some areas. Unlike regular cemeteries, veterans cannot



reserve plots in national cemeteries. For any questions regarding burial in a national cemetery, veterans may call 800-827-1000 or go online at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/cems/index.asp> or <http://www.cem.va.gov/index.asp> for additional information.

DD-214s Are Now Online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s. Go to: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. Veterans and next of kin of deceased former military members may now use the new online access.

Group 8 Veterans Invited Back to VA. The VA health-care system has lifted its six-year ban on new enrollments of Priority Group 8 veterans. This decision qualifies about 266,000 more vets – middle income without service-connected health conditions – for entry into the system. Group 8 vets using VA health care pay \$15 per outpatient visit and slightly more for specialty care. A popular benefit is that prescription drugs are discounted, usually costing \$8 for a 30-day supply. More information is available online at www.va.gov/healtheligibility or by calling 877-222-8387.

Special Pension for Veterans Aid and Attendance. This fund pays up to \$1,644 per month, \$19,736 annually, toward assisted living, nursing homes or in-home care for veterans 65 and older who served at least 90 days and one day during wartime, stateside or overseas. Contact your local VA representative for details.

USS Independence (LCS 2) Begins Builder's Sea Trials

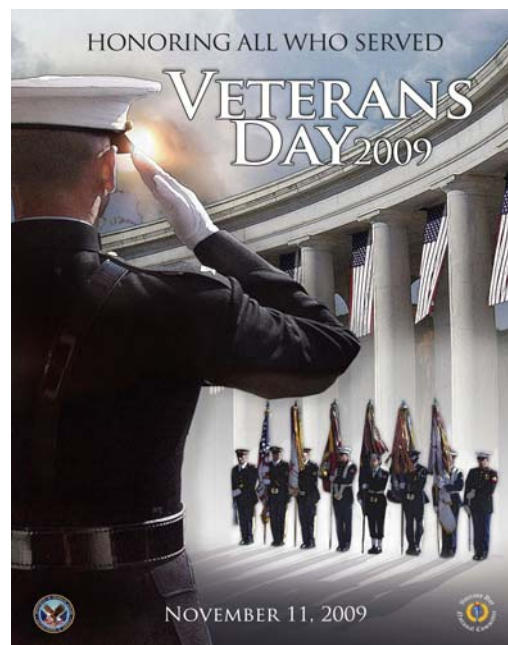
The Navy's first trimaran Littoral Combat Ship, the future USS *Independence* (LCS 2), began builder's sea trials in the Gulf of Mexico July 2. The LCS is a fast, agile, focused-mission ship designed to defeat

asymmetric "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The 417-foot ship is designed and built by the General Dynamics Littoral Combat Ship team.



Independence will be outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, called mission packages, which can be changed out quickly. These mission packages focus on three mission areas: mine counter measures, surface warfare and anti-submarine warfare. LCS 2 is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy later this year and will be homeported in San Diego, Calif.

- General Dynamics



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Lest We Forget

November 19, 1863: Lincoln Delivers the Gettysburg Address

From July 1–3, 1863, more than 160,000 American soldiers clashed in the Battle of Gettysburg, in what would prove to be a turning point of the Civil War. The battle also had a major impact on the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which numbered only 2,400 inhabitants. The battlefield contained the bodies of more than 7,500 dead soldiers and several thousand horses of the Army of the Potomac and the Confederacy's Army of Northern Virginia, and the stench of rotting bodies in the humid July air was overpowering.

Interring the dead in a dignified and orderly manner became a high priority for the few thousand residents of Gettysburg. Initially, the town planned to buy land for a cemetery and then ask the families of the dead to pay for their burial. However, David Wills, a wealthy 32-year-old attorney, objected to this idea



and wrote to the Governor of Pennsylvania, Andrew Gregg Curtin, suggesting instead a National Cemetery to be funded by the states. Wills was authorized to purchase 17 acres for a cemetery to honor those lost in the summer's battle, paying \$2,475.87 for the land.

Wills invited Edward Everett, who had served as Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor of Massachusetts, president of Harvard University, and Vice Presidential candidate, to be the main speaker at the cemetery's dedication.

Wills and the event committee then invited President Lincoln to participate in the ceremony. Wills's letter "made it clear to the president that he would have only a small part in the ceremonies."

Lincoln arrived by train in Gettysburg on November 18, and spent the night as a guest in Wills's house on the Gettysburg town square, where he put the finishing touches on the speech he had written in Washington, D.C. Contrary to a common myth, Lincoln neither completed his address while on the train nor wrote it on the back of an envelope.

Approximately 15,000 people are estimated to have attended the ceremony, including the sitting governors of six of the 24 Union states. Reinterment of the bodies buried from field graves into the cemetery, which had begun within months of the battle, was less than half complete on the day of the ceremony.

Edward Everett spoke for two hours. Lincoln then delivered his address in two minutes. Although many in attendance were at first unimpressed, Lincoln's words have come to symbolize the definition of democracy itself.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate - we cannot consecrate - we cannot hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we may take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



- The History Place, Wikipedia

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