



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

BULLETIN

October 2009

Lest We Forget

VOLUME 9, No. 10

President's Corner

Happenings

I'm happy to report that LHVG members led the Community Association parade on September 12 in four jeeps arranged by Ben Hovis. Trig Sween, Vince Cangello, Mickey Haggard, Lorraine Bivalec, Don Keyser, Bob Stackhouse, Vic Ioppolo, Bob Lantsberger and Charlotte Williams formed one of the first groups out of the parking lot. Kudos go to the folks who put on the parade and to all who participated. I heard a lot of cheering when the vets went by. Thanks also to Ed Foley, Vern Luke and yours truly for being the color guard at opening and closing ceremonies.



Recently, your board and some longtime members discussed the activities that the Veterans Group would take part in over the course of the year. We noted that we had steadily added new get-togethers and field trips; however, we had not observed Memorial Day during the past few years and had fewer field trips.

The consensus was that we should bring back the Memorial Day celebration and continue efforts to travel to interesting, veteran-related locations. We formalized this with a document listing all planned activities, which will be added to the LHVG website.

Next year's board will plan and execute an appropriate Memorial Day ceremony and continue our other traditional observances. For field trips, Reg Bronner, a relatively new member, has volunteered to organize and promote some new trips. Several possibilities have been mentioned, such as the USS *Hornet* Museum, Rosie the Riveter Museum, Aerospace Museum of California, California Military Museum and others.

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Next Meeting

Former Marine Helps Vets Adjust to College Life

Catherine Morris, veterans' counselor at Sierra College and a former Marine, will be the featured speaker at the October 15 meeting of the Veterans Group at 1 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Presentation Hall.

► **Catherine Morris, a counselor at Sierra College, talks with Navy veteran and student Ben Simmons in her office in Rocklin.**



(Photo by Randall Benton/Sacramento Bee)

As a faculty member and employee of the college—not the VA—her job since 2001 has been to offer personalized assistance to some 400 Sierra student veterans through every step of academic life.

Morris counsels students on their GI Bill benefits, helps them select classes and discusses intended career paths. Trained to work with veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), she performs needs assessments on student veterans to see how they served in combat and whether they have been evaluated for combat-related mental and physical injuries. Morris also teaches a three-credit college success class called Boots to Books.

"A lot of vets are lost coming into a college environment because it seems like everyone is out for themselves," Morris said. The goal of the course is to get veterans connected with one another, building upon the camaraderie they experienced in the military, while also helping re-integrate them into society.

Visit the Veterans Group Website at www.lhvets.org

**Lincoln Hills Veterans Group
2009 Officers and Directors**

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

Advisors and Committee Chairs

Past Presidents: Steve Witmer 2008
 Vern Luke 2007
 Wayne Ford 2006
 Dick Schultz 2005
 Mark Dentinger 2004
 Dick Meyer 2003
 Ed Foley 2002
 Mickey Haggard 2001

Membership: Jon Hodson 543-4687
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

Chaplain: Alan Hearl 543-4860
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 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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President's Corner, continued from page 1

Our next scheduled activity this year will be the Veterans Day celebration. We have secured the ballroom at Orchard Creek because we found last year that the space under the portico was inadequate for the number of people attending. We had over 200 chairs, but many attendees were left standing. There is also the possibility of inclement weather at that time of the year. Good fortune, in the person of David Machado, has secured the Roseville Community Concert Band and the Lincoln Hills Singers to perform patriotic numbers before and after this year's program. This concert and the ceremony itself should be a wonderful observance of this very important and solemn occasion.

Looking forward to the holidays, Lillian Nawman is hard at work planning the December 17 Holiday Luncheon at Orchard Creek. There will be great food and libations as well as musical entertainment and prizes. Mark your calendars!

Finally, Jon Hodson and I were selling flags at Orchard Creek on September 15 when a fellow vet stopped to ask about the eligibility requirements for being interred in a national cemetery. Jon explained that any vet was eligible* and that funeral directors are familiar with making the arrangements. The vet couldn't believe that even he, with no combat experience, could be eligible. I explained that when a person raises his/her right hand and agrees to be a soldier, sailor, airman, Marine or Coastguardsman, he/she has made an unalterable commitment to defend this great nation and is forever eligible for the respect and privileges thereby earned.

- Doug Cooper

* except at Arlington National Cemetery

Treasurer's Report

As of August 31, the group had \$3,975.08 in its checking/savings account and \$3,438.48 in a CD.

Membership Report

As of September 17, the group's paid membership stood at 290, including 50 life members.

Welcome, New Members

Member	Service
Augustus Alegado	Navy
Doug Hohman	Navy
Roy Holmes	Air Force
Stewart Mitchell	Army
Chuck Peterson	Navy
Larry Ridley	Air Force
Bill Saia	USNR, Air Force
Glenn Warner	Air Force

Calendar of Events

October

- 12** Columbus Day* 
14 Directors Meeting
15 General Membership Meeting

November

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

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

Items of Interest to Veterans

McClellan Park Retiree Activities Office Offers Multiple Services

Military retirees do not need to travel to Travis AFB or Beale AFB for many basic services. The Retiree Activities Office at McClellan Park, a satellite office of the Travis AFB RAO, has a knowledgeable volunteer staff that can help retirees of all services with:

- **Casualty Assistance Counseling**
- **Agent Passes (BX and Commissary)**
- **Counseling on TRICARE for Life**
- **Counseling on Long-Term Care**
- **Defensive Driving Classes**
- **Referrals for Wills and Powers of Attorney**
- **Referrals on Pay Issues**
- **Income Tax Referrals**
- **Information on Burials**

The McClellan Park RAO office is located in Room 1H10 in the VA Clinic at 5342 Dudley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95652. The telephone number is 916-561-7476. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Lincoln Air Show Coming October 3



The Lincoln Air Show 2009 will be held at the Lincoln Airport on Saturday, October 3. The day promises to provide fabulous family oriented entertainment. In addition to viewing

the flight demonstrations, visitors can examine antique, classic, neoclassic and experimental aircraft on static display. Vendors will provide food and aviation-related products for sale. Military displays,

helicopter and airplane rides and many other exhibits will round out the event.

One of the show's featured performers will be the Air Force A-10 West Demonstration Team, which shows off the

exceptional capabilities of the A-10 Thunderbolt II. This aircraft is the first Air Force aircraft specially



designed for close air support of ground forces. It is a simple, effective and survivable twin-jet aircraft used against all ground targets, including tanks and other armored vehicles. Its wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines.

The gates open to the public at 10 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. The air show performance begins at 1 p.m. Adult tickets are \$5 each (cash only) Children 12 years and younger are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Active military is free with identification.

M*A*S*H Legacy Lives On

Tucked away at a Republic of Korea Army base near Uijeongbu — in the city that was home to the mythical 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital — are a few of the last remnants of the real-life unit that inspired the popular "M*A*S*H" book, movie and TV series.



On base, there is a Quonset hut that served as an operating room for the MASH unit.

Just off base is another small building that was once home to the real Rosie's Bar, which also found a place in the fictional works.

And across the road from the base is a small hill with a path leading up to a helicopter pad that was depicted in the openings of both the movie and TV series.

H. Richard Hornberger based his 1968 book "MASH: A Novel About Three Army Doctors" on his Korean War experiences as a surgeon with the 8055th MASH. That book was the basis for the

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movie and TV series which largely shaped how a couple of generations have perceived war-zone medical treatment.

Those who would staff the modern-day equivalent of the MASH units — if hostilities resumed on the peninsula — said that while they don't really mind being thought of as the Hawkeyes, Trappers and Radars of their era, a lot has changed in the treatment of battlefield injuries since Korean War days.

"It has definitely improved," said Capt. Alecia Williams, head Intensive Care Unit nurse with the 121st Combat Support Hospital at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul. "The equipment is different. The tents are different. The facilities that we use are more advanced now."

And while the doctors and nurses of "M*A*S*H" were depicted as highly dedicated, they did seem to

spend a lot of their time cavorting, canoodling, boozing and carousing, which is not quite the way it is these days, according to one Army nurse.

"As far as the show goes, it's for entertainment," said 1st Lt. Meggan McKenna, a 121st staff nurse. "Some stereotypes might be slightly true, but it's obviously not real life.

The last MASH unit worldwide was deactivated in 2006 in a nod to the increased capabilities of combat support hospitals. Those capabilities were on display earlier in August when the 121st traveled to Camp Humphreys to get an 84-bed hospital up and running in 72 hours as part of a Korea-wide military exercise.

Second Lt. Peter Samuel of the 121st explained that while the standard combat support hospital is larger and has more capabilities than the MASH units of the past, their roles are similar — to serve as a "bridge" between battalion aid stations at the front and fixed hospital facilities outside of the hostile area.

The primary mission is to provide hospitalization, stabilization and evacuation, and also to return injured soldiers to duty in a timely manner, Samuel said.

- Stars and Stripes by Jon Rabiuff



Lest We Forget

October 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis

In the hottest moment of the Cold War, U.S. forces around the world were placed on alert. More than 100,000 troops deployed to Florida for a possible invasion of Cuba. Additional naval vessels were ordered to the Caribbean. B-52s loaded with nuclear weapons were in the air at all times.

The United States had caught the Soviet Union building offensive nuclear missile bases in Cuba, just 90 miles from U.S. soil, and the two superpowers were now joined in the first direct nuclear confrontation in history. Reconnaissance photographs taken on October 14 showed the beginnings of a Soviet medium-range ballistic missile base near San Cristobal. Two days later, the president called together his most trusted advisers who discussed several courses of action -- everything from doing nothing to invading Cuba. After much debate, a naval blockade of the island emerged as the leading choice.

In a televised address on October 22, 1962, Kennedy informed the people of the United States of the Soviet missiles and of the "quarantine" placed around Cuba by the U.S. Navy.



◀ A P2V Neptune U.S. patrol plane flies over a Soviet freighter during the Cuban missile crisis in this 1962 photograph. (Getty Images)

Tensions mounted over the next few days. On October 24 several Soviet vessels turned back from the quarantine line, though construction at the missile sites continued. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev wrote a long letter to the president on October 26 proposing a settlement. He declared that ships bound for Cuba did not carry armaments and added that if the blockade were lifted and the president gave assurances that the United States would not invade Cuba, the missile sites would be removed.

The next day, in a response to Khrushchev, Kennedy called the proposals "generally acceptable as I understand them." On October 28, the Soviets agreed to dismantle and withdraw the missiles from Cuba. Negotiations for final settlement of the crisis continued for several days, but the immediate threat of nuclear war had been averted.

- John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

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