



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201
San Jose, California**

July – September 2015

Chapter 201 Meeting

The Chapter meeting was called to order at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge. Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation. The new location for future Chapter meetings will be Holders Country Inn on DeAnza Blvd on the third Monday of each month beginning in August 2015. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm with the meeting starting at 7:00pm.



The National organization of the VVA is offering a special discount for individuals who sign up for Life Membership between August and December 2015. The cost is only \$100.00 regardless of age. Anyone who is not currently a Life Member is encouraged to renew as a Life Member during this period.

Spirit of '45 Events

There were two "Spirit of '45" events honoring the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The first took place on August 8th at History San Jose which included vintage World War II vehicles and living history displays along with live big band music. The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) and VVA Chapter 201 had a tent at the event and passed out information and answered questions.



Oak Hill Memorial Park held a "Spirit of '45" event on August 16th which included remembrance presentations by World War II Army Air Force members who flew missions over Germany as well as a presentation by a real "Rosie the Riveter" who worked at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Southern California.



San Jose POW/MIA Flag Initiative

The San Jose City Council met on August 25th and voted to approve flying the POW/MIA Flag 365-days a year at City Hall. The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) will provide the POW/MIA flag to the city. A formal flag raising ceremony will be held at the City Hall Plaza on September 18, 2015.



Chapter 201 Participates in San Jose POW/MIA Ceremony

Members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 201 participated in the dedication ceremony on POW/MIA National Recognition Day, September 18, 2015, to fly the POW/MIA flag in front of San Jose City Hall year-round. Chapter 201 members Fran McVey and President David Sanders were instrumental in obtaining the approval to fly the POW/MIA flag in front of San Jose's City Hall 365-days a year. During two public City Council hearings, Fran McVey, also President of the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County, and President Sanders gave testimony in support of an initiative presented by San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera to display the POW/MIA Flag at City Hall. Vice Mayor Herrera is a Vietnam Era Air Force Veteran who supported military personnel return from Vietnam while stationed on Okinawa. The first Council hearing in June 2015 resulted in flying the flag on seven specified days during the year. The second hearing, on August 25, 2015, received unanimous approval from the City Council for the 365-day initiative. On September 18, 2015, members of Santa Clara County Veteran organizations, and the general public, witnessed the dedication of the historic resolution by the San Jose City Council to fly the POW/MIA Flag below the National Colors 365-days a year in front of City Hall.



VVA & AVVA-201 members assemble with San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera after success of the POW/MIA Initiative to fly the flag at City Hall 365-days a year

Members of VVA-201 Associates, lead by Associates Chapter 201 Vice President Cang Kim Dong, provided an Honor Guard for the Ceremony as members of American Legion District 13 raised the National Colors and POW/MIA Flag in front of the San Jose City Hall.

Darwin J. Thomas VVA Memorial Chapter 201 President David Sanders and Fran McVey publicly thanked Vice Mayor Rose Herrera for sponsoring and encouraging the San Jose City Council to fly the POW/MIA Flag at City Hall. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Vice Mayor Herrera presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Fran McVey and Dave Sanders for their efforts to support the initiative during this year's National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony.



VVA201 Member Fran McVey and President Dave Sanders Accept City of San Jose Certificate of Appreciation for the 2015 POW/MIA City Hall Flag Initiative From Mayor Sam Liccardo and Vice Mayor Rose Herrera

The next effort will be to meet with members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to develop and implement a similar initiative to fly the POW/MIA flag at the County Building 365-days a year.