



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

**January – March 2016**

**Chapter 201 New Year Update**

Chapter 201 is aggressively beginning 2016 with high hopes for successes that will carry on the rebuilding goals begun in April last year.

Through the efforts of President Dave Sanders, the Chapter has conducted a series of fund raising efforts that has resulted in a significant improvement of the Chapter's financial condition obtaining an almost four-fold increase in budgetary income which will greatly improve its capability to aid and support veterans and the local veteran community. Dave has been aided by the efforts of new Chapter Treasurer Dennis Foggie who filled the unexpired term of past Treasurer Barbara Johnston who has moved out of State and resigned her position.

During January, the Chapter presented Certificates of Appreciation to Randy Richmond (Chapter-201 Chaplain) and Cang Kim Dong (AVVA-201 Vice President) for their outstanding performance during the 2015 Holiday "Visitation" at the Palo Alto and Menlo Park VA Hospitals.

With an improved fiscal posture, the Chapter was able to provide significant donations to the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge Veterans Affairs Program and the Veterans Alliance of Santa Clara County, a 501(c)(3) corporation that promotes and supports activities and patriotic events for veterans, active military, reserve, and National Guard personnel, and their families, by providing financial assistance to Santa Clara County Veteran organizations. Additionally, the Chapter was able to provide scholarships for four Vietnamese children under a Vietnam Children's school program sponsored by VVA Chapter 165 in Bellingham, Washington.

**Chapter 201 Certificates of Appreciation**

During February, Chapter members Maj. Gen. Robert Ostenberg (USA Ret) and Sergeant at Arms Michael Frangadakis, held an annual visitation to the Polytrauma Units at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. For their performance in support of our "wounded warrior" veterans, President David Sanders presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Michael Frangadakis in appreciation for his commitment during the visit to the Palo Alto VA Hospital.



*Chapter 201 President Dave Sanders Presents Certificate To Michael Frangadakis*

A certificate will also be presented to Maj. Gen. Ostenberg at our next meeting. Chapter 201 Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to Past Chapter President Robert Johnston, for his 27-years of service to the VVA, past Chapter Treasurer Barbara Johnston for her years of service to the Chapter in her capacity as both Secretary and Treasurer and the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge 2049 for their continuing support to veterans.

President David Sanders and Treasurer Dennis Foggie attended an event with the Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing and presented a donation, in the name of Chapter 201, to the Wing's 130th Rescue Group to support Guards members returning from overseas deployment.

President David Sanders presented several Sunnyvale Moose Lodge 2049 "Tommy Moose" for their support to veterans at the American Legion's Presidents Day Event at the Menlo Park VA Hospital.

### **New Chapter 201 Web Site**

A contract was signed for the development maintenance of a new Chapter website ([www.vva201.org](http://www.vva201.org)) which went online for the first time at 3:00pm on February 15, 2016. As the website evolves, and updates are implemented, minutes of meetings will be posted to keep the membership apprised of Chapter business along with a photo gallery of Chapter activities. In addition to an annual calendar of events, links to important websites of interest to veterans will be included on the website.

### **Chapter 201 Attends Veteran Events**

The 2nd Annual All-Veterans Day was held in Sacramento at the California Department of Veterans Affairs Medal of Honor Room on March 30, 2016. The VVA California State Council (CSC) was one of the sponsors of this event.



For those who did not attend the All-Veterans Day event, the San Jose Vietnam War Memorial Foundation held their third anniversary of the Sons of San Jose Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Commemoration Ceremony at the Memorial on Santa Clara Street between Delmas and Guadalupe Expressway on Wednesday, March 30, 2016.



*Chapter 201 Member, And President Of The San Jose Vietnam War Memorial Foundation, Dennis Fernandez Officiates Over The Ceremony*



*Chapter 201 Members Raise The San Jose Vietnam War Memorial Flag*