



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

**April – June 2016**

**Chapter 201 Holds Annual Election**

The annual election of Chapter 201's officers for 2016 to 2017 was held on April 18th. Thirty-Two Chapter members, Associates and guests witnessed the re-election of President David Sanders, Sr., Vice-President Bob Kadlec and Treasurer Dennis Foggie. Warren Finch was elected as the new Secretary and Randy Sessler was elected as a member of the Board of Directors (three-year term). Delegates and Alternates elected to the California State Council (CSC) from Chapter 201 were David Sanders, Bob Kadlec and Dennis Foggie while David Sanders and Dennis Foggie were elected as Chapter delegates to the 2016 CSC Convention. Chapter 201 Election Committee members elected were Gerry Arnold, John Hassenplug and Randy Sessler. Appointed officers, and Chapter committee chairs will be announced during the May meeting. The Chapter was honored to have CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia conduct the installation of the new officers following the dinner at Holder's Country Inn Restaurant in San Jose.



Chapter 201 President David Sanders presented Director Richard Segovia with a Certificate of Appreciation for his support of the Chapter and outstanding performance as the Installation Officer for the newly elected Officers.



### Chapter 201 Memorial Day Activities

The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) marked the 148th Anniversary of what is known today as Memorial Day at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose, California. VVA Chapter 201 Vice President Bob Kadlec and Treasurer Dennis Foggie placed the Vietnam wreath during the UVC ceremony at the Veteran's Section on the morning of May 30th. Chapter 201 member Jack Wells was invited to have the honor of raising the flag at the Veterans Section Ceremony at the end of the UVC Ceremony in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the War in Vietnam.



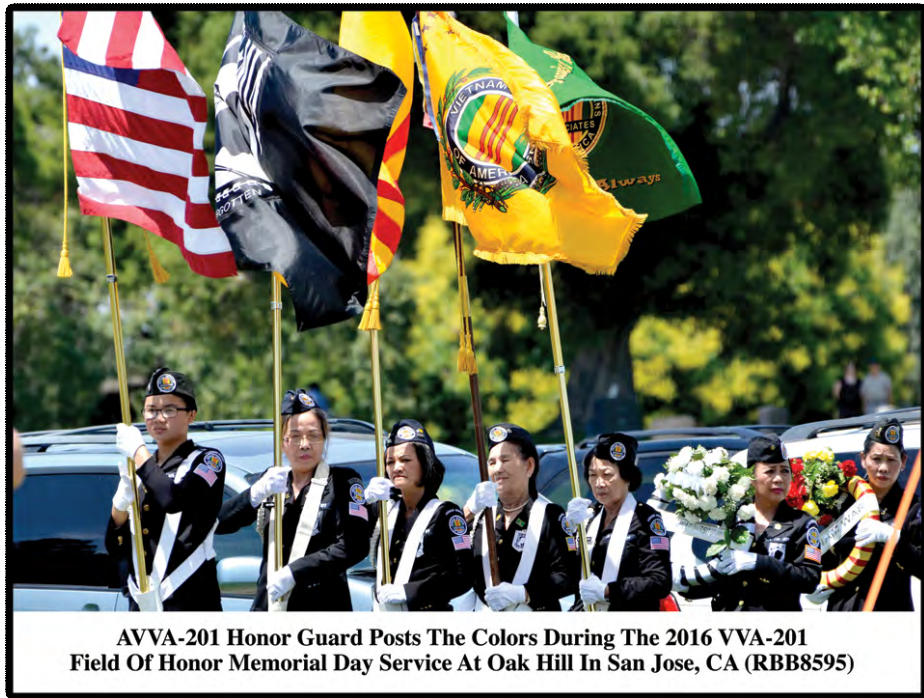




Following the UVC Ceremony, the Chapter conducted the annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Service at the Oak Hill Field of Honor to pay tribute to those brave men and women who have lost their lives in service to their Country while in uniform during times of War. Chapter 201 Vice President Bob Kadlec officiated during the ceremony.







Chapter-201 Treasurer, Dennis Foggie conducted the POW/MIA Missing Man Service. The Chapter is named in honor of Naval Aviator Darwin J. Thomas who, as a pilot flying off the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany, was lost over North Vietnam on October 14, 1966. Originally listed as Missing in action, he is now listed as “killed, body not recovered.

Dennis was assisted at the Missing Man Table by Chapter-201 Life Member Linn Malaznik who, as an Army Sergeant with the 5th Special Forces in I Corps, is the recipient of a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his actions around Da Nang during his time in Vietnam.





Chapter 201 Vietnam Veterans of America Associates Vice president Cang Kim Dong called for the rendering of honors by the firing of the Salute and playing of Taps.



### Chapter 201 Attends CalCon 15

The 15th Biennial Vietnam Veterans of America California State Convention (CalCon 15) was held in Fresno from 23 through 25 June, 2016. There were a total of 97 authorized delegates for this year's convention -- 84 from California Chapters and 13 at large. Actual attendance was 76. Chapter 201 was authorized two delegates.





President Dave Sanders and Treasurer Dennis Foggie were the official Delegates to the Convention from Chapter 201. Vice President Bob Kadlec Attended as a "Delegate At Large."



2016 California State Council Convention (CalCon15) Fresno, CA (P6251014)  
VVA-201 V-President Bob Kadlec & President Dave Sanders

Following is a summary of activities and issues that were brought before the Convention:

- Veterans Incarcerated - Bob Chaney

A resolution was introduced to request that during intake process to either a prison or jail, the Department of Corrections should advise veterans of their right to request access to a VSO. Apparently, there is "fine print" on the intake forms, but the prison/jail authorities are not inclined/motivated to advise prisoners of their rights. Much discussion on who should do what to make this happen but no apparent resolution on how since the California Department of Corrections is not forthcoming in doing anything.

- Agent Orange – Ken Holybee

The major emphasis of this subject was to encourage Chapters to hold "Town Hall Meetings" to address Agent Orange issues with the veteran community to present information on health problems of dependents of all veterans regardless of time and place of service. It was noted that the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 bills (S901 and HR 1769) were combined into an Omnibus Bill -- SB-2912 called "Veterans First Act."

- Amendments - Mike Kennedy

There were 15 Amendments to the CSC Constitution presented at the Convention. Seven were minor corrections such as stilted wording, typos or gender references (i.e., change “he” to read “he or she”). Four Amendments failed while four Amendments that were passed were: 1) Established that the number of Directors on the CSC be nine instead of not less than five or more than 15. 2) Clarify wording that Directors shall be elected by members in good standing. 3) Clarify wording that Directors shall reside in the District they represent, At Large Director may live in any District and there shall be one Director for each District. 4) Realigned the Counties within the Districts.

- Resolutions – Richard Segovia

There were two resolutions presented. 1) request the Department of Corrections advise veterans of their right to request access to a VSO during intake process to either a prison or jail. 2) Encourage Chapters to hold “Town Hall Meetings” to address Agent Orange issues.

- Responsibilities of the Treasurer - Barry Schloffel

Chapters need to have both a Budget as well as an Income and Expense Statement. Also, chapters should have a “Finance Committee” composed of at least one each; chapter officer, director and chapter member (Equal number). Financial Reviews should be conducted by 3 or 4 individuals. Treasure is present only to answer questions. Information to be reviewed would be: Check Register; Bank Statements; Reimbursement Vouchers (with receipts) and Deposit slips. Only need review a three or four month period out of a year. A copy of the chapter’s Tax Exempt Letter should be included on the chapter website.

- Election Results:

President: Steve Mackey (reelected)  
1st Vice President: Dean Gotham  
2nd Vice President: Dick Southern (reelected)  
Treasurer: Barry Schoffel (reelected)  
Secretary: Tom Hohmann (reelected)  
At-Large Director: Richard Segovia  
Northern District: Butch Frederickson  
Central District: Al Sickle  
Southern District: Mike Kennedy.





During the Installation Banquet, at the conclusion of the convention, Chapter 201 Vice President Bob Kadlec was honored to receive a 2016 California State Council Image of Bravery Award.

