



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

**October - December 2016**

**Chapter 201 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM at the Holder's Country Inn. John Hassenplug led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation. The Board of Directors reported that the first review of the updated Chapter Bylaws was conducted and the following Chapter Policy was signed by President Sanders and Secretary Finch with the effective date of 13 October 2016:

**CHAPTER 201 POLICY No. 1 (CP-2016-001)**

**CHAPTER COMMITTEES**

By the authority vested in me as President, pursuant to Section 3 of Article VI, of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 201 Bylaws as amended, the following policy of VVA Chapter 201, is hereby deemed necessary and prudent:

**Section 1: Purpose.**

The purpose of this policy is to establish standing committees as defined in Appendix II of the VVA National Constitution.

**Section 2: Membership.**

The President of VVA Chapter 201 shall appoint the chairperson from members of the Chapter. Non-voting Special Advisors may be appointed to all committees from among qualified citizens.

**Section 3: Committees.**

The following committees are hereby established for the Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201 of the Vietnam Veterans of America:

**Membership Committee:**

shall receive and approve applications from individuals and others wishing to become members of the Chapter, and shall be alert to build the membership of the VVA by pointing out the advantages and services available to members. The membership affairs committee shall also establish procedures by which an individual member's status as a veteran may be authenticated. Such procedures shall be in accordance with guidelines established by the VVA.

**POW/MIA Committee:**

shall support efforts to seek and promote the fullest accounting of those still listed as POW/MIA's in Southeast Asia and any other areas of the world, regardless of the conflict that initiated their disappearance. The committee shall disseminate information received on the POW/MIA issue to POW/MIA families and friends, and the Chapter.

**Agent Orange Committee:**

shall accumulate and disseminate information regarding Agent Orange and Dioxin and the presumptive disabilities from exposure to Agent Orange and Dioxin by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Bylaws Committee:**

shall review changes and updates made to the VVA Constitution and CSC Constitution that are relevant to the Chapter Bylaws. The committee shall draft amendments, or new provisions to be incorporated into the Chapter Bylaws, and provide them to the Board of Directors for consideration.

**Community Services Committee:**

shall identify essential social needs related to Vietnam and Vietnam Generation Veterans and their families, as well as community projects, and shall stimulate appropriate Chapter involvement of resources to meet the needs or assist the projects.

**Government Affairs Committee:**

shall seek to inform Vietnam and Vietnam Generation Veterans of social, economic, educational and welfare programs available through the legislative process at the local, state, and federal level that affect them. The committee shall monitor legislative activities and present recommendations to Chapter membership on attendance at public hearings and with public officials as appropriate.

**Finance Committee:**

shall provide oversight of the financial activities of the Chapter, and shall recommend policies on financial matters, to include, but not limited to, assisting and consulting with the Treasurer on all financial planning, budgeting, reporting, and other related matters. The Board of Directors has final approval of Finance Committee recommendations. The Finance Committee shall be composed of an equal number of members of (1) Elected Officers; (2) Board of Directors; and (3) Chapter Membership.

**Public Affairs Committee:**

shall act as a liaison between various committees of the Chapter on matters concerning publicity and the media. It shall be instrumental in publicizing in the local community the purposes, goals, roles, activities, and projects of the Chapter.

**Veterans Benefits Committee:**

shall provide oversight of the Chapter Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Program to guide Veterans and their families through the complex processes and forms needed to establish and/or validate, their rights to veterans' benefits to include, but not limited to, pensions, education, insurance, hospitalization, home loans, medical, and burial.

**Veterans Incarcerated Committee:**

shall promote awareness with regard to the special needs of veterans who are presently or formerly incarcerated and increase the sensitivity of the membership to the issues which affect veterans incarcerated. The Committee shall act as liaison with the CSC and with members of VVA who are incarcerated where possible.

## Chapter 201 UVC Flag Lowering

Chapter 201 VVA and AVVA members honored deceased Veterans at San Jose's Oak Hill Memorial Park on October 30th. VVA Chapter 201 is the sponsor for the October Flag Lowering ceremony each year for the families of those being honored. The service was held in the Administration Building because of inclement weather. UVC Past President, and Chapter 201 member, Gene Fanucchi acted as the Master of Ceremonies while Chapter 201 President Dave Sanders officiated for the VVA. Chapter 201 member Dennis Foggie, and Chapter 201 AVVA members folded the flag. Chapter Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation and benediction for the service.



VVA & AVVA 201 Conducts Flag Lowering Ceremony For The United Veterans Council At Oak Hill, San Jose, CA, October 2016 (PA301204)  
 [VVA-201 President Dave Sanders, Chaplain Randy Richmond & UVC Ceremony Chair Gene Fanucchi Treasurer Dennis Foggie with members of the AVVA-201 Honor Guard]



VVA & AVVA 201 Conducts Flag Lowering Ceremony For The United Veterans Council At Oak Hill, San Jose, CA, October 2016 (PA301217)  
 [VVA-201 President Dave Sanders, Chaplain Randy Richmond & UVC Ceremony Chair Gene Fanucchi]



VVA & AVVA 201 Conducts Flag Lowering Ceremony For The United Veterans Council At Oak Hill, San Jose, CA, October 2016 (PA301235)



VVA & AVVA 201 Conducts Flag Lowering Ceremony For The United Veterans Council At Oak Hill, San Jose, CA, October 2016 (PA301240)  
 [VVA-201 Treasurer Dennis Foggie folds flag]



VVA & AVVA 201 Conducts Flag Lowering Ceremony For The United Veterans Council At Oak Hill, San Jose, CA, October 2016 (PA301242)  
 [VVA-201 President Dave Sanders accepts folded flag]

## Chapter 201 Participates In Veterans' Day Parade

Chapter 201 VVA members were honored to participate in the opening ceremony of the United Veterans Council (UVC) of Santa Clara County Armistice Day Ceremony and Veterans Day Parade on November 11th in San Jose, California. The theme of this year's Parade was the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the War in Vietnam.



Chapter 201 members Casimiro Morin, Bob Kadlec (Vice President), Stephen Thompson and William McCorquodale posted the Colors for the opening ceremony for the largest Veterans' Day Parade in Northern California. Over 90 numbered units march in the two-hour parade to honor veterans of all wars and pay tribute to our military service personnel, and their families, who have given so much for their country.



During the opening ceremony, Chapter 201 President David Sanders presented San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera with a Vietnam War 50th anniversary certificate and commemorative medal in recognition of her service with the U.S. Air Force during the War.

Following the Veterans' Day Parade in downtown San Jose, Chapter 201 Members Dennis Foggie (Treasurer), Gerald Arnold (VSO), Warren Finch (Secretary), Randy Richmond (Chaplain), Stephen Thompson, Bob Kadlec (Vice President) And Mike Frangadakis (Sergeant-At-Arms) provided information on the VVA at the Chapter's Information Booth at the Santana Row shopping center. The event in Santana Row displayed classic cars and military vehicles along with a static display of a Navy fighter from the Vietnam War.



## Chapter 201 Holiday Luncheon

Chapter 201 held its annual Holiday Luncheon at Harry's Hof Brau Restaurant in San Jose, California on December 18th. Fifty-two members, prospective members, and guests gathered to celebrate the holidays and review the accomplishments of the year. The chapter was honored to have Central District Director Al Sickle and his wife Toni join the membership during the festivities.

The highlight of the gathering was a presentation by **Richard Brummett** from VVA Chapter 165 in Bellingham, Washington, founder of the Dragoon Scholarship Fund. Chapter 201 currently sponsors six Vietnamese children in the Da Nang area under the Dragoon Fund.



VVA-201 President Dave Sanders and Secretary Warren Finch present a Certificate of Appreciation to Bellingham, WA VVA Chapter 165 member Richard Brummett for his presentation on the Dragoon Scholarship Fund

During the luncheon, Chapter 201 member **Jack Wells** was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work to coordinate the Chapter's participation in the Dragoon Scholarship Fund.



VVA-201 President Dave Sanders and Secretary Warren Finch present a Certificate of Appreciation to Chapter 201 member Jack Wells for his work with the Dragoon Scholarship Fund on behalf of the Chapter

Additionally, Chapter 201 presented retired Army **Major General Robert Ostenberg** with a Certificate of Appreciation for his tireless and continuing commitment to visits with hospitalized veterans at the VA Palo Alto health Care System Polytrauma Units.

