



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

January – March 2017

Chapter 201 Recognition

Over the past year Chapter 201 has made it one of its goals to recognized veterans and community leaders who have supported and honored the veterans' community or individuals. Recently President David Sanders presented Certificates of Appreciation to several individuals for their efforts.

Chapter 201 member William D. (Bill) Lewis was honored for his dedication to the "California Challenge" Ride2Recovery Program that raises funds for Physically and Mentally Challenged or Impaired Veterans. During the Sacramento "Hero's Honor Ride" this year he rode 22 miles, and help raised \$49,000 toward the program.



Chapter 201 President Dave Sanders presents Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Lewis for his participation in the VA Palo Alto Polytrauma Center "California Challenge" Ride2Recovery Program

Chapter 201 member Major General Kent Hillhouse (USA, ret) continues to support our veterans and the veteran community and has done extensive work with the Veterans Memorial and Support Foundation of Los Gatos, California. He was recognized for his tireless efforts to win the approval of the Los Gatos' Flame of Liberty Veterans Memorial at the Los Gatos Civic Center to honor and support both veterans and the men and women of all service branches currently serving around the world.



Barbara Ledig, Geriatric Care Manager with the Pacific Gardens Assisted Living Facility in Santa Clara, California, was recognized for honoring a two tour Vietnam Veteran who passed away while in Hospice care. He had no family or friends at the time of his death and as his care manager for the past six years, Barbara Ledig held a simple memorial service at the Care facility that included members of the American Legion, VFW as well as members of Chapter 201.

Steve Burrell, Principal of Joaquin Miller Middle School in Cupertino, California was recognized for his dedication to honor veterans and encourage student recognition and appreciation of the service of our veterans during the annual Joaquin Miller Middle School Veterans' Day Assemblies. During the assemblies, students escort individual veterans to an honor guard flag raising ceremony followed by visits to various classrooms where students are able to ask veterans questions about their service. The Annual Veterans' Day Assemblies provides recognition of each veteran, the students and the school staff and a feeling of understanding and appreciation of each other.

Tad D. Campbell was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work in the design and development of the web site for the Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201 of the Vietnam Veterans of America (www.vva201.org). Tad Campbell, the past National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was recognized for his effort in the creation of an outstanding medium to inform the Chapter membership, other veterans as well as the general public, on the activities of the Chapter in its service to America which has received wide praise.



Director Randy Sessler and Vice President Bob Kadlec present Certificate of Appreciation to Tad Campbell for his work in the design and development of the web site for Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

Chapter 201 Participates In Four Chaplains Service

Chapter 201 Members Jack Wells and Randy Sessler participated in the annual American Legion District 13 Four Chaplains ceremony in San Jose on February 4th. The annual ceremony honors the four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel as the troop ship USAT *Dorchester* sank on February 3, 1943, during World War II after being torpedoed by a German submarine. The chaplains helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. They joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.



VVA-201 Members Jack Wells & Randy Sessler post Chapter 201 Colors during the American Legion District 13 Four Chaplains Service

Chapter 201 Participates Sons Of San Jose Memorial

The San Jose Vietnam War Memorial Foundation held its fourth annual Sons of San Jose Vietnam Veterans Memorial Ceremony on Thursday, March 30, 2017. The ceremony took place at the memorial at Guadalupe River Park on West Santa Clara Street at Delmas.



VVA Chapter 201 member Dennis Fernandez, President of the San Jose Vietnam War Memorial Foundation, accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo.

