



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

April – June 2017

Chapter 201 Holds Annual Election

Chapter 201 held its annual election of officers for 2017 to 2018 on April 17th at Holder's Country Inn in San Jose. Over thirty-five Chapter members, Associates and guests witnessed the election of Warren Finch as President, Gene Fanucchi as Vice President, Stephen Thompson as Secretary and the reelection of Treasurer Dennis Foggie.



Outgoing President Dave Sanders passes the gavel to incoming present Warren finch after swearing in by CSC Central District Director Al Sickle

Dennis Whittaker was elected as a member of the Board of Directors, Warren Finch, John Hassenplug and Randy Sessler were elected as Chapter delegates to the 2017 VVA Convention. Chapter 201 Election Committee members elected were Larry Doutherd, John Hassenplug and

Dennis Whittaker. The Chapter was honored to have CSC Central District Director Al Sickle conduct the installation of the new officers following a dinner at Holder's Country Inn Restaurant in San Jose.



VVA California State Council Central District Director Al Sickle Installs Newly Elected Chapter 201 Officers

Incoming Chapter 201 President Warren Finch presented a "Gavel Plaque" to outgoing Chapter 201 President Dave Sanders recognizing his outstanding performance as Chapter 201 President between 2015 and 2017.



Outgoing President Dave Sanders receives a Gavel Plaque in recognition of his service from new Chapter 201 President Warren Finch

Newly elected Chapter 201 President Warren Finch presented CSC Central District Director Al Sickle with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding performance as the Installation Officer for the newly elected Chapter 201 Officers of on April 17, 2017 In San Jose California



CSC Central District Director Al Sickle receives a Certificate of Appreciation from new Chapter 201 President Warren Finch

Outgoing Chapter 201 President Dave Sanders recognized members who supported him during his two terms a Chapter President.



Dennis Whittaker, Fran McVey, John Hassenplug, Gerald Arnold, Mike Frangadakis, Dave Sanders, Randy Sessler, Bob Kadlec, and Dennis Foggie

Chapter 201 Participation in Memorial Day

Each year, on Memorial Day, ceremonies are held at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose, California that attract up to 3,000 spectators. This year VVA Chapter 201 participated in the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) ceremony to honor the fallen of all wars since the establishment of Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) in 1868. Chapter 201 members posted the VVA colors and placed the POW/MIA and Vietnam War wreaths at the Veterans Section in Oak Hill Memorial Park.



VVA Chapter 201 member Fran McVey, assisted by former Army Special Forces SSGT Ed Sawicki, placed the POW/MIA Wreath during the UVC Memorial Day Ceremony

VVA Member Mike Frangadakis assisted Chapter-201 member Jack Wells and Chapter Director, Dennis Whittaker in placing the Vietnam War Wreath during the UVC Memorial Day Ceremony Oak Hill Memorial Park.



VVA-201 Members Jack Wells, Dennis Whittaker and Mike Frangadakis Place The Vietnam War Wreath.

Following the ceremony in the Veterans Section, Chapter 201 held its annual service at the Oak Hill “Field of Honor” which included a “POW/MIA Missing Man Table” tribute. Assisting the members of VVA Chapter 201 at the Field of Honor were members from the VVA-201 Associates who posted the colors, fired the rifle salute and provided the playing of Taps.



VVA Chapter-201 President Warren Finch, Treasurer Dennis Foggie, Fran McVey, Secretary Steve Thompson and Director Dennis Whittaker participated in the VVA Chapter 201 annual Field of Honor Service on Memorial Day at Oak Hill Memorial Park.



Back row: President Warren Finch, Treasurer Dennis Foggie and Fran McVey Front row, Secretary Steve Thompson and Director Dennis Whittaker

VVA Chapter 201 Vice President Gene Fanucchi presided as Master of Ceremonies while Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation and Benediction for the VVA Field of Honor service at Oak Hill Memorial Park. Air Force veteran, and new Chapter 201 member,

Rose Herrera, former Vice Mayor of San Jose, conducted the “POW/MIA Missing Man Table” tribute.



Left to right: Vice President Gene Fanucchi, Rose Herrera and Chaplain Randy Richmond

Chapter-201 Treasurer, Dennis Foggie, Secretary Steve Thompson and Director Dennis Whittaker assisted Rose Herrera at the Missing Man Table.



Left to right: Steve Thompson, Dennis Foggie & Dennis Whittaker

Chapter 201 AVVA Celebration

Chapter 201 Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) held a celebration honoring the Yellow Flag of the Former Republic of Vietnam on June 25th at the Yerba Buena High School in San Jose. The East Side Union High School issued a proclamation that recognized the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag as the cultural and heritage of the District's Vietnamese-American community and as a symbol of the community's continued struggle for freedom and liberty for the people of Vietnam.



The Board of Trustees of the East Side Union High School District encouraged the recognition, commemoration and honoring of the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag and remembrance of the anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975 each year at the District's school sites including the teaching and discussion of the significance of the impact of the Fall of Saigon on the lives of Vietnamese-Americans and the contribution of the Vietnamese-Americans community to the enrichment of the cultural, language and viewpoint diversity of the community and District schools.