



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

October - December 2018

VVA Chapter 201 and Associates Conduct Flag Lowering

The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) conducts a ceremonial Flag Lowering on the last Sunday in every other month to honor those deceased Veterans who are recognized on a Flag Plaque at the entrance to Oak Hill Memorial Park during the previous months. A deceased Veteran does not have to be interred at Oak Hill to have his or her name on the honor plaque. Many Veterans are buried overseas or in the National Cemeteries throughout the country. The names of Veterans to be honored are provided by the families and Oak Hill places the name on the Honor Plaque daily. After a Veteran is honored, the name is recorded in the "Book Everlasting" which is located in the lobby of the Administration Building.

VVA Chapter 201 and Associates performed the Flag Lowering ceremony for the UVC on October 28, 2018 at the Veterans Section of Oak Hill Memorial Park. Chapter 201 AVVA-201 members provided the Honor Guard and posted the colors for the opening ceremony.



Chapter President Warren Finch officiated for VVA Chapter 201 while Chapter 201 Vice President Gene Fanucchi acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Chapter member Jack Wells read the names of honored Veterans and Randy Richmond performed as Chaplain. Chapter 201 members Jeff Driskell, Fran McVey (UVC President) and Dennis Foggie (VVA-201 Director) assisted in the lowering of the flag.



Chapter 201 member Jack Wells lowered the Veterans Section flag in honor of deceased Veterans recognized during the October Flag Lowering ceremony. Chapter members Fran McVey and Dennis Foggie assisted in the folding of the flag.

Chapter 201 member Jeff Driskell presented the folded flag to Chapter 201 President Warren Finch.



VVA Chapter 201 and Associates in Veterans Day Parade

The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) honors all those who have served, and those continuing to serve their country during the largest Veterans' Day Parade in Northern California. The UVC has conducted the annual Veterans' Day parade in downtown San Jose for at least the last 95 years. Over 80 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.

On November 11th, VVA Chapter 201 and Associates participated in the 2018 UVC Veterans' Day Parade in downtown San Jose, California on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day of the "War To End All Wars." This year the Chapter 201 Color Guard members included Richard Francis, Stephen Thompson (Secretary/Treasurer), Walter Carroll, Jack Wells, Gerald Arnold, Randy Richmond (Chaplain) and Bob Kadlec.



This year over fifty AVVA Chapter 201 members participated in the Armistice Day Centennial Veterans' Day Parade with a color Guard and several vehicle floats.



VVA Chapter 201 and Associates Holiday Luncheon



Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201 closed out 2018 with its annual Holiday luncheon at Harry's Hof Brau in San Jose, California on December 16th. Over 80 VVA and AVVA members and guests were honored with a presentation by Chapter 201 member MG Kent Hillhouse (USA, Ret), President of The Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation of Los Gatos. MG Hillhouse discussed his experience in as a young officer in Vietnam and the current efforts of the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to honoring and supporting both veterans and the men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard currently serving around the world.

President Warren Finch presented MG Hillhouse with a Certificate of Appreciation for his enlightening presentation to the gathering during the annual Holiday luncheon.



President Warren Finch presented Stephen Thompson with a certificate of appreciation for his assistance in organizing the annual Veterans Day Parade. A certificate was also presented to Rose Herrera for her timely assistance in working with the City of San Jose in the celebration of the annual POW/MIA Day. Last, but not least,

a certificate in absentia was presented to Randy Richmond, who is recuperating at the Palo Alto VA hospital from his third back surgery, for his persistence in organizing the annual POW/MIA Day.



VVA-201 Associates President Cang Kim Dong thanked all of the VVA members for their support during the Vietnam War and working with the South Vietnamese forces to try and stem the tide of communism. Cang presented MG Hillhouse with a holiday gift for his support.

Again this year, members of VVA-201 Associates provided cake deserts to the VVA members, AVVA members and guests assembled during this end of the year Holiday Luncheon.

