



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
DARWIN J. THOMAS
MEMORIAL CHAPTER 201
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Chapter Meeting Minutes
Monday August 25, 2025

Attendees:

Blank, Roger	USAF	Lyon, Peter	USN
Carroll, Walter	USAF	Matulewicz, Kathy	
Clark, Roger	USA	O'Connor, Bob	USMC
Clegg, Freddie	USA	Penland, Steve	
Cranford, Jim	USA	Reichard, Bill	USA
Crawford, Tom	USA	Roberts, Gary	USA
Devlin, Robert	USAF	Salazar, Richard	USA
Edgerton, C Craig	USMC	Stauffer, Jack	USAF
Fanucchi, Gene	USA	Swiger, Dan	USAF
Finch, Warren	USA	Thompson, Stephen	USN
Foggie, Dennis	USAF	Veit, Richard	USA
Francis, Dick	USN	Wells, Jack	USMC
Frangadakis, Michael	USA	Welsh, Mike	USMC
Garcia, Patrick	USMC	Whittaker, Dennis	USA
Havens, Don	USMC		
Husing, Jim	USA	Dong, Cang	ARVN
Kumler, Craig	USN	Vangaasbede, Xuan Thanh	AVVA

I. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Finch at 12:20 PM (1220 hours) at Cupertino Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms Freddie Clegg presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rich Veit provided the invocation.

II. **Roll Call of Chapter Officers**
 President - Warren Finch

Vice President - Gene Fanucchi
Secretary/Treasurer - Stephen Thompson
Sergeant at Arms -Freddie Clegg
3-year Board Member – Gerald Cederholm excused
2-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie
1-year Board Member -Dennis Whittaker
1-year Rotating Board Member - Richard Veit

III. Guests:

Freddie re-introduced C. Craig Edgerton, USMC Vietnam Veteran to the group. Craig provided a remarkable overview of his book (Permission to walk in Peace) and the history of how it was written. The book is available for purchase at the cost of \$25 and QR code information was also available. He also introduced a co-writer, Jamie Johnson (US Army Iraqi Veteran).

Robin Kumler
Lucia Carroll

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the July meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Minutes approved by acclamation.

V. Correspondence:

Bank Statements
Letter from VVA VSO Officer for Northern California with E Mail and phone number

VI. Finance Report:

The Finance Report for July was presented during the meeting. Motion to approve Finance Report as presented and subject to audit.

VII. Officer Reports:

Presiding Officer –

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 19 and Cang and AVVA are working on a venue to celebrate this event, possibly on Saturday or Sunday. More details to follow.

VIII. Chaplain Report

Chaplain asked for thoughts go out to:

David Sanders
Randy Richmond
Rich McCoy
Neil Lichtman
Rose Herrera
Bill Briggs

Waren Finch

IX. Board Of Directors Report:

The Board of Directors met on August 14 and approved year to date finances and a donation to Samaritans Purse for assistance with Veterans and families.

X. California State Council (CSC) Report:

- Next meeting will be held in Visalia October 3 – 5 and Steve Thompson will attend and report back to the chapter

XI. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

Nothing to Report

XII. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Stephen Thompson): As of July 31, we have 145 members.

Agent Orange and POW/MIA Committee - Nothing to report

Constitution By-Laws Committee (Steve Thompson): nothing to report

Community Services Committee – Mike Frangadakis encourages everyone to take some time and visit the Santa Clara VSO to assure they are receiving all benefits they are entitled and to request copies of their full Military records Including health records.

Government Affairs Committee (Rose Herrera): nothing to report.

Finance and Fund-Raising Committee: Nothing to report

Veterans Benefits (Gerald Arnold): Nothing to report

Emergency Assistance Program: Nothing to report

XIII. Unfinished Business:

None

XIV. New Business:

XV. AVVA Report = Cang reiterated POW/MIA ceremony to be held

I. Good of the Order -

Dennis Whittaker provided a brief history of "TAPS" which was very moving.

II. Closing Ceremony

Closing prayer provided by Rich Veit and Colors retired by Sergeant at arms, Freddie Clegg.

III. The next scheduled event for VVA Chapter 201 will be at the Cupertino Country Inn on Monday September 22, 2025 with non-hosted social at 11 and meeting to be held at 12 PM.



Stephen R Thompson
Secretary/Treasurer
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America