



## **VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 472**

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### **What WE Do; What WE"VE Done**

Over the last year, our VVA Chapter 472 has gained many new members and transfers. We discuss many things at our meetings and among ourselves, but have not provided our new members any background or context of what we are discussing. This BRIEF will hopefully fill in the holes and background of **What WE Do; What WE"VE Done**

**Scholarships:** The Chapter awards three (3) \$1,000 Scholarships annually in April, with application deadline February 28. Full details and Form available on our Website: <https://vva472.us/scholarship-application>

**Parades:** The Chapter participates in two (2) parades: Poway Days, 2nd Saturday of September & Veterans Day, Downtown waterfront, November 11. We are renting San Diego Trolleys for our transportation; donations are welcome to help with cost.

**Speaker's Bureau:** We are invited to High Schools when their course of study gets to the Vietnam War. We are available for one hour classroom presentations with visual aids. Bureau speakers include Sal Pellerito, Norm Luker, Len Gallo, Jack Kline & Sam McGovern.

**Veteran's Appreciation Ride & Tom Slaughter (and Bigg's May Ride):** Ride was started nine (9) years ago and then jointly renamed it the Tom Slaughter Memorial Ride in remembrance of our fallen brother. This primary fund raising event is the 3rd Saturday of February. Clarke Lisk is our event coordinator. On the 3rd Saturday in May we attend May Ride at Bigg's Harley Davidson in San Marcos whose theme is to honor Veterans.

**National Cemeteries Vietnam Memorial Monuments & Mt. Soledad:** In 2022-2023 the Chapter designed, donated and dedicated two Vietnam War Memorial Monuments at Ft. Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemeteries. Director Greta Hamilton helped expedite the approvals and we owe her a debt of gratitude. <https://vva472.us/vietnam-veterans-memorial> We also placed a VVA472 Memorial Plaque at the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial.

**La Mesa Veterans Monument:** One of the earliest Vietnam Era Veteran Monuments dedicated and maintained with the help of Vietnam Veterans of America. Glenn Luhnnow, husband of our Gold Wife Sandy Luhnnow is honored at the Memorial. <https://coolsandiegosights.com/2019/01/19/photos-of-vietnam-war-memorial-in-la-mesa/>

**Veteran's Museum, Balboa Park:** Our previous home and office. The Chapter has dedicated plaques outside the Museum. The museum is controversial with the Chapter concerning its closure, operation and future honoring San Diego veterans.

**Breaking Bread: Picnic & Christmas:** We come together in costume for "Stupid Games" and picnic festivities on the 3rd Saturday of September. Our hostess Sandy Luhnnow and helpmates Kathy Reddick and Ed Bontty guaranty riotous memories. We gather together for Christmas Lunch and end of year Awards at the Poway VFW Post usually on the 3rd Saturday of December. Assisting Santa and planning festivities is our hostess Garda Weidemen,

**San Diego Vietnamese Community:** Our partners celebrating the goodness that came out of the Vietnam War. We join them remembering "Black April" and the end of the War. They were very generous in their support for the Vietnam War Memorial Monuments at Ft. Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemeteries.

**AVVA.** Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) is a parallel national organization that is composed of family and friends of VVA. It has many programs in support such as the Paper Safes and PTSD2. Kathy Reddick is liaison.