



AVAG News

Summer 2022 • Volume 9 Issue 3



Above left, Ray Hamel of Firefighters for Christ with AVAG's Paul Gomez. Above right, AVAG Chaplain Doreen Matsumoto presents the new RV keys to a very happy Michael Davis along with Paul Gomez.



Firefighters for Christ Help AVAG Provide Housing With Donated RVs

By AVAG Chaplain Doreen Matsumoto

Ray Thompson, a retired LA County fire captain, involved with Firefighters for Christ was advised they had been given trailers by the City of Los Angeles used during the Coronavirus pandemic and were no longer needed. They were looking for needy people to give them to. When we told them we had both veteran and low-income people in need, they were elated. We coordinated the donations through our Christian ministry non-profit, Orange Christian Business Ministry (OCBM) and American Veterans Assistance Group (AVAG).

I received a call from Mr. Richard giving me the exciting news, and was asked if I would be able to find people that could use an RV. I didn't know what to expect. I just heard that they were in good condition. Paul Gomez took them over to Palm Vista in Hemet.

I called one of my amazing volunteers, Janice Castillo, who we do Bible study with every week, and I asked her if she could pray on something with me. We received some RVs to replace peoples old RVs in your park. I also asked her, "Do you know anyone, off-hand, espe-

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No One Goes Hungry

Partnerships are critical in enabling AVAG to fulfill its commitment to helping provide food to those struggling to put food on the table.

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or learn more about us at AVAGUSA.com

Firefighters for Christ Help AVAG Provide Housing With Donated RVs continued



AVAG volunteer and Palm Vista resident Janice Castillo with AVAG Chaplain Doreen Matsumoto.



A donated RV trailer ready for delivery

cially Veterans that could use them?" I joke around with her all the time. I tell her she's the richest woman in the park, because it's not about the money, it's about all the compassion that she shows for her community. She started to share stories with me of different residents in the park, and and mentioned some in the park that could use an RV upgrade.

Some of them I knew from the weekly food giveaways and the veterans events we put on in this community, and some I did not know.

Everyone filled out their applications, and I submitted them for approval. After that I met up with each of the future recipients and showed them the RVs. This was the first time I looked at them, and I realized they were brand new. They were overjoyed and couldn't believe that this was going to happen. But, we had to get rid of the old RVs to put in the new ones. Charlie Corder and Richard King found someone that lived in the park to help them remove their old ones. Frank Brammer met a man named Larry Patke at the gas station, who told him "I'd be glad to help, that's what I do for a living." What an amazing guy that he would volunteer his time. Not only did he move Frank's old RV, but he also moved Dave Robinson's as well. It wasn't easy getting those 33-footers into the spaces in the 100-degree weather. It was exciting to hand them the keys and watch them as they walked inside and seeing that everything was brand new. Charlie just sat in his chair staring in disbelief.

About Michael Davis

Michael was born in Kansas and then moved to California with his family. During his marriage his wife asked him to go to seminary school. He got his degree, but didn't get picked up as a pastor. So, he went on to work at other jobs. He and his wife eventually divorced. After his kids were grown up, he started to take care of his mother. He and his niece took care of her until she passed away.

With his part of the inheritance, he bought a travel trailer RV. He would pull over and spend three days at a time at different locations until the police ran him off.

He became ill with cellulitis and wound up in the hospital with lesions and bacterial infections. He had to have major surgery on his spinal column. He spent eight months in the hospital.

Before his surgery he couldn't walk. A friend had to carry him on his back to get him into the car and into the doctor's office, a neurosurgeon. A physical therapist worked with him for seven months teaching him how to walk again.

While he was in the hospital, his motorhome was impounded. After leaving the hospital, he got a 1988 Coachman trailer. The trailer he has been living in is in poor condition. There is no electrical panel, electric wire shorts, the floor in the bathroom is soft due to a leaky bathtub, there's no carpeting, and no stairs to get into the house.

One of his friends, Sue Perry from Palm Vista, recommended that he receive a new RV donated to AVAG through Firefighters for Christ. AVAG agreed and he recently received one.

We also sent one to one of the Afghanistan refugees in Mojave.

It's exciting to know that they will have a nice place to sit, relax, have dinner, get a good nights sleep, have access to a working shower and toilet, be able to cook meals and have air conditioning.

It reminded me of the scripture **Malachi 3:10**:

"Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. 🦋



After Michael Davis' old trailer was removed, the new RV trailer was delivered and placed into his space



Above and below at left, Michael Davis at work on his 1988 Coachman trailer. Right, the swamp cooler he'd creatively hooked up to cool the old trailer.



Michael Davis expressing his gratitude with a thumbs-up.



About Charles Corder

Charles has lived at Palm Vista for 12 years. He grew up in Huntington Beach and went to school at Westminster High School. Throughout high school he installed carpet and at 20 he became a carpenter. He did that for 37 years.

Charles commented that his new coach has improved his quality of living and his outlook on life. It has really brightened his life. The coach is a bit smaller and has less cabinet space, but he is a carpenter and he will fix that.

He was stunned when AVAG first approached him about getting a new coach. He felt that it is such a wonderful gift. The coach he was living in was just about as old as he is.

He is very grateful to AVAG for this gift.



At left, Charles Corder expresses his heartfelt thanks for his new RV. At right, Charles stands with Doreen Matsumoto and Paul Gomez after the RV was installed.

When Chaplain Doreen first spoke to him about the RV he said he was so desperate to have running hot water to take a shower.

What a wonderful opportunity to provide him with what he desperately needed. 🙌

More Palm Vista Residents Receive Donated RVs

Dave Robinson

When asked what branch of service Dave served in, he replied “what do you mean, there’s only one, the Marines” ... a true Marine answer.

Dave was born in Texas and joined the Marine Corp when he was 17 years old, serving from 1962 to 1968. He completed basic training at Camp Pendleton near San Diego and did a 13 month tour in Vietnam. He attained the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and Infantryman O-3.

His dad and uncle both served during WWII. His dad and uncle were both in the Army Air Corps.

Dave said the best part about the service was getting discharged and the worst was never getting paid enough. When he got out, he got married and lived all over the states. He worked as a construction worker, contractor and superintendent in the building industry.

After he and his wife divorced, he became Mr. Mom raising four kids on his own. Now he has a lot of grandkids and great grandkids that live all over.

He has now lived at Palm Vista for about three years. Dave was very surprised when AVAG approached him about receiving a new RV



Dave Robinson salutes his approval in front of his new RV.

trailer. He felt that it was a wonderful gesture and is extremely grateful and really overwhelmed.

For now, he plans to put his old trailer in storage and probably give it to a member of his family. He said that his old trailer has traveled with him most of his life and has been everywhere, it’s kind of a piece of him now and he wants to pass it down. 🦋

Richard King

Richard King grew up in San Bernardino, CA and now has lived in Hemet for 30 years. His family had originally moved there because back then it was a lot cleaner and had no graffiti. He figured there were no gangs but that’s changed over the last 10 years.

He used to play guitar for living, from the age of 15 to 35 and then drove trucks. He started having seizures and couldn’t drive anymore. Because of the seizures he hasn’t worked for 17 years.

He was really surprised when AVAG offered him the new trailer. He was very shocked, and happy, never thinking something like this would happen. For a while, he was trying to

save enough money to eventually put a down payment on a new trailer. He was never able to save enough as they were just too expensive.

For Richard this is a blessing. He is grateful from the bottom of his heart and is very appreciative to have been considered. He says that it’s really nice. He had really given up faith on the world but this definitely helps make up for it, he never thought this would happen.

When he was 35 and recently divorced, he moved to Palm Vista and has lived there for about 22 years. Now with the new RV trailer he plans on living here another 22 years, he definitely is not planning on leaving any time soon. 🦋



Richard King waves in thanks just before he enters the new RV for the first time.



At far left, Richard King happily relaxes on the new RV’s sofa. Afterward, he rose to explore his new home and its updated features.



Frank Brammer receives the keys to his new RV from Doreen.



Above left, Frank, with U.S. flag in hand, loves his new home.

At right, he poses for a photo in front of the new RV before entering for the first time.

Below left, Frank and Larry Patke together at the RV.



Frank Brammer

Frank Brammer is an Army Veteran who served in the Korean War. He joined when he was 18 years old.

Frank originally grew up in Marshall, Missouri. His family moved to California, where his parents worked at the shipyard in San Pedro on the battleships. He has children but they're scattered across California, Montana and Oregon.

Frank said that he is a flag raising man. He started at age six or seven holding up the flag. He acknowledged that it's been a long time since he was in the military, but it breaks his heart to see this country being broken down. With tears in his eyes, he commented that this is the greatest country in the world. He would gladly serve his country all over again.

He remembers watching newsreels at the movie theaters when he was seven-years-old. They showed the horrible conditions in other countries. He knew then that there is no country like ours. He wants people to keep praying for our country. We are the land of the free because of the brave.

After he left the Army, he lived on a ranch until he broke his back in 1981. He fell on hard times and had to rent a room for a while.

A few years ago he met a lady who showed him kindness and allowed him to take her RV and make payments. Then began his life of living in motorhomes for over 40 years.

At 87, he never thought he would receive something like a brand-new RV. He has nothing but gratitude and praise. He has been having a hard time even sleeping because he can't believe that he received such a wonderful gift.

He has never received a gift of this magnitude in his whole life.

He also has a lot of gratitude and respect for one of amazing AVAG volunteers Janice Castillo who has been helping him during the move. At 87 years old it's hard to do a lot of things for yourself anymore.

This new RV is far more comfortable than his old one. It has air-conditioning, modern fixtures, plenty of storage, a shower and bathroom. He now has room when someone comes for a visit there's plenty of room.

He's been putting his things away in his new RV and is looking forward to purchasing a shed so he can put stuff in it to keep his area clean.

He is still asking why and how did this happen to me? He is one happy veteran. 🦋



Doreen and Frank discuss the excitement of the day's events.

Memorial Day:

What it means to our Veterans

Hope Chapel, Huntington Beach – June 29, 2022



Kathleen Rowden singing “God Bless America” at the Hope Chapel Special Memorial Day Service.



Ruffino Martinez

Ruffino Martinez lit the Memorial Day Candle in honor of his twin brother, Fidel. They were both drafted August 1965 into the United States Army and had orders for Fort Polk, Louisiana. They were stationed at Fort Polk until December 1965 when they were handed orders to deploy to Vietnam.

Sadly, his twin brother has passed away. In the past, Ruffino has released a white dove at our memorial events to honor his twin brother. Fidel was his best friend.

After lighting the Memorial Day Candle, Ruffino shared why he was having such a difficult time lighting; he was having flashbacks of Saigon lit on fire. He said it was like he went back in time. He then sat with his wife, Maria Martinez, who is a veteran of the United States Air Force and served in Korea. Both of them are members of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 785. 🦋

Kathleen Rowden

My immediate family consisted of two World War II Veterans, three Vietnam War Veterans, and one that served in all of the Gulf Wars. This tally includes parents, grandparents, an uncle and a spouse. Most served over 20 years in the military.

My Mom was a Civilian Flight Nurse at Edwards AFB caring for Test Pilots, like the famous Pete Knight, Chuck Yeager, and beloved Space Shuttle Challenger Astronaut Dick Scobee. Scobee's wife, June, was my English teacher and his two children were classmates.

There were family friends and loved ones who passed away in war and non-war time while serving our country. There were friends, parents and teachers that got called out of the school classroom because a loved one had died in a test aircraft plane crash or Space Shuttle crash.

The impact of war and service and dedication that our service people make to our country and their sacrifice was felt. The loss of their presence temporarily and permanently is real and impacts other's lives forever. It is sad to be a military brat or spouse that has a loved one with their bag packed at the door ready to go on the next mission. It hurts. My hat is off to all the men and women who serve our great USA and their families. I will love and support you forever! I can only hope others will do the same. 🦋



Howard Koch

What Memorial Day means to me. — I was in WWII with the 10th Mountain Division. I served in combat in Italy as a Lieutenant of a weapons platoon. I witnessed firsthand the dreadfulness of combat. I also served in the Korean War.

After serving in two wars, I wanted to also remind you that we can't forget our Civil War. You must understand there is nothing civil about war. During this conflict we lost over 600,000 lives. Who knows what those young men could have become, what

they or their families could have contributed to our world. 🦋

(In the photo, at left, Howard Koch, and, at right, Michael Dishon. Michael, a retired master sergeant who served in the Marine Corps, helped Howard Koch while he was out speaking. Michael also read the verse John 15:13: Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.)



David Breunig

What Memorial Day means to me? I am an Army Gulf War Veteran. Memorial Day means to take time to honor those who didn't make it home, but also to honor those who did not make it home as they left. Some came home with missing limbs and

some have lost their minds, hopefully not their souls. We need to remember that they are still paying the price for war. They are still in pain, fighting PTSD and agent orange. I think about my brother-in-law who is still suffering because he served. 🦋



Roy Gonzales

What Memorial Day means to me?

To me this is a Day of Remembrance. Remembering the soldiers lost in battles of past wars and battles our soldiers are still engaged in today.

I did not serve in the military but my oldest son, Dominic Gonzalez, served in the United States Army. He did two tours in Iraq.

I sent my son out with a strong warm embrace but when he returned home, I didn't recognize the

same face. I sent my son out with a heart full of love and laughter and peace. But somewhere on the battlefield he lost those things. Sometimes I get a glimpse of who he was, a glimpse of what I remember before the battlefield.

There is a quote that comes to mind; "Some gave all and all gave some". As you can see, I have tears running down my face, I remember all the sacrifices my son made for me. 🦋



Ben Cowart

Psalms 144:1

Praise the Lord who is my Rock.

He trains my hands for war and gives my fingers skill for battle.

Memorial Day has much more meaning to me now than it did when I was very young and even when I served this country during a time of mostly peace.

The men who went into war knowing that their chance of survival was very small should always be remembered and honored. These men willingly gave up their futures to preserve this great experiment in democracy that is the United States of America.

Without God's guiding hand and men who were able to see beyond their own lives, the America that

came out of the great wars would not have come to be. We could very well be speaking the King's English, or German, or here on the West Coast, Japanese. We were on those precipices where only a miracle could save.

There is no doubt in my mind that God intervened against Evil and turned the tides of war in the favor of those who fervently called on his name. He has done it throughout history and will do it again when he is called on for Help.

America is only one generation away from extinction. Men we remember this weekend knew that and gave it all for America to continue, even if it would be without their beating heart.

Remember this day and remember their sacrifice. 🦋

AVAG participates in National Police Week

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week.

Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community.

On Friday May 13, 2022, we were able to show our appreciation to the Huntington Beach police officers on duty by treating them to a BBQ Luncheon at Hope Chapel in Huntington Beach.

Veterans David Breunig and Charles Aroz from our chaplaincy team barbecued up hamburgers and hotdogs. Our friends at Grateful Hearts donated soft drinks. Bracken's Kitchen also donated the side dishes. Our Team Leaders helped prepare other items and desserts. It was great to see everyone having a wonderful time.

So Cal Quilts Of Valor presented quilts to the officers that are veterans.

The officers came in their police cars, on their police bicycles and police motorcycles.

There is power in community. It's great to have so many people that want to volunteer and participate in our events. 🦋



A Hero Takes an Honor Flight

Howard Koch Goes to Washington

The American Veterans Assistance Group (AVAG) submitted an application for Veteran Howard Koch, who served in World War II and the Korean war, to go on an Honor Flight. Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to transporting as many United States military veterans as possible to Washington D.C. to see the memorials of the respective war(s) they fought in at no cost to the veterans.

The application was accepted, and Howard participated in Honor Flight Southland's April 22-24 trip. When Howard arrived back at LAX he was welcomed home by our AVAG volunteers and Unleash Your Purpose ministry team. 🕊



Howard Koch, seated closest to the window and his row mates smile in anticipation as they wait for take off in their plane from Los Angeles to Washington D.C.



Upon his return from his trip, Howard Koch was welcomed back home by AVAG volunteers and the Unleash Your Purpose ministry team.

AVAG In Action

ACL Recliner Giveaway

In June, we received a call from Metro Express. They had some extra lazy boy recliners and wanted to donate them to us. We were able to bless so many people with the special gifts.

Alex, of Metro Express, even set it up to deliver them to us at Sequoia Plaza Mobile Home Park. That really saved us some time and energy. 🙌



Metro Express very kindly arranged to deliver the recliners to Sequoia Plaza MHP, where AVAG volunteer carefully unloaded them and placed them into the community room for unpacking, assembly and distribution to their new homes.

We were able to surprise so many people with brand new La-Z-Boy recliners.



Kenny from Sequoia — “Can’t wait to relax in the new recliner, have a nice juicy steak on my tray table, and watch football.”



Cupu Tony from Sequoia — “With my father working hard and working nights this will be great for him when he comes home late at night from work.”



Julisa Gonzalez from Sequoia — “After a long day at work on my feet this chair will help me relax when I get home.”



Jody from Sequoia — “I’ve lived at the park for 10 years. This chair is going to help so much with my back and my hips.” Jody uses a walker to get around the community. She comes every month to our AVAG meetings and participates in our events.



Anthony Ureno from Sequoia — “I’ve lived here in the park for 11 years and worked as the maintenance man for 10 years. I didn’t have a recliner before, and it’s going to be nice for when I get home late from working. I’ll get to relax, it’ll be perfect. Thank you so much!”



Army Veteran Abel and Margaret from Sequoia — “We’ve lived here for 8 years and we are extremely grateful. It’s going to help my husbands legs and to relax. I want to extend my gratitude to AVAG, and Doreen and Amanda, for this gift. Thank you!”



Vincent Walker from Pacific Palms — “This chair will help me in all kinds of ways! I have myopathy because type 2 diabetes. I have severe nerve damage. I’m 65 and take a lot of different meds, and this chair is a blessing. My old one has a lot of exposed wire that I’ve tried to fix, but it’s become dangerous because of the wires. So this new chair with help me relax and be comfortable. Thank you!”



Ruben Espinosa from Sequoia — “I’ve had back surgery on some of the discs in my spine and still have a year to recover so this will help while I heal thank you!”



Cheon Ben’s wife from Sequoia — Her husband had shared with us that he really wanted a recliner when at our last event we raffled one off. When we showed up at the door with the newly donated recliner, his wife, who only spoke the Cambodian language, didn’t understand why we were there. Luckily Frank Ivey got his wife on the phone, and she was able to translate. What a surprise it was when her husband got home to find this beautiful recliner!

AVAG In Action

Santiago Palm Vista Hemet Home Repairs

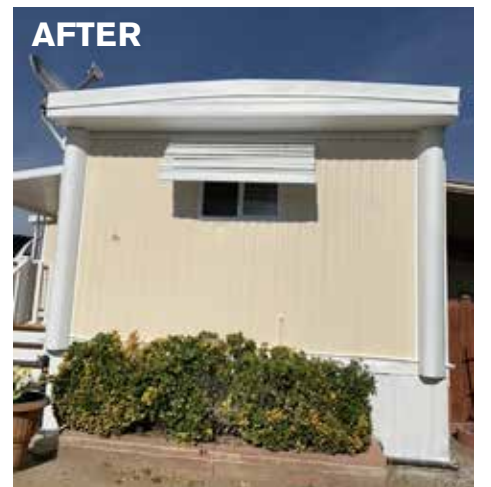
Rick Messina

When Navy veteran Rick Messina received a notice that his home needed to be painted, he reached out to AVAG Chaplain Doreen and requested help to paint his home.

We have quite a few people in the queue waiting for some kind of home repair. But we were able to take care of the paint job. It came out great.

During the process Rick would contact us and let us know how the job was going.

He said “Just wanted to express my gratitude to you and AVAG. Once more you’ve done so much for me and my home looks so beautiful — many compliments. It gives me a peace of mind knowing that this is complete. When Amanda came over to take some photos I let her know I am very grateful for the beautiful paint job! I am mighty well pleased with my new Mobile Home. My neighbors love it!”🐦



Navy Veteran Rick Messina poses for a photo in front of his newly painted home. Both Rick and his neighbors love the new look. Rick also appreciated the finishing on the gate and staircase that lead to his front door. Photos above display the condition of Rick's home before the paint job and how it looked after the job was completed.



Jack Krajczar

Jack Krajczar was in the California National Guard from 1964 to 1970. His rank was specialist E-4 and he worked as a radio operator and repairmen. Jack did his basic training at Fort Ord and then was stationed the rest of the time at Fort Irwin in Barstow, California.

“I have family on my mother’s side that served. My Uncle Jack, who I was named after, was in the U.S. Army Air Corp. during WWII, and my other uncle Richard, served in the U.S. Army also during WWII.

“My buddy and I were drafted when they started drafting people for Vietnam, but neither of us wanted to go to Vietnam. So, I

suggested that we enlist in the California National Guard because then at least we’d stay local and wouldn’t have to go to Vietnam.

“After I got out, they started sending the Army Reserves and National Guard over to Vietnam, so I got out just in time.

“For the most part I didn’t really enjoy anything when I was in the service because it was during Vietnam. No one had even heard of it and all of a sudden, they started sending people over just to die.

“My favorite part about my service was during the summer. We would take two-weeks training, and this one time we went to Camp Roberts by Paso Robles, about 30 miles from Hunter Liggett. The only way to communicate was to hike through the hills to get service, and we would have a great time drinking beer together.

“AVAG did a beautiful job painting my home. The work they did is great, it looks good. I’m very, very happy. Thanks to those guys that helped get my trees out, and paint my house. I thought they would have a crew, but it was just one guy by himself. He was able to paint the whole house in one day. I’m 80 now, and I wouldn’t have been able to do it myself, or even afford it, so thank you.”

Jack is an amazing guy and it was an honor to help him with his home repair and tree removal. With our veterans being on a fixed income, it’s great to be able to help them with rent assistance as well.

Check out the before and after pictures. [🔗](#)

BEFORE



AFTER



Casitas La Verne

Father's Day at Casitas La Verne

AVAG had a special Father's Day community luncheon for our veterans and seniors at Casitas La Verne.

It was great to see all of our veterans come out in the community to participate in this event.

We gave all the men special gifts, and they received an additional gift from Mellissa Arriola Breunig. We had raffles for the community with our Bed, Bath and Beyond donations. We brought Panera bread donated from the City Of Los Alamitos – Parks & Recreation.

We also brought boxes of nonperishable food items from Flagman Frank A. Waldrop for them to take home.

In addition, we presented a So Cal Quilts of Valor to Tom Ols Marine Corps Veteran. 🦋



Meet Casitas La Verne Veteran, Michael Daenzer

Michael served in the Marines from 1964 to 1968 and did his basic training at camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He then was sent to Vietnam for 2½ years for two tours. Michael followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Patrick and his dad, Edward, and joined the Marines. The highest rank he received was Corporal, but he would have been promoted to Sergeant if he had signed up for another year.

Michael and his wife, Denise, met in-between his tours to Vietnam. She went to her friend's house because they were supposed to go to the beach in Huntington Beach. Michael and his sailor friend joined them there. They have now been married for 43 years and have two boys, Anthony and Michael. 🦋



A Vietnamese family adopted and took Michael and his friends in when they would go into town and stay with them.



AVAG Celebrates Mother's Day at Casitas La Verne

AVAG Celebrated our veteran's wives at our community in Casitas La Verne at a Mother's Day luncheon on Friday May 6, 2022.

We had a packed house, in fact we barely made it with food.

There were some raffle prizes from Bed Bath & Beyond. We also gave them individual gifts that we received from Children Giving Gifts.

Mellissa Breunig from the Richard Breunig Foundation supplied six beautiful raffle baskets. Additionally, one of her YouTube subscribers, Charliet from Florida, sent a box of jewelry to pass out to the ladies. Mellissa also made little gifts with candles and trinkets in them.

We also gave out flags to the residents that needed them for their home.

Mellissa shared her testimony regarding Mother's Day and it was a hit!

Special thanks to City of Los Alamitos for giving us Panera bread for everyone. 🦋



Pacific Palms

AVAG Pacific Palms Easter Event April 9, 2022

After weeks of preparation the Easter event arrived.

With the generous support of The Richard Breunig Foundation, who has partnered with AVAG for many events, so much joy was brought to the children at Pacific Palms Mobile Home Park in Highland.

A special thank you to all who supported this event with donations and support! Mellissa Breunig says “giving isn’t always about making a donation — it’s about making a difference together.”

What a beautiful opportunity to give Easter baskets to the children in the community.

We also provided a barbecue luncheon with hamburgers and hot-dogs, prepared by David Breunig. Mellissa Arriola Breunig gave out 80 Easter baskets to the children. AVAG also brought our donations from Bed Bath & Beyond and had a raffle for all the residents.

The park manager, Jenniffer, decorated the clubhouse, and then we walked down the street to the playground area where Amanda and Dallas had hidden Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt.

Thank you to all our volunteers that made this event very special. 🦋



Sequoia Plaza

AVAG Meeting at Sequoia Plaza MHP

It's great to see all of our veterans participating in our events. Our regular AVAG meeting at Sequoia is always the second Tuesday of each month. We gather together, pass out food to the community, and then enjoy a potluck.

After eating, we do some raffles and finish it up with a fun game night. Everyone is welcome. We enjoy playing "Left Right Center," and the winner takes home a \$25 Stater Brothers gift card. 🦋



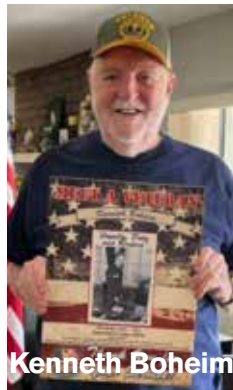
Creek Orange Estates

AVAG Meeting at Creek Orange Estates

One of our largest AVAG chapters is from Santiago Creek Orange. Our group likes to gather together to have lunch and fellowship.

AVAG likes to highlight our veterans in the community. We have a wall filled with Veterans posters that says "MEET A VETERAN." This group consists of Veterans and Veterans widows and Veteran's parent's and patriots. Most of these Veterans have served in the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and World War II. 🇺🇸



**Chris Long****David Holland****Mrs. Bill Miller****Kenneth Boheim****Leo Carillo**

AVAG honored Creek Orange Veterans at the April 2022 meeting.

A Special Thank You



AVAG would like to say a special thank you to the Pipefitters Union and Douglas 'Scooter' Wilson for providing Los Angeles Angels game tickets for one of our special veterans. Glen Williamson from Creek Orange, a double Purple Heart recipient who served in Vietnam attended the April 28 game at Angels Stadium in Anaheim. It was a beautiful day, the seats were excellent, and the Angels won the game 4-1!

Thank you for supporting our veterans. 🦋

Meet Creek Orange Estates Veteran, Stanley Samuelson



Stanley Samuelson served in the US Navy from 1954 to 1958. He was an E5 Radar Technician. He did his basic training at Bainbridge then went to Norman, Oklahoma, later attending radar school in Norfolk, Virginia. When asked if he had to do it over again would he do it, he answered simply by saying "yes." He would have liked to change some things, but things are the way they are.

What he liked best about serving was that the days always had adventure. It is definitely not civilian life. He loved traveling and the constant excitement. He also met the best people you could meet.

Some lessons Stanley learned from the service was to keep up with all the new tech as it comes out. Keep up with the times.

His transition from the service to civilian life was a little slow, but he eventually got used to it and went to college.

Stanley was able to see a lot of the states and did training to hunt Russian subs on an aircraft carrier in the Caribbean. 🦋



No One Goes Hungry

There is a continuous need for our veterans, seniors and low income families.

Every week we are taking food to a different location to help people in need. We are always looking for people to partner with us to make sure no one goes hungry.

We'd like to say a special thank you to Flagman Frank and Bracken's Kitchen.

In these photos we are helping people in multiple locations in:

- San Bernardino California
- Hemet, California
- Orange, California
- Highland, California

During the pandemic we made a commitment to make sure that no one goes hungry.

Now, with the rising price of groceries going up more than 11%, people are struggling to put food on the table.

Thank you to Janice and Linda from Palm Vista in Hemet who are now leading a weekly food distribution and have many volunteers participating.

Thank you to Nancy and David at Creek Orange who are helping us to do a weekly distribution of food too.

And I'm proud to say that we launched a weekly food distribution at Hemet Valley RV Park thanks to Janice Castillo who it is working with Loretta and Lynda and other volunteers on this project. 🦋



AVAG News

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