



AVAG News

Fall 2022 • Volume 9 Issue 4



Keynote speaker Phil Downer captured the attention of the audience at AVAG's Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon on August 6, 2022 at the Meadowlark Golf Course in Huntington Beach.

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon AVAG Shows Support for its Veterans

We had an incredible Veterans Appreciation Luncheon on August 6, 2022 at the Meadowlark Golf Course in Huntington Beach. Over 180 veterans in attendance and they were all greeted by our amazing volunteers. It was great to have so many veterans groups support our event.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 23 presented us with a \$350 donation and also gave us a bicycle to present to our veteran Joe Pendleton's son.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) gave us a \$150 Walmart gift card to raffle off. Navy veteran Harold Collins won it. A special thank you to Maria and Ruffino Martinez.

And these were not the only raffle prizes. With the help of our friends from the Richard Breunig Foundation and AVAG, we were able to give out so many more. Mellissa Breunig presented the raffle prizes to the winners.

We also raffled off a brand new La-Z-Boy recliner. The veteran who won it, David Sharbutt, said "I'm disabled and I really need this chair but I have no way to get it home. I have no one to get it home and carry it into my house." One of our volunteers, Army veteran Charlie Aroz, stepped up to deliver and set it up for him.

Everyone worked together to make this event amazing.

Thank you to our partners that set up a resource table for our veterans, Veterans Stand Together and Doctors Hospice Southern California.

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AVAG and the Santiago Creek Orange Estates Community celebrate a veteran's 99th birthday.

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AVAG Mourns Loss of Longtime Member

The community of Casitas La Verne held a memorial service for much loved WWII veteran Frank Paglia.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

 @AmericanVeteransAssistanceGroup  @socal.avag
or learn more about us at AVAGUSA.com

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon Continued

Thank you Robert Campbell and Phyllis Campbell for passing out Navy hats.

AVAG founder Mr. Richard Simonian gave out one of his personal challenge coins.

Special thanks to our chaplains from Hope Chapel Huntington Beach who volunteered and brought guests.

One of our volunteer team leaders, Suzanne Wells, said one of the guys from American Legion Post 555, a.k.a. “The Triple Nickel,” was very moved by Phil Downer’s presentation and was excited to take his new Bible home.

We had support from the American Legion Post 295 — Cypress, California and DAV chapter 23, Richard Breunig Foundation, VVA Chapter 785, and the auxiliary from American Legion Post 555.

It was also nice to see some from the Creek Orange community at our event.

At these events, we share the love of Jesus and pass out bibles to everyone. 29 people checked the box that they gave their life to the Lord and 10 more checked rededication.

Praise God! 🙌



The luncheon’s keynote speaker was Phil Downer.



DAV Chapter 23



American Legion Post 555



VVA Chapter 785 Maria Martinez with her fellow female veterans Amelia Lee and Penelope (Penny) King.



Above, U.S. Navy veteran Wayne Clearly, and below, U.S.M.C. veteran Leo Carrillo both received special challenge coins from Phil Downer.



AVAG Welcome Team Suzanne Wells, Maria Lopez, David Breunig, Vicky Jackson



Reverend Rick and "Nighttrain" Joe from DAV Post 23



Left to right, Marine Corps veteran Alex Gavidia and Army veterans Richard Simonian and Mike Keele



Kathleen Rowden and Lt. Col. John W. Hull, USAF retired



USN veteran Robert Campbell a.k.a. Ridgerunner



USMC veteran Lloyd Hall showing off his AVAG challenge coin.



Richard Simonian presenting his personal challenge coin to a fellow veteran.



VVA chapter 785 Maria Martinez presenting \$150 Walmart gift card to U.S. Navy veteran Harold Collins.



David Sharbutt was happy winner of the raffle for a new La-Z-Boy recliner.



Mellissa Breunig presenting raffle prizes.



DAV Chapter 23 presenting a special bicycle to a Joe Pendleton's family.

POW/MIA DAY OF PRAYER

**Hope Chapel
Huntington Beach
Friday, September 16, 2022**

By Doreen Matsumoto

The POW/MIA Day of Prayer, observed annually since 1979 on the third Friday in September, provided us with an awesome opportunity to share our commitment to our veterans. We held a luncheon at Hope Chapel in Huntington Beach, where in addition to serving lunch, we made a presentation regarding POW/MIA Day.

So many people helped to make the luncheon a success — Porto's gave us desserts, American Legion Post 555 provided side dishes, AVAG supplied the hamburgers and hotdogs, and David Breunig barbecued them. Chaplain Lori McGee supplied pizza. Bracken's Kitchen supplied green salads, fruit and macaroni salad. We had so much food that the leftovers were sent to the Long Beach Rescue Mission.

The event also included a special presentation for the Vietnam veterans by Bernie Thurman, a representative from American Legion post 295 and a few raffles.

The point of POW/MIA Recognition Day is to ensure that Americans remember to stand behind those who serve and to make sure we do everything we can to account for those who never returned.

It's important to remember the extreme sacrifices of our POW/MIAs and America's pact to them: That we will take care of them, and no matter how much time has passed, they will make it back home.

Thank you for all your prayers and support.

POW/MIA Numbers

In order to comprehend the importance of this movement, all you need to do is look at the sheer number of Americans who have been listed as POW/MIAs.

American POW Numbers

According to a Congressional Research Service report on POWs:

- 130,201 World War II service members were imprisoned; 14,072 them died.
- 7,140 Korean War service members were imprisoned; 2,701 of them died.
- 725 Vietnam War service members were imprisoned; 64 of them died.
- 37 service members were imprisoned during conflicts since 1991, including both Gulf wars; none is still in captivity.

American MIA Numbers

According to the Defense Department POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), there are;

- 83,114 Americans who fought in those wars who are still missing, including:
- 73,515 from World War II (an approximate number due to limited or conflicting data)
- 7,841 from the Korean War
- 1,626 from Vietnam
- 126 from the Cold War
- 6 from conflicts since 1991

The DPAA said about 75% of those missing Americans are somewhere in the Asia-Pacific. More than 41,000 have been presumed lost at sea.

Efforts to find those men, identify them and bring them home are constant. For example, the DPAA said that in the past year, it has accounted for 41 men missing during the Korean War: 10 had been previously buried as unknowns, 26 were from remains turned over by North Korea in the 1990s, one was from a recovery operation, and four were combinations of remains and recovery operations. ✕



The POW/MIA Flag

The traditional POW/MIA flag that's well-known across America was actually created many years before the Remembrance Day became official.

In 1971, Mary Hoff contacted a flag company near her home to see whether a flag reminding people of POWs and the missing could be made. She was one of the many waiting to see whether her husband, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hoff, would ever return home after his plane had been shot down over Laos.

World War II pilot Newt Heisley designed the now-famous flag, which was made in black and white to represent the sorrow, anxiety and hope symbolized by the image of the gaunt man featured on it.

For every POW/MIA Recognition Day since 1982, the flag has flown just below the stars and stripes at the White House — the only other flag to ever do so. In 1998, Congress ordered it to also be displayed on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

So Cal Quilts of Valor Recognizes Veterans at the AVAG POW/MIA Day of Prayer Event



William Dundes

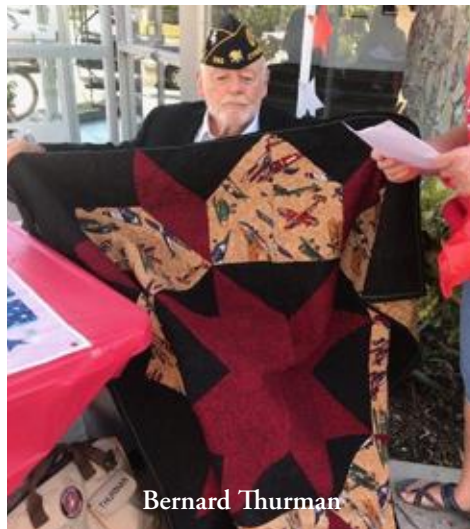
Veterans proudly display the Quilts of Valor presented to them by So Cal Quilts of Valor, starting at left and clockwise: William Dundes, Michael P. Kempf, Bernard Thurman, and David Sharbutt.



Michael P. Kempf



David Sharbutt



Bernard Thurman



At left, veteran Jim Surdock also received a Quilt of Honor, although it is not pictured. He loves his quilt and sleeps with it every night. He was impressed with all the women that put together that quilt specially for him.



Ray Haituka helped present his father, Ron Yutaka Haituka, with the Quilt of Honor.

A Korean War Veteran Receives a Belated Quilt of Honor

Ron Yutaka Haituka, a U.S. Army Korean War veteran, had planned to attend the POW/MIA Day of Prayer event, but unfortunately had to miss it due to illness. What he didn't know was that his son, Ray, had arranged for his father to be presented with a QOV at the event.

Ray had met us at the POW/MIA event and asked if we could surprise his dad, which we did. We were able to present him with So Cal Quilts of Valor at the home he shares with his wife of 65 years, Alice.

He was so surprised when we delivered the quilt. His son had picked the color green to represent Hawaii because both his dad and mom were born there. 🦋



Left to right, Alice, Ray Ron Yutaka Haituka, and AVAG Chaplain Doreen Matsumoto

Veterans Connect

Bringing Veterans Together for Fellowship in Huntington Beach



Veterans Connect meets the fourth Saturday of the month at 12 noon at Hope Chapel in Huntington Beach. We give our veterans the opportunity to share their stories and what they are actively involved in. It is open for all veterans, their wives, families and patriots.

We started our Veterans Connect meeting on July 23, 2022 with the intention to bring veterans together for fellowship. The meeting began with discussions about a book called *Operation Timothy, Book One*. It got everyone to engage in conversations and then we had some food, fellowship and raffles.

Reverend Rick shared the statistics about veteran's suicides. We had the Long Beach Blind Rehabilitation group, led by Liz, come out and join us. One of them even sang a wonderful song to our veterans.

We have some amazing volunteers that help with the meeting; Karen Martinez, Suzanne Wells, Mellissa Breunig, David Breunig, Amanda Breunig, Ben Cowart, and Scott Perry.

We would like to introduce you to a few of the new veterans who participated in our Veterans Connect event:



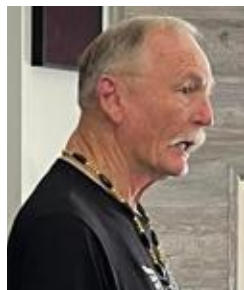
Doug Zimmerman
U.S. Air Force

Doug served 31 years in the military. His highest rank achieved was Chief Master Sergeant E-9. He served in Alaska and in Costa Mesa. After active duty he served in the reserves with the National Guard. He said he would serve his country all over again. The only thing he would change is that he would've chosen a specific career, but God had his own plan. What he liked best about serving in the military were the opportunities to travel. What he didn't like was working nights, weekends and holidays in adverse conditions. The lessons he learned in the military were attention to detail, and punctuality. After he left the military, he transitioned right into teaching, then retired after that. The countries that he was able to see were the Philippines, Korea, Thailand, Panama, Costa Rica and Alaska.



Kenneth Tracy
U.S. Army

His highest rank achieved was E-5. He served at Fort Polk Louisiana, Fort Carson Colorado, and Vietnam with the 1st Logistical Command. Ken said he would do it all over again and has no regrets serving his country. What he liked best about the service was the structured lifestyle and what he didn't like was the war. He learned many lessons to take into civilian life and had a smooth transition. He enjoyed working with officers and noncommissioned officers and he traveled to Hong Kong, China and Vietnam.





Residents of Santiago Creek Orange Estates gather for a group photo at the party held to celebrate the 99th birthday of WWII U.S. Navy veteran Harold Gomer, pictured in the center of this photo between the two 9s.

Santiago Creek Orange Estates Celebrates the Birthday of a WWII U.S. Navy Veteran

Happy Birthday Harold Gomer!

We had a wonderful “99 Years and Cheers” party.

Harold can't wait till he turns 100!

It was great to have the community with us to celebrate our hero. Every year we celebrate Harold. He is commonly known as “Dad” because he lives with his daughter Pam Crawley. He always sits outside on his porch and everyone in the community passing by stops to say hi.

The party included pizza, and his friends brought some side dishes. Of course, there was a delicious cake too! We also had raffles and fellowship. Also on hand were non-perishable items and Panera bread for everyone to take home after the party.

Thank you City Of Los Alamitos Parks & Recreation Department.

When it was all over he said “It’s time to go home — it’s Miller time. Beer-thirty!” 🦋



Left to right, AVAG Chaplain Doreen Matsumoto, Harold Gomer, Pam Crawley, and Amanda Breunig



Meet Our AVAG Veterans

Patrick Duffy – U.S. Navy

Patrick Duffy served in the United States Navy from 1964 to 1967. He reached the rank of E-4 PO3 and served in several locations, including Florida, South Eastern China, Japan, Hawaii, and Hong Kong. He remembers being a Seaman, and wondering if he was going to be cleaning deck floors his whole career, when one day he was asked by a higher-ranking officer to choose a job he would like to do. What an exciting and yet humbling experience.

According to Military-Ranks.org, Petty Officer Third Class serves both as a leader and as a technical expert, and all Petty Officers have a specified rating, or job. The exact title with which a Petty Officer is addressed depends on their specialty.

Only a certain number of Petty Officer Third Class billets are available to be filled every year, and competition for promotion is extremely fierce among qualified seamen.

To promote to E-4, a sailor must have spent a minimum of six months as an E-3, attained a rating, graduated A-School, completed Petty Officer Indoctrination, received at least a “Promotable” on their most recent evaluations, and passed a rating examination. All these things and more, depending on the sailor’s rate, are submitted as a package to a promotion board. The promotion board uses a point system to tally up the sum of a sailor’s achievements. The board has a pre-determined percentage of sailors they are allowed to promote based on current manning levels. The top percentage of sailors are then promoted.

He recalls being assigned to replenish the aircraft carriers on the way to Vietnam. Being a part of a whole unit and having significant meaning and purpose to that unit must be an experience like no other.

When asked if he had to do it over again, he replied, “yes, I loved it. It is an honor and privilege to serve this Grand ol’ Country!”

Duffy came from a small town in Wisconsin, and working with fellow seamen of different races and cultures made it an enjoyable experience he may have missed otherwise. He appreciated and valued that camaraderie. Coming from a small town, he was surprised when he met a fellow from his locality.

In addition to the camaraderie, he also felt that he learned other attributes like discipline, organization, and social behaviors, like getting along with others, which helped him in his civilian life as well. Transitioning was not a problem for PO3 Duffy, especially when you have, “the best wife!” He was also able to work in a field similar to his Naval career. Today, his favorite memory is the day that he was saved, in 1966. He recalls two guys approaching him and asking if he wanted to be saved. He thought about it for a minute and considered where he was at in life and decided he needed the Lord to come into it. Hallelujah and God Bless you America’s veteran Patrick Duffy and his wife Laurene. 🙏





Paul Cummings – U.S. Marine Corps

Paul Cummings is a dedicated serviceman of the Marine Corps and the Airforce. He has served our nation for 20 years, from 1950 to 1970. Rain or shine, he served in many locations, from Cuba to Korea, and to Vietnam. Paul achieved the rank of Gunnery Sergeant in the Marines. Not only did he serve as a Marine but he also joined the Air Force and refers to it as three up and two down.

A Gunnery Sergeant serves as the operations chief and works with superior officers in regards to training, organizing, and tactical advising. Gunnery Sergeant is the seventh rank in the US Marine Corps.

If Sergeant Cummings had to do it over again, he would. He also said that if he could change anything during his service, he would make one change. At the age of 23 he was off base without a pass and unfortunately, he got caught, resisted, and lost his stripe. Luckily the Marine Corps knows how to “take ya apart, and put you back together.”

A committed service man, like his father, who served in the US Navy, Paul said, “my life was about the Marine Corps.” In fact, according to Paul, his wife is more of a Marine and he is.

Sergeant Cummings said he enjoyed the camaraderie the most while he served. He learned how to be disciplined, and learned time management. All of these things he used in his civilian life. Although it took time to transition to civilian life following combat, he did with the help of Jesus. Happily married, he has three daughters, and this veteran continued to influence others for 20 years after serving. According to Sergeant Cummings he learned how to be a good trainer in the Marine Corps. An attribute that enabled him to become a teacher of history and geography for 20 years. What a gift to help others learn and respect.

A decorated war hero, Sergeant Cummings has received 3 Purple Hearts, 1 Bronze Star, 1 Silver Star and a Letter of citation from President Lyndon Johnson. Thank you, Sergeant Cummings, for your sacrifices made for our Freedom! 🦋



Richard Thompson – U.S. Navy

Our Chaplaincy Team doing a response visit at Manor Care in Fountain Valley, to Navy veteran Richard Thompson.

Richard served in the United States Navy during Vietnam from 1970 to 1974 on the USS Cayuga, his rank was an E5. We were able to deliver a So Cal Quilts of Valor to him too.

He loved it and uses it everyday. 🦋

At left, Navy veteran Richard Thompson expresses his appreciation for the Quilt of Valor. Below left, Chaplain Doreen Matsumoto, Chaplain Amanda Breunig, and Chaplain Scott Perry. Below right, Amanda and Scott display Richard's quilt.





Bernie Thurman – U.S. Marine Corps

Every day America's service members selflessly put their lives on the line to keep us safe and free. Although we have reminders on our Calendars, we can only imagine the sacrifices our troops have made during their service. Sometimes it stays with them throughout their lives and for others, they make an ultimate sacrifice and don't return home to their loved ones.

Bernie Thurman, a Marine Corp. veteran of 21 years expressed that when you serve, it's not race, culture, or male and female. It's soldiers or troops standing shoulder to shoulder, willing to die for each other without hesitation. Bernie served in the Marine Corps from 1959-1980, finishing with the rank of First Sergeant.

When asked, if he would do it all over again, he responded with a quick "yes."

He proceeded to say, "I came from a broken family, and then at seventeen, I was on my own. I started at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, where I was recruited, then to North Carolina, and was assigned to 3 combat tours, with a break in between after being wounded." That must be why he said, "The only thing I would do differently is not get wounded with shrapnel."

He has received 3 Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star with Combat B, and last but not least the Silver Star. Amongst the others are good conduct medals and I was there medals. When I mentioned that he was a war hero, he said, "it wasn't me that was the hero, it was the ones that didn't come home."

For Bernie, the United States Marine Corp., became his home and how proud he is of it!

Following his service, transitioning to civilian life went fairly well. He found work with McDonald Douglas, now Boeing, which enabled him to travel to enjoyable locations. He climbed the Great Pyramid and saw the Sphinx in Egypt. He also went to Shanghai, China and hit it off with the locals, where he explained to them why Americans love chewing gum and exchanged farewells and the meaning of "after while, crocodile."

Bernie has now been married for 39 years to his wife Elsa, and is the father of two daughters, a grandfather to 7 grandchildren and great grandfather to 3 great grandchildren.

Bernie is now a part of the American Legion where he is tasked with the responsibility to find Vietnam veterans and present them with a pin of proclamation. Bernie wanted to give a special thanks to AVAG and Doreen. "It was a pleasure to be included with the fellow Servicemen at the AVAG POW event. Looking forward to the future ones to come." 🦋



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, SEMPER FI

Semper Fidelis is a Latin phrase that means, "always faithful" and/or "always loyal." It is the motto for the US Marine Corps; usually shortened to "Semper Fi." The Marines website states, "it is an eternal and collective commitment to the success of our battles, the progress of our nation, and the steadfast loyalty to the Marines we fight along side."

Let us remember those who lost their lives while serving side by side in Kabul on August 26, 2021 — 11 Marines, 1 Sailor, and 1 Soldier.

Last year, just outside of Kabul's Airport, a suicide bomber killed 150 Afghans, injured 45 servicemen and killed 13 additional service men. People desperately seeking refuge. Our brave military working so hard to assist them.



The photo above was taken by Lance Cpl. Hope Straley, showing U.S. Marines revealing a plaque dedicated to the 13 service members killed during the attack at the Abbey Gate in Kabul on Aug. 26, 2021. The plaque was installed at the Semper Fi Marine Monument in San Clemente, California, May 30, 2022. 🦋

Sean Hersey – U.S. Navy

Sean Hersey enlisted in the Navy in 1984. When he finished boot camp in San Diego, he attended Aviation Electronics Technician Schools in Tennessee, Naval Air Station (NAS) Memphis.

After his schooling, Sean was sent to the VF-302 'Fighting Stallions', a squadron of F-14A jet fighters at NAS Miramar for the duration of his enlistment. Before working in the Avionics Shop, he was sent to work on the flight line and became a certified Plane Captain, launching and receiving aircraft, performing pre-flight and post-flight inspections and general servicing of the aircraft. Since Sean was a Plane Captain, he got his name painted on the side of one of the jets, aircraft 214. "That was my 'bird'." His next task was to be sent to the avionics shop where he would repair and maintain airborne electronics such as radio, navigation and radar systems.

During Sean's four years duty at NAS Miramar, he also went on various detachments to the USS Ranger (Aircraft Carrier) and Naval Air Stations in Key West – Florida, New Orleans – Louisiana, Cold Lake – Canada, and Fallon – Nevada.

When asked if he would do this all over again, he answered, "Absolutely. If I knew then what I know now, I would have pursued it more seriously and stayed in for the full 20 years to get retirement benefits. Twenty years flew by fast, I would've been retired in 2004!"

Sean really enjoyed being around aircraft and being in charge of a \$30 million F-14, that was really cool in retrospect. It was great to see different parts of the country also.

At the time of his discharged he couldn't wait to get out. However, now when he looks back, he realizes that it was truly a great experience and there were many, many enjoyable and funny occasions and memories.

Attributes he acquired from the Navy and incorporated into his civilian life were teamwork, camaraderie, and brotherhood. His transition to civilian life was fairly easy. He obtained a job in the ski industry and mostly worked at ski resorts.

When I asked if he had any officers or noncommissioned officers who influenced his life, his answer was his best friend lives a mile away, and they still get together and surf. They reminisce often about their time serving with all the other guys. 🦋



Hemet Valley RV Park Weekly Food Distribution.

Meet Loretta and Diane. Recent partners with AVAG, Loretta and Diane serve their community at the Hemet Valley RV Park by putting together weekly food distributions for residents at the park.

When asked why she decided to partner with AVAG to help people in need, Loretta responded, “Why? I wanted to help other people in my community. It helps me with my mental health issues. It gives me a peace of mind and helps me focus on others. I love that it keeps me busy and occupied. It’s challenges me to go to the local churches and to have enough food for every Thursday.”

She recruited Diane to help her. Diane does it because she was homeless and remembers when others helped her and now, she has a place to live at Hemet Valley RV Park and has food to eat. “So, it’s my time to help others and I want to be there for others.” 🦋



Diane coordinates the weekly food bank at Hemet Valley RV Park in partnership with AVAG.



Above, one week’s selection of items — Loretta visits local churches and other resources weekly to ensure there is enough food for the food bank at Hemet Valley RV Park each Thursday.



Diane, at left, and Loretta, right, at a weekly food distribution event.

AVAG Community Family Day at Sequoia Mobile Home Park San Bernardino.

It was over a 110° in San Bernardino. We still were able to have our community family day. Our veterans and their families came out and participated in this community event.

We distributed food from Bracken's Kitchen. Due to the weather being so hot, we were able to pick people up bring them to the clubhouse to pick up their food. The manager also let us use the golf cart so we could deliver food to people who are home-bound.

We had the best air conditioning cooling area in the clubhouse. We supplied pizza and played some games and also had Bed Bath & Beyond raffles. We also gave away two La-Z-Boy recliners to Lilly Green and Rosy Navarro. 🦋



AVAG's Monthly Meeting at Santiago Creek Orange Estates

We started off our morning passing out freshly prepared meals from Bracken's Kitchen to our veterans and seniors in the community. Then we treated the community to In-N-Out Burger.

Special thanks to the residents that brought side dishes and desserts. Chris and Steve came out and made a presentation from Doctors Hospice Southern California, letting our veterans and seniors know that there are resources for long-term care.

We also had an amazing raffle with items from Bed Bath & Beyond. 🦋



Steve and Chris from Doctors Hospice Southern California shared valuable information about long-term care



Mary Cruz and Pat Miller



Barry Rees, Kenny Boheim and Nellie Cox



Glenn Williamson and Nancy Novak



Manny and Phyllis Lopez with Joseph Magrante



Linda Walker and James Adams



Patricia Swanson and her dad WWII veteran Harold Gomer



David Winterhalter, Nancy Gordon, Mary Cruz, and Pepe with his wife Miriam



David Holland and Chaplain Doreen



AVAG Mourns Loss of Longtime Member WWII Veteran Frank Paglia

On August 30, we had a beautiful memorial for Frank Paglia, a World War II veteran from Casitas La Verne, who passed away earlier in the month.

Frank became a member of the Casitas La Verne AVAG group on day one. He had participated in every AVAG meeting held in the community.

His wife, Helen, asked me to come speak and lead the memorial service.

We had put out flyers in the community and had a great response. He was a wonderful man and he is going to be missed.

We were able to secure full honors for him, including the playing of taps, folding of the flag, and presentation of the flag to his wife Helen.

So many people shared beautiful memories of him.

Godspeed my friend. 🕊





Our amazing volunteers from Hope Chapel Huntington Beach and Cottonwood Church Los Alamitos at the Veterans Appreciation Luncheon on August 6, 2022 at the Meadowlark Golf Course in Huntington Beach.

AVAG Needs You!

AVAG is looking for volunteers to assist them with their mission to thank and reward our veterans for their service to our country by providing them with ways to connect with one another in a supportive, encouraging living environment and to promote the availability of affordable housing.

Volunteers are essential to our efforts. Without the assistance they provide in our communities it would be difficult, if not impossible to do what we do.

AVAG volunteers assist in our community activities, to include:

- Community sponsored special veteran holiday events
- Informational seminars
- Movie nights, Holiday parties, Bible Studies, Potluck dinners
- Food distribution programs
- Veteran outreach programs to assist veterans in the community and at large
- Veteran resource referrals ie; employment, career training, vet benefits
- Resources for home repair and improvements
- ... and more.

If you or someone you know would like to become a volunteer, please contact us at 888-923-VETS (8387) or contact us through our website AVAGUSA.com.

AVAG News

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**Under the aegis of VAHP
VeteransAffordableHousing.org
(888) 923-VETS (8387)**