



September 2010

From the Como-Center

CHAPTER MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004
4:00 PM AT THE CHAPTER OFFICE

From the Desk of the President

As we enter the fall of the year there is a lot to report that has been transpiring at the chapter.

We have continued our participating in the Sunday protest at the West Los Angeles V.A. property, where we volunteer every fourth Sunday. We need more members to participate. As you may have read in the January/February issue of The Veteran the issue with West L.A. has not gone away. The neighbors are increasing their effort by enlisting the help of local elected officials, Congressman Waxman, L.A. County Supervisor Yarslovsky, and Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosenahl among their friends. The veteran community needs to increase the pressure on The Veterans Affairs Department has been close with the Brentwood Neighbors and they have friends in high places. While attending the dedication of the West Los Angeles Veterans Home, all of the speakers praised the Brentwood Neighbors. If someone had a doubt that the veteran's community is "out gunned" then that ceremony was the clear unmistakable indication of what is happening.

We at Chapter 446 have continued our quarterly visits with the congressional representatives where our members live. Our representatives are Congressman Dreier, Schiff, Becerra and Congresswoman Chu. We still have to arrange meetings with Congresswoman Watson Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, and Congressman Waxman. During our meeting we thanked them for their support of the V.A. funding that was approved by the congress. Also we asked that they contact Congressman Waxman and let

him know that their constituents are concerned about what is happening at the West L.A. V.A. facility.

We attended the Vietnam Veterans of America Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL. The Leadership Conference was very informative. Among the subjects covered were Parliamentary Procedures, Congressional Outreach, The Veterans Court, Healthcare issues surrounding, Diabetes, Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, and PTSD. It was clear that we at Chapter 446 while we may be few we are involved in our community and we are effective.

November will be a very busy month for Chapter 446. We will be participating in the Diabetes Association Walk in Universal City on November 13, 2010. We are looking for participants and if you can not walk you may donate to the walkers. Additionally we are participating in the Alzheimer's association Memory Walk on November 7, 2010. And between the two we have our annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Memorial Park in Pasadena.

Sincerely,
James Maddox

In the News

NAACP endorses the Veterans Health Council

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored has endorsed the Veterans Health Council. According to the Veterans Affairs Department 70-80% of veterans do not receive their healthcare from the V.A. The VHC is encouraging all healthcare professionals to ask their patients, have you served in the military. That one answer will lead the healthcare professional to ask a series of questions about the veteran's health history.

If you have not seen the brochure that addresses the health issues that affect veterans of Vietnam, The Gulf War and the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, please look at the website for the VHC at www.veteranshealth.org. Or you can call the chapter and we will send you a brochure.

With the endorsement from the NAACP, California will be the test case for how to create an effective working relationship between V V A and the NAACP.

V.V.A has 32 chapters in California and the NAACP has 54 Branches in California. The plan is to have the VVA Chapters contact the NAACP Branches near them to create a plan to inform a wider veteran community about health issues. So for example Chapter 446 will be contacting the NAACP Branches in Altadena, Pasadena, Beverly Hill/Hollywood, and San Gabriel.

A Poem Worth Reading...

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.
He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.
It's so easy to forget them,
For it is so many times
That our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys,
Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.
Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."