



MILITARY VETS' LIFE

V. F. W. Post 4048 Newsletter

January, 2008

PURPOSE: Fraternal, Patriotic, Historical, Educational and Camaraderie



COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

Bill Thomas

"WHEN I CAN'T ..."

I suppose many of us are already caught up in "New Year Resolutions."

Whether WE keep OUR resolutions depends greatly on OUR personal interests and desires to keep and obey OUR resolutions.

None of us really wants to think about or are eager to take positive action BEFORE a serious personal situation occurs.

QM Dave Van Aken has relayed numerous messages in our Post's newsletter about someone's unnecessary losses in their last days due to a severe illness, a life-threatening disease, a horrible accident, or an age-related occurrence.

Service Officer Jim Mueller also alluded to the same subject in the most recent issue.

It is vitally important for each of us to take the necessary time and make the effort to think about, gather, sort, arrange and reference the location of our various vital documents.

Not to alarm you but we all know there will be a time "When I Can't" a time when we are unable to continue in our own personal behalf due to some unfortunate situation that adversely happens to us either physically, mentally, or both.

In a very personal distressful situation that can happen suddenly or over a longer period of time much "unfinished business" may need to be attended to As Soon As Possible ASAP ("When I Can't.") by some designated trustworthy person or persons.

In a safe, carefully selected place, vitally important documents such as our personal and family last wills, trusts, insurance policies, investment portfolios, memberships, accounts payable, accounts receivable, etc. need to be available in case there are matters of importance that need to be attended to by someone "When I Can't."

Also, decisions or actions need to be applied to various other ongoing or incomplete projects and important chores whether at home or on the job, or both.

Some current situations that need to be attended to immediately or in the near future may require specific information or instruction.

Some data may NEED to be readily available to our spouse and/or other trustworthy persons to protect our assets, etc. for our benefit and our survivors if or when something causes us to lose control of our personal and financial matters.

As an example that you may use, I compiled much of

my vital information in a three-ring binder I've titled, "WHEN I CAN'T"

My family will know what to do and where to find necessary documents and suggestions in case of a severe disability, a horrible accident, an ongoing illness or disease, or my sudden or eventual death. (even though I am planning to go to 104. I feel like I'm in "middle-age" while I'm sixteen years shy of 100.)

I have included section dividers labeled as

- Family • Household • Personal Matters • Daily Do's
- Documents • Others Need to Know • Computer Log-In,
- User Name and Passwords, • Online Business,
- Memberships & Dues, etc.

In their respective places are my Military Records, Medical and Dental Records, Insurance policies, Pensions, Investments, Earned Income and Bonuses, Bank Accounts, Asset Inventory, Valuable Possessions Tax Records, Specific Dates and Numbers, People to contact, My Executor or Trustee, Birth and Marriage Certificates, Miscellaneous Agreements, Power of Attorney, Heirs, etc. I don't have an "organ donation instruction sheet" yet. (Maybe I'll take all of me when I go?)

This important ongoing resolution is one that will assist my family heirs, and many other persons I have been or am in contact with in various situations.

This ongoing, updated "WHEN I CAN'T" binder will simplify the burden on others because I compiled this assortment of vital information while I was physically and mentally able to, otherwise I would leave my matters in a mess if I suddenly take off for a new heavenly residence.

Undoubtedly, you may consider this compilation of vital information and instructions to be a difficult and unending task. You are right, it will be if you choose to do it alone.

Chances are someone in your family may precede your eventual departure so it would behoove you to get other members of your family involved and have them also compile their vital data.

To simplify this tremendous undertaking (pardon the use of that word) there are various FREE booklets available that you can obtain online through Google or other sources such as "The Orange County Veterans Advisory Council" located at 1300 S. Grand Avenue, Bldg. B, Santa Ana, CA 92705. For more information, their phone number is 714-567-5017.

Ask for "What My Family Needs To Know About Me." I'd suggest you phone first.

VA Improves Housing Benefits for Severely Disabled

From: "VA Media Relations" va.media.relations@VA.GOV

To view and download VA news release,
please visit the following Internet address: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel> -

New VA Rules for Specially Adapted Housing Grants, Program Aids Most Seriously Injured WASHINGTON (January 4, 2008) -

A change in the law that allows certain seriously injured Veterans and servicemembers to receive multiple grants for constructing or modifying homes has resulted in many new grants, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today.

Before the change, eligible Veterans and servicemembers could receive special adaptive housing grants of \$10,000 or \$50,000 from VA only once.

Now they may use the benefit up to three times, so long as the total grants stay within specified limits outlined in the law.

"Veterans seriously disabled during their military service have earned this benefit," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

"This change ensures that every eligible Veteran and servicemember has the chance to use the maximum amount afforded to them by our grateful nation."

In order to ensure all previous recipients are aware of this opportunity, VA has mailed more than 16,000 letters to eligible Veterans, reaching out to those who used only a portion of their grant or who decided not to use the grant even after initially qualifying.

The response over the past year has been dramatic, with more than 4,600 applications received thus far.

Of these, approximately 3,900 Veterans have been determined eligible under the new law, and more than 200 grants already awarded.

VA has averaged about 1,000 adaptive housing grant applications per year during the past 10 years.

Since the program began in 1948, it has provided more than \$650 million in grants to about 34,000 seriously disabled veterans.

To ensure Veterans' and servicemembers' needs are met and grant money is spent properly, VA works closely throughout the entire process with contractors and architects to design, construct and modify homes that meet the individuals' housing accessibility needs.

Eligible for the benefit are those with specific *service-connected* disabilities entitling them to VA compensation for a "permanent and total disability."

They may get a grant to construct an adapted home or to modify an existing one to meet their special needs.

You may know the speed of light
SO WHAT'S THE SPEED OF DARK

HONK IF YOU LOVE PEACE AND QUIET

VA has three types of adapted housing grants

- **The Specially Adapted Housing grant (SAH)**, currently limited to \$50,000, is generally used to create a wheelchair-accessible home for those who may require such assistance for activities of daily living.
- **VA's Home Loan Guaranty program** and the Native American Direct Loan program may also be used with the SAH benefit to purchase an adaptive home.
- **The Special Housing Adaptations (SHA) grant**, currently limited to \$10,000, is generally used to assist veterans with mobility throughout their homes due to blindness in both eyes, or the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands or extremities below the elbow.

A third type established by the new law,

- **The Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grant**, is available to eligible veterans and seriously injured active duty servicemembers who are temporarily living or intend to temporarily live in a home owned by a family member.

While the SAH and SHA grants require ownership and title to a house, in creating TRA Congress recognized the need to allow Veterans and active duty members who may not yet own homes to have access to the adaptive housing grant program.

Under TRA, Veterans and servicemembers eligible under the SAH program would be permitted to use up to \$14,000, and those eligible under the SHA program would be allowed to use up to \$2,000 of the maximum grant amounts. Each grant would count as one of the three grants allowed under the new program.

"The goal of all three grant programs is to provide a barrier-free living environment that offers the country's most severely injured Veterans or servicemembers a level of independent living," added Peake.

Other VA adaptive housing benefits are currently available through Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service's "Independent Living" program, the Insurance Service's Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance program, and the Veterans Health Administration's Home Improvement and Structural Alterations grant.

For more information about grants and other adaptive housing programs, contact a local VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000 or local veteran service organization. Additional program information and grant applications (VAF-26-4555) can be found at <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm>.

When everything is coming your way,
maybe you are in the wrong lane?

HE WHO LAUGHS LAST, THINKS SLOWEST

Quartermaster's Report David Van Aken

DUES: If YOU have not already paid your current annual dues, PLEASE submit your dues for the year 2008

Memberships:

The December Newsletter informed you that our membership standing was at 98.89%.

Close to 100% is not good enough to improve our status and position among all posts within District 2.

All we need to hit 100% is one NEW member or one annual renewal.

In this respect, we have eight members who have not paid their 2008 dues. I don't like to mention names, but in this case it is a way to remind them that they may wish to reconsider the opportunity to maintain their membership in our organization.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Alvarado Stephanie | Philhower, Joseph |
| Clark, Preston H. | Sanders, James |
| Davis, Sam | Standish, James |
| Florez, Gil | Young, Kevin |

Payment of Year 2008 dues from any of the above could put us over the top in achieving our goal of 100%.

Please submit your dues to me and I will process your membership for the year 2007 expired as of Dec 31 2007.

Thank you for continuing your membership with the VFW. You and our Post will benefit.

Fund Raisers:

We have reported many times how important and successful it has been for our association with Albertson's in their "Community Partnership Program."

Unfortunately the Albertson's store on Seal Beach Blvd has closed. We can still participate, in this fund raiser with several other nearby Albertsons Markets.

1. Pacific Coast Hwy at 2nd Street in Long Beach
2. Bolsa Chica at Heil in Huntington Beach,

NOTE TO MEMBERS IN OTHER AREAS:

Please patronize the Albertsons(s) in your area and let them know you are a Post 4048 Member.

We encourage all members, your families and friends to continue using the "Preferred Savings Card". This source of income helps to improve our operations funding.

Post and Auxiliary Social Breakfast

The yearly quarters roll around fast. It's now time for our next event Quarterly Breakfast.

Chairman Bob Coronado has made reservations for our group at 9:00 AM Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at the newly reopened Kinda Lahana Restaurant located at 901 Ocean Ave. at Main Street, across from the S B Pier.

We need a head count **FOR RESERVATIONS.**

A sign up list will be available at our January meeting, OR you can call **Bob at 714-846-6042 or Cmdr Bill t562-431-7795** to place your reservation.

This event is open to Post & Auxiliary Members and your adult members. Each person may select their choice from the menu and pay accordingly.

Let us know if you will join us on this occasion.

Tustin News Item 1/3/08

This is the Hangar that the United Veterans Organization (UVO) worked so hard to obtain to become the American Museum of Military History.

We had the funding and the material to stock it and put in five years of effort -- only to be rejected by the Orange County Board of Supervisors and city of Tustin.

The outfit they turned it over to has already requested a six month extension on their plans and may or may not be able to execute.

In the meantime, the hanger sits and depreciates.

HANGAR WILL BE RAZED

The City Council unanimously voted in February to reject four proposals for the development of a 17-story wooden hangar first used in World War II to house Navy blimps on the former Marine helicopter base.

Council members agreed with the city staff's recommendation that the proposals were not profitable enough, setting up the south blimp hangar for demolition.

Update: The city and county are working on creating a historic record for both the north and south hangars, city spokeswoman Lisa Woolery said. The end result will be a written history, documentary-type video and a museum-type exhibit that can be displayed at different venues.

When the Navy conveys the hangar to the city, the city plans to lease the south hangar to Tustin Legacy Community Partners, which will have the authority to tear down the hangar for development. The process could take up to five years.

LEFT: A historic record for both hangars at the old Navy blimp base is being created. The south hangar likely will be razed.

SANTA ANA VFW POST 10693 will host

Department Commander David Norris and Department Auxiliary President Marilyn Vernon for Breakfast on Saturday morning, January 26th from 9:00 a m in their Mess Hall.

For a donation of \$5.00 you get a big plate of scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and home fried potatoes. The Club Room Bunker 131 will be open for your Beverage Pleasures.

The Post is located at the American Legion Post 131 (also known as Santa Ana Veterans Hall) 1404 N. Grand Avenue Santa Ana, CA 92701



Auxiliary News President's Comments

Happy New Year to all. May your hearts be filled with joy and happiness in years to come.

Thank you so very much for being so generous to our (2) military families. I'm sure your generosity added joy to their Christmas and was much appreciated. My point of contact at the base, Marilyn Jones, was very impressed with our gifts. I have photos of the gifts that I will share with you at the next meeting.

We will induct a new life member, **Christine Schmaltz**, at the January 22 meeting. Christine's husband Dan is also a member and officer of our Post. We also want to introduce new member **Gwen Hefley** who has been installed, but has not been well, and do hope she will be able to attend. Also past District President **Lynn Peck** will be visiting us at January's meeting. Let's give Lynn a warm welcome.

It's time to turn in your hours for volunteer work you have done. Thanks to **Audrey Mueller** and **Rusty Cunningham** for being so faithful in reporting their jobs and hours. Thanks to **Dolores Young** for turning in our reports so we get credit with District for our accomplishments.

APPLAUD YOURSELVES! District President **Diane DeShields** advised me she has visited all auxiliaries in our district and we have more members in attendance at our meetings than any other auxiliary. Her comments pleased me and I thank all of you for your support and interest in our VFW Ladies Aux.

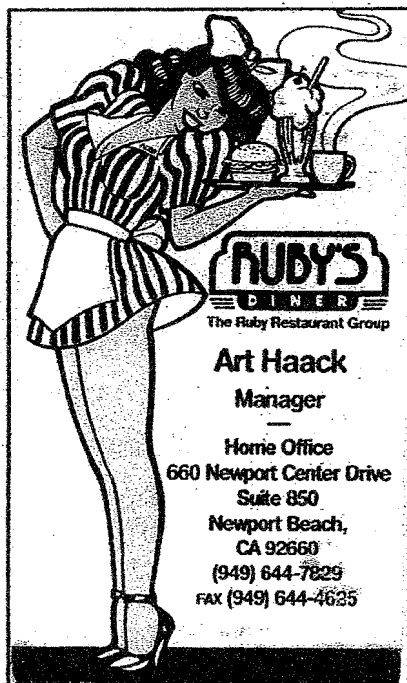
The month of February will be the 4th anniversary of our Auxiliary. Please give some thought on how we can celebrate this occasion which we will discuss, and decide on, at our January meeting.

*Next meeting January 22, 2008 – Social hour 6:00PM – Meeting 7:00PM
Refreshments M - Z*

**Juanita Townsend
President**



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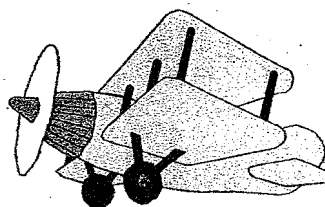
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2ND DISTRICT OFFICIAL VISIT
Department Commander David Norris
and
Department President Marilyn Vernon

on
January 25 - 27, 2008
at the HOLIDAY INN
1240 S. Walnut Street, Anaheim
714-535-0300

Banquet Reservations, 714-968-3104:
\$28.00 per plate (after January 15th, \$30.00)
Salad: Spring Green Salad
Entrees: Chicken Marsala
OR
Roasted Sirloin of Beef
Dessert: Strawberry Mousse Cake

Please make check payable to VFW District 2
Send to Robert Chermak
18951 Acacia Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

ITINERARY

Friday, 5:30-8:00 pm, Steak dinner, Brea Veterans Club, 735 S. Brea Blvd, Brea, 714-529-4874
Saturday, 9:00-10:00 am, Breakfast, Santa Ana Post 10694, 1404 S. Grand Ave, Santa Ana,
11:00- 1:00 pm, Tour Richard Nixon Library, Yorba Linda, Eureka & Yorba Linda Blvd
1:30 - 3:00 pm, Visit Anaheim Post 3173, 805 Sycamore Street, Anaheim
6:14 - 9:00 pm, Banquet. (See above)

Sunday 9:30- 1:00 pm, District 2 Meeting (same as above)
HOSPITALITY ROOM WILL BE OPEN WHILE WE ARE AT THE HOTEL FRIDAY & SATURDAY

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Newsletter Editor, Bill Thomas
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Quartermaster David Van Aken
 13320 Del Monte Drive 9A • Seal Beach, CA 90740
 Phone & Fax, 562. 493-8227
 email: dvana@roadrunner.com

Post Web Site: Sr. Vice Commander Dan Schmaltz
<http://www.ddsf-ent.com/vfwpost4048/>

VFW POST 4048 OFFICERS

Bill Thomas	Commander:
Dan Schmaltz	Sr. Vice Commander
James Crowley	Jr. Vice Commander:
Dave Van Aken	Quartermaster:
Robert Soto	Chaplain:
Robert Coronado	Judge Advocate:
Larry Lerno	Surgeon:
Jim Mueller	Service Officer:
Wayne Cunningham	Adjutant:
Robert Moore	Trustee 1 Year Term:
Bill Connolly	Trustee 2 Year Term:
Rod Carpenter	Trustee 3 Year Term:
Robert Moore	Officer of the Day:

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Historian	Rusty Cunningham	562- 431-6797
Trustee, 1st Yr.	Rusty Cunningham	562- 431-6797
Trustee 2nd Yr	Joan Volden	562. 430-9300
Trustee 3rd Yr.	Georgia Crowley	562 432-9401
Chaplain	Soula Thomas	562. 431-7795

Military Vets' Life

VFW Post 4048 Newsletter
 3161 Donnie Ann Road
 Rossmoor, CA 90720

TORRENTIAL RAINSTORMS had knocked down power lines all over the city, and the electric company was dispatching repairmen right and left. When one lineman called a long-time customer to ask her exact address, he was told, "I'm at Post Office Box 99."

The weary lineman replied, "Ma'am, I'll be coming to you in a truck, not an envelope."

+++ VFW Dates / Qwik-Notes +++
 (See Inside Pages for additional details)

+++++
Tue, January 22, 2008 Post & Auxiliary Meetings
Social Hour. 6:00 pm,
Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm
 Join us for Fun, Foods & Camaraderie.
Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, Bldg. 6.
Enter Gate off Seal Beach Blvd.
 +++++
HAPPY NEW YEAR AND Many More

Mon Jan 21 District Fund Raiser 9:15 a m
 Bus Trip to Viejas Casino -
 Depart from Anaheim Post
 Reservations, Call Barbara at 562-477-6181

Tue Jan 22 Post and Auxiliary meeting
 Social Hour 6:00 PM Regular Meetings: **7:00 p m**

Sat Jan 26 Department Official Visit
 Banquet, \$28.00/ plate, Food, extra? **6:15 -9:00 p m**
 Holiday Inn - 1240 So. Walnut St., Anaheim
 Reservations and menu choice,
 Call Cmdr Bill or QM Dave
 All Members and Auxiliary are invited to attend

Sun Jan 27 District Business Meeting: 9:30 a m
 Holiday Inn - 1240 So. walnut St., Anaheim

Wed Feb 6 Quarterly Breakfast 9:00 a m
 Kinda Lahaina, Main Street @ Ocean Blvd.
 Sign up @ January Meeting. (See QM page)

To all my friends who sent me best wishes for 2007,
 it did NOTHING AT all.
 For 2008, please send money, alcohol or gas vouchers. Thanks!

(anonymous)