



Listening Post

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.

P.O. Box 3218

Ventura, CA 93006-3218

May, 2025

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(805) 794-6243

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Joe Richardson, Secretary

(805) 207-1670

Kay Gray, Treasurer

(805) 890-7645

Ron Fitzgarrald, Public Affairs

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Joe Richardson

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Membership

Joe Richardson

(805) 207-1670

President's Message:

Note from LP Editor

As a cost saver and enhancement
for those getting the LP by USPS,
think about switching to email
PLEASE

VVVC – March 2025 Membership Report

Annual Members: 21
Life Members: 115
Total Members: 136

Reflects the loss of those that did not renew

Sick Call...

Please continue to think about and say a prayer for our brothers and sisters:

Barry Jenkins (myeloma)
Ron Fitzgarrald knee replacement

If you know of anyone we should be aware of please let me know
Joe

POW/MIA REPORT Mar '25 – April '25



Currently there are **71,920** Americans (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II

Currently there are **7,417** Americans still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Currently there are **1,572** American servicemen and civilians still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War

And still **6** American servicemen in the Iraq Theater & Other Conflicts

32 Brothers-in-arms have been accounted for and/or returned home &

6 remain MIA and unaccounted for

European & Pacific Theaters: 21 (14 POW'S)

U.S. Army Air Forces Pfc. **Lee I. Clendenning**, 23, was accounted for on March 11, 2025. On Dec. 7th, 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese aircraft expanded to Hickam Field, targeting U.S. aircrafts and ships, barracks, supply buildings, and the base chapel. The attack lasted four hours. Clendenning was reportedly killed during this time.

*U.S. Army Maj. **James J. O'Donovan**, 34, of Cohoes, New York, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for Feb. 4, 2024. O'Donovan died on Oct. 18, 1942, and was buried in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Grave 649.

U.S. Army Pvt. **Roman Cherubini**, 22, of Bridgeton, New Jersey, was accounted for Dec. 16, 2024.

The U.S. War Department declared Cherubini KIA on June 16, 1944.

*U.S. Army Pvt. **Blanchard E. Pruitt**, 19, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for March 17, 2025. Pruitt died on Jan. 1, 1943, and was buried in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Grave 822.

*U.S. Army Capt. **Ralph L. Rowland**, 43, was accounted for March 18, 2025. He was held as a **POW** by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines from 1942 to 1944. Rowland was then transported to Takao, Formosa, known today as Taiwan, aboard the Enoura Maru. The Japanese reported that Rowland was killed on Jan. 9, 1945, when U.S. forces sank the Enoura Maru. This is an initial release. The complete accounting of Rowland's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. **John A. Pagliuso**, 24, was accounted for on March 17, 2025. This is an initial release. The complete accounting of Pagliuso's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Capt. **Paul E. Pearson**, 38, was accounted for March 18, 2025. He was held as a **POW** by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines from 1942 to 1944. Pearson was then transported to Takao, Formosa, known today as Taiwan, aboard the Enoura Maru. The Japanese reported that Pearson was killed on Jan. 9, 1945, when U.S. forces sank the Enoura Maru.

The complete accounting of Pearson's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army 2nd Lt. **Charles Arnao**, 30, was accounted for March 18, 2025. He was held as a **POW** by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines from 1943 to 1944. Arnao was then transported to Takao, Formosa, known today as Taiwan, aboard the Enoura Maru. The Japanese reported that Arnao was killed on Jan. 9, 1945, when U.S. forces sank the Enoura Maru. The complete accounting of Arnao's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Air Forces Cpl. **Glenn H. Hodak**, 23, of Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, was accounted for on Sept. 25, 2024. The B-29 "Superfortress" he was a gunner aboard was shot down on a mission to Tokyo, Japan. Initially reported as missing in action, investigators later learned that Hodak was a **POW** and perished in the Tokyo Prison Fire on May 26, 1945.

He will be buried in Spring Creek, Pennsylvania, in May 2025.

U.S. Navy Reserve Ensign **Eugene E. Mandeborg**, 23, was accounted for on March 4, 2025. Four of the six U.S. aircraft failed to return to the USS Yorktown and Navy officials reported Mandeborg as MIA. The complete accounting of Mandeborg's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Navy Reserve S2c **Jerome M. Mullaney**, 18, was accounted for March 10, 2025. In the Summer of 1944, Mullaney was assigned to the destroyer USS Glennon. Mullaney was killed two days after the June 6th invasion. When on June 8, the USS Glennon hit an underwater mine off the coast of France. The complete accounting of Mullaney's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. **Clarence E. Gibbs**, 21, was accounted for March 24, 2025. On December 29, Gibbs, a top turret gunner onboard a B-17G "Flying Fortress" went missing in action when his plane was hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire while on a bombing mission to Bingen, Germany.

Gibbs and two other crewmembers were unaccounted for, and there was no record of them being held as POWs.

*U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. **John W. Ruark**, 21, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for March 25, 2025. According to prison camp and other historical records, Ruark died on Nov. 19, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 717. The complete accounting of Ruark's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Cpl. **James M. Walker**, 46, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for March 19, 2024. Walker died Jan. 1, 1943, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 822. Walker died Jan. 1, 1943, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 822.

*U.S. Army Air Forces Cpl. **Bruce H. Penny**, 21, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for March 25, 2025. Penny died on Nov. 22, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 807. The complete accounting of Penny's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. **John H. Newstrom**, 20, was accounted for March 28, 2025. Newstrom was killed by sniper fire while attempting to clear a cave near northeastern Peleliu, Republic of Palau. The complete accounting of Newstrom's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Cpl. **Delmont Johnston**, 21, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for March 18, 2025. Johnston died on Dec. 30, 1942, and was buried in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Grave 836. The complete accounting of Johnston's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Air Forces Tech Sgt. **Truman G. Causey**, 33, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for April 4, 2025. Causey died Nov. 15, 1942, and he was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 721. The complete accounting of Causey's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Pvt. **Henry D. Bordner**, 24, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for April 2, 2025. Bordner died Oct. 20, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 701. The complete accounting of Bordner's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Pvt. **Harland J. Hennessey**, 24, of Boonville, New York, who was captured and died as a **POW** during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2024. Hennessey died Nov. 1, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 704. He will be buried in Boonville, New York, in July 2025.

USS California: 1

U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class **Edward D. Bowden, 29, killed during the attack at Pearl Harbor, was accounted for on April 1, 2025. The complete accounting of Bowden's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

Total from World War II: 22

Korean War: 10 (4 POW's)

Army Cpt. **Charles G. Gibson Jr.**, 28, was accounted for March 17, 2025. He was reported missing in action Dec. 11, 1950, in the vicinity of Hagaru-ri near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. The U.S. Army did not receive any information to indicate that he was ever held as a Prisoner of War and on Dec. 31, 1953, issued a presumptive finding of death. The complete accounting of Gibson's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Cpl. **Joshua Corruth**, 20, was accounted for March 13, 2025. In December 1950, Corruth was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Eighth U.S. Army. Corruth was reported missing in action on Oct. 8 near Kwang-Ju, Republic of Korea. The complete accounting of Corruth's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Master Sgt. **George C. Manring**, 21, was accounted for March 17, 2025. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950, in the vicinity of Hagaru-ri near the Chosin Reservoir, Republic of Korea. The complete accounting of Manring's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Pfc. **Roland L. Bowser**, 20, was accounted for March 21, 2025. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2 in the vicinity of Usan, after his regiment's withdrawal. After the war, returning prisoners reported that Bowser was held at Camp 5 in Pyoktong, North Korea and died on June 5, 1951. The complete accounting of Bowser's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Cpl. **Delmer R. Grissom**, 19, was accounted for March 20, 2025. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 8 in the vicinity of Parwon Myon, North Korea, after the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River. After the war, returning prisoners reported that Grissom was held at Camp 5 in Pyoktong, North Korea and died on April 30, 1951. The complete accounting of Grissom's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. **William H. Hott**, 29, was accounted for March 18, 2025. He was reported missing in action December 1, in the vicinity of Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Witnesses later reported that he was killed in action a fighting withdrawal. The U.S. Army issued a report of death on Feb. 28, 1951. The complete accounting of Hott's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Cpl. **Robert Lee Brewster**, 19, was accounted-for March 28, 2025. He was reported missing in action on July 8 after a battle in the vicinity of Cheonan, South Korea. He was not reported as a prisoner of war and subsequent searches of the battle area failed to recover his remains. The complete accounting of Brewster's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Sgt. **Elwyn Dean Nordyke**, 22, was accounted for March 10, 2025. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 28 in the vicinity of the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir.. It was later determined that Sgt. Nordyke was a **POW** at Camp 1 in Changsong, North Korea, where he died in captivity in the summer of 1951. The complete accounting of Nordyke's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

*U.S. Army Pfc. **Andrew E. Hathaway**, 18, was accounted for April 3, 2025. He was reportedly killed on Nov. 28, after the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River, Republic of Korea. Returning POWs reported that Hathaway was a **POW** at Camp 5 in Pyoktong, North Korea, where he died on an unknown date. The complete accounting of Hathaway's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class **Leslie H. Solomon**, 29, was accounted for April 1, 2025. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2 when his convoy was ambushed by enemy forces while in route to the vicinity of Hagaru-ri near the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir, Republic of Korea. The complete accounting of Solomon's case will be published once the family receives their full briefing.

Vietnam: 0

Iraq Theater & Other Conflicts: 6

Operation El Dorado Canyon, 1986 MIA: 1

Capt. **Paul F. Lorence**, of San Francisco, U.S. Air Force, was lost on April 15, 1986, over Libya.

Operation Desert Storm, 1991 MIA: 2

Lt. Cmdr. **Barry T. Cooke**, of Austin, Texas, U.S. Navy, was lost on Feb. 2, 1991, in the Persian Gulf.

Lt. **Robert J. Dwyer**, of Worthington, Ohio, U.S. Navy, was lost on Feb. 5, 1991, in the Persian Gulf.

Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003-2010 MIA: 3

Mr. **Kirk Von Ackermann**, of Albuquerque, N.M., DoD contractor, was lost on Oct. 9, 2003, while working in Forward Operating Base Pacesetter, Iraq.

Mr. **Timothy E. Bell**, of Mobile, Ala., DoD contractor, was lost on April 9, 2004, while working in Baghdad, Iraq.

Mr. **Adnan al-Hilawi**, of Orlando, Fla., DoD contractor, was lost on March 3, 2007, while working in Baghdad, Iraq.

Ron Fitzgarrald
POW/MIA Chairman

To respect the next-of-kin, individuals are only displayed as "Accounted For" in the grids and case profiles when (1) DPAA has made the identification, and (2) the next-of-kin has been notified.

Note: Our secretary (me) was not at the meeting, instead attending a USMC Amtrac's Reunion in Hilliard Florida attended by 12 of my fellow brothers from Vietnam and honored by the County there as a sponsoring group of THE WALL at their county fairgrounds. Great week with lots of food and comradeship including a day golfing, a day 'SHOOTING', a day fishing, two days at THE WALL, all hosted by the Bobby Franklin family.

I spent over 12 months of my tour in the same platoon as Bobby in Vietnam



SO .. My thank you **to Kay** for taking some notes for me to include here.

Old Business

Reminder the 40yr celebration of the VVVC is May 24th RSVP to Kay

New Business

Word was shared, David Ha's brother passed, services to be in Dixon, California May 30th

50/50

Kay \$25 donated back



Color Guard for opening ceremonies

Yes, Richard LL. Joe above Dave Willson, barechested

Thanks again to those that provided the color guard for the Saigon evacuation day ceremony at UCCI

The display will continue till May 39 when again we will provide a color guard for the closing ceremonies

Upcoming Events

May 8th Monthly meeting Veterans Collaborative 9am

May 9th Ventura CBOC Open House (we will have a booth)

May 17 Military Appreciation Month, Veterans and First Responder event Royal High Simi Valley 10a-2:30p

May 22 Many Mansions Oxnard Color Guard and retirement of the flag ceremony

May 22 Robert Martinez ashes to be placed in niche National Cemetery Los Angeles 10a all invited

May 26 **The Antelope Valley Wall** will be on display in Simi Memorial Day Weekend

July 3 Libby Bowl 4th of July concert Color Guard 6pm

July 4 4th of July Parade Ojai .. lead-off Color Guard

Aug 1 CBOC Stand Down honors Color Guard

Rafael Perez has honored many of our past members with his Veterans Capstone program at UCI. Here is a link to the website page where the many years of sharing with the students our experiences. (worth a looksee)

<https://scholarworks.calstate.edu/collections/r207v030w>

Anthony Gonzales provided this link where the Marines that were involved with the final evacuations from Saigon are identified and their stories told

<http://Ide421.blogspot.com/2013/03/putting-out-fire-jim-keans-vietnam.html?m=1>