



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

# BULLETIN

January 2026

Lest We Forget

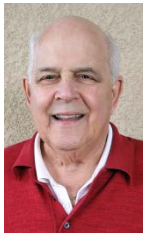
Volume 26, No. 1

### President's Corner

## Past Years' Performance a Strong Foundation for the Future

As we start the New Year, I'd like to share some information with you about your Lincoln Hills Veterans Group.

First and foremost is to acknowledge the two years that Jeff Davis has spent as our president. He had a very successful tenure in that position, and I'd like to share a little information with you regarding Jeff's accomplishments



2026  
Board  
of  
Directors

▲ The group's board of directors for 2026 includes (top row, left to right) Peter Gilbert, President; Jeff Davis, Vice President, Dave Taylor, Treasurer; Phillip Cameron, Secretary; (bottom row) Bauke Van Oosbree and Dick Parry.

At the beginning of 2025, we had a total membership of 129, which included 89 life members and 40 annual members, for a total of 129 members. As of December of 2025, we had the same 89 life members, but we now have 57 annual members for a total of 146 members. A net gain during the year of 17 members! This is a remarkable accomplishment, and our outgoing president deserves all the credit as he has made it a priority for the board to focus on

Please turn to page 3, column 1

### Next Meeting

## Seabees: "We Build, We Fight!"

*"If I had to give credit to the instruments and machines that won us the war in the Pacific, I would rank them in this order: submarines first, radar second, planes third, bulldozers fourth."*

- Admiral William "Bull" Halsey

Lincoln Hills resident and U.S. Navy veteran John Pickrell will be the featured speaker at the Veterans Group's January 15 general membership meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Presentation Hall. John will discuss his 30-year active and reserve career with the U.S. Naval Construction Force, better known as the Seabees.



Upon graduation from Officer Candidate School in 1961, John was commissioned in the Civil Engineer Corps, Naval Reserve. He then attended Civil Engineer Corps Officers School at Port Hueneme, California and served three years active duty at Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan. Upon release from active duty in 1964 he became active in the Naval Reserve program where he held a succession of leadership and command positions over the next 27 years. He retired from the Navy in September 1991 after 30 years of service.

The Seabees are a permanent part of the Navy's fighting forces, building and fighting in every military



conflict since their inception in 1942.

Seabees were instrumental in the Korean War, Vietnam War, on

Diego Garcia, and in the Philippines where they were responsible for building the air station at Cubi Point.

They have also played an important role in the modern day war on terror, providing critical and tactical construction support in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Lincoln Hills Veterans Group  
2026 Officers and Directors**

*President:* Peter Gilbert 650-759-5584  
*Vice President:* Jeff Davis 408-483-2860  
*Treasurer:* Dave Taylor 559-281-0868  
*Secretary:* Phillip Cameron 916-705-4310  
*Director:* Bauke Van Oosbree 559-307-5577  
*Director:* Dick Parry 425-240-1098  
*Director:* temporarily vacant

**Past Presidents:** Jeff Davis, 2024-2025; Dave Taylor, 2023; Bill Lewis, 2022; Joan MacAdams, 2020-2021; Mike Schultz, 2019; Wayne Gallant, 2018; Fred Buhler, 2017; Bob Ringo\*, 2016; Jack Everett, 2015; Malcolm Singer\*, 2014; Roger Espiritu, 2013; Joey Chisesi\*, 2012; Rich Williams, 2011; Jon Hodson, 2010; Doug Cooper, 2009; Steve Witmer, 2008; Vern Luke, 2007; Wayne Ford, 2006; Dick Schultz\*, 2005; Mark Dentinger\*, 2004; Dick Meyer\*, 2003; Ed Foley, 2002; Mickey Haggard\*, 2001  
 \*Deceased

**Advisors and Committee Chairs**

*Membership:* Phillip Cameron 916-705-4310  
*Programs:* Dick Parry 425-240-1098  
*Vets Resource:* Doug Cooper 916-408-7173  
*Social Events:* Phillip Cameron 916-705-4310  
*Chaplain:* Bill Lewis 916-303-0349  
*Flag Sales:* Bauke Van Oosbree 559-307-5577  
*Public Relations:* Steve Witmer 916-521-3587

**Meetings**

General membership meetings normally are held the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Presentation Hall, except for March, June, October and December, when social events are held.

**Membership**

The purpose of the Veterans Group is to bring together resident veterans who have served honorably in any uniformed service of the United States or its allies during war or peace. Dues are \$20 a year. Life membership is \$200. For further information, please contact Phillip Cameron at 916-705-4310.

**Bulletin Contributions**

Contributions to the monthly *Bulletin* are appreciated. Please send material for consideration to:

**Steve Witmer, Editor**  
 1582 Summerhill Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648  
[switmer@ymail.com](mailto:switmer@ymail.com)  
 916-521-3587

**Question for “Old Leathernecks”**

On September 26, the Marine Corps formally decommissioned a vehicle that had been a crucial element of amphibious operations for 50 years. The vehicle was used by Marines in conflicts from 1983’s Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada through Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom during the Global War on Terror. Can you identify the vehicle? The answer appears on page 4, column 2.





**— In Memoriam —**

**Allan Kingston**  
 Veteran of the U.S. Navy  
**Kenneth Sladsky**  
 Veteran of the U.S. Navy  
**Gary Steer**  
 Veteran of the U.S. Army

*The Veterans Group extends its deepest condolences to these veterans’ families and friends.*

Calendar of Events

**January**

**1** New Year’s Day\*   
**13** Directors’ Meeting  
**15** General Membership Meeting  
**19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day\* 

**February**

**16** Presidents’ Day\*   
**17** Directors’ Meeting  
**19** General Membership Meeting

\* National Holiday or Observance. Proudly fly the American flag.

Treasurer’s Report

On December 6, 2025, the group’s bank accounts totaled:

**Checking:** \$ 6,138.43  
**Savings:** \$ 5,002.59  
**Total Assets:** **\$11,141.02**

Membership Report

The group’s membership on December 9, 2025 totaled:

Life Members: 89  
 Annual Paid: 58  
**Total Voting Membership: 147**

Welcome, New Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Service</b>
Richard Atha	U.S. Army
Lew Hudspeth	U.S. Army
Bert Randlett	U.S. Army & U.S. Marine Corps

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<https://stores.inksoft.com/lhvg>



Premier Graph-x  
 8413 Washington Blvd., Ste. 115  
 Roseville, CA 95678  
 Tel: 916-787-0603.

*President's Corner, continued from page 1*

finding new members. Hopefully we can gain members this year as well.

We will be initiating some new programs that we will share with you during the year to try and identify potential new members for our group. There is strength in numbers, but it is challenging because the Armed Forces that we have today are significantly less in numbers than when most of us either volunteered or were drafted into the military.

Now that the New Year is starting, we have filled all of our board positions except for one additional at-large board member. If you know of anyone, including yourself, that would like to consider joining our board, please contact me and we'll be more than glad to share information on exactly what the responsibilities would be. It does not require a lot of time. The pay is terrible, but we get a lot of satisfaction out of keeping services in place for our neighbors and friends in the veteran community.

I would also like to solicit your input as to the programs that we run each year, including the various luncheons and ceremonial events that we have for our group. Please give this some thought and let me know what we could do to make this year even better for our membership.

And thanks for your service! You are a special group, and your efforts have contributed in no small way to making our country wonderful.

— Peter Gilbert, President

## Lincoln Hills Veterans Group: The Beginning

At the beginning of 2001, Lincoln Hills was quickly taking shape and new residents were flooding in.



Among those residents were hundreds of military veterans who had served this country in war and peace from the days prior to World War II through Korea and Vietnam.

One of those veterans was Mickey Haggard, a retired Library of Congress librarian and Army Reserve colonel. Mickey recognized the common tenets of service, sacrifice and camaraderie that bind veterans together. He saw the usefulness of an organization at Lincoln Hills in which those tenets could be preserved and enjoyed.

On January 15, 2001, Mickey organized an introductory get-acquainted meeting to explore the

possibility of forming a veterans club. Twenty-four veterans attended. A steering committee was formed, consisting of Ed Foley, Karl Openshaw, Bob Stackhouse and Mickey Haggard, to make plans, to decide on the purpose and goals, and to draw up bylaws.



◀ Mickey Haggard, founding president of the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group.

At a second meeting on February 22, the membership accepted the bylaws as presented by the steering committee. A nominating committee was appointed to nominate seven members to form a board of directors.

The nominees for the board -- Darlene Dyar, Ed Foley, Mickey Haggard, Tom Moran, Karl Openshaw, Elmer Phillips, and Bob Stackhouse -- were accepted by a unanimous vote of the membership. The board subsequently elected officers for 2001: President, Mickey Haggard; Vice President, Ed Foley; Secretary, Bob Stackhouse; and Treasurer, Darlene Dyar.

► Memorial Day ceremony in the Amphitheater



In May, Bob Stackhouse

published a trial-run *Bulletin*, and subsequently began regular monthly publication. The *Bulletin* immediately became the group's regular newsletter, with information about upcoming meetings, speakers, trips and general information of interest to veterans. Bob edited the newsletter for two years, followed by John Cramsey for another two years. Your current editor began publishing the *Bulletin* in 2005.

Since 2001, a succession of talented and dedicated members has kept the group strong by engaging interesting speakers, organizing lively social events, conducting community service activities such as selling American flags and performing community-wide Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs.

## Russia Will Try NATO Regardless of Ukraine Peace Deal, Experts Warn

As Ukraine weighs a U.S.-imposed peace deal deemed unfavorable to Kyiv, Russia could be ready to challenge NATO again soon after the weapons go silent, experts warned at a Baltic security conference last month.

"You might not choose to have a war with the Russians, but the Russians are certainly choosing to

prepare to conduct a war against you,” George Barros, lead analyst on Russia and geospatial intelligence at the Institute for the Study of War, said during a panel at the Defending the Baltics 2025 conference. “We’re watching every day how they’re preparing their economy, operational concepts and their military thinking about the next war.”

Barros estimated NATO would have 12 months to prepare for fresh provocations after the end of fighting in Ukraine. “We have a lot less time than some would argue.”



A key point made by delegates throughout the conference, which took place in Lithuania’s capital, Vilnius, Nov. 17-18, was that future Russian aggression would unlikely resemble the 2022 assault on Ukraine. Rather, it is expected to be non-traditional or hybrid, with tactics including cyber-attacks, sabotage, disinformation campaigns and destabilizing campaigns in NATO countries.

At the same time, Western intelligence services have warned for years that Moscow is also trying to boost its traditional military capabilities, putting Russia in a position to threaten the alliance.

The Ukrainian open-source intelligence organization Frontelligence Insight recently published internal documents from Russian tank manufacturer Uralvagonzavod that reportedly included a goal of increasing T-90 battle tank (*photo above*) production by 80% by 2028.



A subsequent assessment by the U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War argued the tank figures indicate an intention to rearm and pose a long-term threat to NATO after the war in Ukraine.

Sandis Šraders, director for defense technology at Riga Technical University who has studied autocratic regimes, told conference attendees in Vilnius any date expectations for a re-armed Russia miss a crucial point. “If you give them the deadline, they will do it before,” he said. “I would never wait for somebody to be ready and only then attack.”

- Elisabeth Gosselin-Malo | Defense News

### Lest We Forget

## D-Day Veteran Dies at 101 Near Omaha Beach

Charles Shay, a decorated Native American veteran who was a 19-year-old U.S. Army medic when he landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day and helped save lives, died on December 3. He was 101.

Shay died at his home in Bretteville-L'Orgueilleuse in France's Normandy region. He had been living in France since 2018, not far from the shores of Normandy where nearly 160,000 troops from Britain, the U.S., Canada and other nations landed on D-Day on June 6, 1944.



Shay, of the Penobscot tribe and from Indian Island in the U.S. state of Maine, was awarded the Silver Star for repeatedly plunging into the sea and carrying critically wounded soldiers to relative safety, saving them from drowning. He also received France's highest award, the Legion of Honor, in 2007.

### Answer for “Old Leathernecks”

The burly, tracked vehicles that shuttled Marine grunts from ships to shore for more than five decades have been retired from the service, making way for the Corps' next-generation amphibious vehicle. The Marines' Assault Amphibious Vehicle was decommissioned from service during an official



ceremony at the Corps' Assault Amphibian School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Sept. 26.

Marine Col. Lynn Berendsen, who commands the

Assault Amphibian School, noted the AAV — officially named the Assault Amphibious Vehicle Personnel-7, or AAV-P7 — had adopted several uses since the Corps first acquired it in 1972. AAVs had been used for their primary ship-to-shore mission, as armored personnel carriers in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq, as supply-movers in support of humanitarian operations, and even simply as boats. “Its legacy is not only in its capabilities but also in the countless Marines who operated it and relied on it to accomplish their missions,” Berendsen said.