



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

BULLETIN

March 2026

Lest We Forget

Volume 26, No. 3

President's Corner

Opportunities to Serve...and Enjoy!

Although it is very early in the New Year, your board of directors is busy planning the future of your Veterans Group. One of the most important events is the makeup of our board for next year.

We have a seven-member board, with four officers and three board members. We set the policy for our group and there is a strong need to have new members on the board with fresh ideas that bring new energy to help run the organization.

I would like to see each and every member of our group consider becoming a member of the board. We stand prepared to meet with anyone who might consider joining our board. And you are all invited to attend a board meeting and see how we govern your Veterans Group. There is no free lunch and we can't pay you, but it is a great opportunity to use your skills to help provide events and services for your fellow veterans.

We had our first breakfast get-together of the year in February. As always, it was an enjoyable time and we were able to share war stories with our fellow veterans. We will have another breakfast each quarter, so watch for the information soon!

My wife Lois and I have planned a great program to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day at the Orchard Creek Lodge. And the good news is we were able to book the luncheon for the same great menu and the same \$30.00 cost as last year. Tuesday, March 17, 2026. See more details in the right-hand column. It will be a fun day to spend with your fellow veterans.

Your board is busy planning our events for the year. Your participation is requested and encouraged. Your neighbor veterans have great stories to share! Join us so we can enjoy your company!

— Peter Gilbert, President

LINCOLN HILLS



VETERANS GROUP
2001 - 2026

Next Event

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon March 17

Members and guests are urged to make reservations now for the Veterans Group's St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on Tuesday, March 17, in the Orchard Creek Ballroom.



A no-host bar will open at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon will be served at noon. The price of \$30 per person includes a choice of three entrées:

- Corned Beef and Cabbage with Potatoes**
- Lemon Caper Chicken**
- Eggplant Parmesan (vegetarian)**

All meals include rolls and butter, iced tea or coffee, and cake for dessert

There will be a door-prize drawing following the luncheon.

Use the form below for reservations. Fill in the names and meal choices of those attending, enclose your check and mail to the address shown. For questions, contact Lois Gilbert at 650-759-5583.

For luncheon reservations, send this form and a check, payable to **Lincoln Hills Veterans Group**, in the amount of \$30 per person, to:

Lois Gilbert
2023 Caravelle Court
Lincoln, CA 95648

If your group wants to sit together, submit one check with all names

Name:

Entrée Choice:

Reservation Deadline: Friday, March 6

**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: Bauke Van Oosbree 559-307-5577
Director: Phillip Cameron 916-705-4310
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
 916-521-3587

Question for "Old Flyboys"

This aircraft was originally designed as a long-range bomber escort for the Strategic Air Command. However, when high-speed, high-altitude jet bombers entered active service, escort fighters were no longer needed. So, this aircraft's design was changed to fill both tactical and air defense roles. It became the world's first supersonic photo-reconnaissance aircraft. Can you name it?

The answer appears on page 4.

— In Memoriam —

John Baccelli
 Veteran of the U.S. Air Force
Chuck Peterson
 Veteran of the U.S. Navy

The Veterans Group extends its deepest condolences to John's and Chuck's families and friends.

Calendar of Events

March

17 Directors' Meeting
17 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
 11:30, No-host bar opens
 12:00 noon, Luncheon, Orchard Creek Ballroom

April

14 Directors' Meeting
16 General Membership Meeting

Treasurer's Report

On January 31, 2026, the group's bank accounts totaled:

Checking: \$ 2,646.80
Savings: \$ 4,002.68
Total Assets: \$ 6,649.48

Membership Report

The group's membership on February 2, 2026 totaled:

Life Members: 88
 Annual Paid: 42
Total Voting Membership: 130

Lend Your Vets Group a Hand
Sell Flags and Meet Friendly People

Dedicated members of the Veterans Group man our flag-sales table in the Orchard Creek lobby on the 15th day of every month. To sign up for a two-hour shift on the 15th of a future month, phone Van Oosbree at 559-307-5577 or reach him by email at bvanoosbree41@gmail.com.



LHVG Logo Shirts and Jackets

Order direct at the following link:
<https://stores.inksoft.com/lhvg>

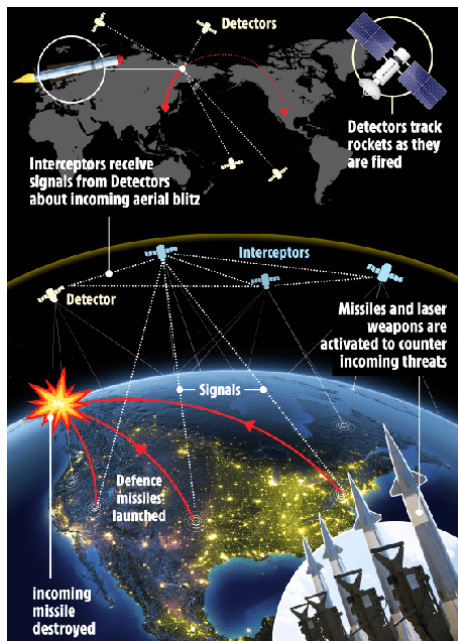


Premier Graph-x
 8413 Washington Blvd., Ste. 115
 Roseville, CA 95678
 Tel: 916-787-0603.

What is the Golden Dome Missile Defense System?

There are many references these days in the press and broadcast media to the Golden Dome missile defense system. This article summarizes some of the open-source facts known about the system.

The Golden Dome is a proposed multi-layer missile defense system for the United States, intended to detect and destroy ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missiles before they launch or during their flight. The system would employ a constellation of satellites



equipped with sensors and space-based interceptors. If implemented, the U.S. would maintain space weapons in orbit for the first time.

The system would rely on thousands of space-based weapons or "interceptors" distributed around the entire Earth. Interceptors

would be kept staged near the edge of the atmosphere, where they must maintain rapid orbits to avoid falling back to Earth. Their rapid motion allows only a small fraction to be available at the right time and place to act on any given threat, a flaw that critics argue makes the concept less efficient than traditional regional missile defenses such as Iron Dome. However, the program's stated scope extends beyond defensive interception. In 2019, Donald Trump emphasized the system's offensive potential, stating the weapons would be "a very, very big part of our defense and, obviously, of our offense."

The offensive component of this architecture appears to rely on a mix of hypersonic systems. The Common-Hypersonic Glide Body (C-HGB) provides a "bunker-buster" strategic capability. Unlike fragile kinetic interceptors that disintegrate upon re-entry, the C-HGB utilizes a carbon-carbon thermal protection system rendering it inherently capable of

surviving orbital decay to strike terrestrial targets with kinetic precision (*photo below*).



Cost estimates for the Golden Dome program range from \$175 billion (White House), to \$831 billion (Congressional Budget Office), to \$3.6 trillion (American Enterprise Institute) depending on the architectural details. The

wide range largely hinges on the number of space-based missiles and their continuous replenishment costs. Continuous replacement costs are increased by the use of low orbits which lead to early orbital decay due to atmospheric drag.

As of December 2025, the U.S. government has not publicly announced any contract awards for Golden Dome, though the *Wall Street Journal* has reported that SpaceX is "set to receive" a \$2 billion contract to build a 600-satellite constellation for missile targeting. Much smaller contracts for space-based interceptors were reportedly awarded "in secret" in late November. Awardees include Anduril Industries, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and True Anomaly. In December, over 1,000 "qualifying offerors" were deemed eligible for potential future awards.

— Multiple Sources

Polar Star Icebreaker Marks 50 Years in Coast Guard Service

The granddaddy of the U.S. Coast Guard fleet is marking its 50th anniversary of service by doing what it does best — breaking ice. The *Polar Star*, the



Coast Guard's only heavy icebreaker, arrived in January at McMurdo Sound, in Antarctica, for its annual mission in Operation Deep

Freeze to clear channels for supply ships to reach scientific stations at the bottom of the planet.

According to the Coast Guard, the *Polar Star* can cut through 6-foot-thick ice at a speed of 3 knots. It can break ice up to 21 feet thick by continuously ramming, backing up, then ramming again.

Commissioned on Jan. 17, 1976, the *Polar Star* becomes one of three fully operational ships in the U.S. military that are more than a half-century old. The USS *Blue Ridge*, an amphibious command ship homeported at the United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka in Japan, was commissioned in November 1970. The aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz*, homeported at Naval Base Kitsap in Washington State, was commissioned in April 1975.

The 13,500-ton *Polar Star* left its home port at Coast Guard Base Seattle on Nov. 20. Capt. Jeff Rasnake, the ship's commander, said during an interview just before the *Polar Star's* departure that he hoped to mark the ship's "birthday" off Cape Polar Star. The landmark, named for the ship in the 1980s, is on the southwestern tip of Coulman Island, in Antarctica's Ross Sea. "If all goes well, we'll celebrate," Rasnake said, adding, "She's an old ship, but she's a good ship."

The *Polar Star* is one of only three oceangoing icebreakers operated by the U.S. government. In addition to the *Polar Star*, the Coast Guard operates two medium icebreakers, the USCGC *Healy* and the USCGC *Storis*, which can cut through up to 8 feet of ice using the ramming method.

- Stars and Stripes

[Lest We Forget](#)

Sixty Years Ago: 1966 Was a Year of Major Escalation in Vietnam

At the beginning of 1966, the number of U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam totaled 184,300. South Vietnamese military forces totaled 514,000 including the army (ARVN) and the Regional Force and Popular Force militias. The North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) numbered 400,000, most still in North Vietnam.



Fifty thousand PAVN cadre and soldiers had infiltrated South Vietnam during 1965. Group 559, charged with transporting supplies down the Ho Chi Minh Trail to supply PAVN troops in both South Vietnam and Laos, numbered 24,400 personnel. The U.S. estimated the number of Viet Cong (VC) and PAVN soldiers in South Vietnam at nearly 280,000 by June 1966, including part-time guerrillas.

The Vietnam War escalated during 1966 into a major war of attrition, with U.S. personnel in South Vietnam soaring to over 385,000 by year's end. General Westmoreland focused on large-scale search-and-destroy operations—such as Operation Masher and Attleboro—and "free-fire zones" to maximize enemy body counts. By year's end, the U.S. estimated that more than 55,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong had been killed. In the course of the year, the U.S. suffered 6,350 killed, South Vietnam lost 11,953 killed and Australia lost 63.



As American casualties rose, public debate grew, though the administration continued to emphasize the necessity of stopping communist expansion. "The Ballad of the Green Berets" by Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler became the number-one hit in the U.S. for five weeks spanning March 1966.

- Multiple Sources

Answer for "Old Flyboys"

The F-101 Voodoo made its first flight on Sept. 29, 1954. The first production F-101A became operational in May 1957, followed by the F-101C in September 1957 and the F-101B in January 1959. By the time F-101



production ended in March 1961, McDonnell had built 785 Voodoos, including 480 F-101Bs, the two-seat, all-weather interceptor used by the Air Defense Command.

In its reconnaissance version (*photo above*), the Voodoo was the world's first supersonic photo-reconnaissance aircraft. RF-101s were used widely for low-altitude photo coverage of missile sites during the 1962 Cuban Crisis and during the mid-1960s in Southeast Asia.

- National Museum of the USAF

Help Wanted

Member, Board of Directors - Represent the group's membership in the formulation and execution of all activities of the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group. Contact Peter Gilbert, 650-759-5584 peter-gilbert@sbcglobal.net