



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

BULLETIN

June 2026

Lest We Forget

Volume 26, No. 6

President's Corner

Committed Leaders, Part III

Here are two more leaders who keep us viable

We're looking forward to a strong turnout for our annual Flag Day Barbecue. Details appear in the column to the right. We'll hope to see you there!



VETERANS GROUP
2001 - 2026

Now, I want to continue my series of profiling members who play a major role in our group.

Dick Parry serves on our board as one of seven members. He has taken on the additional responsibility of planning the programs for our general membership meetings. He has done an incredibly great job finding presenters of wide interest to our membership. Here are Dick's notes about his military service:



September 1960 to August 1961: Boot camp and Aviation Electronics Technician Training School.

August 1961 through June 1962: USNA Prep School

July 1962 through May 1963: U.S. Naval Academy

June 1963 through September 1965: Helicopter rescue air crewman with Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 2 (HC-2).

April to December 1964: Deployed with three helos and 40 men from HC-2 to USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA-42) to Sixth Fleet in Mediterranean.

April to September 1965: Deployed again to Sixth Fleet on USS *Shangri-La* (CVA-38).

Please turn to page 3, column 1

Memorial Day Ceremony May 25



9:00 a.m., Amphitheater



Next Event

Flag Day Barbecue June 14

Members and guests, make your reservations now for the annual Flag Day Barbecue on Sunday, June 14, at the Sports Pavilion. The celebration will begin at 5:00. Dinner will be served at 6:00.



Clay City BBQ will cater this popular event this year.

There will be a cash bar. Complimentary bottled water will be available.

The \$30 per person buffet includes:

- Beef Tip Roast**
- Barbecued Chicken Breast**
- Fresh Smashed Potatoes**
- Ranch Beans**
- Tossed Green Salad**
- Hot Ciabatta Bread**
- Dessert**



Use the form below for reservations. Just fill in the names of those attending, enclose your check and mail to the address shown. For questions, please contact Dottie Monroe at 650-208-2500.

The deadline for reservations is June 8

I/we plan to attend the Flag Day Barbecue

Name(s):

My check (payable to **Lincoln Hills Veterans Group**) in the amount of \$30 per person is enclosed.

Dottie Monroe
208 Surrey Top Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648

**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: Frank Furr 435-659-6218

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
Web Admin: Catania Group cirina@catania.us

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 Leathernecks"

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the highest-ranking and most senior military officer in the United States Armed Forces. The position has been held by officers from all of the armed services. Can you name the first Marine general to hold this job?

The answer appears on page 4, column 2.

— In Memoriam —

Lodge Phillip Carlton
 Veteran of the U.S. Air Force
 Life Member of the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group



Michael Curtis Cramer
 Veteran of the U.S. Army

Robert Petrauschke
 Veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard


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

Calendar of Events

June

- 6** D-Day (1944)* 
- 14** Flag Day* 
BBQ, Sports Pavilion, 5:00 p.m.
- 16** Directors' Meeting

July

- 4** Independence Day* 
- 14** Directors' Meeting
- 16** General Membership Meeting

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

Treasurer's Report

On April 30, 2026, the group's bank accounts totaled:

Checking: \$ 3,307.48
Savings: \$ 4,002.77
Total Assets: \$ 7,310.25

Membership Report

The group's membership on April 30, 2026 totaled:

Life Members: 87
 Annual Members: 62
Total Voting Membership: 149

Welcome, New Members

Name	Service
Hermann Schmelzried	U.S. Army
Gonzalo Vergara	U.S. Air Force

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.

Steve Witmer served as president of our Veterans Group in 2008. He has been active in the group for many years. He took on the role in 2005 as chair of our public relations, which is responsible for our outstanding *Bulletin* and many other communications that you receive from our group. Here is Steve's account of his time in military service:

From an early age, I had a strong fascination with all things military, so when I found out about the Civil Air Patrol cadet program at age 14, I jumped at the chance to join the squadron in Lancaster, Pa. CAP gave me a solid foundation in military customs, courtesies and missions. Four years as a CAP cadet led directly to another four years in the AFROTC program at Franklin and Marshall College, where I graduated and was commissioned in 1963.

I opted for the intelligence field, completed eight months of training at Lowry AFB, Colo. as a photo-radar intelligence officer and was assigned to the 13th Air Force at Clark AB,



Philippines. The first five months at Clark were like a country club assignment — plenty of time for golf, lunch at the officers club pool and socializing. This whole Air Force thing was looking really good.

Then in August 1964, the Gulf of Tonkin incident changed everything. Thirteenth Air Force became a principal production organization for strike planning and bomb-damage analysis of targets in Southeast Asia. Our office quadrupled in size and we worked long days and nights supporting air operations in SEA. I lost my tan!

After 18 months at Clark, I was sent right back to Lowry as an instructor. As I approached four years of active duty, some promising opportunities in the civilian world emerged. So, I left active duty in July 1967 and transferred to the Air Force Intelligence Reserve (AFIR), where I spent the next 25 years, mainly in support of Strategic Air Command reconnaissance operations.

- Peter Gilbert, President

Items of Interest to Veterans

Navy's Top Admiral Touts Flexibility and Risk as Crisis-Response Strategy

The Navy's top admiral wants the service to take more calculated risks when responding to events around the globe. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle laid out his "U.S. Navy Fighting

Instructions" at the keynote address to more than 1,000 service members, defense industry executives and strategic analysts during the West 2026 conference at the San Diego Convention Center. "It will ensure we are ready," Caudle said. "Not for the last war, but for the one that is coming."



Caudle said he believed that, over time, American military options had too often fallen to the Navy's carrier strike forces. The rollout of Caudle's strategy comes amid the Trump administration's positioning of aircraft carriers and other ships around hot spots such as Venezuela and Iran.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Caudle said he sees the Navy's future mission in the Caribbean focused on interdictions and watching merchant shipping. "That doesn't really require a carrier strike group to do that," Caudle told the AP, adding that he believes the mission could be done with some smaller littoral combat ships, Navy helicopters and close coordination with the Coast Guard.

At the center of the new instructions is a "hedge strategy" to respond to global events with a mix of ships, aircraft and personnel that Caudle said would be "tailored" to each situation. "Building a fleet to cover every pressing scenario is not only cost- and risk-prohibitive, but a disservice to the taxpayer and, quite frankly, less effective operationally," Caudle said. "What a hedge strategy avoids is a brittle, single-purpose force that is either overbuilt for the high-end fight and underused day to day or optimized for low-end crises and overmatched."

Warfare has also changed, according to Caudle. He



said that, in the past, the Navy could count on simply

overmatching an opponent with "impunity and winning by mass dominance alone." But relatively inexpensive drones — flying, surface and underwater — show that combatants have an "ever lowering cost of entry" to challenging great power forces, including the United States. Caudle said that smaller forces sent to emerging hot spots more

rapidly can accomplish the goal of projecting American sea power, compared with larger forces that take more time to assemble and deploy.

“We find ourselves operating in an era with other great powers,” he said. “an era in which speed and decision ruthlessly punish delay.” Caudle said the approach accepts a certain level of risk. “In the next conflict, that system will be tested under pressure, at speed and under fire,” he said. “Communications will be disrupted. Space and cyber operations will be under attack. The enemy will try to fracture our kill chains, slow our decisions and isolate our forces. In that kind of fight, we can’t afford a Navy that waits for permission.”

America’s changing fiscal, industrial and military strategy depends on the ability to field “effective, scalable, risk-worthy mass with the most advanced multi-mission platforms we can build and sustain,” Caudle said. Caudle said most of the Navy fleet is involved in deterrence. “It’s a concept that to work must live continuously in the minds of our adversaries, and in turn, allow us to shape their behavior,” Caudle said.



While uncrewed vessels and aircraft will play a growing role in the mix of Navy forces, Caudle said the service members aboard ship and on shore are the

Navy’s top asset. “At the center of this vision will always be the United States Navy sailor,” he said. “They are our most enduring strategic advantage, our primary weapon system, and the heartbeat of our world-class Navy.”

— Gary Warner | Stars and Stripes

[Lest We Forget](#)

180 Years Ago: Mexican-American War Sought “Manifest Destiny”

May marked a key anniversary in the conflict between the United States and Mexico that set in motion the Civil War—and led to California, Texas, and eight other states joining the Union.

On May 13, 1846, the United States Congress declared war on Mexico after a request from President James K. Polk. The conflict centered on the independent Republic of Texas, which opted to join the United States after establishing its independence from Mexico a decade earlier.

Mexico considered the annexation of Texas an act of war. After a series of border skirmishes, President Polk asked Congress for a war declaration.

In the fighting that followed, the mostly-volunteer United States military secured control of Mexico after a series of battles, and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848. It was the first large-scale success of a United States military force on foreign soil.

The treaty set a border between Texas and Mexico and ceded California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, most of Arizona and Colorado, and parts of Oklahoma,



Kansas, and Wyoming to the United States. Their transfer to the United States’ control also cut the territorial size of Mexico in half.

On the surface, the war’s outcome seemed like a bonanza for the United States. But the acquisition of so much territory, with the issue of slavery unresolved, lit the fuse that eventually set off the Civil War in 1861.

On the battlefield, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and Stonewall Jackson were among those who served in the war against Mexico who would later gain prominence in the American Civil War.

Approximately 13,000–15,000 American soldiers and up to 25,000 Mexican soldiers and civilians died in the war. The vast majority of American deaths (over 10,000) resulted from disease, such as dysentery and yellow fever, rather than combat.

— Multiple Sources

Answer for “Old Leathernecks”

On 30 September 2005, Gen. Peter Pace became the first United States Marine Corps general officer to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), succeeding United States Air Force Gen. Richard Myers in the position as America’s highest ranking military officer below the president.



Gen. Pace had also served as vice chairman of the JCS from 1 October 2001 to 12 August 2005. He was the sixth officer, and first Marine, to hold the vice chairman position within the Department of Defense.