



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

BULLETIN

May 2026

Lest We Forget

Volume 26, No. 5

President's Corner

Committed Directors, Part II

Meet Two Leaders Who Keep Us Viable

I want to share more information about our board members this month. Here are some recollections by Dave Taylor and Bauke Van Oosbree.

Dave Taylor has been a member of the Vets Group board since 2022. He's served as president, secretary and treasurer during that time. Dave writes:



I started boot camp in October '66 in Great Lakes Naval Training Center, just north of Chicago. I had a 6-week course in basic electricity on Main Side



Base. In early '68, I transferred to Key West for Sonar School, and had a year's worth of schooling on sonar operations, electronics, and maintenance and repair — three separate courses with 38 total weeks.

I subsequently transferred to the destroyer USS *John Basilone* DD-824, in the yards in Boston. My first cruise was a shakedown to Guantanamo Bay. During my "residence" aboard, we made three Med Cruises and four or five to the Caribbean. We went back in the yards in late '71, followed by my final cruise back to Guantanamo.

I left the ship on June 1, 1972, with over 4-1/2 years of service, as they pulled out for Westpac. After 10 weeks standing Shore Patrol in Newport, I got an early out to start college. Total time in the Navy was 5 years, 9 months and 27 days of active duty (but who was counting) and 90 days ready reserves prior to active duty.

We were deployed to assist with the Jordanian Crisis in '69. The longest period at sea was 45 days in the Mediterranean to shadow the *Moscovia*, a Russian ASW carrier when it came out of the Black Sea.

Please turn to page 3, column 1

Next Event

Everyone Welcome!



Community Memorial Day Program May 25 at 9:00 a.m.

The Lincoln Hills Veterans Group will once again present its annual outdoor Memorial Day ceremony in the Orchard Creek Amphitheater on Monday, May 25, beginning at 9:00 a.m.



The program will include the posting of the colors by a military color guard, patriotic music, remarks by Lincoln Mayor Richard Pearl and a two-bell ceremony honoring those Lincoln Hills veterans who passed away since Veterans Day last November.

Save the Date

Flag Day Barbecue June 14

Plan now to join Vets Group members and guests for our popular Flag Day BBQ on Sunday, June 14 in the Sports Pavilion. The celebration will begin at 5:00. A buffet dinner will be served at 6:00.

Tickets are \$30 each and there will be a cash bar.

Clay City BBQ will cater this popular event again this year.

Reservation forms will be available in next month's *Bulletin*. For questions, please contact Dottie Monroe at 650-208-2500.



**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
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 916-521-3587

Question for “Old Coasties”

As America’s role in the Vietnam conflict grew, President Johnson committed the Coast Guard for deployment to war-torn Southeast Asia to perform roles such as port security, explosives loading, maintenance of aids to navigation and search and rescue. Do you know how many Coasties served in Vietnam? The answer appears on page 4.

— In Memoriam —

Frederick Burr Harris
 Veteran of the U.S. Army

Gary W. High
 Veteran of the U.S. Army




William “Dick” Howe
 Veteran of the U.S. Navy

Richard “Rich” Miller
 Veteran of the U.S. Navy



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

Calendar of Events

May

8 VE Day (1945)* 
16 Armed Forces Day* 
19 Directors’ Meeting
25 Memorial Day* 
Ceremony, Amphitheater, 9:00 a.m.

June

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

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

Treasurer’s Report

On March 31, 2026, the group’s bank accounts totaled:

Checking: \$ 3,980.32
Savings: \$ 4,002.74
Total Assets: \$ 7,983.06

Membership Report

The group’s membership on March 31, 2026 totaled:

Life Members: 88
 Annual Members: 57
Total Voting Membership: 145



May 16, 2026

Bauke Van Oosbree is your Lincoln Hills Veterans Group secretary and has served on the board since 2025. Here's Van's account of his service:

Having a military obligation at the age of 21 in 1962, I decided to go to the recruiting office and volunteer to go to Europe. The only way to do that was either by occupation or location, so since Europe was my choice after basic training at Fort Ord, they sent me to cook school even though I was already trained to work on poles with electricity! Go figure.

After working in the mess hall for two years, they asked if I would like to re-up. Definitely not as a



cook, so they made me a phone installer which I worked as for the last year. During that time, I read a notice that they were looking for volunteers to become helicopter pilots. That sounded good to me, and since

Vietnam was not even in the picture, I volunteered. I passed all the application criteria and it looked good. Then I was disappointed to find that since I wore glasses I could not go. The glasses probably saved my life because a lot of those first pilots did not come back.

Even going to the NCO academy and graduating in the top third did not help me make rank, so I went home to climb poles and work on electric distribution for the power company for the next 30 years.

The military service taught me about following orders and to think independently for the better good. And of course, about teamwork, where the team is stronger than the individual. It was a life-altering experience.

Our new website is now live! Please visit the site and provide me with any comments pro or con. We want it to be the best we can offer to the community

.- Peter Gilbert, President

[Items of Interest to Veterans](#)

LHVG Website Now Live

The Veterans Group has a new online presence thanks to the efforts of Cirina Catania, who created and maintains the group's new website at <https://lincolnhillsvets.org/>. The site is a handy online tool for anyone seeking information about our club and its activities.



No Longer 'Experimental': Navy to Deploy Drone Boats this Year

After rounds of prototyping, the Navy is ready to deploy two of its medium-sized drone boats this year and even integrate one with a carrier strike group, according to a service official.

Capt. Garrett Miller told the Surface Navy Association conference in Washington that the two drones — the *Sea Hunter* and *Seahawk*, dubbed medium-displacement uncrewed surface vessels or MDUSVs — “will no longer be experimental vessels. They will actually be under fleet control, assigned to



surface forces to be able to actually go out and do great things.”

◀ *The medium-displacement uncrewed surface vessel Sea Hunter sailing off Naval Base San Diego.*

Miller, the commodore of Surface Development Group One, said one of the drones would deploy with a carrier strike group in 2026,

Drones will constitute a considerable bulk of the Navy's overall displacement in the coming years, including in the envisioned future Golden Fleet, though officials stress the uncrewed vessels will add to manned ships instead of replacing them. Rear Adm. Christopher Alexander said the Navy anticipates an exponential growth of unmanned systems over the coming decades, mirroring a wider push by the Pentagon to harness drone technology.

“Looking at some projections moving out over the future, by 2045 we expect about 45 percent of the surface force to be unmanned systems,” Alexander, special assistant to the commander for naval surface forces at the US Pacific Fleet, said.

“The future is now,” he added. “Unmanned systems, autonomous systems. AI, it's not the future. It's happening right now.”

— Breaking Defense

Memorial Near Clark Air Base Marks Inception of Japanese Kamikaze

Cars, trucks and motorcycles buzz along a road outside Clark Air Base, Philippines, once the domain of the U.S. Air Force and the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Nearly 80 years ago, the fighters flying here belonged to imperial Japan, and some were on a one-way attempt to turn back an Allied fleet moving to expel the Japanese from the Philippines.

A roadside memorial near Clark's Mabalacat gate reminds visitors that pilots on suicide missions took off nearby from "the very first Japanese Kamikaze Airfield," Mabalacat East.

► *This roadside memorial near Clark Air Base in the Philippines reminds visitors that Japanese pilots on suicide missions took off nearby.*



Japanese forces captured Clark — then a U.S. Army Air Corps base — in January 1942 and turned it into a major hub for Japanese air operations.

The first kamikaze attack from Mabalacat took place at 7:25 a.m. Oct. 25, 1944, when flight leader Lt. Yukio Seki flew his plane into the *Casablanca*-class escort carrier USS *St. Lo* near Samar Island. The carrier sank within 20 minutes.

Kamikaze attacks from Mabalacat also damaged the carriers USS *Kalinin Bay*, USS *Kitkun Bay*, USS *Sangamon*, USS *Santee*, USS *Suwannee* and USS *White Plains*, according to the plaque.

Vice Adm. Takijiro Onishi is credited with creating the kamikaze unit at the base with 23 volunteers from the 301st Air Fleet.

Despite their repeated and costly attacks, the kamikaze did not turn back the Allied fleets and the Japanese were expelled from the Philippines and eventually defeated at home.

— *Stars and Stripes*

[Lest We Forget](#)

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Marks 100 Years of Military Guard

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia reached a milestone of



being continuously guarded by service members for 100 years on March 25. The tomb was established in the wake of World War I, when an unknown

soldier who died in the war was interred on Nov. 11, 1921, according to a news release by the Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment.

It did not have an assigned military guard until March 25, 1926, after the Army's deputy chief of staff ordered such a presence over concerns the monument was not properly respected. It was a daytime guard until July 1, 1937, when it became guarded 24 hours a day, seven days a week in all weather conditions.

— *Stars and Stripes*

Answer for "Old Coasties"

Some eight thousand Coast Guardsmen served in Vietnam, supporting both combat and traditional service missions. USCG 82-foot *Point*-class patrol boats proved to be both adaptable and capable in the conduct of interdiction and combat missions. Five high-endurance cutters, primarily assigned to the Gulf of Thailand, supported a variety of combat missions. The Coast Guard also provided port security, explosives loading detachments, installation and maintenance of aids to navigation, established LORAN stations in both Vietnam and Thailand, and conducted search and rescue missions.



The Coast Guard played a significant role in securing Vietnam's 1,200-mile coastline. Coast Guardsmen and 56 different combatant vessels were assigned there. They destroyed enemy supply ships, supported ground units, rescued American and other friendly forces, and performed many more duties, including carrying out humanitarian roles which are common to the Coast Guard.



By the time they left, Coast Guard cutters had cruised over 5.5 million miles, participated in nearly 6,000 naval gunfire missions, and boarded nearly

250,000 junks and sampans.

In addition to the patrol boats and high-endurance cutters, Coast Guard aviators flew in Vietnam between 1968 and 1975. They flew with the Air Force as part of a service exchange program out of Tuy Hoa and Da Nang, Vietnam, as well as from Thailand and the Philippines. These aviators flew hundreds of rescue missions over enemy-infested jungles. Their actions kept a lot of American pilots out of prison camps.

—*USCG Website*