



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP BULLETIN

September 2026

Lest We Forget

Volume 26, No. 9

President's Corner

Heading for Fall

We had a strong turnout for our ice cream social at Leatherby's on August 13. The ice cream was great, the camaraderie was excellent and we got to recognize the valuable efforts of our flag sales volunteers and Shirley Schultz, whose hard work has made our social events so successful over the years.

Plans are underway for our annual Oktoberfest luncheon on Friday, October 23. Be sure to save the date for this popular function. Details will appear in next month's *Bulletin*.

I want to continue my practice of profiling the military experiences of some of our Veterans Group members. This month's column features Bruce Friederich, who served as an Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) member during the Korean War. The following recollections are excerpted from an interview of Bruce in the March/April 2025 issue of *Shipmate* magazine.

Bruce and his good friend in high school were both good swimmers. After graduation, his friend decided to go into the Navy. Bruce tagged along to the recruiting office, where they both signed up and volunteered for underwater demolition training.



Following training, he reported to Underwater Demolition Team 5, stationed in Kamakura, Japan, but deployed shortly thereafter to Korea. The team operated along Korea's east coast. For a time they conducted missions to swim ashore and blow up railroad tunnels. However, the North Koreans had plenty of labor available and the tunnels were restored quickly.

Please turn to page 3, column 1



Next Meeting

Nuclear Submarines: Key Naval Asset Produced at Mare Island Naval Shipyard

Dale Peterson, who spent 33 years in the construction and testing of nuclear submarines at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, will be the featured speaker at the September 17 general membership meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Presentation Hall.



Starting as an apprentice marine

machinist, Dale was recognized for his technical expertise regarding ships systems and operations. After multiple promotions, he completed his civil service as the head of the Production Compartment for the Hull, Propulsion and Auxiliary Ship Test Coordination Division.

Mare Island was successful in building, testing and delivering fully operational nuclear-powered fast-



attack and Polaris Missile submarines (*left*). As part of his responsibility for assuring that all aspects of the repairs and/or modifications were fully correct, he was required to go on over 600 shakedown

cruises to test the performance of all nuclear submarines that Mare Island released to the fleet.

Mare Island was home port to four special-operations and spy submarines. With his top secret security clearance, he directed the modifications necessary for their missions. Dale is still under the constraints of secrecy, but he will speak to the extent possible of his support of these vessels during the period referred to as "The Cold War."

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
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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:

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Question for "Old Dogfaces"

As the Allies pursued the Germans across France in 1944, the rapidly advancing U.S. Army outstripped its supply chain. Replenishment by train was not feasible because the country's rail lines had been decimated. So, a high-speed truck system was developed to fill the need. Do you know what this truck system was called? The answer appears on page 4.



Calendar of Events

September

2 VJ Day (1945)*
7 Labor Day*
11 Patriot Day*
15 Directors' Meeting
17 General Membership Meeting
18 POW/MIA Recognition Day*



October

12 Columbus Day*
13 Directors' Meeting
15 General Membership Meeting
23 Oktoberfest Luncheon - OC Ballroom
 11:30 Registration Begins, Bar Opens
 12:00 Luncheon Served



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

Treasurer's Report

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

Checking: \$ 3061.45
Savings: \$ 4002.87
Total Assets: \$ 7,064.32

Membership Report

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

Life Members: 83
 Annual Members: 64
Total Voting Membership: 147

Welcome New Members

Eric James, U.S. Navy
 Julian Schock, U.S. Army

Join Fellow Vets for Mon-Wed-Fri Coffee and Camaraderie



Kilaga Springs Café's Kimberly (left) provides a warm welcome to Vets Group coffee drinkers who gather informally from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The group is always looking for more fellow vets to show up and enjoy the fellowship. If you're interested in coffee and lively conversation with people with a wide range of military experience, stop by and join in.

President's Corner, continued from page 1

Attention shifted to sabotaging the North Koreans' food supply by destroying fishnets along the coast. Operation FISHNET was aimed to reduce North Korea's food supplies by destroying vast fields of fishing nets. FISHNET operations severely damaged the North Koreans' fishing capability, where the economy was based on fish as much as on rice.

According to Bruce, "We went in there and cut those fishnets up; we tried to cut out one square foot of net so they couldn't be patched up. We were the fishnet cutters. We never had guns because who the hell wanted to go swimming with a gun when you had a knife? Guns didn't fire very well in salt water."

FISHNET was the last extensive UDT operation in the Korean War. Bruce's team went on to conduct reconnaissance and other activities until fighting ended with an armistice on July 27, 1953.

— Peter Gilbert, President

Items of Interest to Veterans

Beware of Fake VA Phone Numbers

A single mistyped or misheard digit can route your call to a fraudulent operation rather than the VA.

[Verify VA phone numbers online.](#)

Official VA Number	Fraudulent Look-Alike
GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-442-4551	1-888-442-4511
My HealtheVet Helpdesk: 1-877-327-0022	1-800-327-0022

If you believe you have reached a scam, hang up immediately. Do not provide any personal or payment information.

Report the incident by calling:

833-38V-SAFE (833-388-7233)

Or email www.VSAFE.gov.

**New Panel for Lincoln Vets Monument
to be Dedicated on Veterans Day**

A ninth panel at the Placer County Veterans Monument in McBean Park will be dedicated at a Veterans Day ceremony at 11:11 a.m. on November 11. Attendees at the Veterans Group's ceremony in the Orchard Creek Ballroom at 9:00 a.m. will have adequate time to travel to McBean Park for the dedication.

Since the monument's unveiling on Memorial Day 2021, Lincoln residents have had a dedicated place to express gratitude for those who have served, currently serve, or have been honorably discharged from U.S. military services.



The Lincoln Veterans Memorial Coalition (LVMC) was formed to establish veteran memorials at Lincoln cemeteries and was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 2018. In 2024, the organization was renamed and now operates as the Placer County Veterans Monument.



Former Lincoln Hills Veterans Group board member Larry Yaggi (*photo left*) played a key role in the initial effort to finance and build the memorial. Later, Doug MacAdams represented the LHVG on the monument's board. Today, the board includes representatives of Lincoln's American

Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, the Semper Fi Association and the Women Veterans Alliance.

Further information about the monument and the procedure to honor a veteran can be found at:

lvmc@lincolnveteransmemorial.org.

**Extensive Pacific Wargames Watched
Closely by America's Adversaries**

Militaries from around the world came together in Hawaii in June for the world's largest naval exercise against a backdrop of rising tensions in the Pacific

As geopolitical tensions and evolving threats create



new security challenges in the Pacific, the U.S. and its allies are working together to prepare for

a conflict that could span the world's largest ocean.

RIMPAC 2026, the 30th iteration of the exercise, began June 24 and brought together 30 nations, more than 30,000 personnel, 30 surface ships, five submarines, and more than 197 aircraft under the theme, "Partners: Integrated and Prepared."

Throughout five weeks of realistic training, participating forces enhanced combined and joint interoperability, strengthened readiness, and reinforced the partnerships that support maritime security across the Indo-Pacific.

"No single nation can ensure security in the Pacific alone," said U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Jeff Jablon, Commander, RIMPAC 2026 Combined Task Force. "The global maritime environment is too large and too complex for any one country to safeguard by itself. RIMPAC gives us the chance to build the trust and relationships that make us stronger long before any crisis happens."

"The network of allies and partners in the region is an asymmetric advantage," Jablon said. "The work participating nations do at RIMPAC builds the combined and joint ability to deter conflict and supports all



nations in exercising their sovereign rights and freedoms in the maritime domain."

Throughout the exercise, participating forces executed more than 500 maritime training events, flew more than 2,400 sorties, and responded to more than 5,000 scenario-based operational problem sets. The realistic training strengthened combined and joint readiness while improving participants' ability to operate together across all domains.

"Interoperability is something we must continue to develop," said Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Rear Adm. Takuo Kobayashi, Vice Commander, RIMPAC 2026 Combined Task Force. "RIMPAC brings together allies and partners committed to strengthening security and stability across the region. The daily conversations, shared experiences, and personal relationships developed throughout the exercise strengthen our ability to respond together."

- U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

[Lest We Forget](#)

September 17, 1862 - The Bloodiest Day in U.S. Military History

The Battle of Antietam, or Sharpsburg, on September 17, 1862, was the tragic culmination of Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North. That one fateful day, more than 23,110 men were killed, wounded, or listed as missing.

Approximately 4,000 were killed outright, and in the days that followed, many more died of wounds or disease. The peaceful village of Sharpsburg turned into a huge hospital and burial ground extending for miles in all directions.



Today, Antietam National Battlefield is a National Park Service-protected area along Antietam Creek in Sharpsburg, Washington County, in northwestern Maryland.

Answer for "Old Dogfaces:"

August 1944 witnessed the crushing defeat of Germany in France. The Allies pursued the Germans but critically outstripped their supply chain. The U.S. Army developed a quick solution — the novel Red Ball Express.

Created on August 25, 1944, the Red Ball Express became the Allied lifeline tasked with transporting fuel, ammunition, food, and medical supplies. Nothing could be sent by rail as ongoing airstrikes decimated the French rail system. The Express became the U.S. Army's primary lifeline after D-Day.



The Army utilized nearly 6,000 trucks for the Express. The GMC 2 ½-ton, 6-wheeled truck served as the primary mover. Able to haul 2 ½ tons, this truck, nicknamed "Deuce," showed its flexibility and reliability in transporting cargo.



The Red Ball Express began its first run on August 25, 1944, and ended on

November 16, 1944. During its 83-day existence, the trucks carried supplies over 400 miles of road. The Express drew its name from the red balls put on priority shipments and map routes.

The Express began at the port of Cherbourg, Normandy, the Allies' biggest port until Antwerp's capture. The cities of Verdun and Metz, the final stopping points, distributed supplies to their final destinations. A typical round trip could be either 670 or 750 miles, all driven under pressure with the motto "Keep 'Em Rolling."

- Matt Whittaker | The Collector