Motorcycle Run, *from page 1*

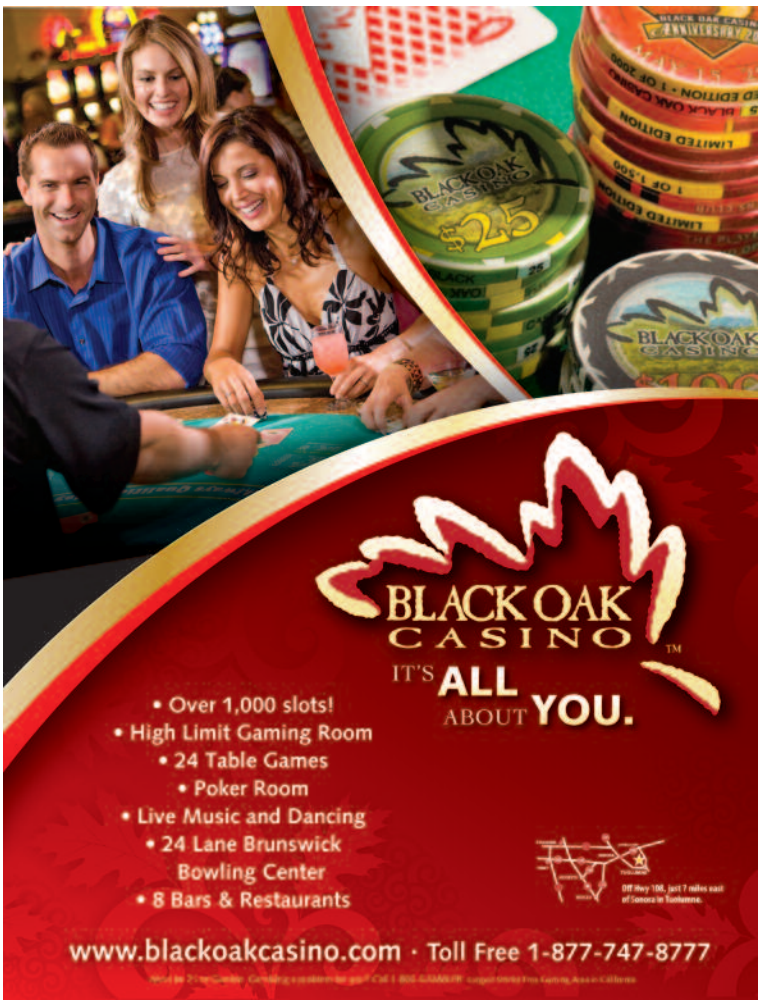
fee on-line. This is for motorcycle riders coming to the event. According to Carol Scamara, 'We would like cars to take the Sierra Nevada tour as well. A ride pin comes with the $15 fee. Everyone can purchase $10 meal tickets for adults and $5 meal tickets for kids 12 and under. They also have a replica of the ride pin as a patch.

The group plans to have live music and an auction of some big ticket items which have been donated by businesses in Tuolumne County. Scamara added, "Our hope is that the community will come together as they did last year and speak volumes in Bobby's memory to many young students who are working on their futures."

Sgt Bobby Rapp was a well known soldier here in the county and worked at Dodge Ridge before going to Afghanistan where he was killed on March 3, 2008 at 22 years old. He was the first of our fallen heroes from Tuolumne County.

For more information, you can contact Al Sickle, director of the Motorcycle Group at (209) 728-2138 or visit the web site at www.VietnamVeterans391.org/mcgroup and you can pre-register at www.VietnamVeterans391.org/mcgroup/shop. There are items which can also be purchased by all.

For more information or questions, call Al Sickle at (209) 728-2138 or by e-mail at LeaninAl@SBCglobal.net, or call Laurie Dodson at (209) 536-0336 or by email at LNeilson@VietnamVeterans391.org.



WHVVD Parade, *from page 1*

Lemoore Naval Air Station in Lemoore, California.

Those receiving the loudest cheers were Jon Cavaiani of Sonora and Richard Pittman of Stockton, both Vietnam Medal of Honor recipients. "There are only 91 living Medal of Honor recipients in the U.S. at the present time and that's from all wars, so having two from Vietnam is really remarkable," added Eldridge.

Marvin Mitchum, a freelance writer-photographer from Copperopolis and a Vietnam-era veteran remarked, "One of the things that amazed me was the number of motorcycles. There had to be at least one hundred of them." The VVA-391 Motorcycle Group was led by VVA California State Council President, Bob Johnston of San Jose and the group's director Al Sickle of Murphys. Behind them was the American Legion Riders Chapter 108 of Amador. Then there was the Combat Veterans Riders with riders from Hanford, Jamestown, Sonora, and Stockton. There was another group called the Submarine Riders who had stopped at Harley-Davidson in Jamestown and were told about the parade for Vietnam Veterans and as veterans they wanted to be in the parade. There were also many veterans who weren't members of any group. The Marine Corps League of Modesto detachment 019 was also represented in the parade.

As for others in the parade, there were two from Arizona and two from Washington State. VVA-989 from Reno was in the parade with 10 of its members. The Special Forces Chapter 23 from San Francisco had 15 members. There were VVA members from Fresno, Escondido, Modesto, Jackson, Mokelumne, Novato, Hollister, San Andreas, Angels Camp, Merced, Turlock, Wallace, Lockford, and Amasdor as well as every nook and cranny of Tuolumne County. Dommes of the American Legion Riders said, "Thank you, thank you for doing this…for giving us the opportunity to finally honor our Vietnam Veterans. We enjoyed ourselves very much."

After the parade, VVA-391 ensured that all parade participants had a free lunch from the Mobile Barbecue hut of Outlaws BarBQ of Sonora owned by Paul Kennedy a Vietnam veteran and member of VVA-391, and Janet Kennedy. The Brothers in Blues, a local band led by Frank Verbeck who is also a Vietnam Veteran played after the parade in the park across from the Veterans Memorial Hall on Washington Street.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 391 is the largest chapter in the state and once the dust settles from this parade from the additional members who joined at and immediately after the parade, the chapter will be in seventh place in the nation out of more than 650 chapters. They just recently advanced to 8th place after being in 9th place for a year.