



CHAPTER 391
Tuolumne County, California

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
GUERRILLAS IN THE MIST

Vietnam Veterans - Chapter 391

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Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

California celebrates in five areas including Sonora

To make it possible for all California veterans to celebrate Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (WHVVD), events will be established in San Diego, Whittier, Fresno, Sacramento, and Sonora.

The bill was signed by the Governor last month (see November issue, page 1). The date of WHVVD is March 30; however, it will be celebrated in 2010 on March 28 as the actual date falls on a weekday.

The VVA-391 PAO, George Eldridge has joined forces with Jose Ramos of Whittier, the veteran who spearheaded the drive to make March 30 WHVVD, and Ponce Gonzales, Chapter 464, to hold California's first state-recognized celebration of the WHVVD.

Eldridge has proposed a parade down Washington Street in Sonora with Medal of Honor recipient Jon Cavaiani as the Grand Marshal.

"As soon as the Board of Directors approves sponsoring the event, we" need volunteers to help with the myriad of chores to be accomplished in just five months," said Eldridge.

The first item on the agenda is to meet with CalTrans and the Sonora Police Department as well as to make presentation to the Sonora City Council, he added. Already on the committee are Frank Smart and Dick Southern.

As for involved costs, they plan to seek sponsors of which there will be two levels. The first level is \$100 and the second level will be \$200 which will include a banner welcoming home Vietnam veterans and the sponsor's name.

The parade will be Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans only with one exception. They are going to get an active duty color guard to lead the parade which will be followed by VVA-391's color guard.

Because there are many Vietnam

Veterans who can't walk the parade route, arrangements will be made for them to ride in trucks and other vehicles. Also, Vietnam Veterans will be invited to join the parade from Modesto, Stockton, Ione, Oakdale, Mariposa and Calaveras counties, and any other area of California. The goal is to make it the largest WHVVD parade in California.

Vietnam-era women veterans comprehensive study by VA

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching a comprehensive study of women Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War to explore the effects of their military service upon their mental and physical health.

"One of my top priorities is to meet the needs of women Veterans," said Secretary Shinseki. "Our Veterans have

earned the very best care. VA realizes that women Veterans require specialized programs, and this study will help the VA provide high-quality care for women Veterans of the Vietnam era."

The study, which begins in November and lasts more than four years, will contact approximately 10,000 women in a mailed survey, telephone interview and a review of their medical

See Women Vets, page 2



This 11x17-inch poster, designed by George Eldridge has been sent to the PAO of National, Keith King who has informed us that it will possibly be available on the VVA web site and in the Veteran newspaper. Eldridge, as co-PAO for the State Council will distribute it to the California Chapters.