



CHAPTER 391
Tuolumne County, California

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
GUERRILLAS IN THE MIST

Vietnam Veterans - Chapter 391

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VVA-391 wins three awards at convention



Cher Brandt, VVA-391 president, and Dan Brown, the immediate past president, accept the second consecutive Biennial Chapter of the Year Award at the 12th California State Council Convention held in Fresno.

Photo by George Eldridge

At the 12th Biennial Convention of the California State Council (CSC) for the Vietnam Veterans of America Corporation (VVA) held this June 3-6 in Fresno, the Sonora **VVA Chapter 391** was named *Chapter of the Year* plus it received two other awards (*Newsletter of the Year* and *Web Site of the Year*).

The presentations were made by Robert Johnston, then president of the CSC. This is the second consecutive time that VVA Chapter 391 has been awarded the title of *Chapter of the Year*. The Chapter has doubled its membership since the last award and has made several achievements in 2010 including the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" (WHVVD) Parade in March. California was the first state to pass a bill for WHVVD and Sonora was the first city in the country to have a parade to welcome home the Vietnam veterans. The Chapter is the 7th largest chapter in the nation and the largest in California.. They do a lot to help the Tuolumne community as evidenced by their raising over \$130,000 and giving back \$128,000 to Tuolumne County and by raising funds to build a Veterans memorial at the new Sonora VA Clinic for all veterans of all of America's wars by selling bricks which will surround the Memorial. They are planning a dedication ceremony within the next couple of months in the early evening. They still are selling bricks which can be purchased at [See Three Awards, page 7](http://www.Viet-</p>
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CSC names Black Oak Casino & Tuolumne Band "Outstanding Business Supporter of the Year at Convention in Fresno

Black Oak Casino and the Band of Tuolumne MeWuk Indians were named Outstanding Business Supporter of the Year by the California VVA State Council at their 12th Biennial Convention in Fresno.

Nominated by **VVA Chapter 391**, they pointed out that the Casino often calls upon the Chapter's Color Guard to participate in events, both groups donate to nearly every fund-raising event the Chapter holds. According to Cher Brandt, president of Chapter 391, "They both go far beyond the average supporter of veterans.."

"At times, both the Casino and the MeWuk Band which owns the Casino have donated generously to support Chapter 391 for the same project and I think it's great that they were both named for the Award," says Barry Schloffel, Finance Committee chair. He adds that the Casino even has special nights for veterans who get preferential treatment in the Casino, especially on Veterans Day. They also participate in some of Chapter 391's events such as the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Parade which was the only parade for this day in the nation. "We aren't the only organization the Casino supports. They are members of the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce and support many of their events as well as other groups in Tuolumne County," said George Eldridge, public affairs for Chapter 391.

The Chapter is planning on presenting the Award to the Casino and the MeWuk Band sometime in July.



Immediate CSC past president Robert Johnston, gives ChereBrandt, VVA-391 president the award from the CSC which she will present a later announced date to the pair of business.

Photo by George Eldridge