



**CHAPTER 391**  
*Tuolumne County, California*

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**GUERRILLAS IN THE MIST**

**Vietnam Veterans - Chapter 391**

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## Work has begun on Veterans Memorial

"We leveled out the area where the bricks are going," said Frank Smart, chairman of the Veterans Memorial for the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 391 of Sonora. According to Smart, local artist, Gereon Rios, who designed the Memorial, will begin assembling the Memorial this week. Located at the Sonora Veterans Affairs Medical Clinic on Mono Way, Smart is hoping for a dedication of the Memorial in late March or early April.

"We're going to continue to offer the bricks and pavers right up to and including the dedication day as we have an adjacent area in which to place additional bricks," Smart added. He also added that there are a couple of things that also need to be done before the dedication including a fence around two sides of the area as the third side is against the building. Because of weather and the fact that the pieces of the memorial have not arrived on schedule is the reason for the delay. It was hoped that the Memorial would be installed by February.

The VVA Chapter began offering the bricks several months ago in order to finance the more than \$25,000 needed to finance the Memorial. The bricks will surround the Memorial which will be located where the flagpole is located at the front of the clinic. "We've come a long way since we started.

We have one of the area's finest artists, Gereon Rios, to design it, and now we've started on the assembly," said George Eldridge, public affairs for VVA-391. He points out that veterans from several states will be memorialized with bricks at the Memorial including New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas, Missouri, Minnesota, and several others. The Memorial honors all veterans from all eras and



*Frank Smart and Bob Walker level the ground where the bricks will be placed. Gereon Rios has begun assembling the Memorial.*

all services including the Merchant Marines. At present, we have veterans honored from as far back as the Civil War with a soldier from the Confederate Army. "Most of the country's major conflicts are represented, but I'm hoping that we get some veterans representing other conflicts such as Panama,

*See Memorial, page 7*

## City Council approves Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade

At Tuesday's meeting of the Sonora City Council, California and Sonora became the first and only State and City to honor Vietnam veterans on Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day with a Parade. California became the first state to sign a bill making March 30 of every year as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (WHVVD).

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 391 of Sonora is organizing the parade being sponsored by the community. According to George Eldridge, a

Vietnam Veteran and chair of the event, "This parade has garnered a lot of attention in Sonora and California. We already have more than 10 sponsors. Sunday, March 28 is an important day for Vietnam Veterans everywhere." He reports that a contingent of VVA-989 in Reno, Nevada, is sending a group down to Sonora to march in the parade along with a group from San Francisco, Special Forces of the Army Chapter 23. He says there has been response from others in California who will attend the pa-

rade. Eldridge is meeting with CalTrans' Alan Roberts on March 3 to discuss the permit for the parade.

One of the City Council members stated that Sonora should be proud to honor its Vietnam Veterans home from a war that ended over 40 years ago. According to Eldridge, this parade will heal a lot of old wounds and show the community's support for all veterans.

There will be other celebrations in California in honor of WHVVD in such

*See Parade approved, page 2*