



Dennis Haines - 5/1/48
Russell Yoder - 5/3/41
Richard Feaster - 5/6/34
James Brown - 5/8/47
Lonnie Dickson - 5/8/47
Daniel Hogan - 5/9/47
Gordon Link - 5/10/34
Ron Shedd - 5/10/48
Thomas Richmond - 5/12/48
Israel DeHerrera - 5/13/46
Frank Smart - 5/14/40
Russell Tait - 5/14/45
John Baldwin II - 5/15/45
Bob Westgate - 5/15/49
Robert Erz - 5/15/55
Dave Chovanak - 5/16/46
Tony Benites - 5/17/42
Vern Simpson - 5/17/43
Will Bendix - 5/17/48
Daniel Brown - 5/18/44
Pete Martin Sr. - 5/19/47
Gary Jarvis - 5/22/51
George Eldridge - 5/24/43
Don Stephenson - 5/24/44
Marcus Daniel - 5/24/54
Larry Scamara - 5/25/47
Rich Rainey - 5/27/45
Ronnie Hobbs - 5/29/46
Terral Strange - 5/29/49
Ford Canutt - 5/31/48

AVVA

Alice Davis - 5/5
Angela Brown - 5/6
Kathy Davis - 5/12
Sandra Atwood - 5/22
Roberta Miller - 5/23
Shelley Coit - 5/24
Cynthia Schwoerer - 5/26

NAMI assisting with PTSD

The Vietnam Veterans of America California State Council had their State-wide meeting in Fresno April 23-25. The various Committee Chairs held meetings and presented topics of interest including: Veterans Benefits, Women Veterans, In-carcerated Veterans and Veterans Courts, Agent Orange, Public Affairs, Minority Affairs & Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the impact on the Veteran's families and the communities in CA.

NAMI CA was approached by the CSC of the VVA and invited to participate in this Full State Conference to entertain the partnering of each organization and their overlapping missions to serve our communities. Both organizations reach out



Russ Sempell and Patrice Maniaci, founders of NAMI Front Line. Their web site is at www.FrontLineNAMI.org.

to support, educate, and advocate for their constituents and their families. NAMI CA's Executive Director Trula M. LaCalle, Ph.D. and Board of Director and Veterans Chair, Charlie Hearn were honored to be approached by these Vietnam war veterans.

NAMI Kern County's FRONT LINE founders, Russ Sempell and Patrice Maniaci were deployed by NAMI CA to serve on the PTSD break out session and participate in the day's full conference session. Sempel and Maniaci of Bakersfield said, "We were warmly welcomed by the California State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America and felt like we enthusiastically joined forces with our overlapping missions to serve both our Vietnam veterans as well as all war era veterans (particularly our Afghanistan and Iraq veterans and our Global War on Terror (GWOT) veterans) and their families. To our pleasant surprise, most of the approximate 60+ participants were already name familiar with NAMI," Sempell said.. "This is a great opportunity for our Chapter Affiliates statewide to join forces at the local affiliate level to reach out to support each other and their families," said Maniaci.

The official publication of the VVA State Council, The California Zephyr, Spring 2010 edition features an article by PTSD Committee Chair, Henry Iasiello, who states, "I'm trying to work with NAMI here in CA supporting their efforts to work with the stigma of mental health, support training for families and caregivers and opposing the further raiding of MHSA funds (Mental Health Service Act – Prop63) by Gov. Arnold" Included in Iasiello's article is a reference to CA State Law mandating that a "Veterans Advocate be seated on County Mental Health Advisory Boards." He followed in his column with letters to support and maintain MHSA funding from NAMI Santa Clara President, Clara Williamson and Executive Director of NAMI CA Trula M. LaCalle, Ph.D. The web is www.namicalifornia.org.



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VVA-391 MEMBER