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Reflections

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A Newsletter about the Vietnam Unit Monument Memorial
at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California

Dear family, friends, shipmates and supporters of the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Wishing you all a wonderful season filled with joy and happiness. Your ongoing support of veterans, family and friends is greatly appreciated.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To establish a monument that brings honor and remembrance to those U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard sailors who gave their lives at sea, in the air, and on coastal and inland waters during the Vietnam War (1960-1975).

To respectfully maintain the hallowed monument and grounds for thoughtful reflection on the sacrifices made by our military men and women during all wars, past and future, while protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

To serve as a bridge between sailors of the Vietnam War era and those on current active duty, such that the courage, dedication, and the sacrifices made by all are honorably and perpetually linked by the spirit of naval service.



“After the Parade”

Those of you who were among the 800+ attendees at the dedication of the Memorial in May 2005 may remember Chaplain Captain Lester L. Westling, CHC, USN (ret) who provided the invocation and benediction at the ceremony. He has also been a regular contributor to the VUMMF. He served tours with the Marines, Army and Navy in Vietnam. He has written a book for troops, veterans and families titled “After the Parade” about adjustments confronting Military Personnel and their families. It is available through booksellers such as Amazon.com or the Hillwood Publishing Co, Fairfield, CA.

VUMMF TREASURER'S REPORT **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014**

Each year, we are pleased to use the newsletter to report results of our financial operations for the year. This article reports the results for our approaching 2014 year end. The Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Fund (VUMMF) is a federal 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization and is registered with the state of California as a tax exempt organization. We file annually the required tax returns with both the federal and state government. Our policy is open and transparent financial transactions and activity.

Our donors again made generous contributions to the organization in 2014, and we express our sincere thanks for your support. At the time of this writing your 2014 contributions totaled \$ 15,521.00. We earned an additional \$ 375.00 in interest income on CD investments.

Our expenses for the year are forecasted to be \$ 11,824.00. As our donors, we would like to share with you how your contribution dollars are spent and provide you with the following analysis:

- **Memorial maintenance** constitutes 28% of our annual expenses. This includes flag replacement, additional memorial panels, and minor miscellaneous expenses.
- **Grounds maintenance** constitutes 18% of our annual expenses. This includes fertilizer and other chemicals, lawn mowing equipment and fuel, and an annual aeration treatment for the grassy area.
- We maintain a small **ships store inventory** with VUMMF memorabilia for sale and to promote our organization. In 2014 our inventory purchases constituted 18% of expenses. Ships store sales are reported as VUMMF revenue.

- We use our **newsletters** as a primary means of communicating our activities to donors. Printing, publishing, and mailing cost of the newsletter constitute 17% of our expenses.
- We are required by the Navy to maintain a **general liability insurance policy** for the memorial grounds. The premium payment for this policy constitutes 14% of our expenses.
- **Other administrative expenses** such as postage, website maintenance, and other miscellaneous items constitute the remaining 5% of our expenses.

In summary, for 2014, 95% of our spending was for expenses directly related to memorial maintenance and longevity. We pay no salaries or other type of compensation fees to directors or members.

In any year, cash contributions received in excess of expenses are placed in liquid investments (CD's) and used for major capital improvements. For example, in 2013 we spent slightly over \$ 11,000.00 for a major refurbishment of the concrete memorial wall.

Again, we express our **sincere appreciation** to our donor base for contributions and hope we've helped you understand where your donation dollars are spent.

Don Farrell-Treasurer-VUMMF



Graduation ceremony at CCB.



The San Diego Maritime Museum recently acquired a Swift Boat, similar to the one on display at the Memorial. It is on display and available for narrated tours of San Diego bay, where the history of the boat and its mission in Vietnam is presented as part of the tour. Information on availability of these tours can be found at the museum website: www.sdmaritime.org