



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Redwood Empire Chapter #223
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November 13, 2017

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1071
Leonard Smith, Treasurer

Dear Leonard,

We want to thank you for your generous, tax deductible donation of a check for \$1,000.00 as part of our Northern California Wildfire Assistance. Your kindness is appreciated and rest assured that the funds raised from your donation will be used to further our veterans impacted by these disastrous fires.

We started working the day after the Northern California Wildfires broke out and when the Red Cross was overwhelmed, VVA Chapter 223 along with Amvets Post 40 and Healdsburg, CA VFW Post 768 took over the responsibility to ensure that all those in need were supplied with food, clothing, water, and valuable gift cards. The Commander of VFW Post 768 (a former Navy Corpsman) was responsible for setting up the medical unit in the Evacuation Center. She is an Iraqi combat vet and is responsible for saving many lives during this horrible crisis. To date, we have supplied over \$27,000 in assistance and although the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building has now closed as an Evacuation Center we continue to seek out those in need and make sure they are taken care of. It was very apparent that in a crisis you want people that are use to operating in a stressful environment. Our veteran community took the leadership role and worked together assisting all who came to the Evacuation Center. Listed below are some of the other projects we have undertaken this year.

The packing was completed with the help of about 100 volunteers on January 25, 2017 at St. Johns Church, as we again partnered with Healdsburg SOS (Serving Our Soldiers – a grass roots organization dedicated to ensuring that our service men and women are not forgotten). VVA Chapter 223 has paid the postage to ship 218 “care” packages to the recently deployed troops of the 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colorado. With some substantial postage fee increases this year it cost \$4,021.00 to ship all the boxes. January also saw us receiving a grant from the California State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America. We turned that grant back to the CA State Council to help pay for the various Veterans Service Officers around the state.

March 2017 saw us assisting a woman veteran with housing and food as she tried to find shelter this rainy season. We were also able to assist this same veteran repair her car so she could remain mobile. We made a donation to the Veterans Resource Center as part of their Dancing with the Stars and Stripes fundraising efforts.

April has seen us make a contribution to the Avon 39 Walk Against Breast Cancer.

During May we once again were able to hand out education scholarships totaling \$3,000 to 6 deserving graduating high school seniors. The chapter provided funds to purchase a new Ice Machine for the Santa Rosa Veterans Building along with a spare set of flags to replace the ones stolen earlier in the year. We also were able to assist a disabled Marine Corp Afghan vet pay his household expenses and provide a Safeway gift card for food. We sponsored a town hall meeting with the Veterans Administration to discuss issues with medical care and procedures.

June saw us assist the Veterans Group of San Quentin Prison in paying for incidentals for their July 2017 awards banquet. Chapter 223 manages the money the vets raise through their in-prison food sales.

VVA Chapter 223 is a 501(c)(19) Non-Profit Veterans Corporation
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July had us providing assistance to another homeless Air Force veteran by providing lodging, food, gas, and clothing assistance while he looked for a job.

August saw us make a donation to Catholic Charities to assist them in their homeless programs including the Safe Parking Lot program.

September started by assisting the family of one of our recently deceased chapter members by paying for having their 2016 income taxes completed.

November has seen us provide construction services on the home of one of our deceased Chapter members. We were also able to sign an agreement with the Redwood Empire Food Bank to be able to purchase food directly from the food bank for veterans in need at savings of up to 90%.

We continue to provide free coffee and donuts at the Santa Rosa VA Clinic each weekday morning. We also sponsor a community food distribution program in conjunction with Redwood Empire Food Bank to over 400 family members in need each month. We continue to work the Santa Rosa Quilters Guild to provide blankets to our wheelchair bound veterans. Over the past couple of years we have provided over 1600 quilt blankets to our wheelchair bound veterans.

Without people like you it would be impossible to carry out our Chapters' efforts and not live up to our shared motto of "never again will one generation of veterans abandon another".

On behalf of VVA Chapter 223, thank you once again.

Sincerely,



William T. Burke
Treasurer
Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 223