



VETERANS SUMMER CELEBRATION AND PICNIC



**July 28, 2012
Los Angeles National Veterans Home**

HOSTED BY



REGION 9

**California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah,
Colorado, Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines**



**Dick Southern
Region 9 Director**

“MEET AND GREET”



Patriot Ambassador Ted Hayes greeted Veterans while military music played in the background.



Rafer Johnson & Ken Hughey, ~ Stephen Sherman ~ Stephanie Stone & Terence Lyons



May Robinson, Brentwood resident is greeted by Patriot Ambassador Ted Hayes, while Brentwood resident and World War II Veteran Bill Earn and wife Louise enjoy the festivities

LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!



Ted Hayes, Master of Ceremony



The twin-hanging American Flags are symbolic of the newly installed Veterans "Grand Old Flag Memorial along Wilshire and San Vicente Boulevards that embrace the largest VA Home in the Nation.

VETERANS "GRAND OLD FLAG MEMORIAL"



OPENING CEREMONY



Stephen Sherman, 91-year old disabled World War II Veteran, leads the singing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, while 74-year old Larry Kegel, Vietnam-era Veteran, gives the Military Salute.

INVOCATION



Chaplain Roger Reitan, Disabled American Veterans, offers a prayer of gratitude, courage and fellowship.

WELCOME!



Dick Southern
Vietnam Veterans of America, Region 9 Director,
welcomes Fellow Veterans and Friends of Veterans
and re-dedicates the Veterans “Grand Old Flag Memorial.”
VVA Region 9 Hosted the Veterans Summer Celebration and is
the Presenting Sponsor of the Veterans “Grand Old Flag Memorial.”

“YOU’RE A GRAND OLD FLAG”



Dick Southern departs the stage while Ted Hayes leads the crowd in singing “You’re A Grand Old Flag”

Leadership ~ Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs)



Art Lyles

President, Paralyzed Veterans Association, State of California



Howard Hernandez

Commander, American G.I. Forum, State of California

The Veterans Summer Celebration was abound with leadership and representation from many of the VSO’s including speakers Ray Delgado, AMVETS California State Commander and Pedro Delgado Senior Vice Commander, Disabled American Veterans - Chapter 13.

Other VSO’s and Veteran advocate organizations who had members present were the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of Purple Heart, Native American Veterans Association, and the Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Commission.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Talitha Davies Wegner

Wife of Vietnam Veteran Bill Wegner paid special tribute to all Veterans who selflessly gave so much to our country while defending the American Flag.



Carolina Winston Barrie

The Matriarch of the descendants of Arcadia B. de Baker, one of the patriotic land grantors who donated 600 acres in 1888 to the U.S. Government, in accordance with an Act of Congress, to construct and permanently maintain a National Home for Disabled Soldiers. This is the largest VA facility in the nation.



Rafer Johnson

America's Legendary Olympic Decathlon Champion was the Team Captain and Flag Bearer of the 1960 U.S. Olympic Team and carried the Olympic Torch to light the Cauldron opening the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Rafer is Founding Chair of the Special Olympics of Southern California; served in the National Guard during the Vietnam era and is author of the book, "The Best That I Can Be."



Well-wishers greeted and thanked Rafer after his heartfelt talk about carrying the American Flag at the Opening Ceremonies of the 1960 Rome Olympic Games and his love of Country and respect for those who have defended our Freedom. The American Flags seen in the background during his speech are part of the Veterans "Grand Old Flag Memorial" that Rafer helped to dedicate on Flag Day.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Colonel Ken Hughey (Ret. USAF)
Ex-POW and Veteran of the Vietnam War**

Ken enlisted in the Air Force at the age of 17, eventually climbing to become a combat fighter pilot achieving the rank of Colonel.

Ken's fighter pilot experience includes 564 combat missions in Vietnam. While leading a flight of F-4 Phantoms over North Viet Nam, he was shot down by Anti-aircraft Artillery and was taken prisoner. As a POW, Ken was transferred between four prisons over six years, including the Ha Noi Hilton, spending 14 months in a one-man cell, of which five months was in complete isolation. His wife did not know he was alive until after 3 1/2 years of his captivity. She had to wait in the silent hope that he survived being shot down, then wait another 2 1/2 years for his release. She now stands proudly by his side, as she has for 58 years.

Ken's Military Decorations include: Two silver Stars; Legion of Merit; Three distinguished Flying Crosses; Two Bronze Stars; Thirty air Medals; and Four Purple Hearts.



Veterans thank and congratulate Col. Hughey as he departs the stage. His talk of being held captive for so many years and the courage and camaraderie that enabled them to survive was extremely moving and inspiring, but also brought tears.

FIRING UP THE GRILLS!



AMVETS, Post 2 – CULVER CITY



HOT DOGS AND HAMBURGERS



FRANCISCO JUAREZ, AMVETS GRILLING CHEF

Everyone thought Francisco was holding a magic wand in his hand because he seemed to accomplish the impossible with a limited amount of grilling equipment and on such short notice. Nobody left hungry as Francisco kept the hot dogs, hamburgers and baked beans rolling off the grill. A big thanks to AMVETS, Post 2, Culver City, who really gave their all with selfless volunteer service. Ray Delgado, AMVETS California State Commander was making non-stop trips in his new pickup truck for supplies that kept the chow line moving.

EAT, DRINK AND BE FRIENDLY



APPLE JUICE AND LEMONADE



SINCE 1868
Martinelli's
GOLD MEDAL®

ATTENDEES ENJOYED A PEACEFUL PICNIC UNDER 125-YEAR OLD BANYAN TREES PLANTED BY VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



**“ONE GENERATION PLANTS TREES
AND ANOTHER ENJOYS THE SHADE.”**
Chinese Proverb

LOS ANGELES NATIONAL VETERANS HOME
Established March 5, 1888

FOOD AND BEVERAGE SPONSORS



VitaCoco Coconut Water



Bottled Spring Water

Cory's Kitchen

Donated 500 Hot Dogs & Buns

LA Spice Catering

Donated Chocolate Chip Cookies

INFORMATION BOOTHS

“KNOWLEDGE IS POWER”

Sir Francis Bacon



(L) Davies Wegner Law Firm offered assistance for setting up personal and family trusts.
(R) Paralyzed Veterans of America offered information on their organization



(L) U.S. Army Public Affairs offered information on career opportunities in the Army.
(R) Disabled American Veterans offered information and assistance for Veterans with disabilities



(L) Chase Bank offered information and assistance for Veterans on opening free banking accounts.
(R) Associated Construction Services offered information and assistance for Veterans to reduce utility bills.



OPERATION GRATITUDE

The extremely philanthropic and patriotic organization gave away more than 500 "CARE" packages at the Celebration, just like the ones they've been sending to our Troops in harm's way for more than a decade. Many took the packages to share with homeless Veterans.

Operation Gratitude offered information on helping support our Troops including donations and sending personalized letters expressing our appreciation for their honorable duty to our country.

“GOD BLESS AMERICA”



AMVETS, Post 2 of Culver City offered a wide variety of information and a message of Thanks that everyone sang as the Celebration came to an end “God Bless America.”

DAY IS DONE



The Master of Ceremonies departs the stage after the playing of “Taps” to close the Celebration.

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Fading light, dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night.

Thanks and praise, for our days,
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, neath the sky;
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

Sun has set, shadows come,
Time has fled, Scouts must go to their beds
Always true to the promise that they made.

While the light fades from sight,
And the stars gleaming rays softly send,
To thy hands we our souls, Lord, commend.

A BIG THANKS!



(L) Rafer Johnson, Guest Speaker
(R) Col. Ken Hughey, Keynote Speaker
(Far Right) Carolina Winston Barrie, Guest Speaker



Ted Hayes, Master of Ceremonies

SPECIAL THANKS

Ms. Dominga Valentino, Office of Asset Management,
Department of Veterans Affairs

VETERANS SUMMER CELEBRATION AND PICNIC

Veteran Leadership Speakers

- **Dick Southern ~ Vietnam Veterans of America, Region 9 Director**
- **Art Lyles ~ State President, Paralyzed Veterans Association**
- **Ray Delgado ~ State Commander, AMVETS**
- **Howard Hernandez ~ State Commander, American GI Forum**
- **Pedro A. Delgado ~ Senior Vice Commander, Disabled American Veterans - Chapter 13**

Guest Speakers

- **Rafer Johnson, Legendary Olympic Decathlon Champion**
- **Carolina Winston Barrie, Matriarch of the family who Deeded this property in 1888**
- **Talitha Davies Wegner, wife of Vietnam-era Veteran**

Keynote Speaker

- **Colonel Ken Hughey (Ret. USAF) ~ Ex-POW and Veteran of the Vietnam War**

Food and Beverage Sponsors

- **Martinelli's Apple Juice and Lemonade**
- **Whole Foods – Brentwood ~ Potato Chips and Bottled Water**
- **VitaCoco Coconut Water**
- **Cory's Kitchen, Hot Dogs and Buns**
- **LA Spice Catering, Chocolate Chip Cookies**

Information Booths

- **Operation Gratitude**
- **U.S. Army Public Affairs**
- **Paralyzed Veterans Association, State of California**
- **Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 13, San Fernando Valley**
- **AMVETS, Post 2, Culver City**

- **Davies Wegner Law Firm**
- **Chase Bank, West Los Angeles**
- **“Brentwood News”**
- **ACS Group – Associated Construction Services**

Public Relations

Frank Holguin and Associates



I WANT YOU

**TO VOLUNTEER FOR NEXT YEAR'S
VETERANS SUMMER CELEBRATION AND PICNIC**

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