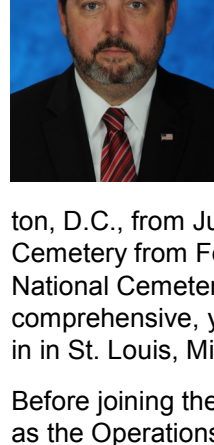




NEW DIRECTOR FOR SVNC



Michael Henshaw was named Director of Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, effective December 25, 2016. He is responsible for all administrative, burial and maintenance operations.

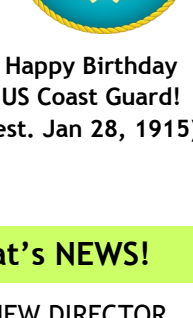
He was previously Director of Chattanooga National Cemetery. He was also assigned to the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Office of Field Programs in Washington, D.C., from July 2015, as director of Dayton National Cemetery from February 2014 and director of Camp Butler National Cemetery from August 2013. He completed the NCA comprehensive, year-long Cemetery Director Intern Program in St. Louis, Missouri in July 2013.

Before joining the Department of Veterans Affairs, he served as the Operations Officer for the Joint Mortuary Affairs Center at Ft. Lee, Va, where he deployed to Haiti as the DOD liaison to the Departments of State and Health and Human Services, where he led the search, recovery, identification and repatriation effort for all American citizens killed during the January 2010 earthquake. He subsequently served as the Emergency Management Officer for the Navy in Naples, Italy.

Mr. Henshaw retired from the U.S. Army in 2009 after 25 years of service, where he served as a mortuary affairs non-commissioned officer in charge of missing in action (MIA) search and recovery teams responsible for locating, recovering and repatriating the remains of U.S. Service Members missing overseas from World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War. He also served as the operations officer for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command detachments in Vientiane, Laos and Hanoi, Vietnam, and as the logistics advisor and senior team sergeant in the Chosin Reservoir area in North Korea.

Mr. Henshaw led one of only two U.S. forensics teams deployed to recover and identify the remains of all American citizens killed during the 2004 South Asia Tsunami. He is a Veteran of both Operations Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm. His last combat assignment was 2007-2008 as a military advisor on a specialized 11-man team embedded with an Iraqi Army Infantry Battalion at Combat Outpost Scorpion in Mosul, Iraq.

Mr. Henshaw was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His other awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Air Assault Badge, Combat Action Badge and numerous other awards and campaign medals.



Happy Birthday
US Coast Guard!
(est. Jan 28, 1915)

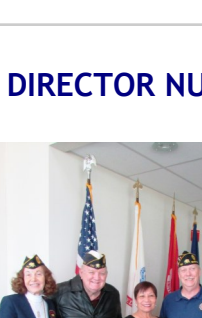
What's NEWS!

- NEW DIRECTOR FOR SVNC
- TAPS: SVNC MOURNS FOUNDER OF SVNCSC HONOR TEAM
- DIRECTOR NUNEZ RECEIVES AWARDS
- AMERICAN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX AWARDS
- PRE-NEED PLANNING
- PRESIDENT'S SITREP

SVNCSC Calendar

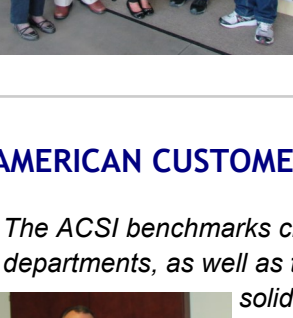
- ◆ New Years Day (cemetery open)
January 1, 2017
- ◆ WREATHS CLEAN UP All Day
January 14, 2017
- ◆ Martin Luther King JR Day (cemetery open)
January 16, 2017
- ◆ Presidents' Day (cemetery open)
February 20, 2017

TAPS: SVNC MOURNS FOUNDER OF SVNCSC HONOR TEAM



Andy Derflinger passed away suddenly on December 29, 2016. Andy was the founder and Commanding Officer of the SVNCSC Honor Team and could be found rendering honors to veterans throughout Northern California. He provided such a great service while keeping a positive spirit throughout the process. Andy was an active member of the SVNCSC and provided valuable insight into fundraising and other activities. He worked tirelessly to fundraise for his honor team and this provided the needed training and uniforms. Many community members knew of Andy and called him for advice regarding honors and other veterans activities. He was a US Navy veteran (AO2) and served on various ships to include the USS Forestall (CVA59). He was laid to rest at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery with full military honors.

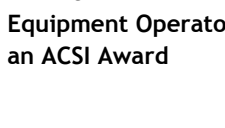
DIRECTOR NUNEZ RECEIVES AWARDS



American Legion Reams Post 182 members Laurence Stahl, Post Commander; John Aldridge, Chaplain; Edna & Fred Barnes paid a very special visit to the Director of SVNC, Cynthia Nunez. Their mission was to recognize the many years of service she provided to our nations veterans. "What an honor and a privilege," said Ms. Nunez. They presented her with a certificate of appreciation as well as two very special challenge coins. One of the coins is on display in the SVNC cabinets. Come by and see!

AMERICAN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION (ACSI) INDEX AWARDS

The ACSI benchmarks citizen satisfaction for a multitude of federal agencies and departments, as well as two high-usage services of local governments (police and solid waste management). In 1999 the federal government selected the ACSI to be a standard metric for measuring citizen satisfaction. Now, over a decade later, ACSI coverage of federal government continues to grow...All told, the ACSI measures citizen satisfaction with over 100 services, programs, and websites of federal government agencies. (website: www.theacsi.org)



Assistant Director Mike Brophy presents Joe Laxamana, Equipment Operator an ACSI Award

In recognition of contributions to the National Cemetery Administration's achievement of attaining the highest rating on the ACSI for the sixth time, all SVNC staff received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Ronald E. Walters, Interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

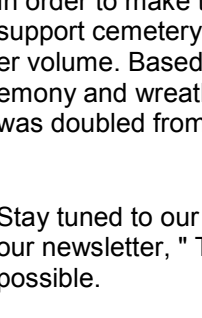
PRE-NEED PLANNING

Many folks have asked, "What can I do to plan for my burial in the future?" NCA now has the ability to allow requesters to submit qualifying service information (i.e. discharge documents, DD214, etc.) to the VA for evaluation for burial benefits. These documents may be submitted prior to the Time of Need so folks can plan for their burial benefits. Below is a link to the form needed to submit along with your supporting documents.

<http://vawww.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>

Once NCA received your documents they provide the requester a letter indicating their eligibility. If you have further questions regarding pre-need planning please feel free to call the office.

PRESIDENT'S SITREP



Another year has past. We begin the year anew. 2017.

With every new year, we hope for one better than the last. For the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Support Committee (SVNCSC), that means reaching out to the community with greater efficiency, to inform veterans and their families and friends how we honor those interred at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery. To better serve those who run the cemetery and keep it the amazing place that the community and families of those interred here feel a sense of warmth and pride.

SVNCSC President Frank Romo

In order to make this happen, we must rely on the community to participate in and support cemetery services and the Support Committee fundraising events in greater volume. Based on the number of attendees at the Wreaths Across America ceremony and wreath laying, I feel it is already happening. I believe our attendance was doubled from last year. Truly amazing. Thank you all.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page, our website, www.svncsc.org, and of course our newsletter, "The Dog Tag", for ways you can be involved. With you, all this is possible.

For our next event of the new year, please come join us to remove and recycle the wreaths on Saturday, January 14th starting at 8:00am (or daylight). This event will last until all the wreaths are picked up. Thank you all for your support at 100% coverage of the whole cemetery!



Please visit our website at: <http://svncsc.org/>



Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Sacramento-Valley-National-Cemetery-Support-Committee-352715335164/?fref=ts>

The DOG TAG is a publication of the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Support Committee and is published bi-monthly (JAN, MAR, MAY, JUL, SEP, NOV)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at webmaster@svncsc.org or call 707-693-2460

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery
5810 Midway Road, Dixon, California 95620
Office: (707) 693-2460
Fax: (707) 693-2479

Information on burial arrangements:
National Cemetery Scheduling Office 1-800-535-1117