

# Porterville College Veterans Resource Center Newsletter

Fall 2019 Update



## VRC Events & Announcements!



### Porterville College Held Their Fourth Annual PC Salutes Our Veterans

The Porterville College Veterans Resource Center held their fourth annual PC Salutes our Veterans event early November with a great turnout from staff, students, members of the community, and local veteran organizations.

The PC Salutes our Veterans ceremony commemorates Porterville College student veterans as well as veterans from the community.

The American Legion Post 20 Honor Guard began the event with the Presentation of Colors. Edgar Garcia PC student veteran led the flag salute, and the PC choir sang the national anthem, followed with the invocation by Chaplain George Hanson member of the VFW Post 9499.

This year's guest speaker Roland Hill Assessor/Clerk-Recorder for County of Tulare, Vietnam Veteran, and PC Alumni shared his humorous story of why he was drafted and how anthropology was to blame.

Over a dozen local veteran organizations attended the event including U.S Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Central California Health Care System, and AM Vets were among the many offering their services.



Pictured: Roland Hill Guest Speaker

During the ceremony, attendees had the opportunity to meet with the various organizations for information on veteran benefits including health care and employment assistance.

Veterans were also invited to add their name, military branch, and years of service to the PC's Veteran Honor Board, which will be on display in the Veterans Resource Center throughout the year.



# PC Salutes Our Veterans

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Nearly one hundred students, staff, and members of the community were in attendance at this year's PC Salute Our Veterans ceremony. Local veteran organizations and interested guest speakers are already lining up for next year's ceremony, which has now become a staple of Veterans Day events in Porterville.



Pictured from left to right: Maria Roman, Rachel Vallejo, Dr. Gregory South, Erin Cruz, Andrea Anaya, Rachael Ray



Pictured from left to right: Erin Cruz, Maria Roman

During the ceremony, Rachael Ray Field Representative for Assembly member Devon J. Mathis, presented the VRC team with a certificate of recognition for their dedication to the Veterans of Porterville College.



# PC Salutes Our Veterans

Thomas Bear PC student veteran and Steve Bolt dependent of a fallen Vietnam veteran played the United States Armed Forces Melody to honor the active servicemen and women, reservists and veterans.

The dual also played "Taps" before the presentation of the Fallen Hero's table in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Fallen Hero's table is reserved to honor our fallen comrades in arms. This symbolizes that they are with us in spirit.

The table is square showing the many sides or facets of our military: mother or father, sister or brother, daughter or son, and citizen hero.

The table cloth is white symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of our fallen comrades, and the loved ones and friends of these comrades who keep the faith.



Pictured: The Fallen Hero's Table



Pictured from left to right: Trumpeter Steve Bolt and Thomas Bear. PC choir stands in the background.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to remember those who have fallen.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate reminds us of the bitter fate of those who will never return.

The salt symbolizes the tears endured by the families of those who have sacrificed all.

The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us at this time.

The chair is empty because they are no longer with us.

We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured the agonies of pain, deprivation and death.



# Veterans Day Parade

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Pictured: PC Veterans with their families along with PC Vet to Vet mentors



Pictured: PC Veteran Cady Edwards

During the week leading up to Veterans day, PC student veterans, staff, and community members put together and decorated their float for the annual Veterans Day Parade. This years theme was "America and Why we Love Her."



Pictured: Veteran Don Cox. Don volunteers his time to help student veterans with the float.



Pictured: Vet to Vet mentor Richard Osborne and SVO VP Adam Silvey

PC student veterans bring home the money for the 2nd year in a row! Porterville College Veteran's float won first place at the Porterville Veterans Day Parade. They were awarded a check in the amount of \$500.00 and a trophy. Congratulations PC Vets!



# VRC Outreach Events

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Porterville American Stand Down



Porterville Apple Festival



Tule River Stand Down



Porterville Veterans Parade



Lake Success National Lands Day

The Veterans Resource center team and members of the SVO have been hard at work reaching out to veterans in the community and getting them enrolled at Porterville College. The number of students in the VRC has been steadily growing and will continue to increase as we reach out to more and more veterans in the community.



# VRC Activities

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## Friendsgiving



The VRC host its first Friendsgiving for student veterans, veterans of the community, and PC employees.

## SVO visits the Porterville American Legion Post 20



The SVO received a generous donation from the American Legion Post 20 to help fund their t-shirt fundraiser.

Thank you American Legion Post 20!

## VRC Region V



VRC Region V members join their colleagues at Bakersfield College to celebrate the opening of their newly built VRC.



# VRC Visitors

## Porterville College Child Development Center



Porterville College Child Development Center donated a jar full of coins to the VRC. The money will be used to purchase two "Mikes Passes" which will be given to first-semester PC veteran students. Thank you PC Child Development Center!

## American Veterans (AMVETS)



Jeff Lukens Central Area Commander for AMVETS visits the VRC regularly keeping student veterans well informed on new veteran programs available throughout the county.

## Family Health Care Network



FHCN donates 25 water bottles to the VRC. Lessa Rojas former PC student veteran and Family Health Care Network Rep. stops in the VRC monthly to help connect veterans and their families with health coverage and other community agencies.



## In the Spot Light: John Anthony, Former PC Student Veteran

Served in the US Marine Corps and decided to continue his education at Porterville College majoring in Mathematics. He graduated in May 2019 and transferred to Cal Poly Pomona where is majoring in Pure Math. His goal is to work at NASA.

While at Porterville College, John was an active member in the Veterans Club serving as Vice-President; he also worked as a math tutor in the Tutoring Center and assisted his fellow comrades in the Veterans Resource Center. John was active in the PC choir, many times volunteering his time singing in a variety of events. He also loved to perform on stage and was involved with the Barn Theatre in "Rocky Horror Show, Unser the direction of Gordy and Wendy Plaisted."

John's transition from Porterville College to Cal Poly Pomona was easier than he expected. The course rigor is about the same. "I thought that because I was transferring to a university that the classes were going to be more difficult but they are about the same." He indicated the math department at PC really prepared him for the math that he is taking. "GPA matters, it's difficult to maintain a high GPA but that helped me to get accepted in the Electrical Engineering." The Veterans Resource Center at both Porterville College and Cal Poly Pomona are similar. "They are both friendly and really care about Veterans. They make you feel at home." John lives off campus and roommates with another veteran. "Sharing the living expenses is a must for this area."

Cal Poly Pomona has a program called Horses to Heroes; John was selected to participate. His horse's name is Sprite like the soda. John can feed, groom and take the horse for walks. John enjoys spending time with Sprite. "I had mid-terms last week and was nervous about the tests, so I spent time with Spirit and it calmed me."



# Support the Veterans Resource Center!

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There are a few easy ways you can help the Porterville College Veterans:

- **Make a donation at the business office**

Stop by the business office in the AC building and let them know you'd like to make a donation to the VRC. Cash or check are accepted.

- **Fill out a payroll donation form and donate a little each month**

You can choose to have a little (or a lot) automatically deducted from your monthly earnings and donate directly to the VRC. Believe it or not, even a \$2 or \$5 monthly contribution can make a big difference in helping us provide materials and services to the veterans. Come to the VRC or the business office to pick up a donation form. It only takes a few seconds to fill out, and you can cancel at any time.

- **Drop by the VRC and pitch in to our "Butt Can"**

Originally used for cigarette butts in the Military, our big red Butt Can is where we collect small donations to purchase supplies for the VRC like snacks and water. Student veterans usually throw in whatever loose change they have in their pocket, you are welcome to come by and do the same!

- **Bring in snacks, drinks, water bottles, and other supplies to the VRC**

We try to keep the VRC stocked with food and water bottles so the student veterans can drop in for a quick snack in between classes. Chips, granola bars, crackers, and donuts are favorites, but any snacks are welcome. If you have any leftover food or drinks from a big meeting or event, feel free to bring them by!

- **Purchase a brick for the Veterans Memorial**

Bricks are still selling for the Veterans Memorial at Porterville College. It's a great way to show how much you appreciate a veterans sacrifice. Come to the VRC for more info!

**Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and are all tax deductible!**

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