



*The Award Winning*

## ***Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter***

January 13, 2016

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu  
Malibu Rotary Club President David Zielski

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman  
Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman

In This Issue (click underlined topics for web link when connected to the Internet)

- **Last week: Wynne Ritch Talks about his experience as a Vietnam War Veteran**
- **Next Regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting January 20 in Pepperdine University Malibu Upper Drescher Graduate Campus LC 152 with fellowship at 11:30 a.m and meeting starting at 12:00 noon. This will be a Malibu Club Assembly followed by a board meeting all led by Malibu Rotary Club President David Zielski, who may also talk about his latest work as Executive Director of Raincatcher.**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher.**

Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org)

- Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)
- Rotary District 5280 Website: [www.rotary5280.org/](http://www.rotary5280.org/)
- RI President (2015-2016) K.R. Ravindran
  - Rotary District 5280 Governor (2015-2016): D.J. Sung

### Wynne Ritch Talks about his experience as a Vietnam War Veteran



Wynne Ritch carried the American Flag that was given to him as an Eagle Scout when he was 17, to Vietnam where he landed with the 1st Marine Division in 1965, when he was 20 years old. He brought the flag, and many other badges and artifacts with him when he spoke to the Malibu Rotary club on January 13.

Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary America sending troops to Vietnam the Malibu Rotary Club has had a series of programs from people who were in Vietnam 50 years ago, both Vietnamese and Americans, including our own Bill Wishard, who was in Vietnam on a peace mission at the request of it's the first President of the Republic of Vietnam Ngo Dinh Diem, before the American troops arrived at Diem was killed.

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**Wynn Ritch** was born in 1944, and has spent most of his life with the Boy Scouts. By the time he was 17 years old he had become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank a Boy Scout can be.

Three years later he was in the Marines. After he finished basic training 20 year old PFC Ritch thought he and the others with him were going to the Philippines. They found themselves on a World War II LST (Landing Ship Tank), which was a large flat bottom boat with no keel, which had the ability to land on a beach, but was very rocky, swayed side to side, in the ocean n the high seas. Wynne said that after 3 days heading toward their unannounced destination he and the soldiers were pretty see sick. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day they were told that at 4:00 a.m. they would be getting “steak and eggs, and live ammo.”

The morning of the breakfast they found out they were in Vietnam. Most of them were not familiar with Vietnam. In 1964 most of the world news having to do with enemies of the United States spoke of Cuba and Russia. There had been the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, the Cuban Missile crisis more recently, but news of Vietnam was not on the list of places that Wynne and the other soldiers that they would be.

Pfc Ritch and the others with him in that 1<sup>st</sup> Marine division were going ashore with live ammo to fight an enemy known as the Viet Cong.

Wynne said they took 30% casualties the first day—not because they were struck down by the enemy forces, but because of heat stroke. They could not handle the 106 degree heat and high humidity.

This was one of many miscalculations the American military made on how to run the war. Another was to take soldiers that had trained together and knew each other's tendencies and to split them up and reassign people with strangers whose trust and tendencies had to be relearned in their new deployment.

Wynne recalled that on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, a day he was looking forward to a the day he could have is first legal drink, he and others were flown in a helicopter to Chu Lai Marine base, near a place where Americans had a lot of casualties. Wynne had been ordered to this place because he had O negative blood and they needed some of his blood for direct transfusions to wounded soldiers.

Besides noting Wynne's blood type the medical officer noted it was Wynne's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. The officer asked Wynne if he would like a drink to celebrate and Wynne said that he would. The officer brought out a 2 ounce bottle of whiskey which was labeled "For medicinal purposes only."

Wynne said he was already a bit weak from the loss of blood but he said he never got so drunk as he got that day! The 2 ounce bottle was another one of the artifacts Wynne brought back from Vietnam. He says that sometimes his grandchildren want to see the bottle. "Why do you want to see it?" he asks them. They tell him they want to see to hear the story he tells about it.

Wynne read us some statistics about the Vietnam war and interjected some of his comments about the statistics.

Nine million veterans served during the Vietnam war but he points out there were only 9 million actually on the ground.

The peak force was in April, 1968 when there were 543,000 troops.

Of the 58,148 American troops that were killed in Vietnam about 47,000 were killed because of hostile fire and over 10,000 others died of other causes.

Wynne remembers one of the "other causes." One day his base was visited by a sergeant major, the highest ranking enlisted man in service. He had been in World War II and Korea and when the officer on the base asked if he wanted someone to drive him to his quarters he said he didn't need any help. "I'll drive myself." That was a fatal mistake. He turned over the jeep and died, becoming one of the noncombat deaths.

On November 26, 1969, President [Nixon](#) signed an amendment to the Military Selective Service Act of 1967 that established conscription based on random selection (lottery). The fourth and final lottery drawing was held on February 2, 1972, pertaining to men born in 1953, who would have been called to report for induction in 1973. But no new draft orders were issued after 1972

On March 29, 1975, President [Ford](#) signed Proclamation 4360 (Terminating Registration Procedures Under Military Selective Service Act), eliminating the registration requirement for all 18- to 25-year-old male citizens.

Wynne had a second tour of duty in Vietnam. One of his commanding officers noted the length of Wynne's service. He was 23 and married. He decided to give him one of the best duties in Vietnam, assigning him to China Beach in 1967. China Beach was a seaside resort and Wynne was able to do what he did in high school-be a lifeguard.

Wynne disagrees with Defense Secretary Robert S McNamara who said, “I gave wrong advice to President John Kennedy when I recommended we send the Marines to Vietnam.”

Agent Orange used by the military in Vietnam has produced health hazards that are seen to this day, increasing the risk of diabetes and other disease in those exposed to it.

Wynne suffers from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disease) after his discharge for the military. He wakes up with nightmares and finds himself hitting his wife. In diagnosing the disease one of the first questions asked was “How many times have you been married?” Apparently multiple marriages is common for PTSD sufferers.

Wynne Ritch had been an executive with the Boy Scouts of America for 32 years before he retires. He is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Greater Van Nuys and is also past president of another Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club.

Wynne is an authority on the works of Norman Rockwell, and owns over 200 signed Rockwell prints and has a story and artifacts to go with each Rockwell piece--newspapers of the time and stories of people in Rockwell's paintings.

Wynne was an Eagle Scout as a teenager in 1960 and following his stint in the Marines was assistant executive director of the Verdugo Hills Council of the Boy Scouts of America for 32 years. Being associated with scouting that long, it is not surprising that Wynne became familiar with the art of Norman Rockwell. Rockwell is noted for his 64-year relationship with the [Boy Scouts of America](#) (BSA), during which he produced covers for their publication *Boys' Life*, calendars, and other illustrations. These works include popular images that reflect the *Scout Oath* and *Scout Law* such as *The Scoutmaster*, *A Scout is Reverent* and *A Guiding Hand*, among many others.

The Malibu Rotary Club will be bringing Wynn Ritch back on February 24 when he will be presenting the very enlighten and entertaining program “Waking through time with Norman Rockwell.”



**Thank a veteran.** Wynne Ritch brought a collection of embroidered military caps for veterans to the Malibu Rotary Club meeting. He bought them for over \$20.00 each, and was selling them for \$10.00 each, recommending that everyone give them to a veteran to say “thanks for your service.”

## **Vietnam War: Facts, Stats & Myths**

- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.
- 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam.
- Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.
- 240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.
- The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1961. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.
- 58,148 were killed in Vietnam.
- 75,000 were severely disabled.
- 23,214 were 100% disabled.
- 5,283 lost limbs.
- 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21.
- 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.
- Of those killed, 17,539 were married.
- Average age of men killed: 23.1 years.
- Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
- The oldest man killed was 62 years old.
- As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.
- 97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged.
- 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.
  - 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.
  - Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.
  - Vietnam veterans’ personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.
  - 87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.

- There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study).
- Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison – only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.
- 85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

### **Common Vietnam War Myths Dispelled:**

**Myth:** Common belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted.

**Fact:** 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

**Myth:** The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 – 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population.

**Fact:** Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. “The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans’ group.

**Myth:** Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

**Fact:** 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book “All That We Can Be,” said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam “and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia, a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war.”

**Myth:** Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

**Fact:** Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat. 79% had a high school education or better.

**Myth:** The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

**Fact:** Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22.

None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

**Myth:** The common belief is that the domino theory was proved false.

**Fact:** The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries that won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

**Myth:** The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II.

**Fact:** The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II. 75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24 hours, died. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 and the Geneva Accords of 1962 would secure the border).

**Myth:** Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972 (shown a million times on American television) was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang.

**Fact:** No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the AP photographer, Nick Ut, who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three day battle between the

North Vietnamese Army (NVA) who occupied the village of Trang Bang and the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. Recent reports in the news media that an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. "We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF," according to Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc's brothers were killed in this incident. They were Kim's cousins not her brothers.

**Myth:** The United States lost the war in Vietnam.

**Fact:** The American military was not defeated in Vietnam. The American military did not lose a battle of any consequence. From a military standpoint, it was almost an unprecedented performance. General Westmoreland quoting Douglas Pike (a professor at the University of California, Berkeley), a major military defeat for the VC and NVA.

### **Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting**

**Margo Neal** reported that because of his illness long time member **Fred Cornet** is no longer able to attend meetings. Fred does not do e-mail but he would love to hear from members by telephone.

Malibu Rotary Club President Dave Zielski said that when he presented the Paul Harris pins to John Elman and Bob Syverstsen the previous week he did not realize the significance of the pins.

After someone contributes \$1000 lifetime to the Rotary Foundation they are awarded a certificate, a medallion, and a Paul Harris pin, signifying they are a Paul Harris Fellow. All Rotarians should donate to the Foundation annually. It is the Rotary Foundation that funds the major projects that Rotary does Internationally, in health, humanities, peace and educational scholarships. Each time another \$1000 plateau of giving is reached the donor is presented a Paul Harris pin with gemstones in them. Contributing \$2000 the Paul Harris pin has 1 sapphire, \$3000, 2 sapphires \$4000 3 sapphires, \$5000, 4 sapphires, \$6000, 5 sapphires, \$7000 1 ruby \$8000 2 rubies and \$9000 3 rubies. For more information see the Rotary International website or <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/history-paul-harris-fellow-recognition>



**Malibu Rotary Club President Dave Zielski (center) presented John Elman (L) and Bob Syvertsen (R) with sapphire Paul Harris Fellow pins at the January 6 Malibu Rotary Club meeting. John's pin had one sapphire and Bob's pin had 2 sapphires. These signify levels of giving to the Rotary Foundation.**

The annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition originally scheduled for the evening January 20<sup>th</sup> at

Pepperdine's Raitt Recital Hall has been changed and confirmed for January 27 at 6:00 p.m. On the date of the Singing Competition where will be no noon meeting for the Malibu Rotary Club. The latest calendar is posted online at [www.Maliburotary.org](http://www.Maliburotary.org).

## **Guests**

Speaker **Wynne Ritch** brought with him an assistant to help put up all the paraphernalia Wynne used for his presentation. That person was **Phillip Mai**, who was born in America, but whose parents came to America from Vietnam near the end of the war in 1973. His father was in the South Vietnam military.

## Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya to Raincatcher installations and maintenance. In February The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing in Africa was shown at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on August 20. A link to the video is now on the Maliburotary.org website. The direct link to the video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59rzOcm-RLo&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

## Calendar (for details on these programs see [maliburotary.org](http://maliburotary.org))

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Speaker Date Topic David Zielski Jan 20, 2016

Club Assembly -- 6 month Rotary Year Review

David Zielski and Malibu Rotary Club leadership review the club's progress toward goals and determine the club's plan for the rest of the year.

Rotary District Humanitarian Trip tp Panama Jan 27, 2016

Rotary District Humanitarian Trip tp Panama Jann 27-Feb 1

Malibu Middle and High School Singers Jan 27, 2016

Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Contest (in Evening--No Regular Meeting)

Charlie Klarskov Feb 03, 2016

Smart Money Fundamentals- retirement planning

Charlie Klarskov is part of a community outreach program from a radio show on KRLA called "Smart Money Fundamentals". The program offers educational talks to the public that address retirement planning, Social Security, and investing. They have given talks at UCLA, Santa Monica College, libraries, tech firms, churches and some Rotary clubs (Culver City, Palos Verdes, Torrance and Carson-Gardena) and will be featured at the February 3 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club.

Deanell Reece Tacha, Dean Pepperdine School of Law Feb 10, 2016

Latest News From the Pepperdine Law School

Dean Tacha is the Duane and Kelly Roberts Dean of the School of Law and professor of law. She was appointed by President Reagan to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit where she served as a circuit judge from 1986-2011. She served as Chief Judge from January 2001 through 2007. Dean Tacha earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Kansas in 1968 and her juris doctorate from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1971. She was a White House Fellow (1971-1972).

She returned to the University of Kansas where she served as associate professor at its School of Law from 1974-1977 and as professor of law from 1977-1985. She served as associate dean from 1977-1979, as associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs from 1979-1981, and as vice chancellor for Academic Affairs between 1981-1985. In 1992, Dean Tacha received the KU Alumni Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion for extraordinary service to the university and received its most prestigious award, the Distinguished Service Citation, in 1996. In January of 2010, she was named "Kansan of the Year" by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas.

Rotary District Breakfast #3 Feb 11, 2016

Rotary District Breakfast #3 at Westin LAX Hotel, 5400 Century Blvd, Los Angeles

Bernard Otis Feb 17, 2016

How to Prepare for Old Age ---- Without Taking the Fun Out of Life

Bernard Otis is an 87 year old very active Rotarian, Past President and a respected Writer, Speaker and Author. He has written a very witty, humorous and informative best Selling Book "How to Prepare for Old Age---Without Taking the Fun Out of Life" His talks at Rotary Clubs are receiving rave reviews,

"How to Prepare for Old Age (Without Taking the Fun Out of Life)" is a love story. Perhaps the title is a bit misleading and some may think it is merely a "how to" book. The message from this extraordinary man is about living the best life you can for as long as you can with love in your heart and a passion for living at any age. I first met Bernie Otis during a time when his beloved Anna was being treated for cancer. She was stage 4 and shortly on hospice. Bernie needed assistance at their home to care for Anna and through a referral from a mutual acquaintance, Bernie hired our agency to provide skilled attendant care for Anna during this very difficult time. After Anna's passing, Bernie was not only in mourning, but he, too, was struggling with his own physical challenges and subsequently needed some assistance from our agency. While our relationship began as business, we shortly became friends. I learned of the depth and breadth of Bernie's commitment to living and watched as he turned his grief into a celebration of the life he shared with Anna.

Wynne Ritch Feb 24, 2016

Walking ThroughTime With Norman Rockwell

Wynne Ritch is a member and past president of the Greater Van Nuys Rotary Club. Last month he was featured at the Malibu Rotary Club sharing his unique experience in Vietnam. Wynne is an authority on the works of Norman Rockwell, and owns over 200 signed Rockwell prints and has a story and artifacts

to go with each Rockwell piece--newspapers of the time and stories of people in Rockwell's paintings. |

Wynne was an Eagle Scout as a teenager in 1960 and following his stint in the Marines was assistant executive director of the Verdugo Hills Council of the Boy Scouts of America for 32 years. Being associated with scouting that long, it is not surprising that Wynne became familiar with the art of Norman Rockwell. Rockwell is noted for his 64-year relationship with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), during which he produced covers for their publication *Boys' Life*, calendars, and other illustrations. These works include popular images that reflect the *Scout Oath* and *Scout Law* such as *The Scoutmaster*, *A Scout is Reverent* and *A Guiding Hand*, among many others.

Rotary District Breakfast #4 Apr 05, 2016

Rotary District Breakfast #4 at Westin LAX Hotel, 5400 Century Blvd, Los Angeles

David Zielski Apr 13, 2016

Malibu Rotary Club Assembly--Open Discussion to Bring Club Plans to Completion to End Rotary Year

This will be a club assembly to provide an opportunity for open discussion about ideas and suggestions that may be implemented to help bring club plans toward completion.