



# **VALOR GAMES**

**FAR WEST 2014**

## **PRESS KIT**

**May 30 - June 2, 2014**

**Coast Guard Island – Alameda, CA**



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

### VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES COMPETE FOR GOLD

**Alameda, CA** - More than 130 veterans and active duty service members with disabilities registered to participate in the **2<sup>nd</sup> annual Valor Games Far West 2014**. *The grant funding for this program was awarded by U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, through funding provided by Veterans Affairs. The grants are provided to facilitate the growth of Paralympic sport programming for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.*

**WHO:** Far West Wheelchair Athletic Association and the U.S. Coast Guard partner to host Valor Games Far West 2014.

**WHAT:** The Valor Games is a national series of sport competitions open to Veterans and active service members with a disability eligible for VA health care. Their disabilities may include: amputation, post-traumatic stress disorder, spinal cord injuries, stroke, traumatic brain injuries or visual impairment.

**WHEN:** **May 30 to June 2, 2014**

**WHERE:** **Coast Guard Island – Alameda, CA**

**WEB SITE:** [www.valorgamesfarwest.com](http://www.valorgamesfarwest.com)

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## Valor Games Far West Announced

*“Valor Games series provides opportunities for Veterans and service members with disabilities to participate in sports and connect to community providers”*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**March 10, 2014**

**Alameda, Calif.** - Dates for the Valor Games Far West, part of the national Valor Games series, have been announced. Disabled Veterans and service members will learn adaptive sports techniques and compete at events from May 30 to June 2 at venues on Coast Guard Island in Alameda, Calif. Sports are slated to include: archery, biathlon, cycling, field, powerlifting and swimming.

Registration will open in late March for the event, which provides lodging and meals at no charge to the participants. Qualifying athletes include Veterans or active duty service members from any era. Those with the following physical disabilities are eligible to compete: amputation/limb loss; post-traumatic stress; spinal cord injuries; stroke; traumatic brain injuries; visual disabilities and any disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Valor Games Far West is a sport competition for Veterans and active duty service members who have a disability and are eligible for VA healthcare. Grant funding for this program is awarded by U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, through funding provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The local organizing committee is Far West Wheelchair Athletic Association, which has provided sport and recreation opportunities to individuals with physical disabilities in the region for more than 40 years. Seven Paralympic Sport Clubs will manage the competitions each day and meet the Veterans in their communities, engaging them for future opportunities to be active throughout the year. The event is designed to be a catalyst for this interaction and ongoing athlete development.

The Valor Games were established in 2011 by World Sport Chicago in partnership with U.S. Paralympics and VA to provide an introductory sports competition for Veterans and service members with a disability and to promote sports at the community level. To learn more about the sports being offered, the registration process and volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.valorgamesfarwest.com](http://www.valorgamesfarwest.com).

*For more information about the 2014 Valor Games Far West, please contact Pam Redding, Event Director at (847) 323-4049 or [valorgames@fwvaa.org](mailto:valorgames@fwvaa.org).*

**###**



## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**\*\*Athletes MUST use VGFW provided transportation**

Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of VGFW Directors

### **Friday, May 30, 2014 – athletes wear GREEN event t-shirt**

0730 – 1415: Athlete Registration at the host hotel, Oakland Marriott City Center  
1015: Shuttle leaves host hotel for Archery Clinic at Coast Guard Island\*\*  
1100 – 1400: Archery Clinic at Coast Guard Island  
1230: Lunch for Archery Clinic athletes  
1415: Last shuttle leave host hotel for Opening Ceremony\*\*  
1500: Opening Ceremony, Coast Guard Island  
1630 – 1700: Athlete Meeting, Coast Guard Island  
1700 – 2230: Oakland A's vs. Anaheim Angels baseball game and dinner\*\*  
~1930: First shuttle leaves for host hotel AFTER 1<sup>st</sup> inning  
~2045: Second shuttle leave for host hotel AFTER 5<sup>th</sup> inning  
End of Game: Last shuttle leaves for host hotel

### **Saturday, May 31, 2014 - athletes wear LIGHT YELLOW event t-shirt**

0630: Breakfast begins at the hotel  
0815: ALL shuttles leave for Coast Guard Island\*\*  
0900: Powerlifting (bench press) Competition  
0900: Biathlon Competition  
0900 – 1200: Resource Fair  
1100 – 1300: Power Soccer demo/clinic  
12:00 – 1300: Lunch  
1300 – 1700: Archery Competition  
1300 – 1700: Boccia Ball demo/clinic  
1500: First shuttles leave for host hotel\*\*  
1700: Last shuttles leave for host hotel\*\*  
1830 – 2030: Dinner at host hotel with comedian/magician Robert Strong



## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**\*\*Athletes MUST use VGFW provided transportation**

Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of VGFW Directors

### **Sunday, June 1, 2014 - athletes wear BEIGE event t-shirt**

0630: Breakfast begins at the hotel

0730: ALL shuttles leave for Coast Guard Island\*\*

0815 – 1200: Cycling Competition

1200 – 1300: Lunch

1300 – 1700: Swimming Competition

1300 – 1700: Wheelchair Tennis demo/clinic

1300 – 1700: Wheelchair Basketball demo/clinic

1300 – 1700: Rowing demo/clinic

1500: First shuttles leave for hotel\*\*

1700: Last shuttles leave for host hotel\*\*

1830 – 2030: Dinner and entertainment at Peony's Chinese restaurant, 2 blocks from the host hotel.

### **Monday, June 2, 2014 - athletes wear NAVY BLUE event t-shirt**

0630: Breakfast begins at the hotel

0730: Check-out of rooms at host hotel\*\*

0800: ALL shuttles leave for Coast Guard Island

0900: Field (shot put and discus) Competition

1200: Lunch provided by Outback Steakhouse

1200 – 1300: Closing Ceremony, Coast Guard Island

1330: Shuttles leaves for host hotel\*\*

1400: Athletes depart from host hotel



**Leon E. Panetta**  
**Former Secretary of Defense**

Dear Mr. Backer and Participants in the Valor Games Far West:

I am deeply honored to be invited again this year to present welcoming remarks for the *Valor Games Far West* opening ceremonies. Regrettably, prior commitments out of the area preclude my presence here today.

As I reflect on my service as Secretary of Defense and the men and women with whom I worked, I clearly saw that great men and women are not boasters, but rather perceivers of the challenges of life and they steel themselves to face it with courage. As your experience has demonstrated, faked greatness does not last and to the brave nothing is difficult. You proved that in your service to our great nation, and you are proving that in your competition today.

John Kennedy once remarked that America was going to put a man on the moon by the end of that decade not because it was an easy thing to do, but because it was a hard thing to do. He might have added that doing hard things makes one better. He did go on to say that it is not what we get but what we become by our endeavors that make them worthwhile.

In closing, as you know, courage depends on a crucial virtue—perseverance, the ability to keep going under adverse circumstances. There are a number of further traits in anyone who perseveres: determination, ambition, strength and resolve. You epitomized these ideals as warriors; you epitomize them again today; and you are an inspiration to all who know you. The impact of your lives on others and on the course of our nation's history is so profound that it is incalculable.

I send my best wishes. No matter what happens in the competition, to me, you are all winners and I was fortunate to serve for nearly two years as your Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely,

Leon E. Panetta  
Chairman  
The Panetta Institute for Public Policy  
(831) 582-4200  
LEP:rk

## MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



Rank and organization: Captain (then 1st Lt.), U.S. Army, Troop B, 1st Cavalry, America I Division.

Place and date: West of Que Son, Republic of Vietnam, 9 November 1967.

Entered service at: San Francisco, CA

Born: 31 December 1937, in Arcata, CA

### **MAJOR (RET.) JAMES ALLEN TAYLOR**



Capt. Taylor, Armor, was serving as executive officer of Troop B, 1st Squadron. His troop was engaged in an attack on a fortified position west of Que Son when it came under intense enemy recoilless rifle, mortar, and automatic weapons fire from an enemy strong point located immediately to its front. One armored cavalry assault vehicle was hit immediately by recoilless rifle fire and all 5 crewmembers were wounded. Aware that the stricken vehicle was in grave danger of exploding, Capt. Taylor rushed forward and personally extracted the wounded to safety despite the hail of enemy fire and exploding ammunition. Within minutes a second armored cavalry assault vehicle was hit by multiple recoilless rifle rounds. Despite the continuing intense enemy fire, Capt. Taylor moved forward on foot to rescue the wounded men from the burning vehicle and personally removed all the crewmen to the safety of a nearby dike. Moments later the vehicle exploded. As he was returning to his vehicle, a bursting mortar round painfully wounded Capt. Taylor, yet he valiantly returned to his vehicle to relocate the medical evacuation landing zone to an area closer to the front lines. As he was moving his vehicle, it came under machinegun fire from an enemy position not 50 yards away. Capt. Taylor engaged the position with his machinegun, killing the 3-man crew. Upon arrival at the new evacuation site, still another vehicle was struck. Once again Capt. Taylor rushed forward and pulled the wounded from the vehicle, loaded them aboard his vehicle, and returned them safely to the evacuation site. His actions of unsurpassed valor were a source of inspiration to his entire troop, contributed significantly to the success of the overall assault on the enemy position, and were directly responsible for saving the lives of a number of his fellow soldiers. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military profession and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

## OPENING CEREMONY KEYNOTE SPEAKER



National Aeronautics  
and Space Administration



Dr. Simon P. Worden (Brig. Gen., USAF, ret.) is the center director at NASA Ames Research Center where he leads a staff of nearly 2,500 civil servants and contractors and oversees an annual budget of approx. \$800 million providing the critical R&D support that makes NASA's and the nation's aeronautics and space missions possible. In just three years, Worden has completely transformed Ames, reinvigorating the center's workforce and taking a leadership role in important, cost-effective small satellite mission

Worden has also put Ames on the critical path for all major NASA space exploration missions through effective use of the center's unique wind tunnels, arc jets, intelligent systems and supercomputer facilities and capabilities. Worden's 'GreenSpace' initiative has brought Ames' remote sensing capabilities to bear on air traffic safety, fighting forest fires, and the study of climate change. And Ames' new Sustainability Base facility will serve as a model for future eco-friendly, high-performance federal buildings. In recognition of these outstanding achievements, Worden was named the Federal Laboratory Consortium's Laboratory Director of the Year for 2009.

Prior to becoming Ames' director, Worden was a Research Professor of Astronomy, Optical Sciences and Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona where his primary research direction was the development of large space optics for national security and scientific purposes and near-earth asteroids. Additionally, he worked on topics related to space exploration and solar-type activity in nearby stars.

He is a recognized expert on space issues – both civil and military. He has authored or co-authored more than 150 scientific technical papers in astrophysics, space sciences, and strategic studies. Moreover, he served as a scientific co-investigator for two NASA space science missions.

In addition to his former position with the University of Arizona, Worden previously served as a consultant to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) on space-related issues. In 2004, he worked as a Congressional Fellow and chief advisor to the Chairman of the US Senate Subcommittee on Science and Space regarding NASA and space issues.

Worden retired in 2004 after 29 years of active service in the United States Air Force. His final position was Director of Development and Transformation, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA.

## EMCEE OF CEREMONIES



**John Register** Since childhood, athletics have been John Register's passion. He began swimming competitively at the Oak Park, Illinois YMCA, and then moved on to baseball, football and eventually track and field.

Register earned a scholarship to the University of Arkansas where he became a four-time All-American — once in the NCAA long jump, once in the 55m high hurdles and twice on the 4x400m relay teams. Upon completing a Bachelor's degree in Communications in 1988, John enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served from 1988 to 1994. A Desert Shield and Desert Storm Veteran, John continued to pursue athletic excellence in the Army's World Class Athlete Program winning nine Gold medals in Armed Services Competition and two World Military Championships (CISM).

In 1988 John qualified for the Olympic trials in the 110m hurdles; he again qualified in the 400m hurdles in 1992. With these accomplishments John seemed destined to compete as a member of the 1996 Olympic Team, but

on May 17, 1994 his life would be forever altered with one misstep over the hurdle. A faulty landing hyper-extended John's left knee resulting in an injury severing the popliteal artery. An attempt to reconstruct the artery using a vein from his right leg failed; within days gangrene turned the muscle black and amputation was suggested. The alternative was a useless left knee and ankle, which would restrict his movements to a wheelchair for mobility.

Though devastating, the injury did not stop him. With a strong faith in Christ and the support of his wonderfully supportive wife Alice, he chose amputation and through the use of a prosthesis, he would walk again — and eventually run.

During his long journey to recovery, John began using sports as a conduit to rehabilitation. At Brooke Army Medical Center he began swimming for cardiovascular fitness. It was during the first few swim sessions with his personal coach that an inspiration to compete again was born. After only 18 months of rehabilitation and training, John qualified for — and made — the 1996 Paralympic Team as a swimmer, competing in the games in Atlanta, Georgia in the 50m freestyle. In addition to qualifying for the Paralympics, he competed in the finals of the 4x400m-medley relay, swimming the anchor. The Paralympic Games, titled as such because they are held parallel to the Olympics, are a worldwide competition for people with disabilities.

While watching closed-circuit television in the Athlete Village during the 1996 Paralympics, John observed athletes with one leg running and jumping on the track. Excited by what he saw, an idea was birthed and after being fitted with a running prosthesis he set a goal of competing in track and field at the 2000 Paralympic Games, in Sydney, Australia. Not only did John begin to run, he began to make history! Two years after taking his first running step with an artificial leg, he earned the Silver Medal in the long jump at the 2000 Paralympic Games and set the American Long jump record in the process with a distance of 5.41 meters (17.8feet). He also sprinted to 5th place in both the 100 and 200m dashes.

John's life has truly come full circle in his transformation from All-American long jumper to Paralympic Silver medalist. As an inspirational speaker, John applies life lessons learned through times of testing to focus his audience on what is possible.



“I did not overcome the loss of my limb. To overcome the loss would mean I’d have to grow it back. What I overcame were the limits I placed on myself and that others placed on me. This is what is universal for all of us to overcome.”

His powerful keynote, "Hurdling Adversity", challenges audiences young and old to unleash the inspiration in them. John has been a spokesperson for The Hartford Insurance Company, The American Plastics Council, The Ohio Willow Wood Company, and Disabled Sports USA. He has been a solutions engine for over 50 companies. He has been featured on numerous national television programs which include: PAX TV’s “It’s A Miracle” with Richard Thomas, FOX’s “The Edge” with Paula Zahn, NBC’s “Weekend Today Show” with Sara James, and MSNBC’s “Morning Blend” with Solidad O’Brian as well as having been profiled several times in The New York Times, The Washington Post, ESPN Magazine and the Washington Kid’s Post newspapers.

Subsequent to his 1994 amputation, John remained active with soldiers, first as a civilian employee of the Army working as a Sports Specialist with the Army's World Class Athlete Program, and then worked as a Program Specialist with the U.S. Army B.O.S.S. (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers) Program at the Community and Family Support Center (CFSC) Headquarters.

In 2003 he accepted a position with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and birthed what is now the USOC Paralympic Military Program, which is a program that uses sport to assist in the recovery of wounded, ill or injured service-members.

Register is both volunteer and civic-minded as he frequently engages in peer mentor visits at Military and Veterans hospitals, (VA?); serves on numerous boards and is one of 35 Co-Chairs acting as a surrogate for President Obama’s 2012 re-election.

John is married to the former Alice Johnson. The couple has two children (John Jr. 23; and Ashley 15). John also is the father of Ron Register, 25, Alice and John now reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

## CLOSING CEREMONY KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### **Thomas J. Fitzgerald III, CHESP**

#### **Deputy Director**

Thomas J. Fitzgerald III is the Deputy Director at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. He was appointed to the position February 2013.

His duties and responsibilities include serving as the Chief Operating Officer for the Health Care System. As a member of the executive leadership team, he oversees one of the most complex facilities in the VA system with an annual budget in excess of \$891 million, more than 6,300 staff and volunteers, 808 operating beds spread between three divisions, and a myriad of special programs. He also has an important role in maintaining a cooperative and supportive relationship with the health care system's educational affiliate Stanford University School of Medicine, as well as other affiliations in allied health programs and community health institutions.

Mr. Fitzgerald is a service-connected disabled Veteran who served in the U.S. Army for 16 years as a medical non-commissioned officer. During that time, he served in support of Operation Desert Storm. Mr. Fitzgerald began his VA Career in 1988 as a Nursing Assistant at the North Chicago VA Medical Center, Ill., in numerous positions, including Housekeeping Aid, Housekeeping Assistant General Foreman, Assistant Chief Environmental Care and Operations, and the Chief of Environmental Care and Operations. He served as Chief of Environmental Management Service at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and the Assistant Director at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System from October 2006 to May 2011 and the Associate Director May 2011 to February 2013.

Mr. Fitzgerald attended Grambling State University, La., on a football scholarship. He is also a graduate of American Intercontinental University, the VA management development course (VAMD, in conjunction with the University of Alabama Birmingham), the Leadership VA 2003 class, and Health Care Leadership Institute 2007.

## MENTOR TO PARTICIPATING ATHLETES – CIVILIAN



**JANICE WALTH** I've been legally blind since birth, but lost most of my vision as an adult due to retinitis pigmentosa. My husband and U.S. Archery Level 3 Coach, Courtney Walth, took up the sport of archery about 15 years ago. He enjoyed being part of the Sacramento Archery Club and competing in archery tournaments throughout the state of California. When sitting on the sidelines while he shot got old, I started doing some internet searches to see how

people who were blind might be participating in the sport of archery. I discovered that British Blind Sport had developed a technique that enabled a person who can't see the target, and so can't use a conventional bow sight, to aim their bow by touching the back of their hand to a tactile sight instead. They sent us pictures of the setup they were using, and Courtney built my first setup. From that point forward, I joined the local club that Courtney belonged to and began learning how to shoot a bow. Basically, an archer who can't see the target uses a foot-locator which is positioned on the shooting line so that the archer is straddling the line like the sighted archers. A tripod is attached to one end of the foot-locator which holds the tactile sight. Using this technique, I am able to position myself properly and consistently on the shooting line. I then raise the bow, touch the back of my bow hand to the sight and shoot the arrow. Once I had learned the basic form that all archers use to shoot a bow properly, I wanted to start participating in our local tournaments. My participation led to California accepting visually impaired archery as a category for State tournaments. Then I became the first visually impaired archer to compete in the U.S. National Target Championships, and most recently, the U.S. National Indoor Championships. Much to my surprise, I was asked to participate in two Para-Archery World Championships in Korea in 2007 and in the Czech Republic in 2009 where I won silver and bronze medals and set all 5 women's world records for visually impaired. Since then, in addition to continuing to compete, Courtney and I have devoted as much time as we can to promoting and teaching visually impaired archery to as many individuals, veterans groups and organizations that support people who are blind. Outside of archery, I am an adaptive technology trainer and sit on the board of directors for both the Society For the Blind in Sacramento and Discovery Blind Sports based in Kirkwood, California.

## MENTOR TO PARTICIPATING ATHLETES – CIVILIAN



**Jeff R. Fabry Paralympian** and Professional Archer, Level 3 Certified Coach with USA Archery, Head Coach for TEAM AMVETS Freedom Archers, Bee Stinger LLC Shooting Staff Advisor

Let's go for a ride down the dirt road! My name is Jeff Fabry and I am a Central California native. Most people think of California as the home to beaches and big cities, but I am the total opposite. Being raised on the family's cotton farm, my life style is dirt, dirt and more dirt. The value of hard work has been engrained in me from watching my father and uncles put long grueling days in to keep the farm and family surviving. Although the farm life is a thing of the past for me....it still molds my lifestyle today.

At the age of 15 a motorcycle accident left me with only a left arm and leg. This would have crushed most kids but it made me stronger. "Capability vs. Disability, it's your choice!" is my attitude toward life. This transition definitely had rocks in the road but I always drove right over them. I think the most difficult part of becoming disabled was not what I had to do, but letting others know that I can still be productive. Yes, this means people such as yourself need be more open minded and look at the "ability" of someone who you might think is "disabled"! You will be surprised, trust me!

With life you have to have outlets to help you relax and refocus. My outlet has always been the outdoors, hunting and fishing, which at times were actually an obsession but opened the door to this journey I am on now. ! ARCHERY! What??? How do you do this with one arm? Easy: tie a dog leash on the string to bite on. That is exactly what I do. Bite on the "mouth tab" with my right side molars, push the bow out with my left arm, aim, relax the jaw, and the arrow sails right into the bulls eye! Keep in mind that I can do this out to 100 yards!

To date I have competed in numerous National Tournaments against able bodied archers (winning the majority), 6 Para World Championships (medaling in 5) and 3 Paralympic Games. Winning the Gold at London 2012 is definitely a highlight, but what is a better feeling is giving back to my sport and our country. Teaming up with TEAM AMVETS, Freedom Archers was born. We are giving our Vets an opportunity to try archery first hand thru clinics. Best part: ALL Vets are welcomed. Cool, right? What you need to understand is that the learning of a new sport is not the goal here. My goal is to get the Vet out to a new venue, create a new social platform and watch them grow as individuals. The new door in life is just a knob turn away....believe me, I have turned a few!

Hope you enjoyed the ride down the old dirt road; it probably wasn't as bumpy as you expected!

### **Jeff R. Fabry**

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## VETERAN and ESTEEMED MEMBER OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



**ESHA Fellow and 2007 ESHA Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient**

### **Ed Sawicki**

[sawickimicros1@aol.com](mailto:sawickimicros1@aol.com)

Ed Sawicki began his EHS career as Intel Corporation's first safety engineer and eventually became Intel's Corporate Director of Safety and Health Worldwide. After Intel, Ed formed Microsafe Inc., a consulting, equipment sales, and decontamination company that specialized in the microelectronics industry, and served as the President of Microsafe for eighteen years. For the past six years (2000-2006), Ed has been a Senior Director and the Regulatory Compliance Officer for Applied Materials Corporation, the world's largest semiconductor tool manufacturer and a Fortune 500 Company, within Applied's Global Facilities and the Environmental Health and Safety Departments.



Ed was one of the original founders and past Chairman of the Board for the Semiconductor Safety Association and a founding Father and past President of the Bay Area Electronics Safety Group. Ed also served as President of the San Jose Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers and was on the Board of Directors for the Santa Clara County National Safety Council. He has received the Award of Merit from the City of Sunnyvale, California and recognition from the City of Santa Clara, California and the World Environmental Center attached to the United Nations. He has worked for the United Nations twice and worked with the governments of Korea, Singapore, Philippines and Taiwan on semiconductor fire and safety issues. He has contributed as an author to the publication of several hazardous materials laws both within the State of California and overseas.

Ed's undergraduate studies were in Industrial Technology at San Jose State University and his graduate studies were in Environmental and Industrial Toxicology at the University of San Francisco. He has lectured at numerous colleges and universities including Stanford, UC Berkeley, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, University of Texas, and Cal Poly. Ed has over 30 years of experience in environmental health and safety, hazardous materials safety, code compliance and emergency response within the semiconductor industry.

Ed is a former "Black Operations" Green Beret whose exploits have been documented in several books. He holds the Bronze Star and Army Commendation medals for heroism in ground combat in Viet Nam.

# “ROSIE” KAY MORRISON

*Richmond Kaiser Shipyard #2 Journeyman Welder 1943-1945*

Catherine Stavros Morrison (Kay) was born in and her classified him in war effort, and Ray was



Chico, CA. on November 22, 1923. Kay and her husband Ray when she was a junior in high school. Catherine’s older the Army, serving in the African campaign chasing Rommel husband was eager to join the service too but the military as “4F” - unable to serve due to health reasons. After her 1941 they moved to the Bay Area to search for work in the finding an apartment on Haight and Fillmore in San Francisco able to find work right away in Kaiser Shipyard #2 as a Shipwright (carpenter).



Kay was discouraged from working because of a sign in the window of the Union hall that read “No Women or Blacks Wanted”. By 1943 Kay was determined to work so she returned to the Union hall to apply for a job, which she got this time, becoming a Welder. She requested just two things; to work in Kaiser Shipyard #2 and that she work the graveyard shift (so she could be with her husband!). Kay had no idea what a welder was but would soon learn by attending welding school for 2 weeks. Kay and her husband commuted to work ferry from San Francisco to Richmond. After 3 months on the job she took the Navy Welding test where she passed with flying colors and became a certified Welder. Her wages went from \$0.90 an hour to \$1.38 an hour!



together via the Government’s Journeyman When you welding. Kay

became a Journeyman Welder, you’ve excelled in flat, vertical, and overhead welded on the assembly, large sections moved by crane, to the ships that were being built in the Way. She worked the graveyard shift, from 11pm to 7am, six days a week. One time she was fortunate enough to be asked to attend the launching of a ship she had worked on. Being a part of that experience made her feel proud and patriotic. Kay welded from 1943 to August 1945, when The men returning from war had first right to jobs back at home so off. Ray went on to work at Moore’s Shipyard and Bethlehem



In the years following the would have two children, eventually go in to the business, and Kay worked over 30 years, retiring in 1984 as manager. Kay and Ray



the war ended. Kay was laid Steel.

America for have 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren and were married for 64 years until his passing in 2004. She looks fondly on her days as a Rosie, and feels privileged to have been given the opportunity to promote women and the war effort. She continues to carry that patriotic feeling by volunteering every Friday at the Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Park.



# “ROSIE” MARIAN SOUSA

*Richmond Kaiser Shipyard #3 Draftsman 1943-1944*

Marian McKey Sousa was born January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1926 in Eugene



Oregon – the daughter of Sgt. L.H. and Mildred McKey. In 1940, her father, a career serviceman who was a WW I Vet, was transferred to the Astoria, Oregon area at Fort Stevens so the family moved to the coastal town of Seaside. Marian was 15 that December 8<sup>th</sup> when she sat in her High School’s auditorium to hear the speech by President Roosevelt, declaring that the U.S. was now at war with Japan because of the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

In the summer of 1942, Marian rode a Greyhound bus from Oregon to Richmond, CA., to be

the babysitter for her young nephew, so her sister, Phyllis, could join her as a welder, building deckhouses in Pre-Fab in Shipyard #2. Marian



husband met her and didn’t enrolled in married in

future husband - a Coastguardsman- that summer return to Oregon as planned. Instead, she Richmond High School for her senior year. They the Spring of 1943 and upon graduation she was recommended for a special Engineering Drawing course at U.C. Berkeley by her high school art teacher, learning how to read and draw blueprints.



Six weeks later, the day she graduated was the day she was work as a Draftsman – making revisions to the blueprints of transports built at Kaiser Shipyard #3 in the Engineering Department. She was located in a room with other young while the Architects, the senior men draftsmen, were in room, doing the intricate, technical work. Her job was to Architect’s drawings, erase areas and draw in any revisions. She recalls fondly Architects never looked down on them and they treated them with respect.



hired to the troop people another take the that the welder in



A second sister, Marge, arrived and became a Shipyard #2 also. After their father was transferred to Camp Stoneman in Pittsburg, CA., their mother Mildred placed the youngest McKey daughter in Kaiser’s childcare and joined the growing workforce of women as a painter. Four McKey women were involved in the war effort now!

Phyllis & her husband had a house in San Pablo and though it was small it housed both sides of their families. The beds were in a constant rotation by the family members working in the day, swing or graveyard shifts. Marian worked a

year before impending motherhood ended her time as a home front worker. And those same Architects gave her a surprise baby shower! She volunteers now as a “Rosie” at the Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front N.P. where she can still see the area where she worked so many years ago.



# "ROSIE" MARIAN WYNN

*Richmond Kaiser Shipyard #3 Pipe Welder 1944-1945*

Marian Parsons Wynn was born on



August 19, 1926, the third of 11 children. Her father answered the call for war work in 1942 and came out to Richmond, CA to become an Electrician Leadman Shipyard #3. Marian was anxious to follow but promised her would finish high school first before taking a 3 day Greyhound bus California.



in Kaiser father she trip out to attending a with a young rotation she afar she She said not know if

A wartime memory that sticks out in Marian's mind was local fair back home and being paired up to ride the Ferris wheel man that she did not know. When they got to the top of the recalls that a blackout happened; the wheel stopped and from

could see all the lights go out in the distance, almost in a row, till it came closer to the fair. sitting up there in the dark and the quiet was remarkable, especially because you really did this was a practice blackout or the real thing and here she was stuck up high atop a Ferris wheel! It turned out to be practice as the lights went back on in reverse order.



Marian hired on at Shipyard #3 as a Pipe Welder called West Storage on Canal Blvd. She worked in building with one side open to the elements. It where pipes were brought to her crew and they the pipes together. The building is no longer you can still see where it was set in to the side of would make a \$1.00 an hour, with time & a half and double time on Sunday. She had to wear scarf to cover her hair and neck (to avoid the



in an area a large was here would weld there but the hill. She on Saturday leathers, a burning as a close up

sparks) and welding helmet. These two pictures show her crew in a group photo as well of Marian in her outfit. Many shipyard workers gained experience while on the job and there were many accidents that resulted in injuries or even death. Thankfully, the most that happened to Marian was getting a piece of hot slag that went up into her eye, resulting in a trip to the Kaiser hospital. It hurt terribly at first but soon she was able to return to work and had no ill-effects from it.



Marian's brother Don served in the Army Signal Corps. He France in 1944 and is buried in Normandy.

Housing was extremely hard to come by but her father had fortunate enough to live in a trailer in one of the many trailer had popped up in the city of Richmond. The managers of his had a handsome young son in the Navy stationed at Treasure



was killed in been parks that trailer park Island that years until



was soon to become Marian's husband. They were married for 60

his passing in 2005. (The picture of the two of them shows the she and her father lived in).



trailer that

# “ROSIE” MARY TORRES

*Moore’s Shipyard, Oakland Journeyman Welder 1942-1945*



in Doren, PA., on May 26, 1923. It was a nice quiet town with few jobs. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt and war and lives were changed forever. Most of Mary’s classmates started to enlist in the service and Mary wanted to something to win the war. She saw an ad in the local paper that McClellan Air Force Base in Fairfield, CA., needed women to work base. With only a few months until graduation, Mary decided she to California. A week after graduation, while her parents were at Mary gathered her graduation money, some food, packed a left a note saying she was leaving to look for a job and caught a bus for a 5 day trip to California. Although she was only 18 and traveling alone with no knowledge of what lay she was one determined young lady!



Upon arrival in California she found a room, located the Air Base and started work. Five months later she saw another ad for workers needed at Moore’s shipyard in She once again picked up and found work as a Welder where she was weeks’ worth of training. Mary was asked to take a small test and passing she was put to work as a tacker (spot welding). After 6 she took & passed her Journeyman Welder’s test, which would include

shell welding.



During her time at Moore’s, Mary and her boss Frank fell in love married. Since you could not tell people apart when they were their leathers (welding outfit) and welding helmets, Frank and decorated Mary’s welding helmet so that it would be easier for spot her on the floor! Mary worked at Moore’s from 1942 until when Moore’s started laying off all women workers as returning veterans would have first choice at any jobs.

Mary was now a housewife while Frank hired on at a larger shipyard and continued as a foreman in the shipyards until he retired after 48 years of service. They raised two sons, invested in the stock market and were able to purchase a bowling alley in Fremont. Ten years later they sold it and Mary became a beautician, with clients today.



Mary and Frank were married for 62 years before his passing in 2004. Today you can find Mary at the Rosie the Riveter WW2 Home Front Park in Richmond, CA where she will greet you with a big smile saying, “Hi! I’m one of the Rosies!”



Mary Schevchik Torres was born on December 7, 1941

declared help do at the would go church, suitcase,

ahead,

Oakland. sent for a upon months lots of

and were wearing Mary Frank to 1945 male war



**VALOR GAMES**  
FAR WEST 2014

**Resource Fair**  
**Saturday, May 31, 2014**

USAA  
Jon Cornett  
[916 837 0435](tel:9168370435)  
Jon. [Cornett@usaa.com](mailto:cornett@usaa.com)

Saidiana Memorial Vets Choir  
Doris Mangrum  
[925 354 6097](tel:9253546097)  
[Dorismsaid@aol.com](mailto:Dorismsaid@aol.com)

Oakland Vet Center  
Dottie Guy  
[510 209 5499](tel:5102095499)  
[Dottie.guy@va.gov](mailto:Dottie.guy@va.gov)

Operation Freedom Paws  
Mary Cortini  
[408 847 8518](tel:4088478518)  
[Mcortini@aol.com](mailto:Mcortini@aol.com)

Morgan Hill Freedom Festival  
Bob and Maureen Hunt  
[408 778 0721](tel:4087780721)  
[Parade@garlic.com](mailto:Parade@garlic.com)

Paralyzed Vets of America  
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[Sherman@bawpva.org](mailto:Sherman@bawpva.org)

Peninsula Vets  
Dustin Noll  
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[Dustin.noll@va.gov](mailto:Dustin.noll@va.gov)

Almaden  
Valley Rotary Club  
Manuel Naku  
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American Legion  
WT Jeanpierre  
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Paralympic Sailing Program  
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Oakland Metro Chamber of Commerce  
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AMVETS  
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ED Tahoe Adaptive Competition  
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Alameda County EDD  
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Stress and health research  
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Sentinels of Freedom  
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FAR WEST 2014

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Commission  
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[Lpoeton@alamedactc.org](mailto:Lpoeton@alamedactc.org)

Penelope Pah  
Veterans legal services  
Pahl and Associates  
510-263-9273  
[Penelope@pahlandassociates](mailto:Penelope@pahlandassociates)

Real Warriors Campaign/DOD  
TENTATIVE  
Gabi Levinson  
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Center for Independent Living  
Ben McMullan  
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Jeff Macloud  
Chief Operations Officer  
Farmer Veteran Coalition  
530-756-1395

**SNACKS**

Hint water  
Kind health snacks  
Girl Scout cookies  
Svenhards Swedish pastries  
Guittard chocolates  
Coke

Limbology  
San Tucker  
208 914 3207  
[Limbology@gmail.com](mailto:Limbology@gmail.com)

American Service Patriot Corp  
April Carillo

Delta Veterans Group  
Gregg  
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