

# Veterans pause to reflect

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Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park dedicated

By Shawna Williams  
The Californian

A ceremony both solemn and celebratory, as veterans and their supporters gathered Sunday at the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park to honor those who served. It was the 13th Veterans Day weekend celebration at the park, and also recognized progress made on the memorial and the 175th birthday of the Marine Corps.

"As a nation, we're going to falter if we don't remember our veterans," Dave Keith, president of the Monterey County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, told the crowd of about 150. "All too often the nation becomes complacent and takes for granted the freedoms we all enjoy."

Keith also thanked the city and county for donating land and money to the memorial, and the generous local businesses that have lent support.

Many other veterans, as well as representatives of the city and county.

The park features a hill overlooking a grassy area with picnic tables. Atop the hill are flags, a special-designed concrete walkway, and a wooden wall with the names of the soldiers who died in Vietnam making up the wall.

The memorial committee hopes to add to the



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE CALIFORNIAN

Mike Armenta, a Vietnam veteran, stands near an American flag Sunday during the dedication ceremony of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park.

## To help

For information on donating to the Monterey County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, call 758-1005.

hilltop in the next year.

They plan to put in a gold star to represent the memento family members receive from the military when a soldier dies in combat and a cement 10-foot by 30-foot Vietnam campaign ribbon. An \$80,000 brass flag will

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replace the wooden one. But to make this happen, the committee will need more donations.

## Veterans Day events

**TODAY ■ VETERAN'S DAY**, American Legion Post 31 at Garden of Memories Memorial Park, 768 Abbott St., Salinas (volunteers welcome). The flags will be unfurled and raised at 7 a.m. Nov. 11 and furled at 4 p.m. (volunteers welcome). A baked ham meal will be furnished for all volunteers at the post, 14 W. Laurel Drive, Salinas, after the flags are stored at the post. 449-1690.

**TODAY ■ MEMORIAL SALUTE TO VETERANS**, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Christian Memorial Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, 4483 Col. Durham Road, Seaside. The African American Democratic Club will recognize local veterans. Admission is free. 394-4445.

**TODAY ■ PAJARO VALLEY VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT**, "Story Tellers" will present oral autobiographical presentations, exhibit hosted by Copy Bean of Watsonville, 550 Main St., Watsonville. 726-3358.

**TODAY ■ HOLLISTER VETERAN'S DAY PARADE**, 10 to 11 a.m. in downtown Hollister on San Benito Street. All active-duty military personnel and local veterans invited to participate. Richard Herrera, 801-7424, Charlie Scott, 638-0928.