

NOTES & QUOTES

Del Mar vet miffed over memorial

Del Mar's **Jim Wheyland** was steaming after reading Monday's column about the San Dieguito High School District's apparent rejection of a proposed veterans memorial being placed on the San Dieguito Academy's campus. Led by Cardiff's **David Gonzales**, Encinitas' **Sam Hernandez**, and Oceanside's **Bill Roebuck**, all graduates of San Dieguito High School, forerunner of the academy, the plaque would commemorate SDHS alumni killed in Vietnam. Thus far, five have been identified: Marine 1st Lt. **James M. Mitchell** of Encinitas; Navy Lt.j.g. **Michael R. Zerbe** of Del Mar; Marine 1st Lt. **Charles B. Henricks**, Army



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Spec. 4 **Victor Lopez**, and Army Pfc. **Thomas L. Mericantante**, all of Solana Beach.

Jim has written a letter of protest to the SDHSD Board of Trustees. He writes, in part: "I am incredulous and angered by such a decision by administrators of the San Dieguito Union High School District. I am requesting the board of trustees direct, with all deliberate speed, authorization and assistance ... in placing such a memorial in a prominent place on campus ..."

Jim takes particular exception to a quote in the Nov. 19 column from Assistant Superintendent **Eric Hall**, who said present-day student would have no "positive con-

nection" with the fallen veterans.

"It disgusts me that such a request from members of this community is even the subject of debate," Jim told me. "To imply that students ... would not have any positive connection with these individuals is the height of insensitivity and arrogance, preferring to believe this to be the case, rather than sheer stupidity. These men are from this school, this community. Everyone who lives in the community, except apparently **Eric Hall**, is connected with them, as we are to all that see duty and pay the ultimate sacrifice in its performance." And, he had one parting salvo.

"As a Vietnam veteran, I am obligated to admonish Mr. Hall that it is imperative public administrators and decision-makers set aside their

personal prejudice and agendas," Jim said. "I know some, particularly my friends in academia, look upon any attempt to honor veterans as glorifying war, advancing or supporting jingoistic factions of government and giving comfort to the knee-jerk patriotism of the 'flag waving unwashed masses,' who, in their view, are duped into fighting ..."

FROM MARS — "I was over at the mall on Saturday and saw a beautiful woman. Another fella noticed too, saying, 'A million-dollar figure like hers really draws interest.'"

— *Neal Mars, Oceanside*

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