

July 18, 2012
Santa Barbara, CA

The Pierre Claeysens Veteran's Museum & Library launched the New Exhibit Hall of Local Heroes and Heroines at the Santa Barbara Veteran's Memorial Building - displaying more than 300 framed photos and decorations of local Veteran's of all wars.

The program was presented by Peter Bie, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 218; John Blankenship of the Pierre Claeysens Veteran's Museum and the Military Order of World Wars; and Master Sgt. Robert Forties, Veteran of the WWII Normandy Invasion as a paratrooper with the 101st.

Master Sgt. Forties presented each member of the Board of Supervisors* with a beautiful Plaque in gratitude for the unanimous support of the Board to fund the three Veteran's Service Officers (VSO) positions in SB County for 2013. The Supervisors also made the funding a permanent part of the Annual Budget so that Veterans do not have to lobby yearly to keep those offices staffed. A lunch was held immediately after the press conference with members of the 11 Veterans groups and the Claeysens Veteran's Museum which represent more than 35,000 Veterans in SB County.

**Supervisors in Attendance were Salud Carbajal, Steve Lavagnino, Mary O'Gorman from Janet Wolfe's office, Jonie Grey and the County Treasurer.*



(l-r) Lt. John Blankenship, Founding Director PCVM, Navy pilot, Vietnam Vet, Member of the Veteran's Coordinating Council (VCC) representing the Military Order of World Wars; Sgt. Major Robert Forties, veteran and WWII hero; and Sgt. Peter Bie, Vietnam Vet, 1st Calvary door gunner, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 218 and chaplain for Veteran's Coordinating Council (VCC)



All veteran's stood to be acknowledged at the event



5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino accepts his plaque from Sgt Major Robert Forties.