

The Vasquez Post

Veritas, Aequitas, Spiritus

Salute to our Veterans

For every Veteran there are reasons as to why they decided to join the armed forces. Some felt as if they had to. Some were drafted. And a large majority *wanted* to. In my father's situation, the latter was the case. When asked as to why he wanted to join the armed forces and the Marine Corp specifically, he said that the main driving force was his older brother Sergio.

My father felt that even after highschool he wasn't confident that he knew exactly what he wanted to do in life. He knew he wanted to do something important and successful, yet he was unsure of what despite all of the AP and Honors classes he took. His parents aspired for him to become a doctor, but my Dad's passion was baseball. He eventually came to the conclusion that he wasn't mature enough to go off to college. It was his older brother Sergio that was the first of my Dad's brothers to join the Marine Corp. When Sergio graduated boot camp, my father and the rest of his family went to go see him. Seeing Sergio standing amongst the other Marines was inspiring. It was then that he knew what he wanted to do for the next chapter in his life.

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Acton/Aqua Dulce Events

Native American Heritage Month: Veterans Shadow Box
11/20: Wed, 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Location: Acton Agua Dulce Library, 33792 Crown Valley Rd Acton, CA

Smarty Pants Storytime
11/20: Wed, 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Location: Acton Agua Dulce Library, 33792 Crown Valley Rd Acton, CA

Family Night
11/27: Wed, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Location: Acton Faith Bible Church, 32643 Gem Way Acton, CA



Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

**Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle Autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.**
Poem by Mary Elizabeth Frye

I will miss her smile. Tami was always the innocent young lady to me, who seemed interested in everything. We lost a fellow Mustang, and a gentle soul.
Mr. Mangel

Meet Your Staff: Dr. McWilson!

Why did you decide to come and work for Vasquez? Do you enjoy being here?
I love being at Vasquez. It's probably one of the best schools that I've been at before. Before, I worked at a heart district, and so all the high schools within that district I worked at, and also sulfur springs. But I like Vasquez because it's small. You get to know each student. And it's very close to where I live.

Is there something in your life that you're determined to accomplish?
My PhD. When I started, my wife was in school, and so I was inspired by her and what she was learning, and then I kind of went back. And it was always something that was in the back of my head where I was like, "Yo, I kind of want to, y'know." And so that was the biggest thing for me, finishing up my PhD, and now obviously, getting credential.

Is there anyone you've always looked up to? If so, who and why?
I've always looked up to my brothers, my pops died when I was at a young age, so they were always like that role model. So I looked up to them. And a lot of athletes.

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In Memorium of Tamara (Tami) Pfalzgraf 05/05/06-11/06/24

Tami has such a joyful heart. She loved music and her VAPA and advisory classes. Anytime the music came on, Tami was smiling and dancing in her chair. Her smiling face and enthusiasm will be deeply missed. *Ms. Owens*

As a teacher there are always some students that more than touch your heart. For me it was amazing to teach Tami. She was always so eager to learn everything especially as she realized that signs let her read and communicate with others... I will forever remember Tami's excitement when learning independent activities, learning to state her own opinions and having people listen, sharing her humor/jokes with others through sign language, and Tami's special smile... *Ms. Plahn*



Fun Facts

- Dolphins name each other.
 - The fear of long words is called Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia.
 - Ants don't have lungs.
 - A woman once called the police because her ice cream didn't have enough sprinkles.
 - You're more likely to be bitten by a New Yorker than a shark.
- Information provided by Abby Garcia and Jenna Dematteis*

Sports

- Nov. 19**
- Basketball, Boys JV vs Silver Valley (4:00 PM - 5:00 PM)
- Basketball, Girls VR vs Silver Valley (5:30 PM - 6:30 PM)
- Basketball, Boys VR vs Silver Valley (7:00 PM - 8:00 PM)
- Nov. 20**
-Basketball, Boys VR @ Highland (4:00 PM - 5:00 PM)
- Nov. 21**
-Basketball, Boys VR @ Highland (7:00 PM - 8:00 PM)
- Basketball, Girls VR @ Fillmore (7:00 PM - 8:00 PM)
- Nov. 22**
-Soccer, Girls VR @ Palmdale Academy Charter (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)
- Soccer, Boys VR @ Palmdale Academy Charter (3:00 PM - 4:00 PM)
- Basketball, Boys JV vs Rosamond (4:00 PM - 5:00 PM)
- Basketball, Girls VR vs Rosamond (5:30 PM - 6:30 PM)
- Basketball, Boys VR vs Rosamond (7:00 PM - 8:00 PM)
- Nov. 23**
-1:00 PM JVCastaic@VHS Baseball JV (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)
- Dec. 2**
-Basketball, Girls VR @ Golden Valley/Santa Clarita (5:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

Information provided by Khloe Roque

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Salute to our Veterans continued on the front page

Initially, my father didn't know which branch he was wanting to join. He considered the different options, yet he ultimately decided that if he was going to do it, he was going to go all the way.

As part of the Marines my father learned persistence, discipline, and a feeling of brotherhood, all which became core values to him. He learned to keep on going, no matter what life threw at him. No matter how broken and beaten down you are, to get back up again and move forward.

Looking back on his time and experiences in the Marine Corp he spoke about it fondly. When asked if he would do it all again, his response was, "Yes." And there is no hesitation in that.

Article by Sofia Hernandez

Another Salute

My mom's older sister, also known as my Aunt, joined the Navy because she wanted to go to college, but my grandfather didn't have enough money for her to go to college. She was also not considered a citizen because it was challenging at the time for my grandparents to retrieve a green card which meant my Aunt couldn't apply for any scholarships. She earned her associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees before retiring. All free tuition under the Navy. She was first stationed in Japan then in San Diego, Honolulu, Pensacola, and finally Guam. Before then being deployed to Afghanistan where she was in charge of receiving casualties. She was also a Hospital Corpsman for 23 years as well as working in Patient Administration. She was also promoted to Chief Hospital Corpsman before retiring with my uncle in Washington.

Article by Lina Rodriguez



Meet Your Staff continued on the front page

What job did you have before you came to the school? Are there any aspects of that job that you miss?

I used to work in production, work on set...like TVs, shows and stuff like that. The best part about that job was craft services, because we'd go and spend all day eating, and they get penalties if they didn't feed us on time. Just that whole job. It's not a joke, but it's funny how, you know, catered to you are. So that aspect of that I think is cool. But I like how the PTSO puts on the lunches and stuff here. So I guess it's pretty relative.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Sports. I play in the adult Football League, and so almost every Sunday we play at Birmingham High School. And it's a bunch of just old heads that never made it to the league...Every Sunday we go out there, and it's big fun. Playoffs, they have championships. You get trophies, and they keep stats, so it's kind of like the NFL. And then they upload all our highlights on YouTube and get to talk trash a little bit. So yeah, it's fun to relive that.

When did "teacher" become a possible career option for you?

So I've been subbing since 2012, so it's always kind of been something that was on the back burner kind of, or, you know, like a fallback. Like I said I was working a set, and whenever I wasn't called for production, then I could check my phone, and then the subsystem would be calling, so I could pick up something like that. But slowly...through maybe COVID, by the time I finished the PhD, it just seemed like..."Alright, this is something cool. It's convenient."

Do you plan on staying at Vasquez for long? If so, what is special about the school?

Yeah, absolutely. I plan on being here for a while, or, you know, as long as they have me...I think they can benefit from my presence here. And me and Mr. Mangel, we've been talking about starting the wrestling program here. So that's something that's weighing heavy on my heart, and I'm excited, you know, if we're able to complete that together.

What was the most memorable part of your high school experience and what made it stick out above the rest?

I was big into music when I was in high school, and so they let me perform at one of the school rallies, and that was probably one of the coolest moments. You know, they gave us the mic, and 500 people, all my peers, they're like, what? And they put our music on, and me, my best friend Mario, and then my buddy Rashad, we got to perform in front of the whole school. So that was super cool.

Interview conducted by Charlotte Hernandez

Veterans Word Search

S	N	A	M	R	I	A	R	I	E	E	D	R	P
O	E	N	I	R	A	M	E	M	A	R	P	P	E
L	I	R	A	A	N	A	A	N	N	L	V	A	R
D	R	S	O	D	R	I	L	I	A	N	V	E	O
I	S	I	A	I	E	R	L	R	D	M	N	R	I
E	W	E	S	S	E	R	V	E	E	A	R	R	R
R	N	A	M	S	D	R	A	U	G	M	R	N	R
R	R	T	P	A	N	A	M	E	C	A	P	S	A
O	T	M	A	R	W	I	R	V	I	A	O	P	W
L	O	N	I	R	O	D	N	R	A	P	I	R	L
I	M	R	S	D	W	T	A	N	W	A	S	L	I
A	I	I	T	V	E	S	E	R	S	S	S	A	A
S	P	M	N	R	A	S	R	C	S	S	M	A	N
R	V	E	T	E	R	A	N	C	T	A	C	L	M

Sailor

Serve

Warrior

Guard sman

Soldier

Marine

Airman

Spaceman

Protect

Veteran

Weather

The weather in Acton/Agua Dulce has been becoming colder recently. It's a nice chilling breeze that many people seem to be enjoying. Here in Acton/Agua Dulce, we have been dealing with some ups and downs with temps coming up to the high 70s down to a low in the 60s. The next few weeks should be full of cold mornings and nights, with that said, I recommend preparing yourself as we enter winter time by bundling up and keeping a hot beverage by your side; whether that's hot chocolate, coffee or tea. Next week we are looking at some highs of 50s coming up, and a high of 48 on Monday and chilling cold temperatures coming to mid 60s. Be sure to expect some cold winds coming as in next week Wednesday. So, be sure to hold onto your hats and scarfs. Make sure to be prepared with something warm when going out and make sure to grab yourself some Mustang apparel to keep yourself nice and warm!

Information provided by Ulysses Miron and Liam Byrne



All Artwork done by Sofia Hernandez

Inspiration Quotes

"You'll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut!"
-Dr. Seuss

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it or work around out."
-Michael Jordan

"My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time."
-Steve Jobs

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase"
-Martin Luther King

"Strive not to be a success, but rather be a value"
-Albert Einstein

Information provided by Gerardo Pelayo, Elijah Hernandez, and Adam Hernandez