



## CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

### **Thomas J. Moran, Chairman**

Member since 2007

Mr. Moran is currently the owner/broker of Moran Realty, Lincoln, CA. He has been active in the real estate profession since 1977. He served as Executive Vice President for two real estate associations. He is a co-author of a real estate text book and taught real estate courses at community colleges in Santa Clara County for several years. He served 22 years in the U.S. Navy as an aviator and achieved the rank of Commander before his retirement. He served multiple tours in Vietnam. He holds a B.S. degree from the U.S. Navy Post-Graduate School and a M.S. from George Washington University.

### **Vernon Chong, M.D., Major General (Ret), Vice Chair**

Member since 2004

Dr. Chong, of Lincoln, has served as a member of the California Veterans Board since 2004. He was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as a member of the California Veterans Board in June 2004, January 2005, and March 2009, and was elected Chairman in 2006. Dr. Chong is a physician and surgeon and a 31-year-veteran of the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of Major General before his retirement in 1994. His last active duty assignment was at the Headquarters United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany as Command Surgeon. He was the Network Director for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Integrated Service Network in Dallas, Texas from 1995-2000 in Dallas, Texas and Special Assistant a Network Director from 2000-2003.

### **Donna L. Dacier**

Member since 2010

MG Donna Dacier, US Army (Ret), brings over 34 years of experience as an Army communications officer and senior leader. She has provided executive leadership of small to large-size organizations, including tactical and strategic telecommunications and data networks providers in Southwest Asia, where she oversaw the operations and expansion of the largest wartime military communications network. MG (Ret) Dacier also served as the Senior Commander, Chief Information Officer, and Designated Approving Authority for the US Army Pacific command.

In addition to her expertise in the telecom/information technology domains, MG (Ret) Dacier has extensive experience at the Departmental level in strategic planning, force

management and organizational design, the Army and DoD requirements and resourcing processes, and program analysis and evaluation of Army programs.

MG (Ret) Dacier graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, earning an MS in National Resource Strategy and an MS from Boise State University in Instructional and Performance Technology. She served as the US Army Reserve representative on the Defense Department Advisory Committee for Women In The Services (DACOWITS). She retired from the Army as a Major General, and is a veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

## **Alexander Tsao**

Member since 2011

Alexander Tsao is currently a Partner/Shareholder of Venerable – Counselors at Law, PC, a boutique international law firm serving clients in diverse practice areas. He was previously a senior associate with Alston & Bird, LLP, and the Law Offices of Arnold G. Regardie, and has served as a law clerk for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, the Office of the Attorney General, State of California, and the Disability Rights Legal Center (formerly the Western Law Center for Disability Rights). Mr. Tsao has also served as an extern for U.S. District Judge William J. Rea, Central District of California, and as a community mediator with the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center. In addition to his experience in the civilian sector, Mr. Tsao was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2000, and since that time has served as a Civil Law Officer and the Chief Civil Law Officer, as well as a Trial Counsel and the Military Justice Officer (Chief Trial Counsel), for Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, and the Eastern Recruiting Region. From 2005 through 2007, Mr. Tsao also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Parris Island Division.

Along with his participation on the California Veterans Board, Mr. Tsao also currently serves as part of the Advisory Committee for the Military Veterans Justice Project of Loyola Law School and as a volunteer attorney with the Christian Legal Aid of Los Angeles.

## **John Farrell**

Member since 2011

John Farrell enlisted in the United States Army in 1960 and spent most of his three-year enlistment in Southern Germany, where he was assigned as a writer/photographer for various military newspapers, including the Stars & Stripes.

He was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1973, and practiced law in San Diego County until his retirement in 2004. He was employed as an associate attorney with the firm of Milch, Wolfsheimer & Wagner until April 1975, when he and Herbert J. Exarhos formed the law firm of Exarhos & Farrell. Exarhos was appointed to the California bench in 1983, and continues to serve as a Superior Court judge. Farrell was a part-time law instructor at Western State University College of Law (now Thomas Jefferson School of Law) from 1975 until 1983. He also served several years as a member of the Board of Directors of Friends of Handicapped Children, a non-profit corporation providing residential care for developmentally disabled youngsters.

He is currently a resident of the Chula Vista Veterans Home, where he serves as Chair of the Allied Council, an advisory body assisting the Home Administrator, and as editor of the Home's newsletter, "The Cal-Vet Home Gazette." He is also an officer of AmVets Post 700, located at the Veterans Home. Farrell also does occasional free-lance journalism and photography. His work has appeared in a number of publications, including the Chula Vista Star News.

### **Charlene Taylor, RN, MSN, NFA-BC**

Member since 2012

Charlene Taylor joined Kaiser in 1997 as the Director of Specialty Services for The Permanente Medical Group at South Sacramento. In 2002 Charlene became the Service Director for Kaiser Foundation Hospitals responsible for Perioperative and Perinatal Services at South Sacramento. She was promoted to Chief Nursing Officer at the Sacramento Medical Center in 2008, and has been the Chief Operating Officer since 2010.

Charlene is a Diploma Nurse graduate from the Kaiser Foundation School of Nursing. She continued her education receiving her Bachelors of Science in Nursing graduating from the University of the State of New York in Albany New York. Her Masters Degree in Nursing Administration is from the University of California, San Francisco.

Charlene was commissioned as a Captain in the United States Air Force (Reserve Command) in October 1993, earning her flight nurse wings in 1994. She subsequently was selected to be a flight nurse instructor followed by a promotion to evaluator status. Her last squadron assignment was the Chief of Standardization/Evaluation.

In addition to years of experience conducting aeromedical evacuation missions throughout the world, Charlene was activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from March 2003 - March 2004. In January 2005 Charlene was selected to be the Chief Nurse of the 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Squadron in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While transporting the injured out of Mosul, Iraq in a C-130, the aircraft took enemy fire landing without casualties. Charlene is the recipient of two Meritorious Service medals, Expert Marksmanship (2) and multiple other medals.

Due to the demands of her civilian position, Charlene transferred to inactive status in the Air Force Reserve Command.