

Harve Bennett



**Civilian Aid Secretary of the Army (CASA)
Tour of National Training Center in Barstow,
CA**

Harve Bennett is one of Los Angeles's best-known veterans. Mr. Bennett, a veteran of the Korean Conflict and 13-time Emmy nominated writer and producer has been a member of the Veterans Park Conservancy Board of Directors since 1991.

Mr. Bennett has ties to our military that span over 50 years, as well as 65 years of show business experience – a career that began in radio, expanded into television, and culminated with four feature pictures that grossed over a billion dollars.

Radio, Television, and the Movies

Harve Bennett Fischman, the son of a pioneer female reporter, was born in Chicago. In 1941 at the age of ten, he debuted on radio's "Quiz Kids" and was soon a household name. The show toured the nation during World War II selling War Bonds and entertaining troops.

He "graduated" from Quiz Kids at 15, and later came to California to study at UCLA's Department of Theatre Arts. He acted, made two student films, and wrote and directed the 1952 Varsity Show "It's Time You Knew," performed in Royce Hall.

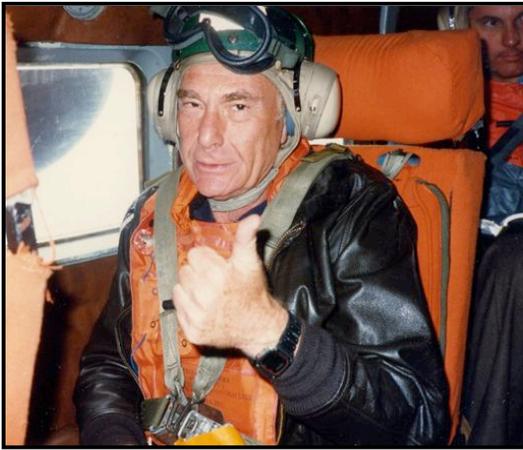
In late 1955, he moved to New York and within two years was the youngest Producer at CBS. This began his remarkable television career, a career that saw his involvement with several well-known television shows and movies. It began in 1956 when Mr. Bennett returned to California to produce "The Johnny Carson" show, a daytime forerunner of the "Tonight Show."

Harve Bennett moved to ABC in 1962, and became the Vice-President in charge of Programming, West Coast by 1967. His colleagues were such notables as Michael Eisner, Martin Starger, Doug Cramer and Chuck Barris. During this time, they developed "Peyton Place," "Batman," "The Fugitive" and "Bewitched," giving ABC the foothold it needed to become an equal of NBC and CBS. He left ABC in 1968 to produce *and write* a show he had helped develop with Aaron Spelling, "The Mod Squad."



CASA Tour, at Fort Irwin, CA

In 1971, Mr. Bennett joined Universal to develop Irwin Shaw's novel, "Rich Man, Poor Man," into TV's first mini-series. During that period, he also produced 12 movies of the week for ABC, and two hit series: "The Six Million Dollar Man," and "The Bionic Woman." In 1975, the top three shows in the Nielsen Ratings were "Rich Man Poor Man," "The Six Million Dollar Man" and "The Bionic Woman."



Landing on the USS Ranger

WB.

In 1980, Mr. Bennett joined Paramount and was consulted for his opinion of "Star Trek, The Motion Picture." When he opined that it was boring, Charles Bluhdorn, owner of the company, told him to "make a better picture." During the next ten years, Mr. Bennett produced and co-wrote Star Trek II, III, IV, and V, reviving the franchise. Simultaneously, Bennett produced two mini-series, "The Jesse Owens Story," and "A Woman Called Golda," which garnered an Emmy for Bennett and for Ingrid Bergman in her final performance.

In the '90's, Mr. Bennett wrote "Crash Landing, the story of Flight 232," ABC's highest rated original movie of the year, created, wrote and produced "Time Trax," a two-year series for the WB, and collaborated with Steven Spielberg to write and produce "Invasion America," a 13-hour animated mini-series for DreamWorks and the

Military Connections Span Over 50 Years

In 1953, Mr. Bennett joined the U.S. Army *during the Korean conflict. After Infantry basic training, He was given a Military Police MOS, and assigned as a Rehabilitation Specialist at the US Disciplinary Barracks in Lompoc, California. There he was named "Soldier of the Month" in January 1955, and was honorably discharged later that year with the rank of Corporal.*

Throughout his career in television and film, Mr. Bennett maintained his ties with his military roots. In 1984, due to several TV and film projects he had done with Pentagon cooperation, the US Army named him Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for California with a protocol rank of Lt. General (3 stars). He served as liaison between the Army and the entertainment industry until 1992, traveling frequently and visiting every important Army outpost from West Point to the National Training Center in Barstow, and establishing friendships with the great soldiers of the time, including Generals Colin Powell, Norman Schwarzkopf and Wesley Clark. *For his work in helping produce the world wide celebrations of the 50th anniversary of D-Day, he received the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal from the Department of Defense.*



Receiving Distinguish Civilian Service Medal on the 50th anniversary of World War II

Mr. Bennett maintains his commitment to veterans through his connection with Veterans Park Conservancy, and relishes the opportunity to be of service to his fellow Veterans. "Lessons learned in the military, sometimes difficult

at the time, have proved to be the tools of responsibility and achievement in all areas of my life,” Mr. Bennett states, explaining his continuing commitment to forwarding veterans’ causes and protecting their land and their rights. He was delighted to serve as the Master of Ceremonies at the dedication of Munemori Hall (the Army Reserve Complex at Wilshire Boulevard and Federal Avenue) to the Veterans of the 442nd (“Go for Broke”) Regimental Combat team, the Japanese-American Unit that fought so gallantly in WWII.



Private 1st Class Sadao S. Munemori Hall dedication ceremony at the U.S. Army Reserve in West Los Angeles, on June 6th 1993

He looks forward to expanding VPC’s areas of service to his comrades who have, “far more than me, borne the brunt of battle,” and VPC looks forward to many more years of collaboration with this man who uses his status in the entertainment industry to always look out for his fellow veterans.