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**Note:**

VFC is not liable for source information in this document, it is merely provided as a courtesy to our members.



All veterans are reminded that the fastest way to inquire and secure the benefits you have earned is by visiting your local County Veterans Service Office. A listing of these offices is available at [www.cacvso.org](http://www.cacvso.org) or at [www.calvet.ca.gov/resources/database.aspx](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/resources/database.aspx).

## CA Interagency Council on Veterans Works to Streamline Delivery of Benefits, Services

In one of the largest gatherings of its kind in the State, the California Interagency Council on Veterans (ICV) met recently in Sacramento to discuss ways to make it easier for veterans and their families to get the health, education, housing and employment benefits and services they have earned through military service. The two-day meeting brought together more than 130 individuals representing all levels of government, the private sector, veteran service organizations, nonprofit agencies and community volunteers.

The ICV was created last summer when Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-9-11. The Executive Order directed the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs to establish the Council, which is tasked with identifying and prioritizing the needs of California's veterans and coordinating activities at all levels of government in addressing those needs.

"We're pleased that so many have come together to coordinate, collaborate and communicate in ways that will identify and address the needs of California's veterans and to develop better ways to serve them,"



ICV Meeting breakout session.

said Peter J. Gravett, Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs. "The ICV will make it far easier for veterans and their families to successfully move forward after military service," he said.

Moving forward, the ICV will work to:

- Create a state plan that effectively links veterans service networks;
- Recommend policy, regulatory, and resource changes needed to accomplish the objective outlined in the state plan;

- Develop metrics and track accountability measures to ensure maximum efficiency;
- Promote and implement a research-driven, performance-based, results-oriented plan to connect veterans to their earned benefits.

For more information, please visit [www.icv.ca.gov](http://www.icv.ca.gov).

## INSIDE ▶

Women Veterans	p. 2
Hiring Veterans	p. 4
CalVet/Med Community	p. 7
Mexican American Vet Memorial	p. 8



### Women Serve Proudly and Well

By Lindsey Wathen  
Deputy Secretary for Women Veterans Affairs

As March is designated Women's History Month, let us remember to celebrate the many achievements of the female gender, particularly the achievements of those that have served in the Armed Forces. Women have always answered the call to defend and protect the freedoms of American citizens. They have even done so, alongside their brothers in arms, before the country was officially founded. Perhaps what is more significant still is that women have served well before they were legally allowed.

Over the centuries, the role of women in the military has changed significantly. However, their character and bravery

has not. Women have donned men's uniforms, manned guns, and crossed enemy lines. They have served as nurses, yeomen, spies, fighter pilots, interrogators, medics, MPs and convoy drivers. They have achieved the ranks of General and Admiral. They have served on almost every platform and on almost every continent. In the years to come, women will undoubtedly continue to break down the barriers that remain in military service. Currently women are joining the active duty, reserve and guard forces at an unprecedented rate. They are the new face of veterans.

However, CalVet recognizes that more work must be done to support and advocate for this growing, yet often forgotten population. The Department will continue to raise awareness of women's service and sacrifice, advocate for improvements in public policy, and seek to develop projects which support women veterans.

[PROUD, page 3 >>](#)



### America's First Female Combat Veterans Video

Lioness tells the story of a group of female Army support soldiers who were part of the first program in American history to send women into direct ground combat. Without the same training as their male counterparts but with a commitment to serve as needed, these young women fought in some of the bloodiest counterinsurgency battles of the Iraq war and returned home as part of the country's first generation of female combat veterans.

Told through intimate accounts, journal excerpts, archival footage, and interviews with military commanders, the film follows five Lioness women who served together for a year in Iraq. With captivating detail, this probing documentary reveals the unexpected consequences that began by using these Army women to defuse tensions with local civilians, but resulted in their fighting alongside Marine combat units in the streets of Ramadi. Together the

[VIDEO, page 3 >>](#)

*"Pride in one's country, and a sense of patriotism, are not sentiments that are limited to a specific gender, nor is the sacrifice of service to one's country through a military career. Therefore, it should be remembered and taught that service to our country has not, nor ever should be, limited only to our nation's men. In this greatest country on our planet, Americans know that we do our best when employing the best for those we left behind."*

-Author Unknown

## CalVet Rolls Out Electronic Health Record System

Thanks to the hard work of many CalVet and contractor staff, CalVet's new electronic health record system is rolling out. The talented project team worked closely with SolutionsWest and ADL to plan, configure, test, and implement the Enterprise-wide Veterans Homes Information System (Ew-VHIS). The new system will standardize and improve CalVet's business processes ultimately saving time and staff resources.

The Ew-VHIS system will be piloted at Headquarters, Barstow, Lancaster, Ventura and West Los Angeles. The project training team developed detailed training plans and system documentation so that staff can feel confident using the new system. Training for the pilot sites is scheduled through June 2012. If all goes as planned, staff at Chula Vista and Yountville will begin training later this year. A Site Coordinator and Site Training Coordinator have been identified for each location to assist with training and implementation. Subject matter experts finalized the business process re-engineering analysis and will continue to test the processes throughout the pilot to ensure the system is working as intended.

If you have questions about the project, please send your questions to [pmo@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:pmo@calvet.ca.gov).



## LA Area Vets Invited to Participate!

The Do Art Foundation—a humanitarian-based arts non-profit organization—invites recently returned vets in the Los Angeles area to participate in the “Military ArtCar” program.

The program combines the skills and experience of veterans and talented artists to conceptualize and fabricate an “ArtCar”—a moving sculpture that will be exhibited at parades, VA hospitals, and art/cultural events.

The program is intended to help veterans coming home from war adjust to civilian life while learning about artful self-expression, welding, building, and the mechanics of creating an art car.

For more information contact Kat Sambor at (310) 866-7107 or [kat@doartfoundtion.org](mailto:kat@doartfoundtion.org).

## << PROUD

So, as we enter this month in celebration of women and their many achievements, remember to thank a woman for her service to our great nation.

*Lindsey Wathen was appointed as Deputy Secretary for Women Veterans Affairs by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on November 22, 2011. Wathen enlisted in the United States Navy in 1997 as a Cryptologic Technician Interpretive. She completed two flight tours in Rota, Spain during which time she deployed in support of Operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and achieved the rank of Petty Officer First Class.*

## << VIDEO

women's candid narratives describing their experiences in Iraq and scenes from their lives back home form a portrait of the emotional and psychological effects of war from a female point of view.

Unique DVD versions of the movie are available for public and educational use, community use, vet center/clinician use, public library/high school library use, and home use. For more information visit [www.lionessthefilm.com](http://www.lionessthefilm.com).

*Courtesy USDVA*

## Stand-Down Event Funds Available

For the ninth year in a row, CalVet has been able to identify discretionary funds that will be directed to homeless veteran providers conducting Stand-Down events. To request a grant application package, call (877) 741-8532. Only one

application per event will be accepted; organizations submitting an application will be notified in writing of our decision within 2 to 3 weeks from the application deadline.

## Hiring Veterans Makes Good Business Sense

By Carolyn Ballou  
Staff Writer

Regardless of a person's political leanings or personal feelings about war, few can deny the incredible service and sacrifice of veterans. California is currently home to 1.9 million vets. Another 30,000 men and women separate from military service and return to the State every year. With the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, an additional 6,000-10,000 veterans are expected to return to California by the end of the year.

Unfortunately, these brave and selfless individuals are returning to a 12.5% state unemployment rate and an economy that is forcing more and more businesses to close. With more than two million unemployed Californians to choose from, why would an employer want to specifically recruit veterans? Besides significant employee value, veterans may bring thousands of dollars in tax credits and other employer benefits.

### Veterans make great employees

Veterans are trained to be team focused, mission oriented, responsible, respectful and accountable. They have learned how to do more with less, to work well under pressure, to adapt quickly to changing conditions, and to make the best of any situation. Many veterans have been trained to be leaders. All veterans have been trained to understand and respect chain of command.

### Tax benefits and other incentives may be available

Business owners may be entitled to thousands of dollars in state and federal tax benefits and other incentives for hiring qualified veterans. The federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit, for example, is based on a percentage, ranging from 25 percent to 40 percent, of qualified first-year wages. Maximum eligible credits may be as high as \$2,400 for hiring a qualified veteran and up to \$9,600 for hiring a veteran with service-connected disabilities.

Other state and federal benefits for hiring veterans may include:

- State-level hiring credits – \$37,000 (over 5 years) California Enterprise Zone tax credit for employers hiring certain economically challenged employees, including veterans;
- Training funds, tuition reductions, and military pay exemptions;
- Federal Mentor-Protégé Program – Allows certain government contractor reimbursements for training/incidental costs associated with training physically challenged veterans.

According to the Corporate Taxation Insider, which offers more detailed information about the tax benefits of hiring veterans, the process for documenting these state and federal tax benefits is fairly straightforward for the certified public accountant or taxpayer. In addition, systems can be set up to allow the employer to pre-screen the employees before they are hired in order to streamline the documentation process and maximize the hiring credit.

### Employment costs may be lower

Depending on the nature of their service, veterans who separated from



military service after 9/11 may be entitled to five years of free health care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. That means a substantial savings for employers who don't have to pay for or contribute to the health care premiums of those veterans.

### Veteran employment is a national priority

Last year, President Obama signed into law the VOW to Hire Heroes Act which provides much-needed practical support to veterans transitioning from combat to careers. The President has publicly challenged the private sector to hire 100,000 veterans or spouses by the end of 2013. A recently announced White House plan hopes to see thousands of post-9/11 veterans placed in first responder positions and positions working to restore and protect national parks. The First Lady and the Vice President's wife are hard at work promoting the 100,000 Jobs Mission and the Military Spouse Employment Partnership.

## Vets, Widows Eligible for Pension with Aid, Attendance

By Ted Puntillo  
Solano County Veterans Services

Qualifying disabled veterans and their widows are eligible for supplemental benefits to help cover the cost of daily living expenses. Veterans Pension is a cash benefit paid to wartime veterans age 65 or older who have limited or no income and to veterans younger than 65 with the designation of permanently and totally disabled, meaning they are not able to work. More seriously disabled veterans – those who cannot take care of themselves – may also qualify for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. Benefits are paid in addition to the basic pension rates.

To be eligible for these benefits, the veteran must have had at least 90 days of active military service—one day of which was during a wartime period—and a discharge under honorable conditions. The veteran does not have to have served in the war zone, only served during the wartime period. This benefit is based on income and is offset by any other form of income. Income may be offset by medical expenses.

This benefit is most commonly used by veterans who have a disability that's not connected to their service but that renders them 100 percent disabled. This could be anything from a stroke to a vehicle accident. One of the most popular uses for this benefit is helping

wartime veterans and their widows who end up in an assisted-living facility due to health conditions that render them unable to care for themselves and live on their own.

If you feel that you or your family members may be eligible for pension benefits, contact your County Veteran Service Office for information. To find the CVSO nearest you visit [www.cacvso.org](http://www.cacvso.org). Click on "Contact Us," then click on your county of residence.

*Ted Puntillo is director of Veteran Services for Solano County. Reach him at (707) 784-6950 or [TEPuntillo@SolanoCounty.com](mailto:TEPuntillo@SolanoCounty.com). The Solano County Veteran Services Office, 675 Texas St. in Fairfield, is open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.*

### << HIRE

Regardless of political party affiliation, companies that openly support efforts to hire veterans and their families become associated with American heroes and a become part of a highly visible, widely popular and enormously resonant public service effort.

#### Customer loyalty and competitive edge could be at stale

Businesses that openly support veteran causes, including veteran employment, stand to gain in ways they may not have considered. Research shows that business support of social causes is important to and rewarded by consumers.

According to the 2010 Cone Cause Evolution Study on American consumers:

- 94% want to know what companies

are doing to make the world a better place;

- 86% believe that business needs to place equal weight on societal interests as on business interests;
- 85% have a more positive image of a product or company when it supports a cause they care about;
- 81% believe companies should financially support causes at the same or higher level during an economic downturn;
- 80% are likely to switch brands, similar in price and quality, to one that supports a cause;
- 61% would be willing to try a new brand or one unfamiliar to them; 19% would be willing to purchase a more expensive brand if the company supports a cause;
- 40% have purchased a product in the past year because it was associated with a social or environmental cause;

Alan Webber, Principal Analyst and Partner at Altimeter Group, a research-based advisory firm in San Mateo, believes consumer affinity similar to that in the Cone Study can also be relational. Veterans may strongly support a company, brand or product because it is owned or managed by, employs, or is loyally patronized by other veterans.

#### The bottom line

Employers that support veterans—especially by offering them employment—stand to strengthen their talent pool, get substantial tax breaks and other savings, and gain a competitive edge. Equally, or perhaps even more important, is that hiring our nation's heroes is the right thing to do. It improves their lives, the lives of their families, and the communities in which they live. Isn't that the least we can do for them?



Not actual home. Photo for illustration only.

## Veteran, Wife Win Mortgage-Free Home

Joseph Pratt-Majesky and his wife, Karina are new residents of Modesto and owners of a mortgage-free home. The lucky couple won the home by applying to the Military Warriors Support Foundation which, in partnership with Chase Bank, gives homes to wounded veterans.

The homes are for families who have severe and/or unique circumstances due to injuries received while serving our country. In addition to the home, the family will receive three years of family and financial mentoring.

To be eligible to apply, a veteran must have been injured during combat in Iraq or Afghanistan; must be retired or already separated from the military; and must be mortgage-free. Those with compelling situations, who are less than 30 days from retirement or separation, may be considered.

A similar program launched in late February. Operation Homefront, the National nonprofit that provides emergency assistance to military families and wounded warriors, launched a partnership with Chase Bank that will put at least 100 wounded warrior, military and veteran families

permanently into homes this year. Operation Homefront and Chase will match homes in the bank's inventory with deserving families served by the nonprofit.

The program's first priority will be to place families who currently live at an Operation Homefront Village, which provides transitional housing for wounded warrior families. Operation Homefront Village SoCal—the only location in California—serves primarily Balboa Hospital and Camp Pendleton and is located in Oceanside.

Other wounded warriors, surviving single spouses of those killed-in-action, and post-9/11 disabled veterans will also receive priority consideration under the program. Any veteran of any era, regardless of wounded or disability status, will be eligible to apply.

For more information about the Military Warriors Support Foundation, including application instructions, visit [www.militarywarriors.org/openhomes](http://www.militarywarriors.org/openhomes).

For more information about the Operation Homefront Program and application instructions, visit [www.operationhomefront.net/homesonthehomefront](http://www.operationhomefront.net/homesonthehomefront).

## CalVet Mobile App Wins Big!

By Christie Borchin

You probably know that CalVet has its own Mobile App available for download to your Android or Apple device. But did you know the app won the "Best of Show" award at the 1st annual Government Mobility Conference held in Sacramento on February 8th? Well now you do!

The app gives users 24/7 access to information about employment, education, housing, health and other benefits and services available to California veterans. The app provides details of specific veteran benefits, including eligibility, providers, hours of operation, and contact information. Using GPS technology, the app also provides maps and driving directions to nearby County Veterans Service Offices, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health facilities and clinics, and organizations that offer services to veterans.

CalVet's talented mobile app team included staff from the Information Services, Veterans Services, and Communications Divisions. Congrats to them all!





## CalVet Works to Educate Medical Community

By Carolyn Ballou  
Staff Writer

Veterans can suffer from a variety of medical conditions related to their military service. Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange—the toxic herbicide used to defoliate the jungles between 1962 and 1971—now have increased rates of prostate, respiratory and other cancers, lymphoma, Type 2 diabetes, ischemic heart disease, nerve damage, digestive illnesses and skin disorders. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) presumes that 14 specific diseases and disorders were caused by Agent Orange exposure when diagnosed in boots-on-the-ground veterans and certain other Vietnam veteran groups.

Veterans of every era frequently suffer from hearing loss and tinnitus caused by the loud or sustained noises associated with combat and other military service. Many veterans struggle with service-connected post-traumatic stress (PTS) or with mental health issues related to traumatic brain injury (TBI) or military sexual trauma (MST).

Without knowing a patient's military history, it would be easy for a doctor to overlook Agent Orange exposure as the probable cause of a Vietnam veteran's Type 2 diabetes when age, genetic, and lifestyle risk factors are

present. A veteran's hearing loss might simply be attributed to age. The PTS, TBI, or MST at the root of a veteran's chronic depression could be missed or misdiagnosed.

That's why CalVet is working to educate the medical community. CalVet wants doctors to become familiar with the diseases and disorders that commonly affect the veteran community and to ask patients whether they have ever served in the military. That's a critical part of evaluating veterans' symptoms, making diagnoses, and recommending treatment.

Late last year, that message went out to nearly 300,000 physicians via the California Medical Board—the State agency that licenses medical professionals. The message also went out to California doctors with the help of nearly a dozen County Medical Societies. CalVet has now contacted California Medical School Deans and asked them to educate their students—the State's future doctors—about these same issues.

Even still, it's important for veterans to take personal responsibility. Tell your doctors about your military history so they can be on the lookout for symptoms of service-connected diseases and disorders and can order diagnostic tests for you when appropriate.



## AMVETS Announces New Veterans Career Centers

Thanks to a grant from the Call of Duty Endowment, AMVETS has opened new a Career Center in Tulare, California to help transitioning veterans who are seeking employment. Another AMVETS Career Center is scheduled to open in San Francisco soon.

AMVETS Career Centers offer a full range of services, including career assessment and exploration, resume writing, training, licensing and certification assistance, networking opportunities, and assistance with job searching. Most Career Center services are provided free of charge to eligible active duty military and veterans.

For more information about the AMVETS Tulare Career Center, call (559) 688-3407. For information about hosting a Career Center through your AMVETS post or department, visit [www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org).

## CVSOs Always Ready to Help Veterans Get Their Benefits

By Joe Wright

Veterans Service Officer, Kings County

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) offer a wide range of benefits to our veterans, service members, and their families. You may be eligible for benefits if you are a veteran, veteran's dependent, surviving spouse or child or parent of a deceased veteran, or a uniformed service member.

Benefits come in many forms. Some benefits are based on the nature and length of a veteran's military service, some are based on service-connected injuries/illnesses, and some are income based. For example, Compensation benefits are based on service-connected injuries/illnesses; pension benefits are based on income. There is no time limit to apply for Compensation and Pension benefits.

USDVA health care is available to veterans based on their service-connected injuries/illnesses and may also be available based on income. The USDVA also provides free health care for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater. You are eligible for five years of free health care from the date of your discharge from active duty.

Additional federal benefits, such as Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment, Education & Training, Home Loans, Life Insurance, Dependents & Survivors Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, and Burial benefits, are available. State benefits, including the College Fee Waiver Program, CalVet Home Loan Programs, California Veterans Homes, employment and unemployment insurance assistance, and others are available. For a list of all California veteran benefits, visit [www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Benefits.aspx](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Benefits.aspx).

The key to receiving veterans benefits is: You must apply for them! While you can apply on your own, your

County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) is there to assist you and your family. CVSO staff is trained and accredited by the USDVA and CalVet. To find the CVSO office nearest you, go to [www.cacvso.org](http://www.cacvso.org). Click on "Contact Us" and then on your county of residence.

*Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County, and a member of the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers. He can be reached via e-mail at [joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us).*

## Mexican American Veterans Memorial Beautification

By Louis Lopez

Staff Writer

Though few notice, a lone figure has stood in Sacramento for more than 60 years. The statue was unveiled in Sacramento's Southside Community Center in 1951, six years after the end of World War II, by the Society of Mexican Mothers—a women's patriotic society.





**CALVET**  
VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA  
YOUNTVILLE

Skilled nursing residents have greater access to rehabilitation therapies, nursing care, pharmacy management, structured activities and clinical dietary services. Included is a memory care program within this level of care providing a supervised environment for residents with symptoms of confusion, memory loss, difficulty making decision, solving problems or participating in conversations.

Amenities Include:

- Room and Board – three meals and snacks
- Medical care and medications
- Optical care, dental care and podiatry services
- Limited banking services
- Beauty/Barber shop
- Opportunities for worship for all denominations
- State of the art fitness center
- Bowling Alley
- Coffee Shop
- Community Center
- Base Exchange Store
- Library
- Swimming pool and therapy pool
- 9-hole golf course
- 1200 seat Theater, Symphony, Plays and Concerts
- Picnic Grounds
- Baseball Stadium
- Creative Arts Center
- Music Program
- Napa Valley Museum
- Cable Television

The Veterans Home of California–Yountville enjoys the strong support from the Napa/Solano Healthcare System. The local community as well as camaraderie from the neighboring Travis Air Force Base and many local Veterans organizations. Veterans Home of California are also located in Chula Vista, Lancaster, Ventura, Barstow and West Los Angeles.

## **The Yountville Veterans Home has immediate availability for Applicants to Domiciliary and the Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (Assisted Living)**

The Veterans Home of California – Yountville is a 1021 bed facility located in the heart of the beautiful Napa Valley in Yountville, California. It is the largest Veterans Home in the United States.

Although four levels of care are offered, immediate space is available in the Domiciliary Care Units and Residential Care Facility for the Elderly.

If admitted the Yountville Home, provides four levels of care to residents; providing continuity in care to the lives of residents in a homelike atmosphere of dignity and respect.

**Domiciliary Care:** Residents at this level of care do not require assistance and supervision in their daily living and receive room, board, and outpatient medical care.

**Residential Care Facility for the Elderly:** Receive everything found in Domiciliary Care plus residents at this level of care require minimal assistance and supervision with some activities of daily living.

**2 levels of Skilled Nursing (ICF and SNF):** Residents at this level of care are provided 24-hour services of licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Veterans Home of California–Yountville  
Admissions Office  
260 California Drive  
Yountville, CA 94599  
(800) 404-8387  
(707) 944-4601**

## 111 Years Old, Still Growing

By Captain Chad Cooper

The famed Blackhorse Regiment—the Army’s premier maneuver unit, constituted in February of 1901—recently celebrated its 111th birthday with residents of the Veterans Home of California, Barstow. The men and women of the Blackhorse Regiment currently have the task of training active and reserve units at their home base of Fort Irwin, California. Their primary mission is to act as the Opposing Force for training units on rotation to the National Training Center. The Regiment has been on the go since its inception and has credit for twenty regimental campaigns, earning the regiment’s motto of “Allons,” which means “Let’s go.”



U.S. Army Col. Antonio A. Aguto, right, commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, presents Hugh E. Crooks, the commander of the American Legion Department of California, with a carving of the regimental crest. (Photo by U.S. Capt. Chad E. Cooper, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs Office / Released)

### << MEMORIAL

The figure was quickly named “El Soldado” (The Soldier).

The memorial was conceived by grieving mothers who wanted to pay tribute to their loved ones who did not return from distant battlefields. In 1975, with very little ceremony, the statue was moved and given a place of honor across from the west steps of the State Capitol with the expectation that it would become an official and permanent State memorial.

El Soldado is believed to be the first permanent memorial honoring Latino veterans at any of the nation’s 50 state capitols. The memorial was never completed and is rarely visited. Sadly, time and nature have taken their toll on the memorial and few who pass the figure these days realize its significance.

Today, California has a plan and design to beautify, enhance and restore the memorial. Ground breaking is scheduled for the fall of 2012, with the memorial completed and gifted to the State of California in 2013. Six decades later, the dream of the Society of Mexican Mothers will be realized. A memorial committee appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly and President Pro Tem of the Senate, oversees the Memorial Project that can only be funded through private donations.

By legislation, “El Soldado” is designated an official state memorial, and maintains its original name (Mexican American) to historically reflect the name first given when it was dedicated as a local community memorial. Today, the memorial honors all Latinos, men and women who have honorably worn

the uniform of our armed forces. Also honored, with their names etched in granite, are 43 Latinos from across the nation who have been awarded the Medal of Honor – our country’s highest military honor. A memorial garden in remembrance of the sacrifice of mothers who supported their sons and daughters in war and peace will also be dedicated in the restored memorial.

For more information about the Mexican American Veterans Memorial, including design renderings, a video and how you can make a donation, visit [www.mavm.ca.gov](http://www.mavm.ca.gov).



## **The Barstow Veterans Home is Currently Accepting Applications for Residency in the Independent Living (Domiciliary), and Intermediate Nursing Levels of Care**

The Veterans Home of California—Barstow is a 400-bed, long-term care facility located on 22 acres with a panoramic view of the Mojave River Valley. The high desert atmosphere offers a climate that is healthful, quiet and safe with very low air pollution. The Veterans Home provides California veterans with a living environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feeling of self-reliance and self-worth. It offers three levels of care that provide continuity in the lives of residents in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

1. Domiciliary Care (Independent living) for veterans who are self-sufficient and do not require assistance with activities of daily living. Non-nursing staff provides minimal supervision. Residents at this level of care have access to other levels of care and medical services.
2. Intermediate Nursing Care for veterans requiring some nursing assistance to perform activities of daily living. Licensed nursing staff assist veterans with medications and treatments.
3. Skilled Nursing Care for veterans who require a higher level of nursing care and require assistance with many activities of daily living.

**Although this Veterans Home offers three levels of care, space is primarily available in the Independent Living (Domiciliary), and Intermediate Nursing levels of care.**

Amenities include:

- Room and board – three meals plus snacks
- Medical care and medications
- Optical care, dental care and podiatry services
- Transportation services to all medical appointments

- and off-campus activities
- Additional professional services include a beauty/barber shop, multi-purpose room and limited banking services
- Opportunities for worship for all denominations through the Chaplaincy Program
- A modern fitness center and exercise classes
- Library, cable television, and wireless Internet
- Housekeeping and laundry services
- Caring and compassionate staff, and
- Variety of community outings and an enhanced activity program

The Veterans Home of California—Barstow enjoys the strong support from the local community as well as camaraderie from the neighboring Marine Corps Logistics Base and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin.

Veterans Homes of California are also located in Chula Vista, Lancaster, Ventura, West Los Angeles, and Yountville. Veterans Homes are currently under construction in Fresno and Redding. Veterans considering assisted living are encouraged to apply to any of the Veterans Homes of California. Spouses are also eligible to apply with the veteran.

**For admission information, contact:**

**Veterans Home of California—Barstow**  
100 E. Veterans Parkway  
Barstow, CA 92311  
(800) 746-0606, ext. 1

## CalVet Invites Newsletter Submissions

CalVet invites County Veteran Services Officers and representatives from government and nonprofit organizations that serve California veterans to submit articles for possible inclusion in the CalVet Newsletter.

View submission guidelines at [www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/News/Newsletters/NewsletterGuidelines.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/News/Newsletters/NewsletterGuidelines.pdf).

# FOLLOW US!



## USDVA BRIEFS

**Study on Women Vietnam Veterans** - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is sponsoring a study to determine the long term health outcomes of women veterans during the Vietnam era. For more detailed information on the study, call the Perry Point Coordinating Center at (800) 949-1003 x6122 or x5291.

**USDVA Introduces Text Messaging to Expand Efforts to Prevent Suicide** - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) is expanding its efforts to prevent suicide through a new, free, confidential text-messaging service in the existing Veterans Crisis Line, introduction of toll-free access from Europe, and collaboration with Vets Prevail and Vets4Warriors, two groups providing crisis help to veterans, servicemembers and their families. For more information about USDVA's suicide prevention program, visit [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention).

**Special Monthly Compensation for Women Veterans** - If you are a woman veteran, you may be eligible for a special monthly

compensation. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has broadened its coverage of special monthly compensation for women veterans who suffered loss of breast tissue related to their military service. Women veterans with service-connected breast tissue loss who are not receiving the special monthly compensation should contact the USDVA at (800) 827-1000 to find out if they are eligible.

**Department of Veterans Affairs Working to Unlock Genetic Codes** - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) is looking for veterans to participate in a voluntary and confidential research program to create the world's largest medical bank of genetic information. Veterans who are users of the USDVA health care system at one of the MVP enrolling sites are eligible to participate. California MVP sites currently include Palo Alto, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Eligible veterans interested in participating in the study should call toll-free (866) 441-6075. To learn more about the study and to check periodically to see if your USDVA health care facility has been added to the participating facility list, visit [www.research.va.gov/mvp](http://www.research.va.gov/mvp).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH 7

#### Napa Solano Counties Collaborative for Our Military and Their Families

Employment Development Department, 320 Campus Ln., Fairfield, CA 94534  
[napasolanocollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:napasolanocollaborative@gmail.com)

### MARCH 20

#### CalVet - Women's Military History Week Reception

California Museum  
1020 O St. Sacramento, CA 95814  
Contact: (916) 653-1402

### MARCH 23

#### Women Vets Seminar

Rancho Community College District Conference Center  
2450 East Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, CA (714) 687-4835

### MARCH 28

#### Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council - 2012 Capitol Legislative Day

State Capitol, Basement Cafeteria, Eureka Room  
Contact: Pete Conaty (916) 492-0550

### MARCH 30

#### Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

### APRIL 5

#### Founder's Day Event - 128th Anniversary of the Veterans Home of California, Yountville

100 California Ave., Yountville, CA 94599

### APRIL 18

#### American Legion, Department of California - 2012 Capitol Legislative Day

State Capitol, Basement Cafeteria, Eureka Room  
Contact: Pete Conaty (916) 492-0550

### MAY 2

#### Chula Vista Veterans Home Annual Golf Classic, Chula Vista Veterans Home support Foundation

East Lake Country Club  
2375 Clubhouse Dr., Chula Vista, CA 91915  
Contact: Dorothy Diaz, 619-205-1410

### MAY 12

#### Veteran's Home of California, Barstow Mud Run

100 East Veterans Parkway, Barstow, CA 92311  
[www.hdevents.org](http://www.hdevents.org)

### MAY 19

#### Veterans Home of California - Chula Vista Founders Day

700 East Naples Ct., Chula Vista, CA 91911  
Contact: Neal Asper (619) 482-6021

#### CalVet News

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## The West Los Angeles Veterans Home is Currently Accepting Applications for Residency in the Assisted Living Level of Care



The Veterans Home of California—West Los Angeles is a 396-bed, long-term care facility located adjacent to the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System in West Los Angeles.

**Although two levels of care are offered, immediate space is primarily available in the Assisted Living Unit.**

The Veterans Home provides California veterans with a living environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feeling of self-reliance and self-worth.

The Veterans Home of California—West Los Angeles offers two levels of care that provide continuity in the lives of residents in a homelike atmosphere of dignity and respect.

**Assisted Living:** Residents at this level of care require minimal assistance and supervision with some activities of daily living. Services may include care by licensed nurses.

**Skilled Nursing Care:** Residents at this level of care are provided 24-hour services of licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants. Skilled nursing residents have greater access to rehabilitation therapies, nursing care, pharmacy management, structured activities and clinical dietary services. A memory care program within this level of care provides a supervised environment for veterans with symptoms of confusion, memory loss, difficulty making decisions, solving problems or participating in conversations. These levels of care will be available in 2012.

### **Amenities include:**

- Room and board – three meals plus snacks
- Medical care and medications
- Optical care, dental care and podiatry services
- Transportation services to all medical appointments and off-campus activities
- Additional services include a beauty/barber shop, multi-purpose room and limited banking services
- Opportunities for worship for all denominations through the Chaplaincy Program
- A modern fitness room and exercise classes
- Library and cable television
- Restorative Therapy Center
- Housekeeping and laundry services
- Caring and compassionate staff, and
- Variety of community outings and an enhanced activity program

The Veterans Home of California—West Los Angeles enjoys the strong support from the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, the local community as well as camaraderie from the neighboring Los Angeles Air Force Base and many local Veterans organizations. Veterans Homes of California are also located in Chula Vista, Lancaster, Ventura, Barstow and Yountville.

### **For admission information, contact:**

Veterans Home of California—West Los Angeles  
11500 Nimitz Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
(424) 832-8202  
(424) 832-8203  
Toll Free: (877) 605-1332  
[www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov)