

CalVet

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CONNECT

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 25, 2015

CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK

MILITARY

MEMORIALS

CALVET
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Acting Secretary's Message

May is especially important for our service members, Veterans, and families because of the many poignant observances for our fallen. This month's newsletter reflects on Memorial Day and other Veteran-related subjects.

On May 8, we observe Victory in Europe Day and the defeat of the Nazis during World War II. On the third Saturday of May, we commemorate Armed Forces Day and acknowledge the many contributions of our Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard service members.

This year, we observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, remembering, paying our respects, and decorating the graves of our war dead with flags and flowers. Although this holiday began after the Civil War, in 1866, President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of what we now call Memorial Day.

The way we fight wars has changed throughout the years, and in a 2013 speech, President Barack Obama made the following observation regarding Memorial Day and how its significance has changed.

"Today [Memorial Day], it's different. Perhaps it's a tribute to our remarkable all-volunteer force, made up of men and women who step forward to serve and do so with extraordinary skill and valor. Perhaps it's a testament to our advanced technologies, which allow smaller numbers of troops to wield greater and greater power. But regardless of the reason,

this truth cannot be ignored that today most Americans are not directly touched by war."

The President's words have special significance for me. As the daughter and spouse of Veterans, I encourage all Californians to take the time to remember the freedoms we enjoy are possible thanks to the valiant service of men and women who don our nation's military uniforms. You may not feel touched directly by war, but as Americans, we share both the glory and the burden of our country's conflicts.

I believe the best way to honor our fallen service members is by remembering our service members' families who have lost so much. Long after the battlefield guns go silent and the bombs cease, families and friends of service members lost in battle continue to grieve for loved ones who died way too early.

I encourage every citizen of our Golden State to participate in our National Moment of Remembrance on May 25. Please pause whatever you are doing at 3:00 p.m. for one minute of silence in honor of our service members who died.

We can never let the sacrifices of our heroes go unnoticed. President Abraham Lincoln expressed it best when he reflected upon our obligations to those who serve and die in our military. In November 1863, at a ceremony following the reburial of Union soldiers killed during the Battle at Gettysburg, President

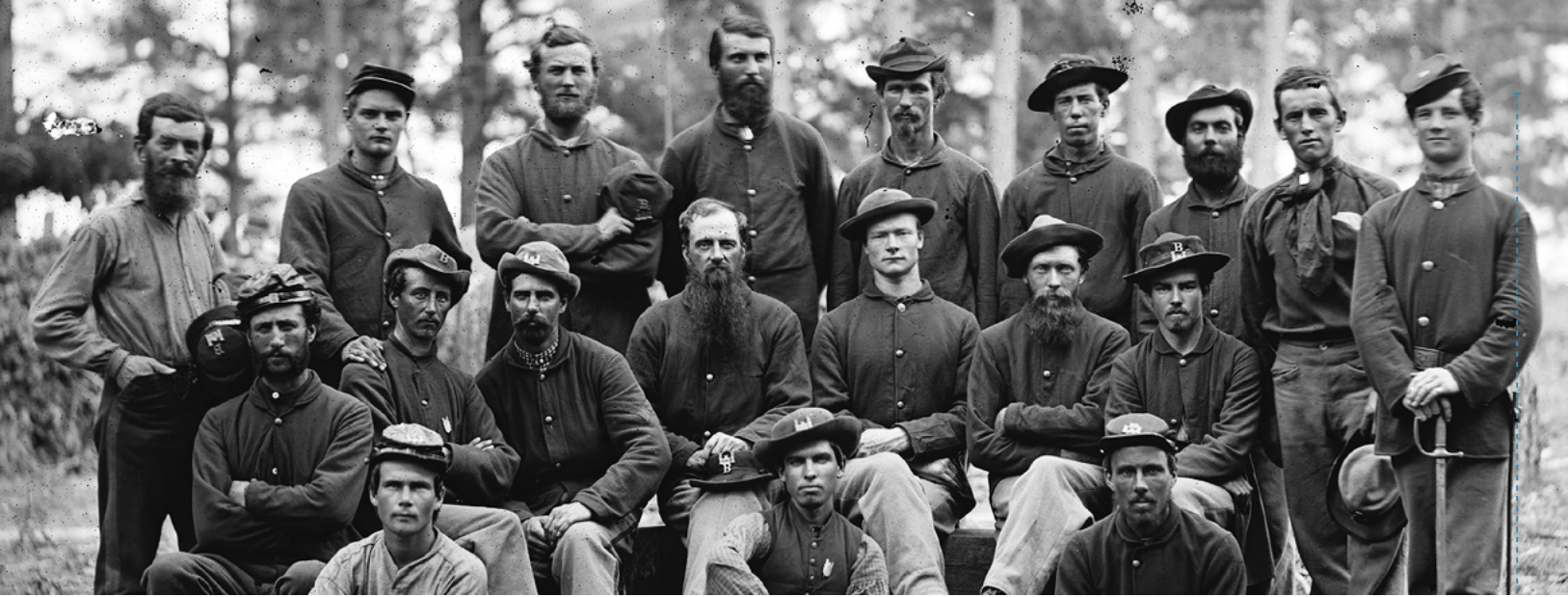
Lincoln expressed these obligations most eloquently.

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

In closing, this month's edition of CalVet Connect contains many new photographs of Memorials located in Capitol Park, Sacramento, honoring our nation's Veterans. The Memorials are California's everlasting tributes to our fallen, this year, and every year.

Sincerely,

Debbie Endsley
Secretary (A)
California Department of Veterans Affairs



Memorial Day's Long History

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, commemorates the men and women who died while in the military service. In observance of the holiday, many people visit cemeteries and memorials, and volunteers often place flowers and American flags on each gravesite at national cemeteries. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

Memorial Day's Long History

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union Veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the United States.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC.

Approximately 25 cities claim the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the

South where most of the Civil War dead are buried. In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local Veterans who fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide, or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after World War I that the day was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the United States.

To view a list of America's wars, please visit www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/fs_americas_wars.pdf.

CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK MILITARY

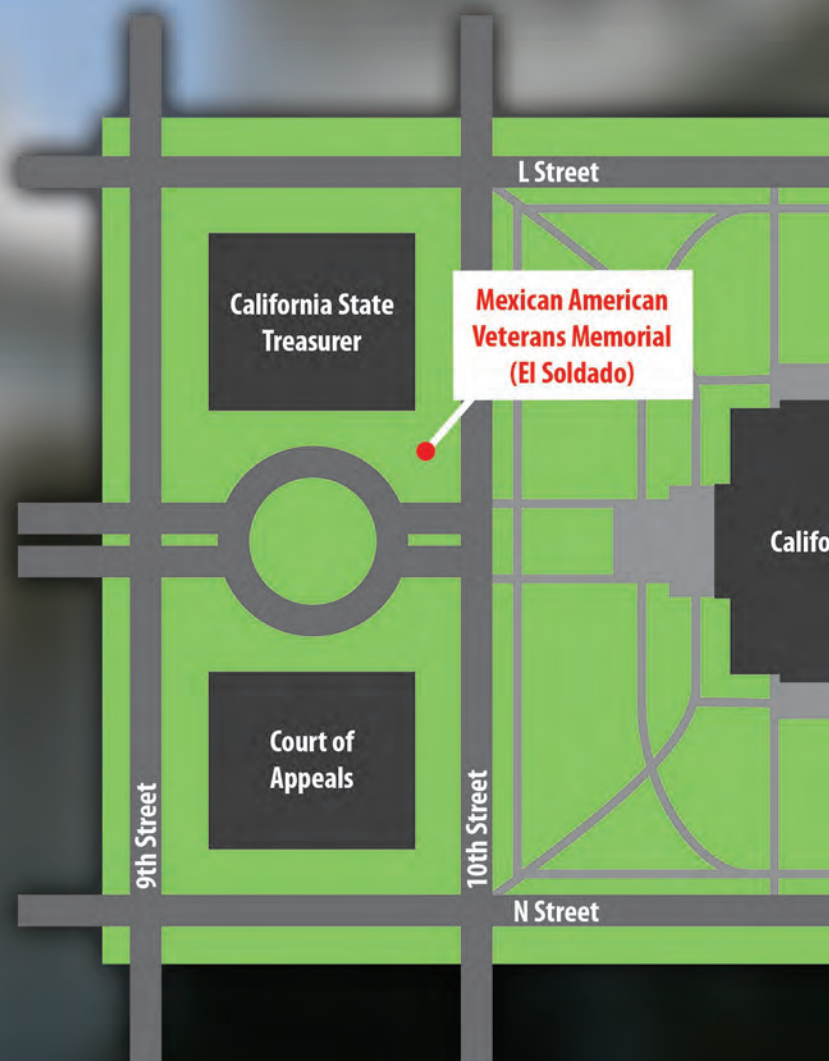
MEMORIALS



There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Veterans memorials in California. The memorials honor the men and women who wore our nation's military uniform. From a simple plaque in a public building or park to granite monuments, buildings, bridges, and even freeways, Veterans memorials honor our Veterans' service and sacrifice and remind us that freedom is not free.

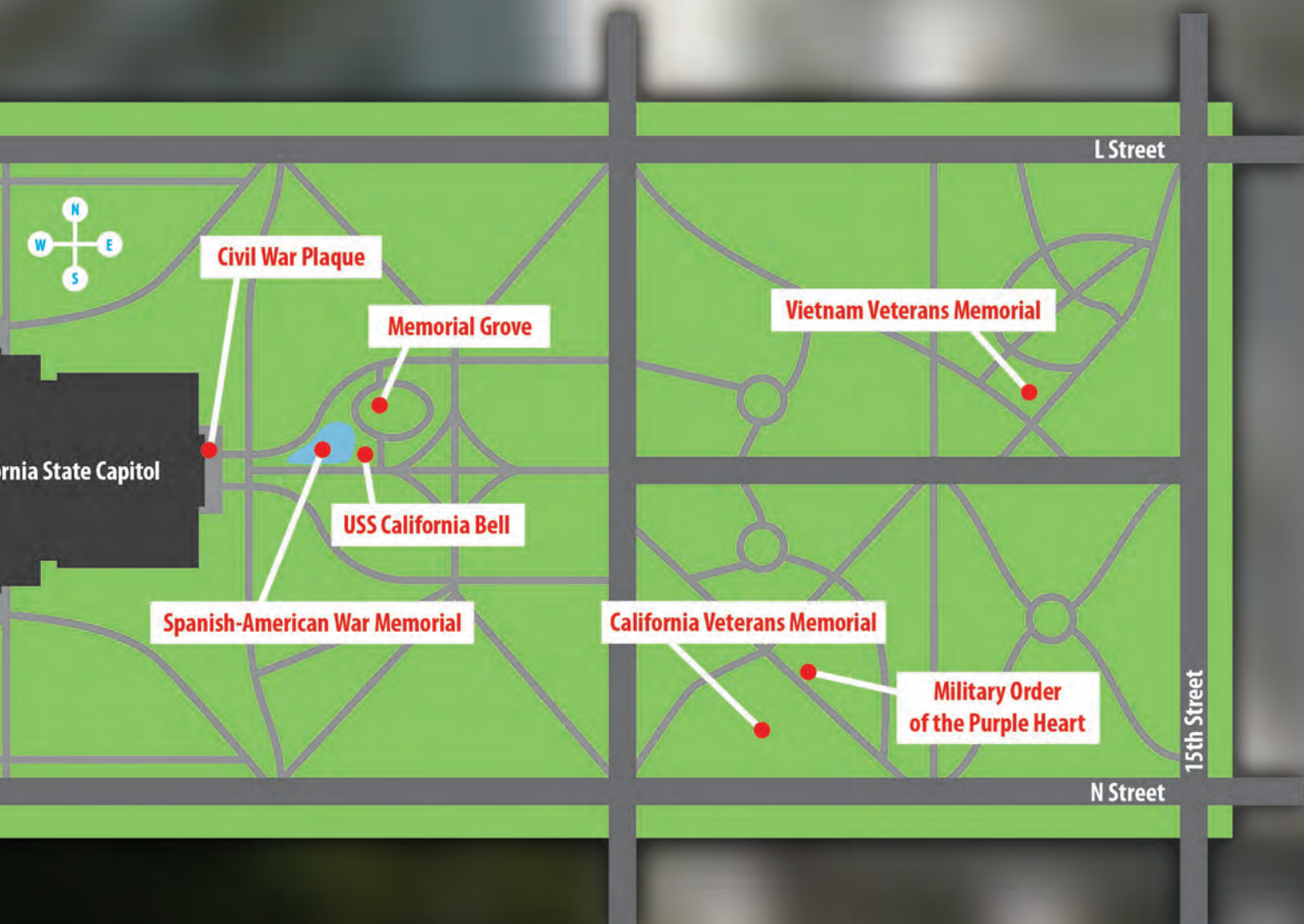
Veterans memorials are supported by state and federal funding, and donations from Veterans and family members, Veterans Service Organizations, and others. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) manages the following Veterans memorials located in Sacramento's Capitol Park: the California Veterans Memorial, California Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Bell of the USS California, Spanish American War Memorial, and Mexican American Veterans Memorial.

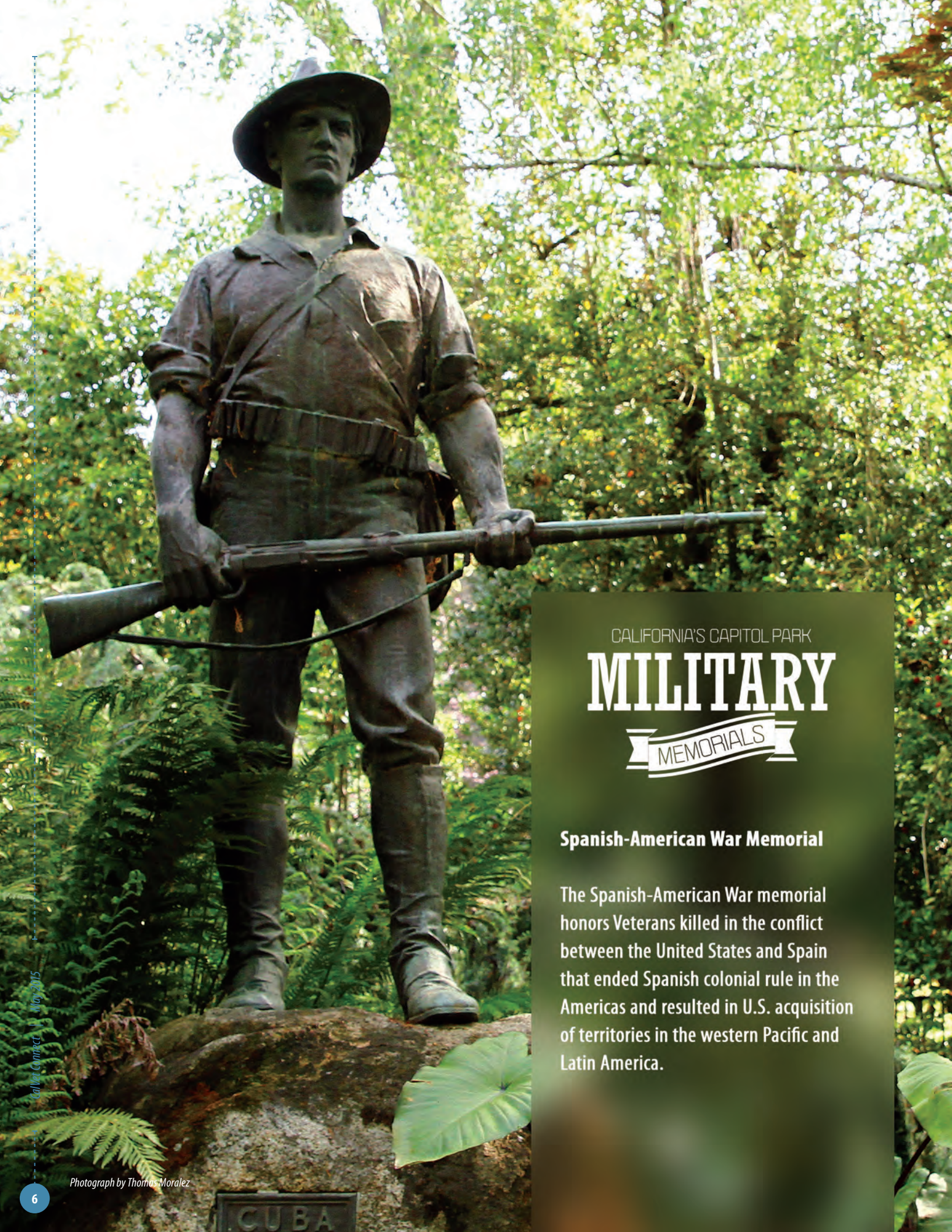
CalVet maintains an online registry with information about most of our state's Veterans memorials. Over time, and with the help of cities, counties, Veterans organizations, and members of the public, CalVet hopes to compile information about all Veterans memorials in California. To search for a California Veterans memorial, please visit www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Registry-of-California-Veterans-Memorials.aspx. To notify CalVet about a memorial not listed, please visit www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Documents/MemorialSurvey.pdf.





Photographs by Thomas Moralez





CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK

MILITARY

MEMORIALS

Spanish-American War Memorial

The Spanish-American War memorial honors Veterans killed in the conflict between the United States and Spain that ended Spanish colonial rule in the Americas and resulted in U.S. acquisition of territories in the western Pacific and Latin America.

CUBA



State Veterans Cemeteries Provide Final Resting Place

California's State Veterans cemeteries provide a final resting place and lasting tribute to Veterans who served and sacrificed for our country. State Veterans Cemeteries are intended to serve areas not adequately served by an existing National Cemetery.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) owns and operates California's three state Veterans cemeteries.

Northern California Veterans Cemetery

Our Northern California Veterans Cemetery (NCVC) is the first California Veterans Cemetery constructed with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and is operated by CalVet. NCVC, located in Igo, near Redding, California, primarily serves the Veteran population in our state's eighteen Northern counties. The currently developed area of the cemetery provides sufficient burial space for more than thirty years. Beyond that, the cemetery has the capacity for expansion of space for well beyond 100 years. Any eligible Veteran, along with their spouse and eligible dependents, may be interred at the cemetery.

Yountville Veterans Cemetery

Our Yountville Veterans Cemetery is located on more than 11 scenic acres of oak-covered hills in the northwest corner of the Yountville Veterans Home in the beautiful Napa Valley. This historic cemetery marks the resting place of 5,700 Veterans and dependents. The cemetery currently accepts for interment only residents of our Veterans Home and their eligible dependents.

California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

Our California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) will be the second California Veterans Cemetery developed and constructed in cooperation with the USDVA Veterans Cemetery Grants Service. The facility is located in Monterey County on the former Fort Ord Army post in Seaside. A community groundbreaking ceremony took place on March 13, 2015. Phase I of

cemetery construction will accommodate cremated remains only, and is expected to be completed in July 2016. Casketed burials are planned for Phase II. While there is currently no scheduled opening date for Phase I, CalVet is planning to widely publish information about the dedication and opening when available. The application requirements and scheduling process will be shared as the opening draws near.

State Veterans Cemetery Internment Eligibility

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs regulations establish eligibility requirements for interment in a state Veterans cemetery. The regulations make the state eligibility requirements equivalent to the requirements for burial in a USDVA National Cemetery and provide for CalVet collection of information needed to determine eligibility. To view Veterans cemetery eligibility requirements, please visit www.cem.va.gov.

Locating a Veteran's Burial Site

To locate the grave site of a Veteran in a state or national cemetery, please visit www.gravelocator.cem.va.gov. You may also contact the National Cemetery Administration Assistance Unit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) at (800) 697-6947.

MILITARY



Military Order of the Purple Heart

The Purple Heart is awarded to combat-wounded U.S. military service members and, posthumously, to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

"YOU HAVE NEVER LIVED UNTIL YOU HAVE ALMOST DIED. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR IT, LIFE HAS A FLAVOR THAT THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW"



MY STONE IS RED FOR THE BLOOD THEY SHED. THE MEDAL I BEAR IS MY COUNTRY'S WAY TO SHOW THEY CARE. IF I COULD BE SEEN BY ALL MANKIND MAYBE PEACE WILL COME IN MY LIFETIME.



DEDICATED TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS NATIONS OLDEST MILITARY DECORATION "THE PURPLE HEART"

Photograph by Thomas Moralez

Irvine Memorial Honors Fallen Iraq and Afghanistan Service Members

“To be killed in a war is not the worst that can happen. To be lost is not the worst. To be forgotten is the worst.” -Pierre Claeysens (1909–2003)

Every year since 2003, a simple Veterans memorial was set up in the City of Irvine by members of the community the week before Memorial Day and then removed the week after Independence Day. The names of every U.S. service member who died in Afghanistan and Iraq were displayed on the wooden posts of the temporary memorial.

Now, our service members' names are engraved in granite on a permanent memorial to assure that future generations of Americans remember and honor our Fallen.

Dedicated on November 14, 2010, and open to the public 24 hours a day, year-round, the

Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial panels bear the names of 6,786 service members who died between October 1, 2001, and March 31, 2014. The names of newly Fallen Heroes are added several times each year after information published by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) is verified for accuracy. All eligible names from the entire U.S. Military nationwide are engraved.

Visitors to the Memorial may stop by the Park Center to request assistance doing a “rubbing” that transfers an engraved name to paper.

For more information about the Memorial and to search for a fallen service member's name, please visit www.northwoodmemorial.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx.

Navy Honors Veteran Cesar Chavez

Cesar Chavez was an American farm worker and labor leader. He is considered one of the top civil rights activists in the United States. His work contributed to many gains by farm workers, including collective bargaining rights. His tactics were non-violent and he garnered support of leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy, Jr.

Chavez was a Navy Veteran and, while he served for two years just after World War II, military honors were not rendered at his burial. On April 23, 2015, 22 years after his death, the Department of the Navy rendered Chavez Military Honors.

The event was coordinated by the Navy Operational Support Center, providing military honors for deceased Navy personnel and Veterans. The burial ceremony concluded with presentation of the American flag to Helen Chavez, Cesar's widow.

Representatives from Latino Veterans' organizations across California attended the event. The program included remarks and short videos paying tribute to Latino Veterans' patriotism and sacrifices for our country.



“Participating in an event that pays tribute to the military service of such an important figure in Latino history is one of my greatest honors,” said Mirtha Villarreal-Younger, California Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary, Minority Veterans Affairs.

Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By *Mirtha Villarreal-Younger*
Deputy Secretary Minority Veterans Affairs

May is designated as Asian-Pacific Islander (API) Heritage Month. Asian-Pacific Islander is a broad term that encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian-Pacific Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, U.S. Reps. Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president



to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. Twelve years later, President George H.W. Bush signed an extension making the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

California is home to more than 110,000 Asian-Pacific Islander Veterans, the largest API Veteran population in the country. The

API community has a prestigious history of military service. There are many notable API Veterans and units, and the CalVet Minority Veterans Affairs Facebook page highlight a few this month. Visit www.facebook.com/pages/CalVet-Minority-Veterans-Affairs to read the contributions of heroes, including members of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, an all Japanese American unit that holds the distinction of being the most decorated unit in military history. In total 14,000 men served in the 44nd, earning 9,486 Purple Hearts. Twenty-one of the unit's members were awarded the Medal of Honor, and the 442nd was awarded eight Presidential Unit Citations.

VFW's Buddy Poppy

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States was the first Veteran organization to promote a nationally organized campaign for the annual distribution of poppies assembled by

disabled and needy Veterans. To read the Buddy Poppy history, please visit www.vfw5157.com/VFW%20-%20Buddy%20Poppy%20History.htm.



CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK

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California Veterans Memorial

This memorial is a tribute to all Californians who served in uniform. Dedicated December 12, 1998, the granite obelisk displays etched images representing the Mexican-American, Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and World Wars.





Mother's Day is Difficult for Many

In honor of Mother's Day, the following poem was shared by Mirtha Villarreal-Younger (Major, U.S. Army, Retired), California Department of Veterans Affairs, Deputy Secretary, Minority Veterans Affairs. Her poem is part of a conversation she had with her young daughter, Esperanza. "I'm sure many women and men have had similar conversations," Villarreal said.

Uniform

By Mirtha Villarreal-Younger

Momma , why do you wear those clothes?

It's my uniform baby.
I don't like it momma ...

This uniform means I am a Soldier.
I don't like it momma ...

This uniform represents freedom.
I don't like it momma ...

This uniform means I am willing to fight for our country.
I don't like it momma ...

This uniform represents many hard years of training.
I don't like it momma ...

This uniform means I am committed to something greater than myself.

Momma ... your uniform means you go away.

... This uniform ... I don't like it baby

USDVA Awards Big Sandy Rancheria Veterans Cemetery Grant

On March 30, 2015, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) awarded a \$456,850 grant to establish the Big Sandy Rancheria Veterans Cemetery in Auberry, California. The grant funds construction and maintenance of 20 preplaced crypts, landscaping, and supporting infrastructure on a half-acre of land. The cemetery serves the Big Sandy Band of Western Mono Indians.

The grant helps the Tribe provide enhanced services for Veterans and their families. The closest national cemetery is the USDVA's San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, nearly 100 miles away. The closest state Veterans cemetery is the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo, approximately 350 miles away.

For more information about the Big Sandy Band of Indians, please visit www.bigsandyrancheria.com.

For more information about state and national Veterans cemeteries, please visit www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Cemeteries-and-Burials.aspx.



Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipients Recognized on U.S. Postage Stamps

Nearly 3 million service men and women fought in the Vietnam War which took the lives of more than 58,000 Americans. Of those who served during that war, 258 were awarded the Medal of Honor. More than six out of 10 award recipients died while performing the courageous acts. American military advisers had been involved in South Vietnam since the 1950s.

The U.S. Postal Service honors our brave Americans by dedicating the Limited Edition Vietnam War Medal of Honor Prestige Folio Forever stamps on Memorial Day, May 25, 2015. The dedication ceremony, hosted by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service, will take place at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The event is free and open to the public.

The Prestige Folio stamp sheet depicting many of the nearly 50 living Vietnam War recipients will be previewed later. The folio, which lists the names of all 258 recipients, will be modeled after the World War II and Korean War Medal of Honor Prestige Folio stamp sheets issued in 2013 and 2014, respectively. For more information, please visit http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2015/pr15_016.htm.



CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK

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Bell of the USS California

This memorial honors World War II Veterans. The only battleship built on the Pacific Coast, the USS California, was sunk at Pearl Harbor and later raised and put back into service. The ship's bell was dedicated and rung for the last time by Governor Earl Warren on October 27, 1949.



Photograph by Thomas Morales

CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK

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California Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial lists the names of 5,656 men and women who died during military service in Vietnam. Dedicated on December 10, 1988, the memorial is one of the most visited in Capitol Park.

CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK

MILITARY

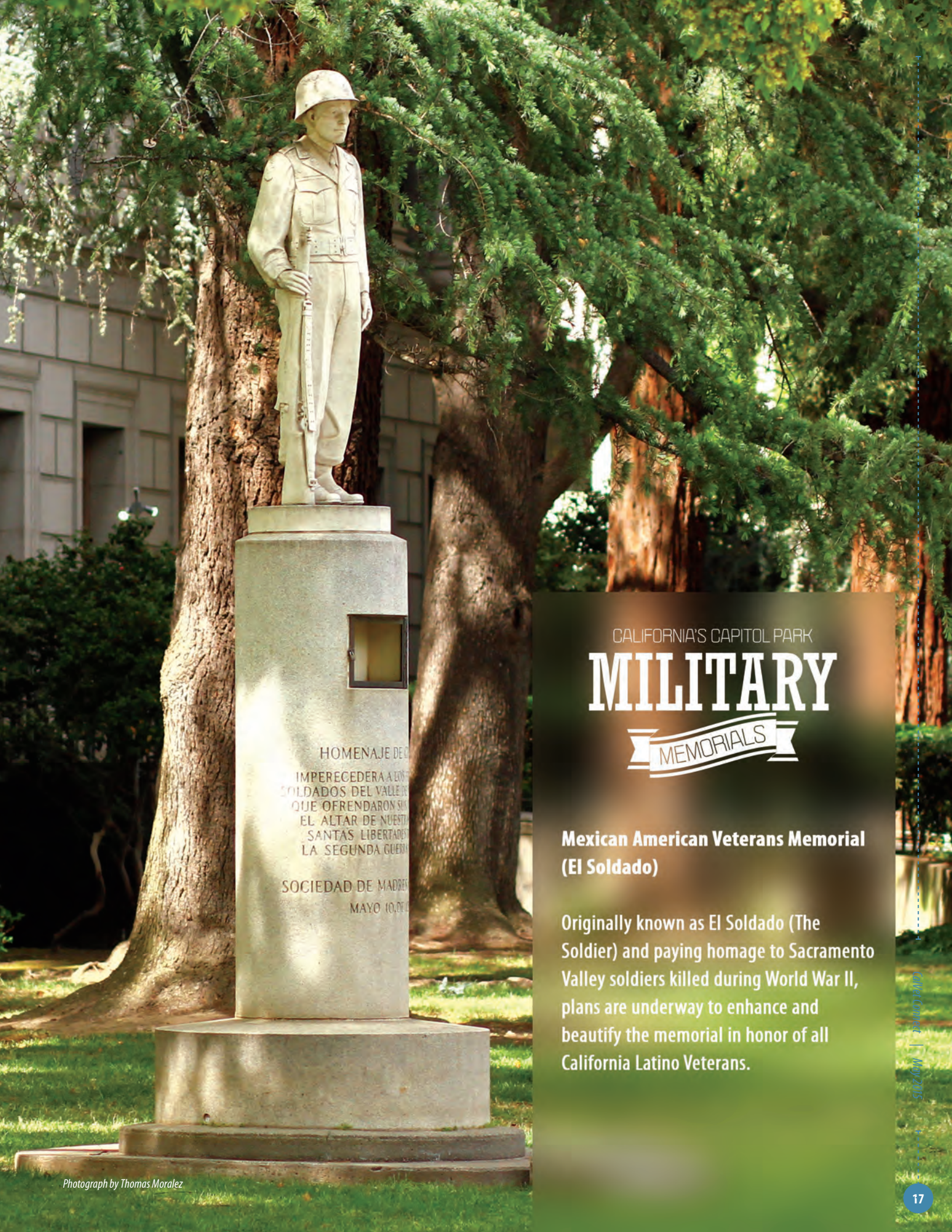
MEMORIALS

California Civil War Plaque

California service members in the Union Army faced the Confederate Army in most of the major battles in the East, including Pickett's charge at Gettysburg in 1863, arguably the most pivotal military action of the Civil War. In all, more than 17,000 Californians would enlist as soldiers, the highest per-capita total for any state in the Union.

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY
OF THE BRAVE MEN
FROM CALIFORNIA
WHO SERVED
GALLANTLY IN WAR,
1861-1865. THIS
MEMORIAL PLAQUE
IS DEDICATED ONE
HUNDRED YEARS
LATER IN TRIBUTE
TO THEIR SACRIFICES.

CALIFORNIA CIVIL WAR
CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
MAY 30, 1963



Photograph by Thomas Moralez

CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK

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MEMORIALS

Mexican American Veterans Memorial (El Soldado)

Originally known as El Soldado (The Soldier) and paying homage to Sacramento Valley soldiers killed during World War II, plans are underway to enhance and beautify the memorial in honor of all California Latino Veterans.

The Soldiers Project Seeks Volunteer Therapists

By Susan Wolbarst
Medical Board of California

Dealing with the hidden wounds of war—posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, and military sexual trauma—is the focus of volunteer therapists working with Veterans through The Soldiers Project (TSP) over the past 10 years.

The brainchild of psychiatrist Dr. Judith Broder, now retired, TSP matches Veterans and their loved ones with therapists willing to provide confidential mental health treatment at no cost. Headquartered in North Hollywood, TSP has chapters in Sacramento, Washington state, Chicago, New York City, Long Island (New York), Pennsylvania, and Wyoming. Funding comes from private family foundations, corporations, and individual donors. Costs are controlled by spending very little on infrastructure. Patients are often seen in therapists' private or home offices.

"In the past year or so, 550 Veterans and their families have received about 3,000 to 4,000 hours of therapy," according to TSP Executive Director Adam M. Greenwald. "Dr. Broder always says, 'When a soldier goes off to war, the entire family goes off to war,'" Greenwald noted. More than 450 TSP therapists have worked with former military personnel and their boyfriends, girlfriends, spouses, children, parents, and grandparents in the past year.

Anyone serving since September 11, 2001, is eligible for the free therapy, regardless of discharge status. Receiving assistance is simple. Therapists working in TSP cannot accept payment or bill any insurance company for time spent serving Veterans through the program.

"We're always looking for new therapists to take on even one client. It's a huge benefit to the vets and their families," Greenwald said. Specifically, the program seeks psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and psychiatric registered nurses. Three educational seminars, two of which are Internet-based, familiarize potential volunteers with military culture and other pertinent material before they provide services. "Providing resources for vets to take care of their mental health is paramount," Greenwald said, "and often needs attention even before they can attempt to deal with necessities such as jobs and housing."

Dr. Broder's work, providing free mental health services to vets and their families, was honored in 2011, when she received the Presidential Citizens Medal and the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award. For more information, call (877) 576-5343, e-mail info@thesoldiersproject.org, or visit www.thesoldiersproject.org.

Legal Action Against Mortgage Lender

On April 9, 2015, the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) took legal action against RMK Financial Corporation for allegedly deceptive mortgage advertising practices, including ads that may have led consumers to believe the company was affiliated with the U.S. government.

RMK sent out mailings to more than 100,000 consumers across the country. The ads used the name, seal, and logos of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), giving the impression USDVA sent the ad or endorsed the product. Also, the ads misrepresented the price of the advertised mortgages and whether the interest rate was fixed or variable. Sometimes, important disclosures about loan rates were hidden on the back of the ads or buried in fine print. Envelopes were plastered with warnings about "fines or imprisonment" under U.S. law.

The CFPB ordered RMK to end its illegal and deceptive practices and pay a civil penalty of \$250,000. To learn more about the enforcement action and some things you can do to avoid being taken in by similar offers, please visit www.consumerfinance.gov/blog/the-va-doesnt-send-you-mortgage-ads.

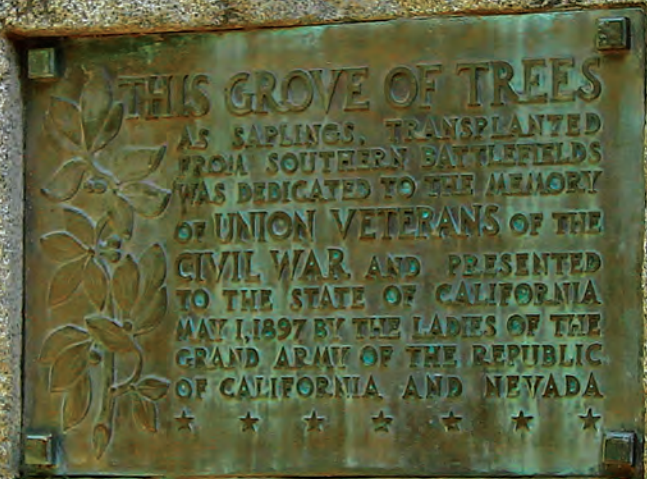
CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL PARK

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Memorial Grove

Memorial Grove is dedicated to the memory of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The memorial was created by transporting saplings from Southern battlefields that were presented to the State of California May 1, 1897, by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic of California and Nevada.





El Soldado

Help Make the Dream a Reality.

El Soldado stands on the Capitol grounds, memorializing the contributions of Latino's to the State of California and to this nation.

Restoring El Soldado pays tribute to Latino Veterans and Servicemembers—past, present, and future.

Be a part of El Soldado's Legacy that began more than 70 years ago.

Every dollar counts.

Donate today!

www.el-soldado.org



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NO MONEY DOWN**

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(866) 653-2510 or
loanapps@calvet.ca.gov



*4.09% - Estimated total monthly payment/APR based on a \$200K sales price, no down payment & financing of the VA funding fee under the CalVet/VA program, \$200K assessed value, mandatory hazard, and disaster indemnity insurance. Limited to available funds. Rates are subject to change.
** Not all buyers will qualify.

Veterans Homes of California: Finding Ways to Help our Veterans

By Jeanne Bonfilio

As word about our Veterans Homes of California continues to spread, more and more Veterans in need of assisted living, skilled nursing, memory care, and other levels of long-term care are applying for residency.

When beds became available at our Lancaster Veterans Home, our West Los Angeles Veterans Home staff arranged a tour of our Lancaster facility for three Veterans on the West LA Home's waiting list.

During the drive to our Lancaster facility, staff shared photos, offered information, and answered questions from Veterans and their families about our Lancaster Home in the beautiful High Desert.

On arrival, Lancaster Home Administrator Norm Andrews warmly greeted Veterans and family members and then gave a comprehensive tour of the Home and its outstanding amenities.

Of special interest to our visitors are our beautiful grounds, outdoor patio areas, walking paths, putting green, and lovely dining room.

"Seeing our beautiful Homes for themselves allows Veterans to make an informed decision," said Norman Andrews, Lancaster Home Administrator.

Tour guests also learned about the fun, interesting, and exciting field trips and activities our Lancaster residents enjoy. "We are even planning an overnight trip to Yosemite National Park," Andrews said.

Since the tour, all three Veterans on the West LA's waiting list applied for admission to our Lancaster Home.

For more information about our Veterans Homes of California, please visit www.calvet.ca.gov/calvet-programs/Veteran-homes.

CalVet Strike Team Update

CalVet Strike Team claims review efforts in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Oakland as of April 23, 2015.

Number of Claims Reviewed	53,534
Lump Sum Payments Total	\$61,356,740*
Monthly Award Payments Total	\$8,021,083
Annualized Monthly Awards Payment Total	\$96,252,992**

*Retroactive payments based on the time the claim has been sitting at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Payments going to California veterans every year for the rest of their lives.

CalVet Small Business/ DVBE Update

CalVet's February Small Business (SB) / Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Monthly Report for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 reflected the following estimates:

- Agency Total: **SB increase to 31.64% from 30.22%**
- Agency Total: **DVBE increase to 9.25% from 8.67%**

2015 State Convention Calendar

California Veteran Service Organization

May 26-29

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Doubletree Hotel
3100 Camino del Rio Court, Bakersfield
Contact: rmanjarrez@sbcglobal.net

June 12-16

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Doubletree Hotel
3100 Camino del Rio Court, Bakersfield
Contact: nguest@vfwca.org

June 5-7

AMVETS

Doubletree – Airport
222 N. Vineyard Avenue, Ontario
Contact: smokey@teamamvets.org

June 25-28

The American Legion

Ontario Convention Center
2000 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario
Contact: bill@calegion.org

June 10-13

Disabled American Veterans

Peppermill Resort & Casino
2707 South Virginia Street, Reno
Contact: davcajoel@aol.com

June 26-27

American GI Forum

Whittier Community Center
14181 Telegraph Road, Whittier
Contact: jake.alarid@gmail.com

June 11-14

Marine Corps League

Crowne Plaza Hotel
2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego
Contact: jessf57@aol.com

June 28

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Veterans Museum & Memorial Center
2115 Park Blvd., San Diego
Contact: golee1@hotmail.com



CALENDAR

May 2

Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Concord Veteran Center

1333 Willow Pass Road, Concord

Contact: (925) 680-4526

May 7

Chula Vista Veterans Home Golf Tournament

Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Eastlake Country Club

2375 Clubhouse Drive, Chula Vista

Contact: (619) 205-1155

May 9

Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 357

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Shasta County Veterans Hall

1607 Yuba Street, Redding

Contact: (530) 524-7504

May 15

The Soldiers Project

Grief and the Veteran

9:30 a.m. – Noon

University Synagogue

11920 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles

Contact: (818) 761-7438 ext. 205

May 16

Veterans Memorial Cruise

National Liberty Ship Memorial,

SS Jeremiah O'Brien

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Free for WWII & Korean War Veterans

Pier 45 Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco

Contact: (415) 544-0100

Siskiyou County Armed Forces Day

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Siskiyou County Fairgrounds

1712 Old US 99, Yreka

Contact: (530) 842-8010

May 16

Chula Vista Veterans Home Founders Day Celebration

11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

700 E. Naples Court, Chula Vista

Contact: (619) 205-1155

May 20

National Maritime Day Ceremony

11:00 a.m. – Noon

American Merchant Marine Memorial

100 Capitol Mall, Old Sacramento

Contact: (916) 739-6949

May 23

Call for Volunteers – Placing of Flags

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

5810 Midway Road, Dixon

Contact: (707) 693-2460

For a calendar of Memorial Day events statewide, please visit

www.calvet.ca.gov/home/Calendar.

To submit a calendar event, please e-mail PAO@calvet.ca.gov.

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