



The California Zephyr®

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An Organization Chartered By The U.S. Congress



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 16-2

SUMMER 2010

2010 Convention - Election Results In Many New Board Members

CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



Steve Mackey, President

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 47 in Riverside saw four of its members elected to the California VVA State Council (CSC) board of directors at the biennial convention and election in Fresno and elected several new officers including a new president, Steve Mackey (VVA Chapter 47) who was Southern District vice-president for the last two years. Also from Chapter 47 was Tom Hohmann elected secretary, a position he has held for several years. Michael Kennedy, elected as Southern District vice-president, and Ed Ryan, PhD, elected as the At-Large vice-president are both new to the CSC board this year.

Also moving up was Dennis 'Doc' Croucher (VVA Chapter 368) of Catheys Valley to 1st vice-president. Croucher has been on the board for several years as Central District vice-president.

VVA Chapter 391 saw two of its members elected to the board. Dick Southern of Tuolumne was re-elected as 2nd vice-president and also serves on the National board of directors as Region 9 director. Having served as Finance Committee chair for the last two years, Barry Schloffel of Sonora was elected Treasurer.

Also new to the Board of Directors is Dean Gotham (VVA Chapter 951) of Clearlake who was elected as the Northern District vice-president. Alan Cook (VVA Chapter 400) of Castro Valley who served on the board several years ago and on the National board was elected as Central District vice-president.

At their first board meeting on the last day of the convention, several committee members were appointed by President Mackey. Ken Holybee, a former president, was re-appointed to Government Affairs. George Eldridge was re-appointed as Public Affairs. Alan Cook was appointed as the Finance Committee chair, Kate O'Hare Palmer was reappointed as Women Veterans and PTSD committees and Donald Barnard was appointed Membership chair. Michael Kennedy was appointed to the Constitution Committee chair. Dick Southern was again named as the Meeting Planner. Robert Johnston, the immediate past president was appointed to the POW/MIA committee chair.

The CSC, as part of the National VVA organization founded in 1978, helps Vietnam veterans in their continual struggle for fair treatment in consideration of their service and sacrifice for their country and to change the public's perception of the Vietnam Veteran. This is in light of VVA's founding principle that "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." (see convention photos page 3)

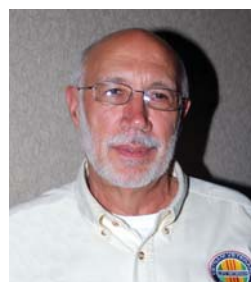
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dick Southern, 2nd VP



Tom Hohmann, Secretary



Barry Schloffel, Treasurer



I would like to thank Bob Johnston for his service as the CSC President for the last two years. Bob will continue to be involved with CSC as he will be the Chairperson of the POW/MIA committee and he will continue as the Chairperson for the CSC Motorcycle Group.

I want to thank all those who attended the wonderful convention we had in June. It was well attended and I think we all had a good time. I especially want to thank the Convention Committee, Dick, Carol, Elayne and Wren Goodwine, for the long hours and all the hard work they put into making this convention a success. Congratulations to Chapter 391 for all the awards they received as they kind of ran away with everything and they deserved to. This should be an incentive for all the California chapters to get busy for these next two years with their newsletters and web sites and hopefully submit their respective chapters for the awards that will be presented in June 2012.

A big thanks to those who participated in the putting contest we held on Thursday during the afternoon get together. We were able to raise \$550.00 for the Brian Forrest Scholarship Fund. Jerry Yamamoto was the big winner followed by the Martinez brothers from Chapter 472. The honorable Mr. Adkins, from Chapter 47, won the prize for the ugliest shirt worn during the putting contest. My eyes are still hurting.

At the next CSC BOD meeting we will be talking about the scholarship program and how we will be implementing it again next year. We will be looking at making it a scholarship for a Wounded Veteran.

I have been asked what my vision is for the CA. State Council over the next two years. I have never been a long term vision kind of guy. The CSC is not a board of one, we are 10 strong and that includes our CA. AVVA State President. To this list we can add all of our state chapters, and delegates that attend our CSC meetings.

So when asked what my vision is, I will reply, "It's not my vision. It's our vision."

"What part do you want to play in this vision?"

Thanks everyone, see you in August.

Steve Mackey, CA State Council President



Dean Gotham, No. Dist. VP



Alan Cook, Central Dist. VP



Mike Kennedy, So. Dist. VP



Dr. Ed Ryan, At Large VP

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of VVA, the State Council or its members.

Who Are The Vietnam Veterans Of America?

Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE
"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another."

PURPOSE

The purpose of Vietnam Veterans of America's national organization, the state councils, and chapters is:

To help foster, encourage, and promote the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam veteran.

To promote physical and cultural improvement, growth and development, self-respect, self-confidence, and usefulness of Vietnam-era veterans and others.

To eliminate discrimination suffered by Vietnam veterans and to develop channels of communications which will assist Vietnam veterans to maximize self-realization and enrichment of their lives and enhance life-fulfillment.

To study, on a non-partisan basis, proposed legislation, rules, or regulations introduced in any federal, state, or local legislative or administrative body which may affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others; and to develop public-policy proposals designed to improve the quality of life of the Vietnam-era veteran and others especially in the areas of employment, education, training, and health.

To conduct and publish research, on a non-partisan basis, pertaining to the relationship between Vietnam-era veterans and the American society, the Vietnam War experience, the role of the United States in securing peaceful co-existence for the world community, and other matters which affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others.

To assist disabled and needy war veterans including, but not limited to, Vietnam veterans and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.

FUNDING

Vietnam Veterans of America relies totally on private contributions for its revenue. VVA does not receive any funding from federal, state, or local governments.



See Flyer on page 4 about availability of memorabilia of the parade and other events from the Wall's 25th Anniversary. Contact VVA National (http://vva.org/Forms/DVD_Order-From.pdf) to order DVD.





**Convention
Photos: Brook
McKusick, VVA
223. Also new
Board of Di-
rectors photos
(page 1) from
Bruce. Thanks
Bruce! Editor**



California State Council Convention - June 2010



THE WALL 25 YEARS



COMMEMORATIVE VIDEO & BOOKS

If you were at the 25th Anniversary Parade of the "Wall" then chances are you are in this Video.

If you weren't, then here is your chance to see History.

Yes, it's been two years in the making, we have video from several video crews and many still photos, almost every group that marched, every band that participated and many of the people that made the 25th Anniversary parade possible are in this Video.

The Video is over 2 hours long, featuring the Pre-Parade Breakfast, the Parade Opening speeches and ceremonies, The Parade, The Concert, and the After Parade "Thank You for Serving" Dinner. Bonus section of 100's of still photos is included.

We are only taking pre-paid orders so if you want one order it now. We do not plan to produce extra videos. Supplies are limited, order while supplies last! Each 25th Anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial Video is \$24.99 or order the video and commemorative books for just \$34.99. Return the attached order form or order online: www.vva.org/DVD.html For ordering questions call 301-585-4000



To order your copy of THE WALL COMMEMORATIVE VIDEO and the Commemorative Books:

Make Checks payable to the Vietnam Veterans of America and put 25th Video in the memo line.

Return To: Vietnam Veterans of America, 8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Attn: The Wall Video, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

VIDEO ONLY: \$24.99 EACH

of Copies: _____

25th PACKAGE: VIDEO AND 25TH COMMEMORATIVE BOOK \$29.99 EACH

of Copies: _____

PRESIDENTIAL PACKAGE: VIDEO, 25TH COMMEMORATIVE BOOK & 30TH COMMEMORATIVE BOOK \$34.99 EACH

of Copies: _____

Total enclosed _____



CSC MINORITY AFFAIRS

Jerry Yamamoto, State Committee Chair

The National Minority Affairs Committee will have a booth at the August Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. At our booth those who are attending can view a DVD that the committee prepared on understanding the methods for the recruitment of minority veterans. Handouts and committee members will also be available to provide tips on ways to understand, contact and recruit minority veterans.

The committee will be presenting its fourth National Diversity Award at the Leadership Conference to this year's honoree who has been selected for the award. The award recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual, business or organization in the promotion of diversity within the veteran's community. In 2006, the first year of the Diversity Award, the initial honoree for the award, was BG Ezell Ware, the former Deputy Adjutant General of the California National Guard. The identity of the 2010 nominee will be disclosed at the Conference.

In similar fashion, the California Minority Affairs Committee is developing its own diversity award to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding California individual, business or organization and will be presented at a future CSC Convention. Information on the eligibility requirements and nomination process for the state Diversity Award will be placed on the CSC Web site and, also, published in future issues of the Zephyr. When the CSC Diversity Award is finally established, you will be notified that you can submit the name(s) of nominee(s) for the state award.

For information on diversity issues, you can contact your state minority affairs committee members who will be identified on the state website.

CHAPTER 464

Dear Vietnam Veterans,

As you may know, I worked with Steve Warren (VVA Chapter 464 namesake) over the course of 10 years on a medical mission to Vietnam. At the time, Steve had a non-profit called Mission Peace. We went to Vietnam and corrected lower limb deformities in Vietnamese children. Some of you may have donated to our group. Since Steve died, we have not been back.

We are returning to Can Tho almost three years from the date of our last mission. We are now called the International Extremity Project (IEP). As before with Mission Peace, we are a non-profit which relies on donations from individuals and groups. I was hoping you could support the IEP November 2010 medical mission with a tax deductible donation. This year marks my seventh trip to Vietnam to help the poor and physically challenged.

See our video at: <http://www.extremityproject.com/>

IEP is part of The International Children Assistance Network (ICAN), a (501)(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by a group of young Vietnamese professionals in April 2000. ICAN's mission is to help children realize their potential and become the quintessential member of their family and their community.

To contribute, mail a check written to ICAN:
International Extremity Project
555 Lisbon Street
San Francisco, CA 94112

Dr. Bruce Lehnert
Pacific Foot and Ankle Institute
1101 Welch Road, Suite C-6
Palo Alto, CA 94304

650 324 2091
Fax: 650 324 4404
<http://pacificfootandankle.com>

Help me correct deformities in Vietnamese Children
Go to: <http://www.extremityproject.com/>

For more info:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hN5uLjK6_3M

CA AVVA

Elayne Mackey, President



CA Associates would like to send Congratulations to the newly elected 2010-2012 CSC Officers and Board of Directors. We (AVVA) look forward to working with you all.

Thank you to the past Officers and Board Directors for

a good working relationship the past two years. CA Associates are very lucky to have such a great State Council to work beside. There are a lot of states that are not so lucky!

A very heartfelt thank you to all of the CA AVVA members that helped with the June 2010 State Convention. I know we worked you long hours and you did an outstanding job. What a team and it certainly shows our motto of "Working Together."

At the AVVA Luncheon during the State Convention we had a great turn out. Thanks again to our guest speaker Kate O'Hare Palmer, for an excellent slide show and talk. Welcome Home Kate and thank you for your service!

Also at the luncheon we honored our AVVA 2009-2010 member of the year, Carol Southern.

Carol is our AVVA State Treasurer and a great one too. Carol doesn't know what the word NO means and can always be counted on to be there, whether local, state or national. Carol is also retiring from being the AVVA National Region 9 Director at our 2010 AVVA Biennial meeting. She has been a great Regional Director. We decided that Carol can retire from that position but never from CA Associates.

CA Associates have ordered and received our state logo coffee cups. They are very nice and we will be selling them at the August CSC Meeting. I don't think you will be disappointed.

Our next Zephyr report will have all the latest from our AVVA Biennial Meeting/ Convention that will be held in Orlando FL. - August 10-15 2010.

My goal for that trip...to feed an alligator and survive the humidity. I just don't know which order that will be in. Welcome Home

WE MUST HEAL THE WOUNDS OF

WAR WE CANNOT SEE

Printed in Capitol Weekly, June 24, 2010
By Pete Conaty

For too long, America has been in denial about the true cost of war. We have honored our veterans with our lips but we have refused to acknowledge the wounds we don't see, the deep, painful psychological scars borne by so many of our veterans. Thankfully, we are at last beginning to recognize

the depth of this problem. We are beginning to reach out a helping hand to those men and women who have borne the heat of battle and come home forever changed.

In his State of the State speech, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger spoke eloquently and frankly about these wounded warriors and our obligation to make them whole again: "Too often our soldiers bring back the enemy with them in their heads. We are seeing and hearing all about a lot of post-traumatic stress syndrome . . . Those men and women need help."

California's concerted effort to help these veterans, however, dates back nearly three years, when the Armed Force Retirees Association, the Vietnam Veterans of America and other veterans groups won Governor Schwarzenegger's signature on AB 2586, a groundbreaking law designed to give our most traumatized soldiers a chance to confront and overcome the psychological wounds of war. Under this alternative sentencing law, a judge first determines if a defendant is suffering from combat-caused post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

If he is, the judge can steer the defendant into a psychological treatment program rather than jail. Without treatment, many of our fallen heroes would find themselves trapped in an unending cycle of crime and punishment as they struggle with their inner demons.

Eight months ago, the U. S. Supreme Court faced this issue and came down on the side of California's law in a landmark ruling on the impact of combat stress on veterans. In that case, the high court reduced the death sentence of Korean War veteran George Porter to life in prison. The Florida jury that sentenced Porter to death in a murder case did not know he had fought in some of the bloodiest battles of the war. He came back a "changed and traumatized man," the high court said. The sentencing jury would likely have spared Porter from the death penalty if it had known of his "horrifying" battlefield experiences, the justices said.

AB 2586 was the first bill in the United States that offered alternative sentencing to combat veterans of all wars. AB 2586 was cited by the Supreme Court in its ruling as evidence that changes concerning veterans with PTSD were being made by the judicial system.

This ruling is of major importance because it is the first time the first Supreme Court has recognized the long-term, traumatic impact of combat on our veterans. It will undoubtedly be cited in many cases throughout the nation. But the goal of California's law is not to spare veterans from the death penalty but to offer them the treatment that prevents their trauma from escalating out of control as it did for George Porter.

Perhaps if such a law was on the books when George Porter returned from Korea, he would have gotten treatment the first time he committed a minor crime, and not only his life but those of his victims would have been spared.

California has made a good start but the battle is not won. This year, a coalition of veterans groups, led by the Vietnam Veterans of America, is supporting AB 1925 by Assemblywoman Mary Salas. AB 1925 is a bill that would allow counties to establish courts for veterans, just as there are other special courts. Several counties, such as Orange, Santa Clara and San Bernardino, have already established veterans' courts. AB 1925 would provide a framework for those counties that wish to avoid the mistakes made by the legal system during and after the Vietnam War and are still being made today.

These are Americans who have volunteered to go in harm's way in defense of freedom. They may not have shed their blood in battle but they carry within them wounds we cannot see, wounds that we must help them heal.

STATE OWES IT TO

VIETNAM VETERANS

State threatens to reduce funding for program, which would be another in a string of disappointments. Wednesday, Jul. 21, 2010

Incoming!

That's what troops in Vietnam yelled when enemy rockets and mortars rained down on their firebases, camps and compounds.

Now Nam vets face more incoming rounds. During state budget committee proceedings, the state legislature has cut

more than \$7 million from Operation Welcome Home and the County Veterans Service Officers program. This despite the fact that the governor had proposed to fully fund those programs at \$8.4 million authorized by law last year.

But faced with a \$19 billion budget deficit, the politicians are showing how they're penny-wise and pound-foolish by attacking those who once served in their country's most unpopular war.

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), founded in 1978 to lobby for those who served in Indochina during the decade of American involvement there, wants lawmakers to restore the funds-not just to help Nam vets but many of the state's total 2.7 million veterans. That includes men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The veterans service officers help vets navigate the tortuous terrain of red tape sometimes required to get the benefits they've earned and deserve.

VVA says the officers are "highly trained and professional veterans advocates at the county level" who help their colleagues. The organization also says that these officers brought in almost \$260 million in new federal money for California's veterans and their dependents "a return of \$100 for every dollar spent by the state" on the officers.

The Sun-Star strongly agrees with VVA's position that the money for these officers should be restored. At a period of American history when our military is more and more distanced from the civilian population it protects and defends, we believe that as voters, citizens and taxpayers we should take care of those who have taken care of us. Many of them at huge personal sacrifices.

Give back the money for a useful program that helps veterans. That represents a much more meaningful way of supporting our troops than any bumper sticker, yellow ribbon or American flag.

Give back the money.

Editorials are the opinion of the Merced Sun-Star editorial board. Members of the editorial board include Publisher Debra Kuykendall, Executive Editor Mike Tharp, Editorial Page Editor Keith Jones, Copy Desk Chief Jesse Chenault and Online Editor Brandon Bowers.

VA EASES CLAIMS PROCESS FOR VETERANS WITH PTSD

By Elaine Wilson
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 12, 2010 - The Veterans Affairs Department will publish a final regulation tomorrow intended to ease the claims process and improve access to health care for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, VA officials announced today.

"This nation has a solemn obligation to the men and women who have honorably served this country and suffer from the often-devastating emotional wounds of war," Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said in a statement issued today. "This final regulation goes a long way to ensure that veterans receive the benefits and services they need."

The new rule, to be published in the Federal Register, will relax the evidence requirement if the PTSD stressor claimed by a veteran is linked to "fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types and circumstances of the veteran's service," a VA news release said.

Currently, VA decision makers are required to confirm that a noncombat veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity, the release said.

Under the new rule, VA no longer will require substantiation of a stressor tied to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA psychiatrist or psychologist can confirm that the experience recalled by a veteran supports a PTSD diagnosis and the veteran's symptoms are related to the stressor, a VA release said.

"With this new PTSD regulation, we are acknowledging the inherently stressful nature... of military service in which the reality and fear of hostile or terrorist activity is always present," Michael Walcoff, VA's acting undersecretary for benefits, said during a news conference today.

The regulation will eliminate the need to search for Summer 2010 page five

cords to verify veterans' accounts, "often a very involved and protracted process," Walcoff said, and enable VA officials "to move more quickly to award more benefits to veterans suffering from PTSD."

Walcoff said he hopes the new regulation will encourage more veterans with PTSD to come forward, particularly those who have been deterred by a seemingly time-consuming and sometimes frustrating process.

More than 400,000 veterans currently are receiving compensation benefits for PTSD, VA officials said. And of the nearly 400,000 veterans treated at VA facilities for PTSD in fiscal 2009, nearly 70,000, or 19 percent, were veterans of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

However, the new regulation has the potential to benefit all veterans regardless of their period of service, Walcoff noted.

Dr. Robert A. Petzel, VA's undersecretary for health, said the regulation will be particularly beneficial for veterans who have had their military records damaged or destroyed, female veterans whose records don't specify they have combat experience, and veterans who have experienced combat but have no record of it.

"This is good news for America's veterans; in fact, it's a historic day," Petzel said. President Barack Obama called the changes a "long-overdue step" in his weekly address. "I don't think our troops on the battlefield should have to take notes to keep for a claims application," Obama said. "And I've met enough veterans to know that you don't have to engage in a firefight to endure the trauma of war." The new regulation not only will help veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, but "generations of their brave predecessors who proudly served and sacrificed in all our wars," the president said. "It's a step that proves America will always be here for our veterans, just as they've been there for us," he said. "We won't let them down. We take care of our own. And as long as I'm commander in chief, that's what we're going to keep doing."

A CASE OF THE A.S.S.

By Tom Bixby

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, War Weary, Battle Fatigue, Pissed Off Veteran Syndrome. You are home from the war. You are out of harm's way. You think you are fine, but evidence to the contrary continues to build.

Something falls off a shelf at Toys-R-US. It makes a loud bang. Your muscles contract. You let out a small yell. You dive into a crouch and your hands fly up into a firing position as if you had a rifle. Your head whips toward the noise. Your kids freeze. "Whoa," says your eight year old daughter as she stares wide eyed and open mouthed at the monster that just leapt out of the closet ready to kill.

You never sleep for more than two hours at a time. You wake up thrashing and kicking. You take to sleeping on the couch because you're afraid you'll hurt your wife as you lash out in your sleep.

You don't know why you get so anxious when the tree trimmers are working nearby. That's because the thuds and the ground shudder the logs make when they fall don't bring back images of the soldier with his arm missing that ran by you at LZ Uplift while 155 rounds from the ammo dump fire were crashing all around. They just bring back the feelings.

You know the dog in the next block drives you up the wall but you have no idea that's because it sounds like the one that barked just before the grenades exploded the night the gooks came up out of the rice paddy and started blowing away the villagers you were supposed to protect.

It's been so many years and you didn't have it that bad compared to some troopers you tell yourself. Even so, the dreams, the night terrors and the body quakes keep coming back... and the pain, the pain is always, always there. The nagging gnawing, knotted ache in your lower back, that tightness in your whole right arm that runs from your trigger finger all the way around to your shoulder blade. That just couldn't be because part of you would like to swing your old M-16 across and hammer down the yuppie asshole that cut you off in his BMW.

Remember when that lady was giving you a hard time and all you wanted to do was take some of your own money out of the bank? Remember how you kept flashing on wanting to choke the bitch out? You couldn't believe those

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC., CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL - SUMMER 2010

Chapter	Address/Phone	E-Mail/ Web Site	Primary Contact	Meeting Information
47	PO Box 4277 Riverside 92514-4277 951-781-6137	nebhuskfan@aol.com www.vva47.com	Steve Mackey	3rd Saturday, 10 am at LifeFall church Social Hall located at the corner of Columbia and Main St. in Riverside. Board meets prior to the meeting (check web site for special meeting locations & times)
53	PO Box 7000-185 Redondo Beach 90277 310-540-8820; FAX:310-257-9053	n9140y@ca.rr.com www.vva53.org	Jerry Yamamoto	Monthly at 7 p.m., 4th Wednesday at Billy's Restaurant, 5160 W. 190th St., Torrance, CA 90503 (except in December)
201	PO Box 26203 San Jose 95159-6203 408-246-2288	poka513@comcast.net www.nichecom.com/vva	Mike Shaw	3rd Monday, 7:30 pm, American Legion Post 564, 2120 Walsh Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050
218 *	PO Box 2214 Santa Barbara 93120-2241 805-455-3365	ksperk@verizon.net www.vvachapter218.org	Keith Perkins	Meetings on 2nd Tuesday at 6:15 pm at Veterans Memorial Building, 112 West Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, 93101
223	PO Box 1583 Santa Rosa 95402-1583 707-526-4218 - Fax same #	vets@vva223.org www.vva223.org	Richard Jones	3rd Tuesday 7 pm, Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1315 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa.
355	PO Box 2986 Canyon Country 91386-2986 818-508-9626 or 661-212-4377	vietnam6970@msn.com the51504sure@yahoo.com	Frank LaRosa Nick Callas	3rd Sunday of each month, 10 am - 2 pm, at one of two local restaurants
357	PO Box 4021 Redding 96099 530-242-1596	coonradt@snowcrest.net	Dennis Hipley	2nd Tuesday each month, 7 pm at Shasta County Veterans Memorial Hall
368	PO Box 1566 Mariposa 95306 209-966-2292 - Fax same #	orland123@yahoo.com chapter368mariposa@yahoo.com	Dennis Croucher	1st Wednesday, 5:30 pm at the American Legion Hall on Bullion St., Mariposa
391	PO Box 5391 Sonora 95370 209-928-3848 - Fax same #	southern@lodelink.com www.vietnamveterans391.org	Dick Southern	General Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 7 pm.; Board, 1st Tuesday 7 pm. Both meetings held at Sonora Veterans Hall, 9 N. Washington St., Sonora, 92370
400	200 Grand Ave., #208 Oakland 94610 510-444-5235 - Fax 510-534-5703	fdrdocent@comcast.net	Susan Hodges	3rd Tuesday, 6:30 pm; alternate between Oakland Vets Bldg, 200 Grand Ave. (upstairs), and Alameda Veterans Memorial Bldg.
441	782 N. Brundage Farmersville 93223 559-594-5710	r5926768@yahoo.com	Rod Hughes	2nd Monday, 7 pm. Exeter Memorial Bldg.
446	1000 E. Walnut St. Pasadena 91106 626-795-8141 - Fax same #	vva446@att.net	Stephen Malmberg	General Meeting 1st Saturday, 4 pm, at chapter office conference room #107; Board meets 1st Friday each month, 7:30
464	PO Box 25540 San Mateo 94402 650-368-6713	je.higgins07@comcast.net	Gary Higgins	Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1450 Madison Ave., Redwood City (Goldstar Room) on the fourth Saturday each month at 10 a.m.
472	2115 Park Blvd. San Diego 92101-4792 619-239-5977	vva472events@aol.com www.vva472.org	Roland Martinez	1st Saturday each month, 10 am. (board meeting held after General Meeting at 1 pm) at Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, lower level, 2115 Park Blvd., San Diego, 92101
500	PO Box 255484 Sacramento, CA 95865 916-481-6020; Fax: 916-481-2609	vva500@sbcglobal.net www.norcaltravel/vva500.html	Mary Lou McNeill	General Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 7 pm; Board - 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm. Both meetings held at: VVA 500 Veterans Hall, Suite J, 4441 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, CA - corner of Auburn Blvd. and Orange Grove Ave.
526 *	PO Box 1442 Culver City, CA 90232 310-260-6910	wmcaggart@pmcos.com	John Hamilton	American Legion Hall, 5309 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City; First Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m.
535 *	PO Box 37 Grass Valley 95945 530-798-9967	http://www.nccn.net/%7evvanc/	Joseph Sanders	1st Thursday, 7 pm. Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Bldg., 255 South Auburn, Grass Valley (in Remembrance Room)
547	PO Box 745 Corte Madera, CA 94976-0745 415-457-8005; Fax: 415-454-2737	webmaster@vietnamveteransmarin.org http://www.vietnamveteransmarin.org/	Pat Williams	3rd Wednesday, 7 pm. American Legion, Post 313, Club Room, 12 Ward St., Larkspur, CA 94939
563 *	PO Box 751284 Petaluma 94975-1284 707-762-9078	johnc85393@aol.com	John Cheney	Veterans Memorial Bldg., Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, 4th Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m.
582	PO Box 3070 Paradise, CA 95969-3070 530-877-1340	ccfvnalum@comcast.net	Carl Frederickson (Butch)	3rd Wednesday each month, 7 pm., Veterans' Memorial Hall, 557 Rio Lindo Ave., Chico, CA 95928
643 *	PO Box 745 Dinuba 93618 559-528-2811 / Fax: 559-528-2384	geodrid@sbcglobal.net	Peter McManus	2nd Wednesday, 7 pm at Dinuba Memorial Building, 249 S. Alta Ave., Dinuba, CA 93618
691 *	PO Box 2226 Merced 95344-0226 209-388-9729	rgrisby@sbcglobal.net www.mymerced.com/0704k163.html	Ron Grisby	3rd Monday, 7 pm, Citi Bank, 19th & M, Merced. Board - 1st Monday, 7 pm
702	PO Box 355 Yountville 94599 707-252-7537 / Fax same #	rosssva@sbcglobal.net	Ross Hall	Board meets 1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm, conference room C, 1st floor Holderman Medical Center, Yountville Vets Home. Membership meetings same location at 7 pm.
756	PO Box 90994 Long Beach 90809 562-433-6756	aircop72@gmail.com www.vva756.org	Max Stewart	1st Wednesday, 7 pm at VFW Post 8615, 2805 South St., Long Beach
781 *	1100 Main St. PO Box 102 Ferndale 95536 707-726-7842	digitaldan@suddenlink.net www.vva781.org	Daniel Lawrence	2nd Tuesday each month, 7 pm, Ferndale Veterans Memorial Hall, 1100 Main Street, Ferndale, 95536
785	2345 Barraca Parkway Irvine 92602 949-422-8325 / Fax: 949-493-4387	vva785@aol.com www.vva785.org	Harry Steelman	1st Wednesday, 6 pm (social hour prior), at US Army Reserve Training Center Armory, 2345 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA
880 *	508 Riddle Court Modesto 95356 209-416-0200	emg@msn.com	Errol Green	3rd Tuesday, 6:30 pm at American Legion Hall, 1001 S. Santa Cruz, Modesto
933 *	PO Box 26256 Fresno 93720-6256 559-297-5253	sdoak@unwireddb.com	Stephen Doak	1st Tuesday, 6 pm, at Clovis Veterans Memorial Bldg., 453 Hughes Ave., Clovis 93612
951 *	PO Box 1313 Lakeport 95453 707-262-5651	deanvva951@mediacomb.net vva951.org	Dean Gotham	2nd Tuesday at 801 N. Main St. 6 p.m. (St. Mary Immaculate Hall Parish Hall), Lakeport, 95453; potluck 6 pm, General Meeting 7 pm
982 *	PO Box 1002 Guadalupe, CA 92434 805-233-2201	halfaro12000@yahoo.com	Henry Alfaro	American Legion Post 371, 1025 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, CA; last Saturday each month at 11 a.m.
1024 *	735 South Brea Blvd. Brea, CA	gmcolletti@aol.com vva1024.org	Gary Colletti	Meetings 2nd Wednesday each month, 7 pm., Brea Veterans Club, 735 South Brea Blvd., Brea CA
1031	PO Box 2742 Escondido, CA 92033-2742 760-666-9806 / Fax: 760-598-9184	scott@vva1031.org vva1031.org	Scott Wolf	Meetings 1st Tuesday each month, 7 pm, at Moose Lodge #1874, 25721 Jesmond Dene Rd., Escondido

thoughts were coming from you and you tried to ignore them but they kept jumping into your head until you had a couple drinks and then a couple more and then finally that night you actually slept and before long you had a few drinks every night and then a few every day and by then you hardly noticed the pain and the dreams stopped, at least some of the worst ones.

Years went by and your wife left and then a couple of girlfriends and you couldn't understand why the women and your bosses would get so freaked out when you'd blow off a little steam. Why would they think you were going to get violent? You were in control. Hell, they just pissed you off and you told them how you felt, that's all. But you didn't realize your muscles had contracted like a cobra coiled to strike. You didn't realize your heart was chugging the same 180 beats a minute it did when you were shoulder to shoulder with your buddy firing on full tilt boogie for forty five minutes to keep the gooks from overrunning your bunker. You couldn't see what your wife saw, that your eyes were burning like the headlight on a locomotive about to come screaming out of a tunnel.

You've got a case of the A. S.S., man. A-S-S, you've got the Adrenalin Spill Sickness, the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the Soldier's Heart. You never came all the way home, Brother. You're still operating like somebody just yelled, "Gooks inside the wire!"

It doesn't matter what group you're with, you always feel like you're on the outside looking in. You keep to yourself because you know they wouldn't understand. Why would they? They think it's a big deal when they get the door dinged on their Mercedes. Not one of them ever saw a man on a bicycle crushed by a tank tread. It's a different planet to them.

They weren't with you at TET. They didn't see the truckloads and truckloads of freshly dead with the arms and the heads flailing and bobbing over the side while blood splashed off the tires creating a cloud of pink mist that followed the fallen all the way to their mass grave. They didn't see the forty charred bodies stacked like cord wood at the strongpoint along Highway QL-1. They don't know what it was like to listen to the mother that waited for hours and hours and hours over her dead four year old daughter in Bong Son.

You don't like to think about these things because it makes it even harder to be around the citizens who pissed away their lives shopping for more shoes than they have room for at home while Bobby Wagner came home with no legs and Perdue and Soutar and Harrington lie cold in their coffins never having seen a single twenty-first birthday between them. When these thoughts do creep in, when a sound does startle you or some picture on TV breaks through your alcoholic fog, then you can't stop seeing the guy in the next bunker that was killed by friendly fire and you can't stop hearing his friends screaming, in vain, over and over against the long black night, "Medic... Medic... Medic!"

And then it comes flooding back... the stiff and rotting corpse of trooper you had to pull from the river, the blood spilling on your boots from the temple of the sniper wounded trucker at the bridge, the faces of your Vietnamese counterparts that were executed by the Viet Communists after you pulled out. And now you jolt and your vision goes almost black for a moment. You gasp for air. Your heart thumps off rhythm. Your throat tightens. You see the eyes. It's pitch black and he's almost thirty yards and more than forty years away but you can see his eyes in the fading red glow of the star cluster flare and the flashes from the rifle muzzles. He and another Cong are trying to hold up a third man who has already been hit and he looks straight into your eyes as your deadly rounds find him again and again driving him down and down and he never looks away from you as the deep black pit of eternity opens up and swallows his soul turning the thick dust of the roadway into a five foot puddle of deep red mud.

And now its forty years later... and you are weeping... and you can't explain why.

VVA CSC LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Pete Conaty and Dana Nichol

Currently, a major priority for California's veterans is to get the Joint Conference Committee on the Budget to restore the full \$8.4 million for the Governor's Operation Welcome Home (OWH) initiative. OWH is a statewide outreach initiative to connect each returning combat vet-

The Petaluma Museum Presents:

The Vietnam Experience

A Soldier's Story

Sept. 16th - Nov. 28th, 2010

NEW EXHIBIT HONORS VIETNAM VETERANS

The stories of local veterans who served in the Vietnam War are the focus of the Petaluma Museum's newest exhibit, "The Vietnam Experience: A Soldier's Story." The exhibition includes historic artifacts, photographs and documents interwoven with remarkable oral histories. Included is a historical timeline provided by CERA Exhibitions, a company that provides high quality exhibits to museums around the world.

The exhibit opens September 16th and runs until November 28th. The opening night reception for Museum members is at 6 p.m. September 16th and includes a special musical performance.

The exhibit is supplemented with material from the collections of the Pacific Coast Air Museum and Petaluma Military Museum to make the largest Vietnam War exhibit in the Bay Area. Highlights include simulated living conditions, a Reflection Wall, speaker series and the film, "The Vietnam War," which airs at 1:30 p.m. every Saturday.

"Our goal is to honor the men and women who have served their country, and educate the younger generation about the sacrifice they made," explains Joe Noriel, Museum president. "This is a significant year for this exhibit as it marks the thirtyfifth Anniversary of the fall of Saigon."

PETALUMA MUSEUM
20 Fourth Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 ~ 707-778-4398
Open Thursdays through Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

www.PetalumaMuseum.com











eran to the services that can help them transition successfully from military to civilian life. The Governor, in his May budget revision, inserted \$8.4 million to help fund the County Veterans Service Officers who will be on the front lines of helping the veterans referred by OWH. Of the \$8.4 million, there will also be \$1 million in grants available for Veterans Service Organizations and non-profit veteran's assistance groups. However, the Legislature's Joint Budget Conference Committee voted to remove over \$7 million from the Governor's funding proposal. The State Budget has not been finalized and there is still time to have the full funding restored.

The strategy is time consuming but straightforward; create an overwhelming groundswell of support from across the state and convince the Legislature how important this funding is to the state's veterans, their families, and citizens who are thankful for veteran's service. We have been circulating a legislative letter supporting restoration of the cuts. This letter will be signed by as many legislators as possible and delivered to the Conference Committee. To date, we have 44 signatures. A statewide effort has been made to garner the support of the major Veterans Service Organization (VSO) groups, individual posts, veteran's organizations, counties, and individual veterans. As of this writing, we have collected support letters from 16 counties, 11 VSO's, and 85 posts, chapters, and districts. Everyone is doing a great job of shaking the trees in their local communities and obtaining support letters from groups and individuals who an interest in helping veterans.

Please keep them coming!

We have also been active trying to create support and raise visibility on the issue via the media. So far, 5 articles have been published by major California newspapers. More are on the way. On August 5 at 1:30 pm at the State Capitol Governor's Conference Room there will be a press conference on the budget cuts. I am arranging to have leaders from the major VSO's and representatives from the women veterans, student veterans, and recently returned veterans communities. VVA-CSC will be actively involved in this effort. It will be important to show the public the face of Operation Welcome Home; our OEF/OIF young men and women- active, Guard, and reserve.

This month, the key is to build support, coordinate, and educate the Legislature on the importance of this funding. August is the last month of the legislative session. All bills will be heard and will "fly or die" by August 31 (when the Legislature adjourns for the year). The budget stalemate may still extend beyond that. The budget stalemate may actually work to our advantage because it gives us more time to build support and get this full funding back into the budget. Please contact your local Senators and Assemblymembers and ask them to support the Governor's proposal to fund Operation Welcome Home at the full \$8.4 million.

State Senator Dave Cox (R-Fair Oaks) passed away on July 13. Senator Cox was a strong supporter of veteran's



MEMBERS OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny (D), Chair: Imperial, Riverside Counties
619-409-7690; fax: 619-409-7688

Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield (D), Vice Chair: Los Angeles County, Van Nuys, Reseda, etc
818-904-3840; fax: 818-904-0764

Senator Bob Dutton (R) : Riverside, San Bernardino Counties
951-715-2625; fax: 909-466-4185

Senator Bob Huff (R): LA, Orange, San Bernardino Counties
909-598-3981; fax: 909-598-6459

Senator Mark Leno (D): Marin, San Francisco, Sonoma Counties
415-557-1300; fax: 415-557-1252

Senator Alan Lowenthal (D): LA County, Artesia, Long Beach, South Gate, etc
562-495-4766; fax: 562-495-1876

Assemblymember Connie Conway (R): Inyo, Kern, San Bernardino, Tulare Counties
559-636-3440; fax: 559-636-4484

Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes (D): LA County, North Hollywood, Sylmar, etc
818-504-3911; fax: 818-504-3912

Assemblymember Jim Nielsen (R): Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo Counties
530-223-6300; fax: 530-223-6737

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner (D): Alameda, Contra Costa Counties
510-286-1400 ; fax: 510-286-1406

issues and authored legislation assisting the California State Military Museum. Senator Cox represented the 1st Senate District which included Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Placer, Plumas, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Sacramento and Sierra counties. There will be a special election for Senator Cox's seat.

CA AB 585 AUTHOR: Cook (R)

TITLE: Deceased Personalities

DISPOSITION: Enacted

LOCATION: Chaptered

SUMMARY:

Expands the definition of deceased personality under existing law that establishes a cause of action for damages on behalf of specified injured parties for the unauthorized uses of a deceased personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness for commercial purposes within 70 years of the personality's death to include any natural person whose name, voice, signature, photo, or likeness has commercial value at the time of his or her death.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 674 AUTHOR: Salas (D)

TITLE: Criminal Procedures: Veterans

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)

SUMMARY:

Relates criminal procedures when a defendant charged with a crime alleges specified mental health problems stemming from military service in the United States military. Requires a court to make a determination as to whether the defendant was, or is, in the military. Authorizes the court to request an assessment. Relates to the county's obligation to provide mental health treatment services. Requires to the court and the treatment program along with specified agencies to maximize benefits and services.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Sponsor

CA AB 710 AUTHOR: Yamada (D)

TITLE: Veterans: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to consult with the State Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs to identify federal funds that are available for the purposes of funding community-based organization to provide substance abuse and mental health services to veterans and to pay reasonable administrative expenses. Requires the department to develop a process to certify such organizations. Permits certain counties to apply for a grant to be used for these purposes.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 748 AUTHOR: Gilmore (R)

TITLE: Consolidation of Services to Veterans

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Establishes the State Veterans Services and Workforce Development Division to coordinate and administer veterans assistance programs. Requires the administrative and support staff responsible for the administration of the specified programs to be transferred from the Employment Development Department to the division. Requires the costs of the transfer to utilize existing resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 1088 AUTHOR: Fletcher (R)

TITLE: Taxpayer Contributions: State Veterans Homes Fund

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)

SUMMARY:

Allows individuals to designate on their tax returns that a specified amount in excess of their tax liability be transferred to the State Veterans Homes Fund created by this bill. Requires the expenditure of all moneys in the fund for administrative costs and for distribution into the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund for each of the veterans homes. Requires any funds remaining in the Veterans' Quality of Life Fund to be transferred to the State Veterans' Homes Fund.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 1340 AUTHOR: Lowenthal B (D)

TITLE: Special Absentee Voters

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Relates to absentee voters. Gives a special absentee voter who are temporarily living outside of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or are called for military service a specified amount of time after an election to return a ballot to the appropriate elections official. Requires an elections official to report to the Secretary of State information regarding absentee ballots to appropriate policy committees of the Legislature.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 1378 AUTHOR: Perez V (D)

TITLE: Workforce Investment Board: Veterans' Workforce Program

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)

SUMMARY:

Establishes the Veterans Workforce Accountability Act to provide a method for the comprehensive and transparent evaluation of expenditures for veterans workforce development programs in the state. Requires the Workforce Investment Board to conduct an annual assessment of those programs and to implement and administer provisions of the act. Requires an annual report on the effectiveness of existing jobs skills development, training, and referral programs for veterans.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 1569 AUTHOR: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee

TITLE: Veterans: National Guard: State Interagency Council

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

SUMMARY:

Creates the State Interagency Council on Veterans Services and Programs for the purpose of bringing together key state agencies, departments, federal officials, legislative representatives, local governments, and stakeholder organizations to ensure that the state's programs that serve veterans are efficiently administered and properly integrated with federal and local government and other stakeholder

organizations.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position: Support

CA AB 1644

AUTHOR: Nielsen
(R)

TITLE: Veterans' Remains
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate
Second Reading File
SUMMARY:

Allows prescribed entities in possession of the cremated remains of a veteran to release specified information and remains to a veterans' service organization. Requires the organization to take steps to inter the remains. Exempts from civil liability, except for willful misconduct, an entity that release the information or remains after meeting the conditions. Exempts from negligence such organization that receives and inters remains if the organization believes all the conditions have been met.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position: Sponsor

CA AB 1703

AUTHOR: Knight
(R)

TITLE: Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate
Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:

Provides for an additional loan assumption per year for a participant that completes qualified clinical registered nursing service at a state-operated veterans' home under the State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education. Adds active military duty in the United States Armed Forces to the list of occurrences that would authorize the extension of the term of a loan assumption agreement under the program. Authorizes an extension for any of these occurrences.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position: Support

CA AB 1729

AUTHOR: Yamada (D)

TITLE: Civil Service Examinations: Veterans' Preference
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:

Amends the State Civil Service Act that provides if a member of the Armed Forces successfully passes a state civil service examination and becomes qualified for the veterans' preferences within 6 months after the establishment of the employment list, he or she is entitled to receive the additional points at that time. Extends the time in which a member of the Armed Forces may receive the additional points to 12 months after the establishment of the employment list.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position: Support

CA AB 1757

AUTHOR: Monning (D)

TITLE: Veterans Cemetery
DISPOSITION: Pending
COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee
HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)
SUMMARY:

Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs, in voluntary cooperation with the Board of Supervisors of the County

Vietnam Veterans of America Inland Empire Chapter 47 & Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee

Present a "Raffle" for an

Orange County Choppers®

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TICKETS: \$25.00 EACH/5 FOR \$100.00

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WINNER NEEDS NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN



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email: Nebhuskfam@aol.com

FOR RAFFLE
TICKETS CONTACT:

Mike Kennedy
VVA Chapter 47
Cell: 909-563-0107
email: mike3sps@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual membership is open to Veterans who served on active duty in the US Military (for other than training purposes) from February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 or from August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 for Vietnam-era Veterans.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ + _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Individual membership or Associate membership Dues:

\$20 for Annual ____ / \$20 for Renewal ____ / \$50 for 3 Year Membership ____

Life Memberships:

\$250 ____ (age 49 and under) \$225 ____ (50-55) \$200 ____ (56-60) \$175 ____ (61-65) \$150 ____ (66+)

For individual membership a DD214 is required if not already on file.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is an adjunct organization with VVA, Both Veterans and non-Veterans may join. If joining AVVA you are eligible to be a member of VVA Yes ____ No ____
Print this page and fill out and mail with DD214 (if needed) to our address above.

If you are a current member, to renew provide your Membership # _____ Chapter _____

of Monterey, the City of Seaside, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, and local agencies to design, develop, and construct the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord. Provides procedures for funding the project and for the review of preliminary plans and working drawings. Limits the burial of children of honorable discharged veterans to only dependent children.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 1829 AUTHOR: Cook (R)

TITLE: Military Decorations: Fraud

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law that provides any person who, orally, in writing, or by wearing any military decoration, falsely represents himself or herself to have been awarded any military decoration with the intent to defraud is guilty of an infraction. Provides that the offense is a misdemeanor, and in the case where the person committing the offense is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, an infraction or a misdemeanor. Exempts face-to-face solicitations involving less than a specified amount.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Sponsor

CA AB 1896 AUTHOR: Jeffries (R)

TITLE: Alcoholic Beverage Control

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law that relates to the use of military identification cards as proof of age for purposes of purchasing or consuming alcoholic beverages. Specifies that a valid identification card issued to a member of the Armed Forces that includes the date of birth and a photo of the person would, under all circumstances constitute bona fide evidence of age.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 1908 AUTHOR: Cook (R)

TITLE: Vehicles: Specialized License Plates: Veterans

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)

SUMMARY:

Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to modify the distinctive design or decal for veterans' organization license plates. Authorizes the newly designed plates or decals to be issued only after all existing plates or decals have been issued. Deletes the requirement that one-half of the additional fee be deposited in the State Environmental License Plate Fund. Requires all revenue, less Department of Motor Vehicle's cost, to be deposited in the Veterans Service Office Fund.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 1925 AUTHOR: Salas (D)

TITLE: Diversion: Veterans Courts

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)

SUMMARY:

Authorizes superior courts to develop and implement veterans courts for eligible veterans of the United States military for creation of a court-supervised veterans mental health program that leads to the placement of as many mentally ill offenders who are veterans of the United States military, including those with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, substance abuse or any mental health problem stemming from military service, in community treatment.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Sponsor

CA AB 1944 AUTHOR: Fletcher (R)

TITLE: Vehicles: Special License Plates: Disabled Veterans

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law that specifies the requirements to obtain a disabled veteran special license plate or placard that requires a signed certificate from a medical professional. Requires the acceptance of a certification from the United

States Veterans Affairs that the veteran is a disabled veteran.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 2087 AUTHOR: Torres (D)

TITLE: Veterans' Farm And Home Purchases: Definition: Home

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law that provides for farm and home purchase benefits for qualifying veterans under the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1974, and subsequent acts, which are collectively referred to as the CalVet Home Loan program. Expands the definition of home to include residences with 2 to 4 units, inclusive, that satisfy specified requirements and that are only occupied by veterans and their families.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 2143 AUTHOR: Gilmore (R)

TITLE: Military and Veterans: Benefits: Workforce Development

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to consult with other agencies for the coordination and administration of veterans assistance programs. Requires the Employment Development Department to submit a report to specified committees of the Legislature, regarding the department's veterans employment and job training programs and suggested options for a governance and management model to increase program integration and coordination, improve service delivery efficiency, and enhance program performance.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 2365 AUTHOR: Lieu (D)

TITLE: Veterans Affairs: Administration

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Second Reading File

SUMMARY:

Provides that a person who violates any of the specified rights of military service members, including rights under military families financial relief acts, is liable for actual damages, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs incurred by an injured party. Requires the court to set a hearing date after a petition is filed for relief of an obligation, liability, tax, or assessment by a service member.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 2369 AUTHOR: Block (D)

TITLE: Elections: Ballots

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law that requires a special absentee voter to agree under penalty of perjury to waive his or her right to a secret ballot and that he or she has not applied for a vote by mail ballot from any other jurisdiction for the election. Extends these provisions permanently.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 2651 AUTHOR: Knight (R)

TITLE: Veterans Farm and Home Purchases: Bond Acts

DISPOSITION: Enacted

LOCATION: Chaptered

SUMMARY:

Creates the Veterans' Bonds Payment Fund. Provides moneys in the fund would be used solely to pay debt service on bonds issued pursuant to all veterans' farm and home purchase bond acts. Requires debt service funds under the Veterans' Bond Act of 2008 to be transferred to the fund rather than the General Fund. Prohibits related bond holder liens. Prohibits borrowing or transferring of moneys from the fund. Relates to the drawing of warrants against the fund to pay debt service.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 2783 AUTHOR: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee

TITLE: Professions and Vocations: Military Personnel

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law providing for the licensure and regulation of certain businesses, occupations and professions, and requiring such entities to consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs before adopting rules and regulations. Requires such boards to consult with the Military Department before adopting such rules and regulations.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 2784 AUTHOR: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee

TITLE: Veterans

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Senate Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/02/2010 10:00 am, Burton Hearing Room (4203)

SUMMARY:

Increases the membership of the Veterans Board. Requires one member to have substantial training or professional expertise in mental health counseling and one member to have a degree or experience in health care facility financial management. Prohibits an modification of any veterans' program without fully briefing the board. Provides that the term program refers to any other program or service offered or delivered to veterans by another state agency or department.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AB 2785 AUTHOR: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee

TITLE: Department of Veterans Affairs: Administration

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUMMARY:

Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify other state agencies and departments that offer or provide services to veterans for the purpose of entering into formal agreements that specify the respective roles and activities of the entities.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA ACR 158 AUTHOR: Yamada (D)

TITLE: Women Veterans Recognition Month

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee

SUMMARY:

Proclaims the month of May to be Women Veterans Recognition Month.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA ACR 171 AUTHOR: Gaines (R)

TITLE: Yellow Ribbon Week

DISPOSITION: Adopted

LOCATION: Chaptered

SUMMARY:

Declares the week of June 28 through July 4, 2010, Yellow Ribbon Week to show support for military families and for troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA AJR 25 AUTHOR: Furutani (D)

TITLE: Filipino Veterans: Family Reunification

DISPOSITION: Pending

LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee

SUMMARY:

Provides that the Legislature join Congress in further acknowledging the service of Filipino World War II veterans in the Armed Forces of the United States by recognizing that these veterans should be reunited with their children during their golden years. Requests that the President and Congress pass S. 1337 and H.R. 2412. Exempts children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas, allowing for family reunification.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA

Position:Support

CA SB 1057 AUTHOR: Denham (R)

TITLE: State Holidays: Veterans Day: State Office Closure

DISPOSITION: Pending

COMMITTEE: Assembly Appropriations Committee

HEARING: 08/04/2010 9:00 am, Room 4202

SUMMARY:

Amends existing law that requires public offices of the state and state institutions be closed on Veterans' Day.

Specifies that public offices of the State and state institutions include all state agencies and the Legislature. Requires that public offices of the state and state institutions including, but not limited to, all state agencies and the Legislature, be closed on November 11 for Veterans Day. Provides exceptions.

PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position:Support

CA SB 1075 AUTHOR: Correa (D)
TITLE: Military Service: Benefits
DISPOSITION: Pending
COMMITTEE: Assembly Appropriations Committee
HEARING: 08/04/2010 9:00 am, Room 4202
SUMMARY:

Provides as an alternative to protections in existing law for a student granted an academic leave of absence for military service. Requires an institution, upon election by the student, to make arrangements to reasonably accommodate and assist the student so that he or she is able to meet any and all coursework requirements that he or she may have missed due to defined military service. Revises the definition of service member and military service for purposes of the Military Families Financial Relief Act.
PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position:Support

CA SB 1127 AUTHOR: Oropeza (D)
TITLE: Veterans: Ailments from Various Conflicts
DISPOSITION: Pending
FILE: 50
LOCATION: Assembly Second Reading File
SUMMARY:

Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to make information to family members of veterans returning from activity duty user friendly Internet resources that provide information on the sign of pertinent ailments from various conflicts and printed material regarding those ailments at any public functions of the department.
PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position:Support

CA SB 1188 AUTHOR: Wright (D)
TITLE: Child Custody: Disabled Parent
DISPOSITION: Pending
FILE: 226
LOCATION: Assembly Consent Calendar - Second Legislative Day
SUMMARY:
Relates to a State Supreme Court Decision that determined that the mere fact of the disability of a parent is not a proper basis upon which to make a determination regarding custody or visitation without further inquiry. States the intent of the Legislature to codify that decisions with respect to custody and visitation determinations by the court involving a disabled parent.
PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position:Support

CA SB 1296 AUTHOR: Correa (D)
TITLE: Peace Officer Training: Injuries: Post-Traumatic Stress
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:
Requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to assess the training needs on the topic or returning veterans or other persons suffering from traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder. Requires the commission, if needed, to create and make available a course on how to recognize and interact with persons suffering from such conditions. Requires the distribution of a training bulletin via the Internet to law enforcement agencies regarding related training.
PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position:Support

CA SB 1387 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
TITLE: Department of Veteran Affairs: Administration
DISPOSITION: Pending
FILE: 201
LOCATION: Assembly Consent Calendar - First Legislative Day
SUMMARY:
Requires one member of the state Veterans Board to have a degree in health care administration or experience in the financial management of health care facilities. Requires the member of the board who is a resident of a state veterans home to be appointed for a specified term.
PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position:Support

CA SCR 105 AUTHOR: Florez (D)
TITLE: National Purple Heart Trail
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate Consent Calendar
SUMMARY:
Designates a specified portion of State Highway Route 223 in the County of Kern to be included in the National Purple Heart Trail.
PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position:Support

CA SJR 16 AUTHOR: Denham (R)
TITLE: Veterans: Educational Benefits
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee
SUMMARY:
Requests the President and Congress to pass H.R. 2474 that would restore funding for veterans pursuing higher education.
PRIVATE FILE: VVA
Position:Support
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WORRY ABOUT LASTING IMPACT OF AGENT ORANGE

MONTPELIER — William J. Whitney of Northfield did two tours of duty in Vietnam four decades ago, but until recently he didn't think that Agent Orange, a defoliant used by the U.S. military, might affect not only his health,



but that of his children and grandchildren.

"I'm scared and I have a right to be," Whitney testified Saturday before a small audience of other Vietnam veterans, their families, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and representatives of Vermont's other members of Congress. "I went and served my country not knowing what my government was doing to us guys. They poisoned us."

Other Vietnam veterans also came to the microphone, their voices full of emotion as they told of mysterious illnesses that have plagued their children and grandchildren.

"It bothers me that I got into that stuff over there," said Andy Megrath of Rutland after recounting the health histories of several family members. "I don't know if their problems are from me. We used to sit on 55 gallon barrels and eat lunch. There are a lot of us guys who don't know what is going on with their families who want answers."

John Miner, Vermont State Council president, Vietnam Veterans of America, organized Saturday's hearing to provide Vermont's congressional delegation with anecdotal evidence of the multi-generational health problems showing up in families of people who fought in Vietnam. These veterans want the government to investigate the illness trends that some Vietnam veterans and their families have begun to identify. "We are fighting for all veterans, not just us," Miner said. "Because we are standing up, our government is waking up."

Sharon Perry drove more than seven hours from Cherryfield, Maine, to tell her story. Her husband, Reuben "Bud" Perry III, served two tours with the "brown water Navy," working on rivers in Vietnam. He died in 2005 "after six years of one disastrous illness after another," she said. "My oldest daughter was sick before her father was," Perry said. As a child, she had allergies, chronic infections and muscle spasms so severe she was unable to walk. Doctors said she was faking. Perry said now as an adult, her daughter's list of ailments is even longer. Perry and her daughter used the Internet to see if other families of Vietnam veterans had faced similar medical challenges. Perry said she's been collecting stories and she handed Miner a

list. "That is the biggest thing we can do is get the word out," Perry suggested.

Linda Schwartz, commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Connecticut, but formerly an Air Force nurse during the Vietnam War and later a researcher, recounted the results of an analysis of members of the Air Force — a re-examination of data used earlier to conclude Agent Orange and its dioxin contaminant adversely affected airmen's offspring.

LIVE LIVES WORTHY OF FALLEN WARRIORS' SACRIFICES

By Donna Miles - American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 31, 2010 — President Barack Obama called on the nation during a Memorial Day address at Joint Base Andrews, Md., to honor the legacy of its fallen warriors and to live lives worthy of their sacrifices.

"At its core, the nobility and majesty of Memorial Day can be found in the story of ordinary Americans who became extraordinary for the most simple of reasons: they loved their country so deeply, so profoundly, that they were willing to give their very lives to keep it safe and free," Obama told an assembly of several dozen servicemembers today after landing in Washington from a weekend in Chicago.

He initially had been slated to deliver his address at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Illinois, but torrential rains and lightning cancelled that event. Instead, he visited wounded veterans and their families receiving care at the Hines Veterans Affairs Hospital near Chicago.

Obama noted during his address at Andrews tonight the fallen warriors' shared belief in their country throughout its history, and willingness to sacrifice lives of comfort, and ultimately, life itself, to protect its ideals.

"They answered their country's call. They stepped forward. They raised their hand. They took an oath," he said. As they served their country in uniform throughout its history, they left their loved ones when duty called. In doing so, they liberated countries, ended the Holocaust, rid towns of insurgents and saved villages from the terror of violent extremists, he noted. They fought for freedom and the flag, the president said. But they also fought for each other, to bring their buddies home and keep their families safe. "And that is what they did, to their last breath," he said. "This is what we honor today: the lives they led, the service they rendered, the sacrifice they made — for us," he said. "In this time of war, we pay special tribute to the thousands of Americans who have given their lives during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and who have earned their place among the greatest of generations," he said. "And though our hearts ache in their absence, we find comfort in knowing that their legacy shines bright in the people they loved: America's Gold Star families." The legacy of America's fallen lives on, the president said.

It lives through their parents who instilled the values and virtues that led them to service. It lives through their spouses who gave the nation the person they cherished most. It lives through their children, whose parents gave their lives so they could live theirs. And it lives through those who fought alongside them — veterans and troops still serving in harm's way.

"Just as you keep alive the memory of your fallen friends, America must keep its commitments to you," Obama told the servicemembers. "That means providing the support our troops and families need, and the health care and benefits our veterans deserve. This is our sacred trust to all who serve, and upholding that trust is our moral obligation."

Obama called on all Americans to live lives worthy of the sacrifices its fallen heroes have made, and that the country's men and women in uniform continue to make every day. "The legacy of these fallen heroes lives on in each of us," he said. "The security that lets us live in peace, the prosperity that allows us to pursue our dreams, the freedoms that we cherish — these were earned by the blood and sacrifice of patriots who went before."

"Now it falls to us to preserve this inheritance for all who follow."

August 27-29, 2010 - Fresno
October 22-24, 2010 - Fresno
January 28-30, 2011 - Fresno
April 22-24, 2011 - Fresno
National Convention - August 15-21, 2011 - Reno, NV