

newsletter



3RD ANNUAL WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

CalVet held its 3rd Annual Women Veterans Conference at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building on October 7th and 8th. The conference theme was: "A Legacy and Story: Women Serving with Honor". Over 200 women veterans and service providers attended the conference which is expected to grow in size each year. The conference organizer, Barbara Ward, Deputy Secretary for Women and Minority Veterans, was extremely pleased with the support provided by the local Clovis community, Fresno VA Medical Center and West Care.

This conference serves to educate women veterans throughout the state about their state and federal benefits and provides an opportunity to network with women veterans from all eras. The speakers were dynamic and ethnically

diverse and considered to be experts in their areas. The list included Dr. Bettye Moseley-Brown, Assistant Director of the Center for Women Veterans; Brigadier General Mary Kight, The Adjutant General of California's National Guard; Major General Angela Salinas, Director, Manpower Management Division, headquarters, US Marine Corps; Dr. Lori Katz, Long Beach VA; Dr. Samina Iqbal, Palo Alto VA; Dr. Stephanie Covington, LCSW; and Kayla Williams, Iraq Veteran and author. One of the highlights of the conference was the legislative forum which afforded women veterans a rare opportunity to share their concerns directly with Congressional and state legislative representatives. The representatives have usually read about women veterans and their challenges but it becomes a reality when they hear the stories directly from women veterans who have endured so much during their service to our country. The legislative panel included Congressman Jim Costa; Sarah Moffet, Sen. Feinstein's office; Dawn Steele, Congressman Radonovich office; Kelly Gill, Congressman Costa's office and Shannon Major, Senator Cogdill's office. Various work shops were presented on both days of the conference.

The Woman Veteran of the Year Award was presented to Patricia Jackson-Kelley, Southern California and Lucy Lori Sammons, Northern California. The conference was viewed to be extremely successful conference

by everyone in attendance. Women veterans participated in a raffle drawing that included many donations from supporters of the annual conference. Many homeless women veterans were able to attend the conference due to donations and sponsorships. The major sponsors of this year's conference were Pacific Gas and Electric Company, DeVry University and AMVETS.

VETERANS DAY 2010

Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. veterans. However, most Americans sometimes confuse this holiday with Memorial Day. What's more trivial, some Americans don't know why we commemorate our Veterans on Nov.11. It's imperative that all Americans know the history of Veterans Day so that we can honor our former service members properly.

Continued on page 2 »

inside

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Veteran Services | p.2 |
| Upcoming Events | p.5 |
| Staff News | p.6 |

veterans services

VETERANS DAY 2010



A Brief History of Veterans Day:

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the Uniforms Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for federal

employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the last Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.

The difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day: Memorial Day honors service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle. Deceased

veterans are also remembered on Veterans Day but the day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime.

VA recognizes 2 locations celebrating Veterans Day this year:

Palm Springs
Ms. Jasmine Waits
401 S. Pavillion Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Phone: (760) 320-3781
jasmine.waits@palmsspringsca.gov

Sacramento
Ms. Cathy Taylor
Sacramento Youth Symphony
3443 Ramona Ave., Suite 22
Sacramento, CA 95826
Phone: (916) 731-5777
sacys@sbcglobal.net

veterans services

VA SECRETARY SHINSEKI VISITS CALIFORNIA



The Pleasanton (CA) Weekly (10/19, Ciardelli) notes, "The Veterans Administration plans to open a new medical facility in the San Joaquin Valley, said McNerney." The Weekly also points out that VA is "still deciding what to do with the 113-acre facility on Arroyo Road in rural Livermore. 'Secretary Shinseki wants to keep flexibility,'" stated McNerney, who has "said the 113 acres on Arroyo Road would make an excellent setting for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome."

While At Hospitals, Secretary Meets With Vet Groups, Hears Their Concerns. The KCBS-TV San Francisco, CA (10/18) website said Shinseki "paid a visit Monday to two dozen veterans in the East Bay to hear their concerns," during "roundtable discussions" that "took place at the Livermore VA Hospital." Shinseki "told the group he wanted to improve access to services, reduce the backlog of paperwork and end homelessness among veterans," a point that "struck a chord with veteran Cary Martin," who stated, "There are a hell of a lot of vets who are suffering" on the streets. KCBS added, "The younger vets wanted to impress upon Shinseki that student veteran groups in the community college system can help direct vets to services and programs, but financing is needed."

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/19, Benca) reports, "Local political leaders made a pitch Monday" to Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki for the "continued operation of the Livermore VA hospital. While no firm decision has been made regarding the future of that facility, Congressmen Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, and John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove, who along with a number of local veterans led Shinseki on a tour of the campus, said they hope it can remain open in some capacity. 'I was very pleased about how it went,' McNerney said of the meeting with Shinseki." The Walnut Creek, California-based Contra Costa Times (10/19, 175K) runs the same story.

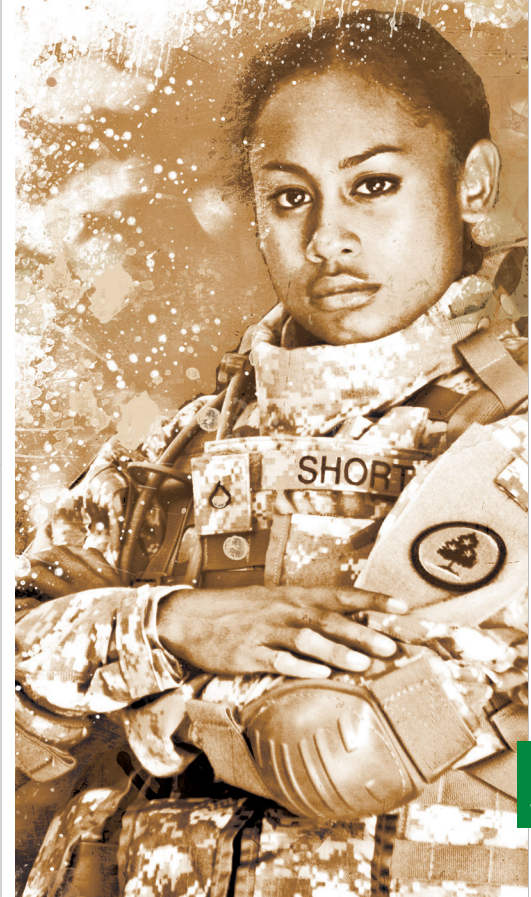
OBAMA SIGNS VETERANS' BENEFITS ACT

President Obama recently signed H.R. 3219, the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010, into law. The new law addresses the needs of veterans by enhancing employment opportunities, preventing and caring for homeless veterans, ensuring the welfare of veterans and their families by increasing insurance limits, protecting service members called to combat, honoring fallen service members and their families, strengthening education benefits, addressing housing needs of disabled veterans, and investing in research for Gulf War veterans.

You served, now let us serve you.

www.veterans.ca.gov

California's
 operation
welcomehome



veterans services

VA VET CENTER NEWS

San Marcos Vet Center

Accommodating Hundreds: According to California-based North County Times (10/15) says the "San Marcos Veteran Center at 1 Civic Center Drive is the busiest clinic on the West Coast only after two months of running ---- is accommodating hundreds of former service members and families. "Many are Iraq and Afghanistan" veterans go to "Cal State San Marcos, MiraCosta College and Palomar College."

Concord Vet Center Grand

Opening: Grand Opening Ceremonies begin at 3:00 p.m. on November 6, 2010 at 1333 Willow Pass Concord, CA 94520. Call 925-680-4526 for more info.



Sacramento Vet Center: The

Sacramento Vet Center has expanded, you may now visit the Vet Center in Citrus Heights at 5750 Sunrise Blvd. Ste 225 Citrus Heights, CA 95610 ph (916) 535-0411.



Operation Welcome Home:

www.veterans.ca.gov

Support:

www.gwtvetsinneed.org

Relief:

www.afitrust.org

Job Fair:

www.military.com/career-expo/

Assistance:

www.jointservicesupport.org

Veterans & Families:

www.veteransandfamilies.org

HAVE YOU BEEN IMPROPERLY BILLED BY VA?



The Department of Veterans Affairs has the authority to bill health insurance companies for health care provided to nonservice-connected veterans who have private health insurance, as well as service-connected veterans treated for non-service conditions. The American Legion is collecting cases of veterans whose third-party insurances were improperly billed by VA for their service-connected medical conditions. If your third-party insurance has been improperly billed for your service-connected medical condition, please email Jacob Gadd at jgadd@legion.org.

Contact your VA Hospital patient advocate if you are being billed for service connection or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS!



Support our Gold Star Families by donating to this noble cause.

For information on how to donate visit:
www.cdva.ca.gov/VetFund/GoldStar.aspx



veterans services

NEW SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM FOR VETERANS



Victory Village, a new substance abuse program operated for veterans, offers a cottage style facility for women veterans. The women's program will be operated by Ret. Navy Commander, Alexandra Hobson.

The Victory Village substance abuse treatment program is a transitional living and addiction recovery program for Veterans operated by Northern California Treatment Services (NCTS). Aptly named, NCTS serves all of northern California from its centrally located headquarters at 3114 Myers St., Oroville, CA.

The Cottage is a fully licensed residential care facility for 13 residents. It is presently operated as a care home for the elderly. The facility is less than one mile from the main facility. It will provide housing for women Veterans who will receive services at the main campus. Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of

Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.

With the main campus, the women's facility and the Kaufman Brothers Vintage Merchandise store and employment center in Corning, we are developing a major substance abuse recovery program for Veterans that will serve all of Northern California.

The Kaufman Brothers Vintage Merchandise store in Corning, CA will provide employment opportunities and vocational training for Veterans. This facility is approximately 17,000 SF with room to rebuild an additional 8,900 SF of historic shops. Here there will be job opportunities for approximately 20 Veterans in home repairs, house demolition and salvage recycling.

Oroville Economic and Community Development Corporation, operates its transitional living and substance abuse treatment program doing business as Northern California Treatment Services (NCTS). NCTS operates 15 houses

servicing approximately 65 participants in our substance abuse treatment program. In addition, NCTS operates "Victory Village", a substance abuse treatment program in its initial stages of development for treatment for Veterans. NCTS is presently under construction on Phase 1 of Victory Village, which will provide 12 beds for male Veterans. We are also converting a residential care facility to accommodate women Veterans. Our vocational training and employment program will be operated out of our facility in Corning, the 17,000 SF Kaufman Brothers Vintage Merchandise store.

Participants in our program will be assisted with their addiction problems. Once sufficiently improved, vocational training and employment opportunities in the home repair trades will be offered at the Corning facility. Successful employment will lead to independent living and return to being productive members of society.

veterans services

A LETTER TO FELLOW FEMALE VETERANS



My name is Monika Frenz. I served in the US Army from 1967-1969. I am a disabled veteran diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in 2005, due to my experiences in the service. I received a Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership (DM) upon the completion of my doctoral dissertation titled, Vietnam Combat Veterans Diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: The Effect on their Children.

We are WOMEN , mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, wives, and cousins. We are also engineers, consultants, construction workers, and doctors! We are all VETERANS. We have participated in war for thousands of years. We are all of these roles, and so much more.

Again and again, the American public, and your local, state, and federal government agencies, struggle to understand our needs. They're not sure where we fit in and how we should be treated. Researchers and agencies have asked us and some female veterans have responded; even fewer have told, or had the chance to tell, their story.

You want to share your joys, your pain, your needs, and your desires. You want to tell your stories! I want to journal your stories in a book I began writing

last year. This book exposes the truth about war, women veterans, PTSD, and other subject matters, critical to all of us.

Your identifying information will remain confidential, locked in a secure location, and will not be misrepresented. I am not receiving payment to perform this research. I want to be able to:

- Add demographic statistics, including number of children, marital status, partners/spouses, etc.
- Capture data, such as:
 - Diagnosis with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - Combat or non-combat
 - Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
 - Drugs and/or alcohol abuse
 - Suicide attempts
 - And many other facts and vital information
- Describe how your children, your partnership, or family are affected by your actions/inactions
- Know why and where you received help, or couldn't get help, or health care
- Tell how and why you lost your family or your home
- Gather any pertinent information you believe needs to be heard, that I did not think of

- And most importantly, I want to report your stories, as told in your own words.

I am petitioning you for your help. Please contact me. You, or women veterans you know, have a story to tell. I will send a questionnaire to everyone who contacts me. Answer, however you choose. and return it as soon as you are able to. You may type it, hand print/write legibly, make a recording, or call me for a face-to-face, recorded interview. I hope to complete many interviews, so I can meet you, personally, and connect a face with the story you have to tell.

Read the questions. Take a few days to gather your thoughts. Answer as many questions as you can. Give yourself a couple of weeks, if you need to, so you can be as thorough as possible. The more detailed the information you bring to light, the better your chances of being heard. I don't know how many stories there will be space for in this book, but I DO want to make sure I have accurate statistical data, so every one of you are represented to the fullest extent possible.

I feel very excited about moving forward with this project and can't wait to speak with each one of you.

Contact me:

Dr. Monika Frenz
Professional & Management
Computer Consultants, Inc.
monikaf@pmcc-inc.com
4210 Douglas Boulevard
Suite 306-225
Granite Bay, CA 95746
Phone: (916) 797-1500
Cell: (617) 513-7742

CalVet News

California Department of
Veterans Affairs
1227 O Street, Room 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
P (916) 653-2192
F (916) 653-2611
pao@calvet.ca.gov

Deputy Secretary for External Affairs
JP Tremblay

Editor
JP Tremblay

Graphic Designers
Thomas Morales
Angela Slater

UPCOMING events



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 10, 2010

Honor a Hero, Hire a Veteran

Proud Bird Event Center
11022 Aviation Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
Contact: Ted Tonorio
(310) 574-6485

NOVEMBER 11 2010

89th Fresno Veterans Day Parade

City Hall, Fresno, CA
Contact: Bill Dietzel
(559) 291-1239

NOVEMBER 21, 2010

Recruit Military

Fourth Street Summit Center, 7th Floor
88 South 4th St., San Jose, CA 95112
Contact: Mary Beth Miller
(513) 683-5020

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 7, 2010

Women Veterans Unity Group

Saddleback College, Student Service Center, Room 207
28000 Marjuerite Pkwy., Mission Viejo, CA 92692
Contact: Ann Reeder
(949) 582-4252

DECEMBER 20, 2010

Wreaths Across America Program

11800 Veterans Memorial Dr., Igo, CA 96047
Contact: Stephen Jorgensen
(866) 777-4533

Note: To view more events, visit www.veterans.ca.gov/news.shtml

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

October marked the closure of a productive legislative cycle for veterans despite the most contentious budget stalemate in California's history. The successful implementation of the Governor's Operation Welcome Home is proof that despite a political climate with inevitable cuts and spending reductions, California has a duty to, and will, serve those service members that are returning home to gain access to the benefits they have earned.

Over the past two years, the department has worked closely with members of the legislature and their staff to ensure that proactive legislation that helps veterans and their families is enacted. This cycle, the Governor signed 39 bills that facilitated better access

to benefits and services; vetoed 7 bills that ran counter to veterans needs; and ensured that County Veterans Service Officers received a \$5 million increase to their subvention fund as part of the Budget, assistance they have sought since the Governor assumed office.

The department sponsored two bills aimed at easing the financial burden of our veterans who wished to purchase property through the CalVet Home Loan Program. AB 2651 (Knight) created the Veterans Bonds Payment Fund and provides that monies in the fund would be used solely to pay debt service on bonds issued pursuant to all veterans' farm and home purchase bond acts allowing for reduced interest rates and increased monies to lend. AB 2087 (Torres) expanded the definition of "home" in the Military and Veterans

Code to allow veterans to purchase multi-unit residences with two to four units which gives the opportunity for veterans to enter into cooperative housing and financing arrangements.

The bottom line: veterans sacrifice to California will not be overlooked and the department is work to support veteran's legislative priorities. The legislature reconvenes for the next two year cycle on December 6 and the department is working hard to ensure we hit the ground running.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and MySpace to find information relating to benefits and services and for legislative updates! Also post your comments and concerns for any legislative topic you may have, or if there is a piece of legislation or concept you like and think is important.

CALVET PARTICIPATES IN THE GREAT CALIFORNIA "SHAKE OUT"



As part of California's continued efforts to be prepared in the face of a natural disaster, CalVet participated in the Great California ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill ever.

At 10:21 am on Thursday, 21 October, the department joined over 6.9 million other Californians in practicing how to

"Drop, Cover, and Hold On!" during an earthquake.

Participants throughout the state heard an announcement over the PA system instructing them to simulate an actual emergency. Participants were to Drop to the ground, take Cover under a table or desk and Hold On as if a real

earthquake was happening, and were requested to stay down for at least 60 seconds.

The drill sought to ensure all of California was prepared to react in the face of an emergency situation, and especially how to react if the ideal circumstances could not be achieved. For example, if there isn't a table or desk near, participants were drop to the ground in an inside corner of the building and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms and never try to run to another room just to get under a table.

2010 was the third year of The Great California ShakeOut, a drill designed to educate the public about how to protect themselves during a large earthquake, and how to get prepared. It will be the largest earthquake drill to ever take place in the United States.