

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

*NOVEMBER 2012*



## AGENT ORANGE: ONE VETERAN'S STORY

By Carolyn Ballou

U.S. Air Force veteran, Cleveland, Ohio native, and Folsom, California resident George Chappell loved classic cars. In fact, he owned a '36 Olds and '67 Chevy, which he occasionally entered into competition. As a surprise for his 59th birthday in 2006, his wife, Sue,

gave him a beautiful, new, last-year-of-production GTO.

George and Sue loved going to classic car shows together—especially Hot August Nights in Reno—in their limited-edition desert orange corvette, another car he occasionally showed. They also shared a love of George's children, his grandchildren, their three rescued dogs, '50s and '60s music, and art. George was quite an accomplished artist! He also belonged to a model car club and built models with his sons. His perfectly-crafted models won many awards through the years and were sometimes featured in model car magazines.

Life was good for George and Sue, and they were looking forward to traveling together during their quickly approaching retirements.

George was just 19 when he enlisted in the Air Force. He began basic training in 1966 and became a Fuels Specialist who could work on nearly any kind of aircraft. Deployed to Phu Cat, Vietnam, George loved working on and flying the C7A Caribous the best. They were large, lumbering transport planes that had excellent maneuverability at low altitude and slow airspeed and could make accurate drops into small places. He

worked on other planes as well—many of which were used to drop millions of gallons of Agent Orange, the toxic herbicide mixture used to defoliate the jungles and expose enemy hiding places between 1962 and 1971. George had heard about the dangers of Agent Orange exposure but, like so many his age, he felt immune and immortal.

In 1970, for having distinguished himself "by meritorious achievement and service," George was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Medal. Unfortunately, the Air Force failed to list his medals on his discharge papers. Years later, George filed the necessary paperwork to ensure the honors of which he was so proud were appropriately documented.

According to Sue, and according to most anyone who knew or worked with George, he was very patriotic and incredibly proud of his country. He had little patience for those who

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# Secretary's Message

On Veterans Day, we pause to remember the incredible service and sacrifice of the men and women who served in uniform. Regardless of task, regardless of mission, regardless of era, America's veteran Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen worked and fought to preserve the liberty, democracy and unmatched opportunity we treasure as a Nation.

This month, we honor each of you who served this country so faithfully and so selflessly. We also thank all the spouses and dependents who served along with their veterans. May all of you have a safe and happy Veterans Day whether you celebrate with friends, family, and comrades or quietly reflect alone.

Regardless of your age, your branch, your post, or your job—you qualify for state and federal veterans' benefits. Contact CalVet today to get connected to the benefits and services you and your family have earned through military service.

You served, now let CalVet serve you!

Sincerely,



Peter J. Gravett, Major General (Ret)  
Secretary, California Department of  
Veterans Affairs

## **CALIFORNIA RESOURCES FOR VETERANS**

### **CalVet**

[www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov)

### **California Veterans Resource Book**

[www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/Veterans\\_Resource\\_Book.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/Veterans_Resource_Book.pdf)

### **CalVet Mobile App**

<http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Mobile/Default.aspx>

### **CalVet Registration/Request for Benefits Information & Assistance**

<https://cvcs.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/Intake/ReintegrationForm.aspx>

### **Homeless Veterans Resources**

<http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/HomelessVeterans.aspx>

### **CalVet Newsletters**

<http://www.calvet.ca.gov/News/Newsletters.aspx>

### **CalVet Frequently Asked Questions**

<http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/FAQs.aspx>

### **Women Veterans**

<http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Resources/Women.aspx>

### **College Fee Waiver Program Fact Sheet**

[http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/Fee\\_Waiver\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/Fee_Waiver_FactSheet.pdf)

### **Agent Orange Fact Sheet**

[http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/Agent\\_Orange\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/Agent_Orange_FactSheet.pdf)

### **Traumatic Brain Injury/PTSD Fact Sheet**

[http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/PTSD\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/PTSD_FactSheet.pdf)

### **California Veteran License Plates**

<http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/LicensePlates.aspx>

### **County Veteran Service Office Location List**

<http://www.cacvso.org/page/2011-1-22-13-52-31/>

*E-mail CalVet at [PAO@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:PAO@calvet.ca.gov) to be added to the CalVet News for Veterans subscriber list. You can easily unsubscribe at any time.*

## **FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR VETERANS**

### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA)**

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### **USDVA Toll Free Phone Numbers**

[https://iris.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1703](https://iris.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1703)

### **USDVA Frequently Asked Questions**

<https://iris.custhelp.com/app/answers/list/session/L2F2LzEvdGltZS8xMzI4MzE2MjUyL3NpZC8qLTNvKk9Qaw%3D%3D>

### **USDVA Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Coach Mobile App**

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/ptsdcoach.asp>

## << CHAPPELL

were not. He talked frequently and nostalgically about his time in the Air Force with anyone who would listen. “A lot of pilots couldn’t hold a candle to the Air Force guys who had to land their planes in the unlit rice paddies of Vietnam,” George would often boast. Once, George had to repair a plane that had crashed and then fly it back to the base at Phu Cat. He was very proud of that. “I’d go back into the Air Force right now if I could,” he frequently told Sue over the years.

At age 60, George began to suffer from recurrent high fevers. Sometimes he complained of feeling hot even though his body temperature read as normal. His doctors would tell him they couldn’t find anything wrong or would tell him he likely had a passing virus. At one point, George complained that his arms and legs hurt and he found himself unable to walk. “Paramedics who were called to our home were unable to get an accurate temperature reading on him because their thermometer didn’t go that high,” Sue said. Emergency room doctors who examined George said he had the flu. They ordered fluids and antibiotics.

After further testing, including multiple blood samples, a spinal tap and an MRI, it was discovered that all the lymph nodes in George’s body from his neck to his knees were swollen. He was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma—a cancer of the immune system. Later, more extensive testing revealed that

George was suffering from Stage 4 mantle cell lymphoma, a cancer so rare that it had been diagnosed in only about 1,400 people worldwide. George got his diagnosis 60 years to the month after he entered basic training. After some time, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) doctors conceded that George’s cancer was associated with his exposure to Agent Orange while he was in Vietnam decades before.

The majority of George’s care was handled by two top-notch female research doctors at Stanford to whom George was referred by his local Oncologist/Hematologist. His care was supervised by his no-nonsense, get-him-what-he-needs-NOW wife. George was shuttled back and forth between Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, local Mercy Hospitals, and home while he endured countless lab tests, 15 blood transfusions, and months of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. At first, George tolerated and responded well to treatment. As time went on, that changed.

Sue organized multiple bone marrow drives on George’s behalf but, because of his rare A-Negative blood type, finding a match proved difficult. Sadly, treatment was successful in George’s cancer remission for only very short periods of time, never long enough to take advantage of a bone marrow transplant.

After a valiant fight on everyone’s part, George Donald Chappell, 63,

succumbed to his disease fewer than 18 months after he was first diagnosed. He left behind his loving wife and best friend, Sue, his three children, his brother and sister, his two grandchildren, his classic cars, his beautiful art work, his three rescue dogs, and a legacy of proud and honorable service, unmitigated sacrifice, and unyielding pride in his country.

“George’s DD214 was corrected to include his Air Force Commendation Medal, but he became too ill to respond to the Air Force’s request for additional documentation, and he died before getting his Air Medal listed,” Sue said.

The USDVA presumes that 14 different diseases and disorders are related to Agent Orange exposure when diagnosed in “boots-on-the-ground” veterans and certain other veterans groups. Unlike George, who suffered from a very rare form of cancer, other Agent Orange-related diseases and disorders can be cured or successfully managed if diagnosed early.

If you are a Vietnam veteran who served between 1962 and 1971, go to [http://calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/Agent\\_Orange\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/Agent_Orange_FactSheet.pdf) to learn more about your Agent Orange risk and about the diseases associated with exposure, and read the “Agent Orange Exposure Symptoms” article that follows.

## AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE SYMPTOMS

Between 1962 and 1971, the U.S. Military sprayed millions of gallons of Agent Orange, a toxic herbicide defoliant, over the jungles of Vietnam to expose enemy hiding places. Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange are at significantly higher risk than the non-veteran population for a number of serious, sometimes deadly, diseases. Certain birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans may also be the result of Agent Orange exposure.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) now presumes that 14 diseases and disorders found in “boots-on-the-ground” veterans and certain other Vietnam veteran groups are the result of Agent Orange exposure. Certain birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans may also be the result of Agent Orange exposure.

What are the Agent Orange presumptive diseases and what symptoms should exposed Vietnam veterans and their doctors be looking for? The following information was taken from the USDVA web site.

### AL amyloidosis

AL amyloidosis is a rare disease caused when amyloid proteins are abnormally deposited in tissues or



organs. Affected organs may include heart, kidneys, liver, bowel, skin, nerves, joints, and lungs.

- Symptoms: fatigue, anemia (low red blood cell count), weight loss, numbness and tingling in limbs.

### Chronic B-cell Leukemia

Leukemia is a cancer of the blood cells. B-cells are a specific type of lymph cell that affect a body's immune system. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia is characterized by production of an excessive number of white blood cells.

- Symptoms: persistent fatigue, weakness; frequent infections; weight loss without trying; swollen lymph nodes, enlarged liver or spleen; easy bleeding or bruising; tiny red spots in the skin; and bone pain or tenderness.

### Chloracne

Chloracne is a rare skin eruption of blackheads, cysts and nodules, which has been linked directly to dioxin exposure. Mild forms may resemble teenage acne.

- Symptoms: excessive oiliness of the skin and the appearance of numerous blackheads, often accompanied by fluid-filled cysts and dark body hair. In mild cases, blackheads may be limited to the area around the eyes, extending along the temples to the ears. In more severe cases, blackheads also may appear in other places, especially over the cheek bone area, other facial areas, behind the ears, and along the arms. Severe chloracne may lead to open sores and permanent scars.

Skin may become thicker and flake or peel. The condition fades slowly after exposure. Minor cases may disappear altogether, but more severe cases may persist for years after the exposure.

### Diabetes Mellitus Type 2

Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects the body's ability to use blood sugar for energy. In type 2 diabetes mellitus, the body does not produce enough insulin or the body's cells ignore the insulin.

## << SYMPTOMS

- Symptoms: blurry vision, excessive thirst, fatigue, hunger, frequent urination, and weight loss.

### Hodgkin's Disease

Hodgkin's disease is one of two common cancers of the lymphatic system, which is part of the immune system.

- Symptoms: fever, fatigue, night sweats, itching, loss of appetite, and weight loss. Painless swelling in the lymph nodes in neck, armpits, and groin also may occur.

### Ischemic heart disease

Ischemic heart disease is a medical condition of reduced blood flow and oxygen to the heart. Over time, this damages and weakens the heart muscle making it difficult for the heart to fill and pump blood to the rest of the body. Ischemic heart disease is a common cause of congestive heart failure. People with this condition may at one time have had a heart attack, angina, or unstable angina—sometime with no previous symptoms.

- Symptoms may include: chest pain behind the breastbone or slightly to the left of it. It may feel like tightness, heavy pressure, squeezing, or crushing pain. The pain may spread to the neck, jaw, back, shoulder, or arm. Other symptoms include dizziness or light-headedness, and feeling of indigestion or heartburn.

### Multiple myeloma

Multiple myeloma is a cancer caused by an overproduction of certain proteins from white blood cells. It is characterized by plasma cell tumors in bones in multiple parts of the body.

- Symptoms may include: There are often no symptoms until the disease progresses. Symptoms include bone pain, unexplained bone fractures, repeated infections, weakness or numbness in the legs, abnormal proteins in the blood or urine, anemia, fatigue, and high level of calcium in the blood.

### Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is a type of cancer of the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue, which are part of the body's immune system that help to fight infection and disease.

- Symptoms may include: swollen, painless lymph nodes in the neck, armpit or groin areas in early stages. Other signs and symptoms may include fever, night sweats, fatigue, weight loss, abdominal pain or swelling, chest pain or trouble breathing, itchy skin.

### Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative brain disorder that leads to shaking, stiffness, and difficulty with walking, balance, and coordination.

- Symptoms may include: tremor, or trembling in hands, arms, legs,

jaw, and face; rigidity or stiffness of the limbs and trunk; slowness of movement; and impaired balance and coordination.

### Peripheral Neuropathy

Peripheral neuropathy is a condition of the peripheral nervous system, which consists of nerves outside the brain and spinal cord. The acute or sub-acute ("early-onset") form of peripheral neuropathy refers to symptoms occurring within weeks after exposure. (In chronic cases, effects appear much later.) It is a temporary condition.

- Symptoms may include: numbness, tingling or prickling in the toes or fingers in early stages. This may spread to the feet or hands and may cause burning, throbbing or shooting pain that is worse at night. Other symptoms include pain equally in both sides of the body (in both hands or in both feet), muscle weakness, loss of balance or coordination, and extreme sensitivity to touch.

### Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

Porphyria cutanea tarda is a disorder characterized by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas.

- Symptoms may include: blisters on areas of the skin exposed to the sun such as the face, arms, and hands followed by crusting and scarring; hyperpigmentation; increased hair growth on areas

## << SYMPTOMS

exposed to the sun; and liver damage.

### Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is cancer of the prostate, a small gland in the male reproductive system.

- Symptoms may include: urinary problems, such as trouble urinating or stopping and starting when urinating, though these problems more often result from noncancerous prostate. Blood in urine or semen and discomfort in the pelvic area also can develop.

### Respiratory Cancers

Respiratory cancers are cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

- Symptoms may include: Symptoms vary, depending on the location of the cancer but may include a new cough, dry cough, or cough that doesn't go away, coughing up blood, shortness of breath, chest pain, hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, voice changes, sore throat or earache, feeling of a lump in the throat.

### Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Soft tissue sarcomas are a group of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels and connective tissues (that is, distinct from hard tissue such as bone or cartilage). These tumors are relatively rare.

- Symptoms may include: There are often no symptoms in early stages. The first noticeable symptom is usually a painless lump or swelling. As the tumor grows, it may cause other symptoms, such as pain or soreness.

If you are a Vietnam veteran who has symptoms similar to any of those associated with the USDVA Agent Orange presumptive diseases, tell your healthcare professional right away. Early diagnosis and treatment can save lives.

Vietnam veterans and other U.S. veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service may be eligible for:

- Agent Orange Registry health exam—a free exam for possible long-term health problems related to herbicide exposure. Veterans who served in Vietnam, the Korean demilitarized zone or other areas where Agent Orange was sprayed may be eligible.
- Health care benefits—a full range of medical benefits. There are many ways a Veteran may qualify.
- Disability compensation—monthly payment for diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure during military service. Veterans with qualifying service in Vietnam or the Korean demilitarized zone are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange. Other Veterans may be eligible if they show on a factual basis that they were exposed.

Children who have certain birth defects and are biological children of Vietnam-era veterans with qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea may be eligible for USDVA compensation, health care, and vocational training.

Spouses and dependent children of living veterans also may be eligible for health care and other USDVA benefits.

Surviving spouses, dependent children and dependent parents of veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service and died as the result of diseases related to the exposure may be eligible for survivors' benefits.

For more information about veteran health, including military exposures, diseases and conditions, treatments, wellness and more, go to [www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp).

To learn about your state and federal veterans benefits, including healthcare, education, home loans, housing, compensation and pension and more, visit the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) web site at [www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov), call (877) 741-8532, or download the CalVet mobile app from Google Play or the iTunes Store.

## TOP 100 COMPANIES RECRUITING VETERANS



U.S. Veterans Magazine is releasing the results of its much-anticipated 2012 survey of the nation's Top 100 Companies Recruiting Veterans. This objective review evaluates the nation's top employers, providing a valuable resource for job seekers, business owners, veterans, consumers, senior management, business associations, employment agencies and consumer groups.

The 100 companies being recognized this year are, in alphabetical order:

- |                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3M                             | CSC                                   |
| <b>7-Eleven</b>                | CSX                                   |
| ADP                            | <b>DaVita Inc.</b>                    |
| <b>AECOM</b>                   | Dell                                  |
| Aetna                          | Deloitte                              |
| Alion Science & Technology     | Delta Air Lines, Inc.                 |
| Amazon                         | Dominion Resources Services           |
| American Electric Company      | DRS Technologies Defense Solutions    |
| Areva                          | DynCorp International                 |
| <b>AT&amp;T</b>                | Eaton Corporation                     |
| Avis Budget                    | EMC Corp.                             |
| <b>BAE Systems, Inc.</b>       | ESPN                                  |
| <b>Bank of America</b>         | Express Scripts                       |
| BNSF Railway                   | Exxon Mobil                           |
| Boeing Co.                     | <b>Fluor</b>                          |
| Booz Allen Hamilton            | Fugro                                 |
| Boy Scouts of America          | General Dynamics                      |
| Bridgestone America            | General Electric                      |
| <b>CACI International Inc.</b> | Harley-Davidson USA                   |
| CenterPoint Energy             | Harris Corp.                          |
| Charles Schwab & Co.           | Humana Inc.                           |
| <b>Cintas</b>                  | Hyundai                               |
| <b>Cisco Systems</b>           | <b>Intel</b>                          |
| Citi                           | Intuitive Research & Technology Corp. |
| Clorox                         |                                       |
| <b>Comcast</b>                 |                                       |

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## SHOW A VETERAN YOU CARE

America's Adopt a Soldier "We Care" campaign asks you to help honor service and sacrifice of veterans who may need words of thanks and encouragement—even from perfect strangers. Write a letter, note or card to an anonymous veteran and send it to America's Adopt a Soldier, P.O. Box 1049, Springfield, VA 22151. Your correspondence will be sent to veterans homes and hospitals this Veterans Day.



## << COMPANIES

ITT Systems Corporations

**Johnson Controls**

**JPMorgan Chase & Co.**

Kearney & Co.

LMI

**Lockheed Martin**

Louisville Gas & Co.

**Lowes Companies**

ManTech

**Merck & Co.**

Microsoft

National Credit Union Administration

National Grid

**Northrop Grumman**

Novartis Pharmaceuticals

Office Depot

Oshkosh Defense

Pitney Bowes

PNC Financial Services Group

Progressive Insurance

**Prudential Financial**

Qualcomm

Raytheon

**Sears Holdings Corp.**

Snap-On Tools

**Sodexo**

Southern Company

Sprint

SRA International

State Farm

Sunoco

Target

The Hartford

The Home Depot

Time Warner

Total System Services

Toys R Us

U-Haul

Union Bank

**Union Pacific Railroad**

United Health

**United Rentals**

**URS Corp.**

USAA

U.S. Airways

U.S. Bank

**Verizon Communications Inc.**

Wal-Mart

Waste Management, Inc.

**WellPoint**

The review is intended to recognize veteran-friendly companies and acknowledge their efforts in hiring and retaining veterans. The Best of the Best lists are compiled from market research, independent research, confidential employee interviews and responses to surveys conducted by DiversityComm representatives and/or its affiliates. Also considered for inclusion were companies that participated in veteran career fairs nationwide at which U.S. Veterans Magazine is circulated.

The results are published in the November 2012 special Veterans Day edition of U.S. Veterans Magazine, published by DiversityComm.

CalVet has been asking California employers to join the Department in educating veteran and veteran family employees about how to connect with the benefits they've earned through military service. Those companies shown in bold letters on the list above (and others listed on the Employment page of the CalVet web site) have agreed to help. Those companies have placed a CalVet article in their employee newsletter, sent an all-staff e-mail, created a veterans' page on their Intranet, linked to the CalVet web site, requested CalVet speakers, or made California Veteran Resource Books and other educational materials available to their employees.

If you would like information about how your company can help CalVet reach and assist its California veteran and veteran family employees, please contact [pao@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:pao@calvet.ca.gov).



## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TO HOST 71ST ANNIVERSARY GALA

The Tuskegee Airmen story is one of the most inspiring of the Civil Rights era. In 1941, Congress mandated an all-African American flying unit within the U.S. Army Air Corps. In June of that year, the 99th Fighter Squadron formed at Tuskegee Institute, the distinguished university founded in Alabama 60 years earlier by Booker T. Washington.

The African American squadrons were deployed the following summer in North African and Italian campaigns, which began the record of combat excellence the units established. Black pilots escorted bombers and flew raids, amassing an impressive number of enemy aircraft destroyed, in addition to the tremendous number of Allied bombers they protected. It was hard enough to protect cumbersome bombers from wispy attack planes; it was another thing entirely to keep them intact and shoot down attackers.

Black fighter pilots took on double duty under the stress of combat, and did it with distinction.

George S. "Spanky" Roberts was the first African-American selected for pilot training at the famed Tuskegee Army Airfield. He commanded the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group, which saw action over North Africa and Italy. He flew 78

combat missions over Europe in the Second World War.

After President Harry S. Truman desegregated the armed forces for good in 1948, Roberts became the first African American officer to command a racially-mixed unit at Langley Air Force Base in 1950. Roberts returned to combat in Korea, commanding the 51st Air Base Group and the Air Force base at Suwon.

During the Cold War, Colonel Roberts oversaw logistics for most of the Air Force's fighters and all of its missiles in the Pacific. During his 26-year military career, Roberts was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, eleven battle stars and two Presidential Unit Citations.

When Colonel Roberts was preparing for retirement from uniform, he was recruited into a banking career by a fellow former pilot and Wells Fargo banker. In 1968, Roberts moved into a new career as a credit officer for Wells Fargo in Sacramento, California. He retired from Wells Fargo in 1982, and died soon after. In honor of his distinguished career, the Sacramento chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen is named after Colonel Roberts.

On November 10, 2012, The George S. "Spanky" Roberts Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen will host a



George S. "Spanky" Roberts

Wells Fargo Archives

fundraising 71st Anniversary Gala from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. at the Aerospace Museum, McClellan, California. The fundraising event will feature food, music, dancing and other entertainment. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet original Tuskegee Airmen and to see an authentic Redtail P51 Mustang.

For more information, visit [www.taisac.org](http://www.taisac.org) or call (916) 471-6505 for more information.

## AARP DRIVER SAFETY SALUTES CALIFORNIA VETERANS

By Julie E. Lee

Navigating today's roads can be challenging for all drivers, but military veterans face particular challenges behind the wheel. Studies have shown that veterans are more likely to be involved in car crashes than other drivers. In fact, traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for military personnel in their first year after returning home from war.

Reviewing the driving records of tens of thousands of troops, USAA, an insurance company that has been specializing in serving veterans since 1922, discovered that service members were involved in at-fault accidents 13 percent more frequently after deployments. Although it's not clear why veterans are more prone to accidents than their non-military peers, most experts agree that it has to do with stress and trauma they experienced while deployed.

Veterans are encouraged to enroll in the AARP Driver Safety course to brush up on behind-the-wheel skills. It's a great way to assess your own driving, learn new regulations, and feel more confident on the road.



Plus, the November classroom course is free to all current and former military personnel and their families, regardless of age! In many states, car insurance companies will offer a discount on premiums for people who have taken the course.

The free course is available by downloading a coupon at [www.aarp.org/veterans](http://www.aarp.org/veterans). The coupon must be presented to the host organization or the volunteer instructor at the time of registration or payment.

With courses offered in communities throughout the country, veterans should have little difficulty finding a class that's conveniently located. But classes are limited in size and fill up quickly; registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit AARP Driver Safety's Classroom Course Locator at [www.aarp.org/findacourse](http://www.aarp.org/findacourse) or call 1-888-AARP-NOW (1-888-227-7669) to find a course.

As an alternative to the classroom course, veterans and their families are invited to take the AARP Driver Safety online course at 50 percent off the normal course price. Online participants will learn the same

valuable tips and information from the classroom course, but they can take it at their own pace from their home.

For the online course discount, visit [www.aarpdriversafety.org](http://www.aarpdriversafety.org) and enter the promotion code "Veterans" during registration and checkout. The promotion code is valid from November 1 through November 30, 2012. Participants will have 60 days to complete the online course. Plus, after taking the course, you will be eligible to receive a discount on your car insurance.\*

\*Your state is mandated to give a discount as appropriate depending on your driving record and insurance policy. Contact your agent for details.

*Julie Lee, Vice President and National Director of AARP Driver Safety, Education and Outreach, has more than 30 years experience in management, strategic planning, transportation and safety. With AARP for over eight years, Lee directs the largest driver improvement course designed for drivers age 50 and older.*

## *NATIONAL HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TO HONOR VETERANS, HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS*

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. will honor all the brave soldiers who fought in World War II and Holocaust survivors as part of its 20th Anniversary commemoration across the Nation.

Public events will be held in cities across the country, including a full day of Museum programs in Los Angeles and a major National Tribute in Washington, D.C. It is the Museum's way of honoring survivors of the Holocaust and World War II veterans and thanking the local communities for making their work possible.

The free, daylong public event in Los Angeles will be held on February 17, 2013, at the Skirball Cultural Center, located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles. Throughout the day, veterans and their families

will have the opportunity to meet with curators and conservators about personal collections. They may attend panel discussions with well-known experts, presentations of rarely seen film clips from our collection, and participatory family activities. There will also be opportunities to socialize. The day will conclude with a special tribute to local survivors and World War II veterans.

Similar events will be held in Boca Raton, Florida on December 9, 2012; in New York City on March 3, 2013; and in Chicago on June 9, 2013.

The National Tribute in Washington, D.C. April 28-29, 2013, will bring together the people who lived this history—Holocaust survivors, World War II veterans, rescuers and their families, in the largest numbers possible, along with United States

and European officials, Museum supporters and partners for what will most likely be the last gathering of eyewitnesses on this scale.

Working in close cooperation with the World War II Memorial, the Museum expects thousands to join Elie Wiesel, its founding chairman, at the two-day gathering in Washington, D.C. that includes a tribute dinner to honor American servicemen and service women who fought in World War II, a private ceremony during which the Museum will be closed to the public, and an open house with special program, tours and family activities throughout the Museum.

These events are free but advance registration is required. For more information or to register, go to [www.ushmm.org/neveragain](http://www.ushmm.org/neveragain) or call (866) 998-7466.



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For more information contact CalVet at [www.calvet.ca.gov/homeloans](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/homeloans) or call (866) 653-2510

# CALVET

VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA  
BARSTOW



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### For admission information, contact:

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

[www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov)

Updated 10/12

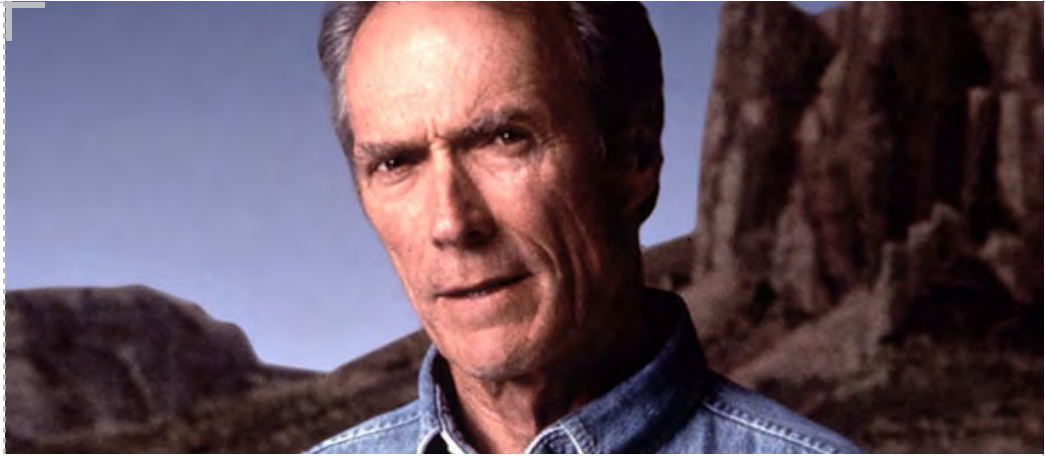
## MILITARY MEDALS DISPLAY

By Joe Wright

Veterans Day, 11 November, is set aside to thank and honor all men and women who served honorably in the military. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served—not only those who died—have sacrificed and done their duty.

With Veterans Day fast approaching, all veterans are encouraged to express their patriotism and pride through a display of medals earned in their military service. It's a way to show your community the spirit of America's veterans and remind your neighbors of the service and sacrifice of those who guarded democracy. A veteran's military medals tell stories of service, sacrifice, bravery and accomplishment. Each story is as unique as the veteran who wears those medals. Sharing them with family, friends and the public on Veterans Day allows America's Veterans to tell their stories to the entire nation and helps teach America's youth the true meaning of citizenship and freedom.

*Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County.*



## CELEBRITY VETS

There is sometimes more to Hollywood actors, sports icons and other high-profile people than it may seem. Many actors who played soldiers in Hollywood movies or on television, for example, actually served in the U.S. Military. So did a number of big-name musicians and entertainers. Read on to find out which celebrities are reported to have served our Country.

**Alan Alda:** Actor, Director, Screenwriter. Military-related acting roles: "M\*A\*S\*H\*" (Television 1972-1983). Served as a U.S. Army Reserve Gunnery Officer.

**Bea Arthur:** Actor. Reportedly one of the first women to serve as a U.S. Marine.

**Humphrey Bogart:** Actor. Military-related acting roles: "Sahara" (1943), "Action in the North Atlantic" (1943). Served in the U.S. Navy.

**Ernest Borgnine:** Actor. Military-related acting roles: "From Here to Eternity" (1953), "Torpedo Run" (1958), "McHale's Navy" (Television 1962-1966), "The Dirty Dozen" (1967),

"All Quiet on the Western Front" (1979), "Skeleton Coast" (1986), "Tides of War" (1990). Served as a U.S. Navy Gunners Mate.

**Charles Bronson:** Actor. Military-related acting roles: "Battle of the Bulge" (2005), "The Dirty Dozen" (1967), "Raid on Entebbe" (1976). Served in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

**Mel Brooks:** Comedian, Actor, Director, Screenwriter, Producer, Composer, Lyricist. Joined the Army when he was 17, became a combat engineer, defused landmines. Served as a corporal and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

**Cesar Chavez:** Farm Worker, Labor Leader, Civil Rights Activist, Co-founder of National Farm Workers Association (now known as United Farm Workers). Served in the U.S. Navy.

**Julia Child:** Professional Chef, Author. Worked as a spy for the U.S. Office of Special Services.

**Bill Cosby:** Actor, Comedian, Author. Served as a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman.

## << CELEBRITIES

**Kirk Douglas:** Actor. Military-related acting roles: "Paths of Glory" (1957), "In Harm's Way" (1965), "Is Paris Burning?" (1965), "Cast a Giant Shadow" (1966), "Victory at Entebbe" (1976), "The Final Countdown" (1980). Served as a U.S. Navy Lieutenant.

**Clint Eastwood:** Actor, Director, Producer, Composer, Politician. Military-related acting roles: "Away All Boats" (1956), "The Enemy Below" (1957), "Where Eagles Dare" (1968), "Kelly's Heroes" (1970), "Heartbreak Ridge" (1986). Served as a U.S. Army Swimming Instructor/NCO Club Bouncer.

**Medgar Evers:** African American Civil rights activist from Mississippi, NAACP Field Secretary. Assassinated by member of White Citizens' Council in June of 1963. Served as a U.S. Army Sergeant.

**Henry Fonda:** Actor. Military-related acting roles include: "Drums Along the Mohawk" (1939), "Immortal Sergeant" (1943), "War and Peace" (1956), "The Longest Day" (1962), "In Harm's Way" (1965), "Midway" (1976), "Mister Roberts" (1998), "Too Late the Hero" (2004), "Battle of the Bulge" (1965). U.S. Navy Quartermaster/Air Combat Intelligence.

**Clark Gable:** Actor. Military-related acting roles: "Hell Divers" (1931), "Run Silent, Run Deep" (1958). Served as a U.S. Army Air Corps Major.

**Jerry Garcia:** Musician, lead guitarist for The Grateful Dead rock band, American counterculture icon. Joined

the U.S. Army when he was 17. Was reportedly discharged nine months later after repeated AWOLs and two Court Martials.

**Gene Hackman:** Actor, Novelist. Military-related acting roles: "A Bridge Too Far" (1976), "Uncommon Valor" (1983), "Crimson Tide" (1995), "Bat 21" (1998), "Heroes of Iwo Jima" (2001), "Behind Enemy Lines" (2001). Served as a U.S. Marine Corps Corporal

**M.C. Hammer:** Entertainer, Rapper, Dancer, Actor, Entrepreneur. Served in the U.S. Navy.

**Jimi Hendrix:** Musician, Singer, Songwriter. Joined the U.S. Army reportedly instead of going to jail for car theft. The military was not a good fit for Hendrix and he was discharged after only one year.

**Charlton Heston:** Actor. Military-related acting roles include: "The Private War of Major Benson" (1955), "Major Dundee" (1965), "Midway" (1976), "Gray Lady Down" (1977). Served as a U.S. Army Air Corps Sergeant.

**James Earl Jones:** Actor. Military-related roles include: "By Dawn's Early Light" (1990), "Hunt for Red October" (1990), "Clear and Present Danger" (1994). Served as a U.S. Army First Lieutenant.

**Bob Keeshan:** Children's television show host and characters Captain Kangaroo and Clarabell the Clown. Served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

**Harvey Keitel:** Actor, Producer.



Military-related acting roles include: "Bad Lieutenant" (1992), "Rising Sun" (1993), "U-571" (2000), "Life on Mars" (2008-2009). Served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Joe Louis:** Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Served in the U.S. Army Special Services on an entertainment and inter-racial relations morale mission.

**Steve McQueen:** Actor, Producer, Professional Race Car Driver. Military roles include: "The War Lover" (1962), "The Sand Pebbles" (1962), "The Great Escape" (1963). Served as a U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class.

**Lee Marvin:** Actor. Military-related acting roles include: "You're in the Navy Now" (1951), "The Glory Brigade" (1953), "Attack" (1955), "The Caine Mutiny" (1954), "The Raid" (1954), "Pillars of the Sky" (1956), "Donovan's Reef" (1963), "The Dirty Dozen" (1967), "Our Time in Hell" (1967), "Sergeant Ryker" (1968), "Hell in the Pacific" (1968), "Shout at the Devil" (1976), "Delta Force" (1986),

## << CELEBRITIES

"The Big Red One" (1980). Served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Paul Newman:** Actor, Director, Entrepreneur, Humanitarian, Philanthropist, Professional Race Car Driver. Military-related acting roles: "Until They Sail" (1957), "The Secret World of Harry Frigg" (1968), "Fat Man and Little Boy" (1989). Served as a U.S. Navy Radioman/Gunner.

**Chuck Norris:** Actor, Producer, Martial Artist, Product Pitchman. Military-related acting roles include: "Missing in Action" (1984), "The Delta Force"

(1986), "Delta Force 2" (1990). Served in the U.S. Air Force.

**Elvis Presley:** Musician, Actor. Military-related acting roles include: "G.I. Blues" (1960), "Easy Come, Easy Go" (1967). Served as a U.S. Army Private.

**George C. Scott:** Actor, Director, Producer. Military-related acting roles: "Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" (1964), "Patton" (1970), Served as a U.S. Marine Corps Guard/Instructor.

**Jimmy Stewart:** Actor. Military-

related acting roles: "Navy Blue and Gold" (1937), "The Glen Miller Story" (1954), "Strategic Air Command" (1955), "The Flight of the Phoenix" (1965). Served as a U.S. Army Brigadier General.

**Ice T:** Rapper, Actor, Reality TV Star. Served in the U.S. Army 25th Infantry.

**Patrick Daniel (Pat) Tillman:** NFL Football Player. Joined the U.S. Army Rangers in the aftermath of 9/11. Killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan.

**Montel Williams:** TV Talk Show Host, Product Pitchman. Enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was later accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy.

## EXPEDITED CONTRACTOR LICENSE APP FOR VETS

The California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) now has a Veterans Application Assistance Program for those who are transitioning from military service to civilian employment. In many cases, veterans possess transferable skills to help meet minimum experience and training requirements for state contractor licensure. The program offers priority services to veteran applicants by evaluating transferable military experience and training, as well as education.

CSLB assists veterans by providing:

- Program technicians specially trained to evaluate transferable military training and experience from all branches of the military that meet minimum licensure requirements;
- Automatic priority application processing;
- Evaluation of college transcripts to help verify acceptable educational credit (in addition to military experience and training);
- Direct telephone and e-mail contact with CSLB staff;
- Live Scan fingerprinting requirements.

CSLB's Licensing staff will review your DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) and the education and training

transcript provided by your branch of the military. Even if your military transcript is unavailable, CSLB will review your DD-214 and evaluate your applicable military training and experience.

To view a list and description of the CSLB's 43 contractor classifications, go to [www.cslb.ca.gov/generalinformation/library/licensingclassifications](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/generalinformation/library/licensingclassifications).

For information about how to request a military transcript, criminal background checks, and documentation that needs to be submitted with your CSLB application, go to [www.cslb.ca.gov/Applicants/veterans/militaryexperience/default.asp](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Applicants/veterans/militaryexperience/default.asp).

If you have questions or believe you qualify for this expedited program, send an e-mail to [veteransinfo@cslb.ca.gov](mailto:veteransinfo@cslb.ca.gov).

## FEDERAL UI BENEFITS EXTENSIONS END SOON

Veterans whose federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits were extended, take note! We are fast approaching the end of the federal extensions of UI benefits here in California. According to federal law, the last payable week ending date for all federal extensions is December 29, 2012. The maximum amount of benefits available in federal extensions is now up to 73 weeks of benefits depending on when your regular UI claim and extensions are filed. The chart below illustrates how the extension tiers are adjusted per federal law. Claimants should also be aware of new requirements in place to continue eligibility for extension benefits.

At the peak of the recent recession, the federal government provided California and other high unemployment states up to 73 weeks of additional unemployment benefits through various tiers of federal extensions. Combined with regular state unemployment benefits of up to 26 weeks, out-of-work Californians could have been eligible for up to 99 weeks of benefits.

But in May of this year, the state was notified by the U.S. Department of Labor that we no longer met the minimum criteria for providing FED-ED extension benefits, typically the last stretch of up to 20 weeks of extension benefits. While California's total unemployment rate remains high, it is not significantly higher than it was during the last three years as is required by the federal program. So the California Employment Development Department (EDD) cannot pay any further FED-ED benefits for weeks that end after May 12, 2012, even if someone had a remaining balance on their FED-ED extension.

As we get closer to the end of the year, eligible unemployed workers may not qualify for all the federal extensions (Tiers 1 – 4). The majority of unemployed workers with a regular claim that qualified for 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits, claimed full weeks of benefits since the start of their claims, and had no breaks in collecting benefits (i.e., returned to work) could anticipate the following based on when their regular claim started:

- For regular claims that started after June 2012, the majority of unemployed workers may not qualify for any federal extension benefits when their regular claim ends.
- For regular claims that started after January 2012, the majority of unemployed workers may potentially qualify for up to 20 weeks in Tier 1 when their regular claim ends but not the maximum benefits available in Tiers 2-4.



## GROUP THERAPY FOR FEMALE PARTNERS OF VETS WITH PTSD

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are starting a group therapy program in Mission Valley/LaJolla for the female partners of veterans diagnosed with PTSD. This 10-week program, which begins in November, will focus on PTSD psychoeducation and skills-based interventions.

To be eligible, participants must be cohabitating in a serious committed relationship, the veteran must have a current military-related PTSD diagnosis, and there must not be any physical abuse within the relationship.

For other eligibility requirements or to register, contact Heather Sones at (619) 680-1755.

**EXTENSIONS, page 17 >>**





## FREE MEALS AND OTHER VETERANS DAY THANK YOUS

On Veterans Day, many businesses offer free or discounted food or other gestures of appreciation to thank active duty military personnel and veterans for their service and sacrifice to our country. Some promotions even include military family members. Following is a partial list.

NOTE: Offers are limited to Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11, 2012, unless, otherwise stated. Offers may vary by location, hours and availability. Beverages and gratuity may not be included in the offer. Offers typically require Military ID or proof of veteran status. Please call business to verify the terms of any offer. Restaurant reservations are highly recommended.

**Applebee's**—Free meal, choose from 7 entrées. Find locations at [www.applebees.com](http://www.applebees.com).

**BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse**—Free fish tacos lunch or one-topping mini pizza dinner.

**California Pizza Kitchen**—Sunday, November 11 and Monday, November 12, 2012, any pizza from menu free and a non-alcoholic beverage. Dine in only.

**Chili's**—Choice of one of 6 meals. Dine-in from limited menu only; beverages and gratuity not included. Visit [www.chilis.com](http://www.chilis.com) to find locations.

**Denny's**—Free Grand Slam Breakfast.

**Famous Dave's**—Free Two Meat Salute: choose two different meats served with corn bread muffin, corn-on-the-cob and your choice of one side.

### << EXTENSIONS

- For regular claims that started after October 2011, the majority of unemployed workers may potentially qualify for up to 20 weeks in Tier 1 and up to 14 weeks in Tier 2 when their regular claim ends but not the maximum benefits available in Tier 3 and Tier 4.
- For regular claims that started after August 2011, the majority of unemployed workers may potentially qualify for up to 20 weeks in Tier 1, up to 14 weeks in Tier 2, and up to 9 weeks in Tier 3 when their regular claim ends but not the maximum benefits available in Tier 4.
- For regular claims that started after May 2011, the majority of unemployed workers may potentially qualify for up to 83 weeks available in Tier 1-4 when their regular claim ends.

Regardless of when your regular claim or extension benefits start, December 29, 2012, will be the last week ending date that EDD can pay federal extension (Tiers 1 – 4) benefits to eligible unemployed workers, even if someone is currently unemployed or has a remaining balance on their federal extension.

For more information, visit the EDD website at [www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment).

## SEN. TED LIEU AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN SUSAN BONILLA TO RECEIVE LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) has selected California State Senator Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) and Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla (D-Martinez) as the recipients of the Motomu Nakasako Legislator of the Year awards for 2012. The awards will be presented next spring during the CACVSO Annual Day at the Capitol event.

According to Charles Hunnicutt, President of the CACVSO, "Senator Ted Lieu is no stranger to military or veterans issues. Since he first arrived in the Legislature in 2005, he has consistently stepped forward to tackle complex

**AWARDS, page 19 >>**

### << MEALS

**Golden Corral**—Monday November 12, 2012. Free military appreciation dinner from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at all Golden Corral Restaurants nationwide. For more information, visit [www.goldencorral.com/military](http://www.goldencorral.com/military).

**Hooters**—Ten free boneless wings with any drink purchase, dine in only. For a list of participating locations, to go [www.HootersVeteransDay.com](http://www.HootersVeteransDay.com).

**Krispy Kreme**—One free small coffee and doughnut.

**Little Caesars Pizza**—Free Crazy Bread.

**McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants**—Free lunch or dinner entrée.

**Outback Steakhouse**—Free Bloomin' Onion and a Coke November 7–11, 2012. For more information, visit <http://outback.com/companyinfo/veteransday.aspx>.

**Subway**—Free Six Inch Sub. Subway restaurants are franchises, so this offer may not be available everywhere. Please call ahead.

**Texas Roadhouse**—Free meal.

**T.G.I. Friday's**—Buy one entrée get one entrée free.

**Home Depot and Lowes**—10% military discount available every day.

**Free Car wash** at participating businesses. Visit [www.graceforvets.org](http://www.graceforvets.org) to find a participating car wash near you.

## USDVA BRIEFS

### USDVA OFFERS A NEW TOOL TO HELP VETERANS PREVENT DIABETES

The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced the implementation of a pilot version of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a program being promoted nationally by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aimed at reducing the number of veterans who develop diabetes.

<http://1.usa.gov/SQ1l8t>

### ONLINE TOOLKIT AIMS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS SERVING VETERANS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new online Community Provider Toolkit aimed at delivering support, therapeutic tools, and resources to community providers treating veterans for mental health

concerns.

<http://1.usa.gov/QKsLdE>

### IMPACT OF VBA'S NEW CHALLENGE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has developed a comprehensive and integrated Transformation Campaign Plan to achieve our 2015 goal of eliminating the disability claims backlog and processing all claims at a 98 percent quality level. Along with improved processes and technologies, investment in our people is a key component of VBA's transformation to a 21st Century organization.

<http://1.usa.gov/RyDxOM>

### VA LONG BEACH HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TOP PERFORMER

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently recognized 19 medical facilities from across the Nation as top performers on key health care quality measures for 2011/2012. The USDVA Long Beach Health Care System was among those recognized.

<http://1.usa.gov/TD1Isi>



## OLDEST 11TH CAVALRY REGIMENT VETERAN LAID TO REST

On October 18, 2012, Master Sergeant Rhinhold "Andy" Andreasen, United States Army, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse) (Ret), was escorted to his final resting place in the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo, CA for final honors. Upon arrival at the cemetery, Andy Andreasen's casket was transferred to a horse-drawn caisson by the 11th US Cavalry Regiment Honor Guard. Andy traveled by caisson to his final resting place after a memorable tribute was paid to him. The Shasta County Search and Rescue squad provided a riderless horse with boots facing to the rear. Several of Andy's care givers also paid tribute as did 19 Patriot Guard Riders. After the service, the Blackhorse Association provided lunch.

Andy Andreasen was born in Dazinder, Denmark on March 17, 1916. Andy joined the Regiment in 1934 as a horse cavalryman, and he was with them in 1936 and 1937 as it transitioned to armored cars - he was a crew member on the first armored car of the Regiment. He died at age 96.

At the time of his passing, Andreasen was believed to be the oldest veteran of the 11th Cavalry Regiment. His passing marks the end of an era and it was fitting that both the Blackhorse Association and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment participated in, and supported, his burial. The continued strength of the Regiment is built not only on its current accomplishments in support of our nation's defense, but also the close ties that it has with its past veterans. Events such as this serve to strengthen the bonds between those currently serving and those who have served in the past. A warm 'well done' salute to all who helped in sending Andy off in true Blackhorse style.

### << AWARDS

issues affecting veterans and the military." Senator Lieu is a currently serving Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a JAG officer.

Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla authored a bill which made much-needed changes to the Veteran License Plate Program, including increasing revenue to the Veterans Service Office Fund administered by the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Bonilla has also promised to work with the CACVSO on 2013 legislation regarding a separate, special license plate for veterans only.

The Award is named after "Mote" Nakasako, who as Los Angeles County CVSO, was constantly involved in legislation affecting veterans on the local, state, and federal levels. He was a decorated member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, one of the most decorated units. Nakasako's family was interred in Heart Mountain, Wyoming from where he joined the Army volunteering for combat duty.

*The CACVSO was established in 1945 and provides benefit entitlement determinations, claim development, claim filing advocacy, and case management services to our respective veteran' populations. CVSOs are also responsible for the screening of all veterans and their dependents who have applied for certain public assistance benefits.*

## FRESNO, REDDING VETERANS HOMES BEGIN EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT

CalVet Veterans Homes in Fresno and Redding have begun recruiting to fill a wide variety of staff positions throughout 2013. Positions will be available in nursing, medical, pharmacy, mental health, social service, food service, plant operations, grounds keeping, human resources, medical billing, clerical, IT management and other categories.

"We're very excited about being able to begin the process of staffing our new Homes," said CalVet Secretary Peter J. Gravett. "We've waited a long time for this, and so have our veterans. We're grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for

their continued support of these Homes and for providing the funding that made this recruitment effort possible."

The Fresno and Redding Homes have scheduled a Recruitment Workshop/Hiring Fair at each Home to promote the positions being offered. The Fresno event is scheduled for January 23, 2013, and the Redding event is scheduled for January 30, 2013.

The State civil service hiring process requires applicants to first establish employment eligibility by successfully completing an examination for each job

classification for which they wish to apply. CalVet staff will offer examination and job application information at the Fresno and Redding events to assist those who are unfamiliar with the process. Information on how to get a State job is also available at [www.jobs.ca.gov](http://www.jobs.ca.gov).

To view a list of current job openings at CalVet's Fresno and Redding Homes and at other CalVet locations, go to [www.calvet.ca.gov/AboutUs/Jobs/JobAnnouncements.aspx](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/AboutUs/Jobs/JobAnnouncements.aspx).

To view a list of currently scheduled examinations, go to [www.calvet.ca.gov/AboutUs/Jobs/ExamAnnouncements.aspx](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/AboutUs/Jobs/ExamAnnouncements.aspx).

For more information about the Fresno event, call (559) 493-4202; for more information about the Redding event, call (530) 224-3330; or send an e-mail to [PAO@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:PAO@calvet.ca.gov).

## FREE IT TRAINING FOR VETERANS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has recently launched a game-changing pilot program to demonstrate a rapid path to high-value employment for veterans. Teaming with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and Acuitus (a Silicon Valley company), the USDVA has created a high-intensity school, designed to take veterans with no prior computer or networking experience and, in months, produce graduates

competitive with Information Technology (IT) experts having ten years of experience. Acuitus is also working in partnership with over two-dozen Fortune 500 companies who would readily hire employees educated to this level.

This program is modeled after the very successful DARPA/Acuitus Education Dominance program, through which Navy recruits with no prior IT experience were transformed into IT experts. Few had ever contemplated working in a high-tech field, yet all excelled in the program, developed deep confidence, all graduated, and then outperformed IT experts, solving real-world problems

during multi-week competitions.

This pilot program offers two schools; the first begins January 7, 2013, the second in the May/June, 2013 timeframe. Veterans who participate in this program will receive full scholarships that will provide for all education, housing and meals during the school's 5-month duration. GI Bill and/or other veteran benefits are not required. To learn more, visit [www.acuitus.com/web/vet-ed.html](http://www.acuitus.com/web/vet-ed.html).



## ***NEW SNF ADMINISTRATOR AT YOUNTVILLE VETERANS HOME***

The California Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Monica Diaz as the new Skilled Nursing Facility Administrator at the Veterans Home Yountville. She has over ten years of professional experience in the healthcare industry. Her experiences include psychosocial service management, business administration, finances, strategic planning, employment law, employee resources and development, administration of nursing home operational systems and regulations that govern the nursing home setting.

Monica holds a Master's degree in Healthcare Management from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico, where she graduated with honors in the top percentile of her class. Her education also includes credits in a Ph.D. Clinical Psychology program, Nursing Home Administrator Licenses in California and Nevada, a Residential Care for the Elderly Administrator License, and extensive continued education courses related to the skilled nursing home and geriatric settings.

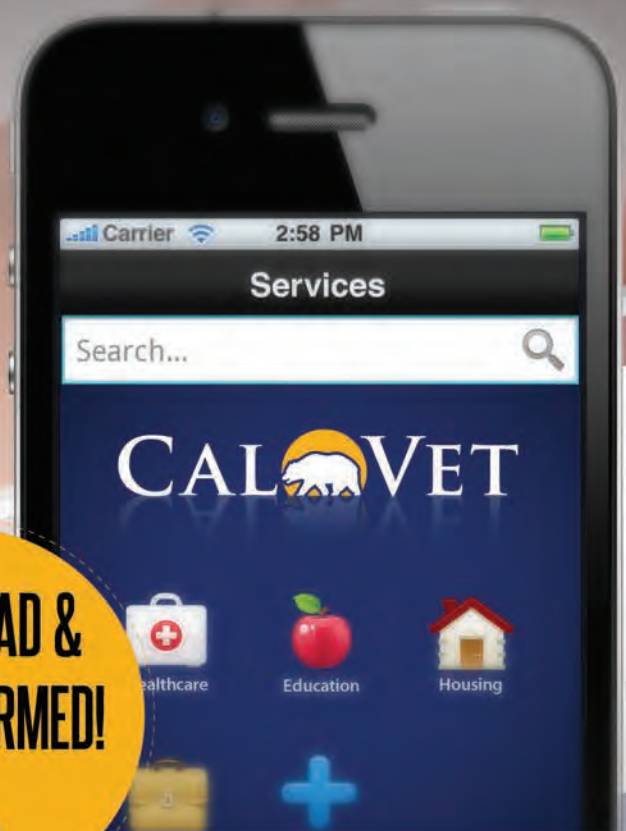
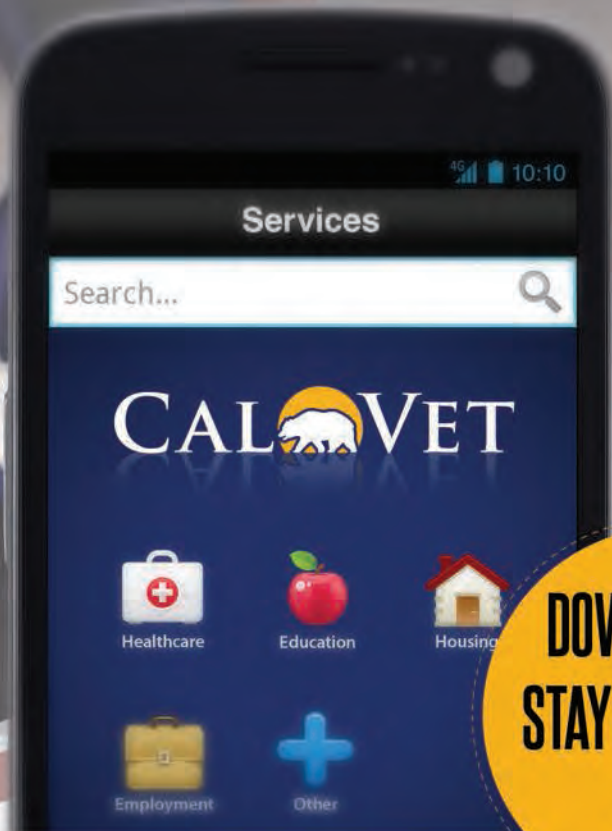
Her educational and professional experiences have provided her with exposure to many operational functions in the healthcare and nursing home environment, including establishing negotiations, project planning and development of appropriate policies, and review of quality assurance standards.

Monica holds a great desire for serving the United States of America and is personally familiar with the veteran community, being herself a military spouse. She has been married for eight years to SSgt Carlos I. Diaz Rios. SSgt Diaz Rios joined the U.S. Air Force in 2004 as an active duty member, and in 2009 he re-enlisted to the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command where he currently serves. He works as an Occupational Therapist in the private sector and is a U.S. veteran that served two tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq. They have a 2 year old daughter, Sofia Luz Diaz.

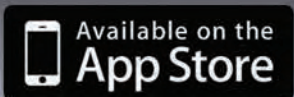
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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### NOVEMBER 8

#### Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet Job & Resource Fair

Employment Development Department  
Valley View Casino/Sports Arena  
San Diego and The Proud Bird Event Center, Los Angeles

### NOVEMBER 9

#### Sonoma County Veterans Job Fair

Vintage House, Sonoma  
Contact: Claudio Calvo (707) 565-5564

### NOVEMBER 10

#### Tuskegee Airmen 71st Anniversary Gala

Aerospace Museum, McClellan  
Contact: (916) 471-6505

#### Free Veterans Day Concert Sacramento Youth Symphony

Sacramento Community Center  
<http://sacramentoyouthsymphony.org/2012/3621>

#### DQ University Pow Wow and Veteran's Resource Fair

D-Q University, Davis  
Contact: (904) 254-4770  
[SkyRoadWebb@gmail.com](mailto:SkyRoadWebb@gmail.com)

### NOVEMBER 12

#### Volunteers Los Angeles Event

West LA Veterans Home, Los Angeles  
Contact: (424) 832-8219

#### Ventura Veterans Home Benefit Golf Tournament

Sponsored by Carey & Hanna Financial Solutions  
Spanish Hills Country Club, Camarillo  
Contact: (805) 644-0697

### NOVEMBER 20

#### Government Career Workshop/ Expungement Workshop

VA Long Beach  
Contact: Kay Kim (562) 826-5593  
[cailine.kim@va.gov](mailto:cailine.kim@va.gov)

**NOTE: TO VIEW FULL CALENDAR, VISIT  
[WWW.CALVET.CA.GOV/FILES/EVENTS\\_CALENDAR.PDF](http://WWW.CALVET.CA.GOV/FILES/EVENTS_CALENDAR.PDF)**

#### CalVet News

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