

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011



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



A dancer from the Shingle Springs Rancheria Miwok Dance Group.

HUNDREDS GATHER AT CAPITOL FOR NATIVE AMERICAN DAY

By Jaime Arteaga
Staff Writer

Hundreds gathered on Thursday, September 22nd to participate in the 44th Annual Native American Day "Celebrating Honored Elders" at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

"We are extremely proud to honor and revere our elders during this 44th Annual Native American Day here in

"The ground on which we stand is sacred ground. It is the blood of our ancestors." -Chief Plenty Coups (Crow)

our State's Capitol grounds," said Pete Molina, CalVet Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs. "Native Americans are closely linked with California's history and continue to enrich these lands through their traditions."

Native Americans gathered to honor and celebrate the tribal elders and spiritual leaders who work hard to protect and preserve the customs of their people. By keeping these traditions, language, and culture alive, their work benefits all citizens of California. This gathering reminds all that the rich tapestry of Native American culture and history will be forever remembered and honored by future generations.

CalVet Women Veteran's Conference

Enhancing Inner Beauty, Inner Strength

October 7 - 8, 2011 DoubleTree Hotel, Ontario Airport
222 North Vineyard Ave
Ontario, CA 91764

Event Day Registration:

\$50



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HONORING VETERANS ONE LICENSE PLATE AT A TIME

By Brian Kaplan
Staff Writer

Since the inception of the veterans license plate program in 1995, approximately 24,500 veteran plates have been issued to help recognize specific veteran groups, military units, and services; however, CalVet, in partnership with the Department of Motor Vehicles, is proud to announce a new look and meaning behind the specialized veteran's license plates that are sold online!

Display your pride in the military and show your support for veterans in California by purchasing a Veterans License Plate. These special California license plates may be ordered with the armed forces or veterans service organization logo/emblem of your choice. Furthermore, instead of the traditional plate that reads "Veteran", motorists can purchase a plate that reads "Honoring Veterans" in support of those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

All proceeds from the sale of these plates are used to expand veterans services statewide. If you're proud of our veterans who have defended America, apply online today at <http://dmv.ca.gov/ipp2/welcome.do?localeName=en>.

These new plates will hit the streets at the beginning of 2012.



Robin Umberg, Undersecretary for Veterans Homes, and Steve Spernak at the Stand Down.

CALVET EXECUTIVE STAFF ATTEND FIRST ORANGE COUNTY STAND DOWN

By Jaime Arteaga
Staff Writer

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) Secretary, Peter J. Gravett and CalVet Undersecretary for Veterans Homes Robin Umberg were honored to attend Orange County's first Stand Down, hosted by Deanne Tate of Veterans First and the hundreds of volunteers and staff from local, state, and federal organizations. Volunteers provided the more than 200 homeless veteran attendees with a plethora of services and resources during the 3-day event.

This Stand Down was held at Santa Ana College. Also in attendance were volunteers from local Posts of the Veterans of Foreign War and representatives from local elected officials, including Steve Spernak, Advisor on veterans issue to Orange County Supervisor Shawn Nelson.

"I was taken by Undersecretary Umberg's genuine personality, professional experience and lifetime commitment to helping military, veterans and dependent care-givers who work with America's Armed Forces heroes," said Spernak.

FAQ's

DOES THE STATE HAVE ANY PROGRAMS TO HELP PAY FOR EDUCATION?

Yes, the state offers the College Fee Waiver Program for eligible dependents of disabled veterans. Tuition and registration fees will be waived at any UC, CSU, or Community College for eligible applicants. Contact your local County Veterans Service Office for more information. www.cacvso.org



VETERANS ATTEND SACRAMENTO MOUNTAIN LIONS SEASON OPENER

By Carolyn Ballou
Staff Writer

More than 1,000 area veterans got the opportunity to attend the opening season game of the Sacramento Mountain Lions (MoLo's) football team thanks to the generosity of the club and its sponsors. The MoLo's donated game tickets to CalVet which, in turn, made the tickets available to veterans through more than 50 local and regional veteran service agencies, organizations and clubs.

The MoLo's are part of the United Football League which plays in cities in which the NFL has no presence. The league primarily consists of players who have at one time or another played for an NFL team. Home games are played at Hornet Field on the CSU, Sacramento campus.

The MoLo's kicked off their season on Saturday, September 17th, with a game against the Las Vegas Locomotives. The event included free tailgating, live music in Fan Fest, bounce houses, fire breathers, face painters and more! The MoLo's next home game will be on Saturday, October 1st.

If your veteran service organization would like to be added to CalVet's ticket distribution list, please contact pao@calvet.ca.gov.

VENTURA ELKS LODGE CAR SHOW BENEFITS VENTURA VETERANS HOME

By Jeanne Bonfilio
Staff Writer

The Ventura Elks Lodge #1430 held a fabulous car show recently to benefit the Veterans Home of California—Ventura! On September 18, a check presentation ceremony was held at the Lodge where members of the Veterans Home and staff members were presented with a generous check in the amount of \$1603!

It all started at the July 31 Car Show where guests arrived 10 a.m. to view the beautiful cars, trucks and motorcycles on display. More than 40 vehicles were exhibited! It was easy to see that the owners take great pride in their stunning vehicles. A continental breakfast and chili dogs were also served to participants.

First Place Car went to the owner of a 1956 Chevy and Second Place Car went to a 1965 Mustang. First Place Truck went to 1955 Chevy and Second Place Truck to a 1953 International. First Place

CAR SHOW, page 12 >>

Are you a veteran? Do you know one?
Assemblymember V. Manuel Pérez invites you to the following events during the month of October.

Job and Resource Fair

Dress for success, bring your résumé and find out about job opportunities while meeting and interviewing with employers. Access veterans benefits and services. Open to all job seekers.

Thursday, October 13th
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Imperial Valley Mall
3451 S. Dogwood Ave.
El Centro, CA

Event partners: California Employment Development Department, Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program, Workforce Development Board & Office, County Veteran Services Office & Veterans Employment Committee.

2nd Annual Veterans Expo

Offering a range of assistance including veterans benefits, medical and mental health screenings, rehabilitation, housing assistance, legal and financial help, consultations, employment services, rehabilitation, education, and much more! Featuring special guest Major General Peter J. Gravett (Ret), Cal Vet Secretary!



For more information please contact the District Office at (760) 342-8047 or visit www.adc.asm.ca.gov/uv

Saturday, October 29th
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Indio Armory
43-143 North Jackson Ave.
Indio, CA

Event partners: Veterans Easy Access Program of Coachella Valley, California Department of Veterans Affairs

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Amenities include:

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

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

For admission information, contact:

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

SAFEWAY

SAFEWAY OFFERS STORE MANAGER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO MILITARY OFFICERS

Safeway, one of the most successful food and drug retailers in North America with 1,700 locations across the United States and Canada, is offering military officers the opportunity to become store managers through its Leadership Development Program (Program).

Each Program participant is paired with a training store manager as their mentor and assigned a training store location. The program includes a combination of on-the-job training, interacting with coworkers and customers on the sales floor, classroom seminars, job shadowing with various retail and backstage employees, independent study, as well as participation in numerous department and divisional meetings.

Program modules include leadership, finance and reporting, world class service, leveraging diversity and inclusion, ethics and integrity, labor relations, human resources, loss prevention, inventory control, safety and risk management, marketing and merchandising, navigating time,

workforce and front end management, retail leadership skills, technology, department overviews (e.g., dairy, bakery, etc.), career growth and opportunities, and more. Upon successful completion of the Program, participants are placed as store managers.

Program applicants must:

- have a BA degree and served a minimum of two years as a commissioned officer with direct leadership experience in a branch of the U.S. Military;
- provide their DD 214 indicating an honorable discharge or separation and three most recent performance review/appraisals/evaluation reports;
- possess strong customer service, supervisory, and leadership skills.

The next Safeway Program begins October 24, 2011. Submit your resume or request more information at military.recruiting@safeway.com.

UNDERSECRETARY GONZALES VISITS VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA—WEST LOS ANGELES

By Jeanne Bonfilio
Staff Writer

Lawrence Gonzales, CalVet Undersecretary for Operations, visited the Veterans Home of California—West Los Angeles on September 22. As this was his first visit, Gonzales was provided a tour by Administrator Louis Koff.

He also had lunch and visited personally with residents in the large dining hall. "It's so nice to meet you," he told Sadie, a 97-year old new resident. "How do you like living here?" he asked. "It's very nice!" she beamed.

Gonzales took time to visit each table during the lunch period, shaking hands and thanking the residents for their dedicated service.



West Los Angeles Veterans Home resident Sadie and CalVet Undersecretary of Operations Lawrence Gonzales.



(L-R) West Los Angeles Veterans Home Administrator Louis Koff, Veterans Home residents Dr. Winn and Steve Rosmarin and Undersecretary of Operations Lawrence Gonzales.

FAQ's

HOW DO I BECOME CERTIFIED AS A DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DVBE)?

Simple! Go to the Department of General Services website to learn about certification and the advantages of being a certified DVBE and doing business with the State of California. www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Home.aspx

CALIFORNIA
**MEXICAN
AMERICAN
VETERANS
MEMORIAL**

**YOU CAN
HELP!**

**DONATE
TODAY!!**

WWW.MAVM.CA.GOV



The Veterans Tribute Jazz Band entertains the staff at the Veterans Home.

RESIDENTS + STAFF = SUCCESS

By Jody Price

Public Information Officer

"Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the Veterans Home of California, Yountville," said Marcella McCormack, Administrator. This was also the theme of the Employee Picnic that was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, by the Employee Activity Committee. Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, beans, salad, chips, cookies, brownies, ice tea and lemonade were served to all of the employees between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Residents volunteered their time to serve the staff. "We really are one big team here in Yountville," reiterated McCormack". The residents found out about the Employee Picnic and insisted on helping out cooking for and serving the staff.

Staff members could not remember the last time there had been an employee picnic here in Yountville. Approximately 500 employees made it to the event. All who attended had a great time reconnecting with each other and enjoying each others company. Even though everyone works at the same facility, it sometimes takes weeks and months before employees run into each other. Even the folks over at the Pathway Home Program got into the festivities by also partaking in the goodies.

But not just food was provided to employees, there was also wonderful entertainment during the picnic. Two musical groups performed: the Veterans Tribute Jazz Band; with Mike Morris (resident) on saxophone, Val Clark (resident) on trumpet, Mark Heim (Adult Ed, Teacher) on bass and Ellen Patterson (staff) on piano. The second group that performed was Sonny Seabrook (resident) guitar and vocals; accompanied by Mark Heims on bass.

The Employee Activity Committee works hard all year on different fundraising events. The most popular fundraiser is the Candy Bar grams, which is a big money raiser, followed by steak sandwich sales for the Annual 4th of July celebration.

"I thank the Employee Activity Committee for all its hard work and dedication to the staff at the Veterans Home of California, Yountville, and for your tireless efforts and continued loyalty and dedication to our veterans." stated McCormack. "Now get busy planning a fabulous Employee Holiday party!"





The last motorcycle rider exits the 9-11 Bikers for Veterans Charity ride with his patriotic colors flying.

HUNDREDS ATTEND THE “BIKERS FOR VETERANS” WEST COAST CHARITY RIDE

By Jeanne Bonfilio
Staff Writer

Hundreds of motorcycle riders, veterans, members of the community, celebrities and special guests attended the September 11th “Bikers Helping Veterans” West Coast Charity Ride – the first fundraiser to benefit the beautiful, new Veterans Home of California in West Los Angeles. Held on the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11th, the event also honored and remembered victims and heroes of 9/11.

“This is a wonderful way to honor the men and women of the U.S. Military who sacrifice so much for us every day and to honor the many men and women who died on that fateful September day 10 years ago,” said Peter J. Gravett, Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).

Co-sponsored by Barger and Bartels Harley-Davidson Dealerships, the event included a patriotic program, flag ceremony, 9/11 remembrance and moment of silence, vendors, music, food, raffles, celebrities and more. A \$25 entry fee and all drawing proceeds were donations to the Veterans Home.

Those appearing on stage included: CalVet Secretary Peter J. Gravett; Veterans Home Administrator Louis Koff; six-year ex-Prisoner of War Colonel John Fer (USAF Ret.); Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; Master of Ceremonies Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine; legendary entertainer Connie Stevens; award-winning singer/songwriter Carol Connors; singer Rebecca Holden; singer Elmer Armstrong from The Platters; the Conspiracy Band; the UCLA ROTC Color Guard; Rev. Milton Herring; Father Max Saldua; and more than 30 vendors.

“I would like to thank Loretta Hanson, Debi Black and Barger and Bartels Harley-Davidson Dealerships for co-sponsoring this event, as well as our wonderful celebrities and speakers, and the hundreds of motorcycle riders and guests for their support and participation for our first fundraiser and 9/11 Remembrance,” said Louis Koff, Administrator. “I would also like to thank Coordinator of Volunteer Services Brittney Thomas and her planning committee for the hard work that went into today’s ceremony. Thank you all for supporting the Veterans Home of California—West Los Angeles.”

According to Thomas, scores of volunteers from several community groups and agencies contributed in some important fashion to the success of the event, including volunteers from: the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles; American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Pacific Palisades Post 283, Boy Scouts of America Troop 911, the Santa Monica College Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society – and more than 20 members of the Thousand Oaks Kiwanis Club, who donated the tri-tip steak for the barbecue and did all of the barbecuing as well! More

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Loretta Barger (seated), 9-11 event Chairperson, and left to right standing: Tom Hansen, actor Lorenzo Llamas and CalVet Secretary Peter Gravett.

PG&E'S POWERPATHWAY TRAINS VETERANS FOR CAREERS IN ENERGY

Several years ago, PG&E identified a gap between the company's workforce needs and the inconsistent availability of work-ready applicants. In response to this workforce trend, PG&E launched PowerPathway™—a collaboration with local community colleges, the public workforce development system and unions—to enlarge the talent pool of qualified candidates for entry-level skilled craft jobs, such as a utility worker or lineman. Since then, the PowerPathway™ model has expanded to include four-year universities in new geographic areas, new job classifications, and reaching out to military veterans who are transitioning into the energy sector. The PG&E PowerPathway™ Training Network is now cultivating career pathways in four areas:



clean tech vehicles, energy efficiency and renewables, engineering and the smart grid, and skilled crafts.

Driven by industry workforce need, each PowerPathway™ program is tailored to strengthen the capacity of each educational partner. Workforce Investment Board (WIB) partners screen, test, advise and support potential applicants. Education partners provide the training courses that prepare applicants to be work-ready and

able to compete for jobs or advance their careers in the energy and utility industries.

PG&E's role varies from partner to partner and may include:

- curriculum design;
- faculty "train-the-trainer" programs;
- technical assistance;
- co-delivery of classroom instruction;
- program management;
- student field visits;
- in-kind donations of equipment;
- program funding;
- employment/and/or enlistment of additional employers to advise and hire.

All partners share a high level of commitment to establishing career pathways, especially in underserved communities. In this way, PowerPathway™ strengthens one of PG&E's core values of diversity by

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<< MOTORCYCLE

than 30 students from Pepperdine University were also invaluable with the set-up. Additional volunteers from the Westside HOG Chapter and Bartels Harley-Davidson also made valuable contributions to many important aspects of the day-long event.

Thomas said the volunteers and committee members really made a difference. "As the coordinator of our first "West Coast Charity Ride," I would like to thank everyone involved for their support and generosity to make this event a success," said Thomas. "Hundreds of bikers, community supporters, corporate sponsors, volunteers and staff joined forces to raise more than \$10,000 for veterans

living in our Veterans Home, which will assist in the continuous improvement of our residents' quality of life through involvement in meaningful activities. We truly appreciate the community support and look forward to more successful fundraisers. I would also like to thank the Annenberg Foundation for generously funding the commemorative event t-shirts and baseball caps."

For additional information on the Veterans Home of California in West Los Angeles, please call (424) 832-8200. For additional information on Veterans Homes, benefits, services, employment, educational resources, services, CalVet Home Loans, Veterans license plates, and more, please call (800) 952-5626 or log on to the CalVet website at www.calvet.ca.gov.



Master of Ceremonies City Councilmember Dennis Zine (left) presents special proclamation to Veteran Home Administrator Louis Koff (center) and CalVet Secretary Peter J. Gravett.

JOB AND RECRUITMENT FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS

By Jeanne Bonfilio
Staff Writer

Hundreds turned out for the first in-house Job and Recruitment Fair at the Veterans Home of California in West Los Angeles on Thursday, September 8!

The West Los Angeles Veterans Home is currently recruiting for the positions of Supervising Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse, License Vocational Nurse and Certified Nursing Assistant, in preparation for the projected opening of the Skilled Nursing Unit with Memory Care, estimated to open in late 2011 or early 2012. Flying in from as far away as Minnesota or driving in from Northern California, the interested job seekers began showing up at 6 a.m.

Coordinated by Human Resources Manager Gwen Steward and her staff members Jonelle Scott and Debbie Hill, the Job Fair was a tremendous success with more than 350 interested applicants attending. Steward's staff and many volunteers set up a check-in station, tours, orientation to the home, Q&A station about the state hiring process and more. Many heard about the fair from advertisements in the Los Angeles Times, local community papers, Careerbuilder.com, Facebook, from friends, nursing colleges (American

Career College and West Coast) and text messages.

"Our Human Resources staff planned and executed a wonderful event featuring job opportunities for working with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and providing service to our veterans," said Administrator Louis Koff. "We are enthusiastic with the response and the potential for so many experienced nursing personnel to join our staff in the coming months and years as we open the memory care and skilled nursing neighborhoods."

"I would like to thank Louis Koff, Jeff Ward, Deborah Shields, Marnie O'Leary, Debbie Makaryk, Stanja Cherry, Marites Pagtalunan, Margaret Torres, Brenda Moaning (Volunteer), Angela Spahn (Volunteer), Norma Milligan, Elizabeth Benavides, Lindy Lindeman, Patrick Keleher, Lana Henderson, Brittney Thomas, Edith Ogu and Human Resources staff members Debbie Hill and Jonelle Scott, all of whom personally greeted each and every person who attended the recruitment fair, either at one of the workshops or at our receptionist table," said Stewart. "Also, a special "thank you" to Jonelle Scott who personally answered more than 100 phone calls from interested parties prior to the Job Fair."

Steward also thanked Housekeeping and Plant Operations staff for their



Volunteer staffers Margaret Torres (left) and Marnie O'Leary (right) were ready, willing and eager to assist Job Fair applicants.

hard work. "Thank you to all who helped behind the scenes by setting up the rooms, hanging the banners and keeping the home clean during this event, including: Chris Ona, Juan Valdez, Simmie Sims, Walther Nunez, Grace Post, Lorie Glassman, Geraldette Johnson and Joseph Holden."

Steward also expressed her appreciation to Morrison Catering, whose staff provided the snacks and lunch for all participants, and Arvin Ortiz from Information Technology for setting up the videos and laptop computers. Since the Job Fair was held, Human Resources staff members have been scheduling hiring interviews.

For additional job information, please log onto the CalVet website at www.calvet.ca.gov.

<< PG&E

ensuring a reliable pipeline of qualified candidates who reflect the communities served.

Though employment is not guaranteed, PG&E intends to hire qualified program graduates for positions open within the company. PG&E is contributing over \$280,000 in

in-kind and grant funding over the next 18 months to support the programs. In-kind support includes program management, training and outreach.

Recently discharged veterans have a difficult time finding civilian jobs and are more likely to earn lower wages for years. The 2007 study conducted by Abt Associates Inc. found that 18 percent of veterans were unemployed within one

to three years of discharge, while one out of four who did find jobs earned less than \$21,000 a year.

For more information about careers, jobs, and training available with CalVet's employer partners, visit the CalVet Employment page at www.pge.com/about/careers/atpge/veterans.



CAL VET
VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA
YOUNTVILLE

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

Amenities Include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, please contact:

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



USC OFFERS ONLINE MILITARY SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Many war veterans suffer serious mental health disorders ranging from post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depression, which can lead to substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and suicide. University of Southern California offers a specialized area of study that prepares individuals to provide a full range of human services to the nation's military personnel, veterans and their families, helping them cope with the stresses of military life. The military sub-concentration – which can be integrated with any of the three major concentration areas offered through the Virtual Academic Center – culminates in a 600-hour internship at a military hospital, VA hospital, Vet Center or a military base school.

The school's Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families (CIR) is collaborating with the USC Institute for Creative Technologies on the Virtual Patient, a new virtual reality training module to help prepare students to interact with real clients, particularly those who have been exposed to combat stress. The Virtual Patient is an avatar-based computer program designed to simulate a specific

clinical presentation of a veteran client with a high degree of consistency and realism. The first application of virtual reality in a graduate social work setting, the program is expected to be available in some military sub-concentration classes this fall and by 2012 for students in the Virtual Academic Center. Students may also search the CIR website for opportunities to participate in the center's research initiatives that serve veterans and military families.

Curriculum

- Human Development/Mental Health
- Military Culture
- Treating Trauma/PTSD
- Stress in Military Social Work and Veterans Services
- Clinical Practice with the Military Family
- Preventive Care and Health Management in Military Social Work and Veterans Services

USC is the only graduate program in the country with an entire focus on Military Social Work. The program, launched in 2010, currently has over 700 students in 38 states, including a large number of veterans and military spouses. USC reports the response, especially from veterans and military, is outstanding.

LANCASTER VETERANS HOME RECEIVES ONGOING SUPPORT FROM EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE

By Jeanne Bonfilio
Staff Writer

Not only is the lovely Lancaster Veterans Home in close proximity to Edwards Air Force Base, and not only was the Home named in honor and memory of one of Edwards Air Force Base's legendary heroes, the late Colonel William J. "Pete" Knight, United States Air Force, (Ret.), a 32-year combat pilot, test pilot, astronaut and Vice-Commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center's Air Force Systems Command, but the Home and its residents are very fortunate to have ongoing support and camaraderie from the Base in many meaningful ways.

"It is so nice for those who are currently serving to recognize those that have served in the past," said Norman J. Andrews, LTC, retired U.S. Army and Veterans Home Administrator. "The

AIR FORCE, page 14 >>



Veterans Home resident Catalina R., a WWII Army Air Core veteran, helps cut the birthday cake which was baked by the wife of Staff Sgt. Jason Minor.



Here are just a couple of the vintage cars in the Ventura Elks Lodge Car Show which raised funds for the Ventura Veterans Home.

<< CAR SHOW

Motorcycle was won by a 1960 Honda and the Second Place Motorcycle winner owned a 2005 Yamaha.

In addition, more than \$3,000 in gifts was donated by generous local merchants for a special raffle. All proceeds from the raffle benefitted the Veterans Home.

Ventura Veterans Home Administrator, Brenda Manke, expressed her heartfelt appreciation for all that the Ventura Elks Lodge has done for the Home's residents. "The Ventura Elks Lodge has been one of our original supporters with their annual Car Show," said Manke. "It was the best of both worlds this year as the residents of the Home were not only the recipients of the raised funds but they were also able to participate and attend the event."

Lynda Griffin, the Veterans Home's Supervising Rehabilitation Therapist agreed! "The Ventura Elks Lodge has always been a very supportive local group for the Veterans Home and our residents," said Griffin. "We thank the Ventura Elks Club from all of the staff and residents at the Veterans Home for their generous donation. I was so

honored to be a part of the check presentation at the Lodge and very surprised when the "big check" was brought to the Home the following morning. It is currently on display in our dining room for everyone to enjoy."

June Geiger, event Chairperson and Elks Lodge Member said that the Elks really care for veterans and they have chosen the Ventura Veterans Home as a special place to benefit from their fundraisers. "Elks are committed to never forgetting our veterans," said Geiger. "Our motto is 'We shall never forget them.'"

Geiger also said that a special group of donors and volunteers made the event possible. "I thank all of the donors who gave so generously," commented Geiger, "and all of the volunteers, including: Carol Olivera, Brenda McDaniels, Debbie Lemar, Frank Donoto, Carl Davis, Jim and Marion Jones, Darrel and Gwynne Jones, Del Hall, Judy Sandoval, Mark Ouchi, Annie and John Hessel, Dale Reed, Ed and Geri Frank, Jena and Stacy Gilbert, Joy Davison Koshure, Jim Wright, Gary Kallisky and Sharon Thompson. I could never do it by myself!" Geiger and her volunteers are now busy planning a special event for veterans on November 11.



Members of Ventura Elks Lodge present a generous donation to the residents of the Veterans Home of California—Ventura from proceeds of their recent Car Show and raffle.



The Barstow Veterans Home is Currently Accepting Applications for Residency in Domiciliary Care

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

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

Although this Veterans Home offers three levels of care, space is primarily available in the Domiciliary level 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

<< AIR FORCE

veterans of our Home are very grateful for the sacrifice and commitment of everyone currently serving our country. The support and generosity of Edwards Air Force Base and particularly the NCOs that have embraced this Veterans Home are acknowledged and appreciated. Here is one huge THANK YOU to the men and women of Edwards Air Force Base."

Just this past month, members of Edwards Air Force Base invited Lancaster Veterans Home residents to observe National POW/MIA Day at a special ceremony at the Base. Veterans Home residents were served a wonderful

lunch, given a Base tour, and invited to attend a special ceremony honoring and remembering POW's and MIA's.

Edward Air Force Base Commander Brigadier General Robert Nolan also took time to visit with Veterans Home residents, including Geneva R., an Army Veteran from World War II whose husband was a Prisoner of War on the Japanese-occupied Philippines during World War II. It was a touching moment.

In addition, on August 18, members of Edwards Air Force Base visited the Veterans Home for a special Air Force Birthday celebration. Air Force Staff Sergeant Jason Minor set up the visit and his wife baked the birthday cake

for all to enjoy. "Their Color Guard presented the colors and we sang the National Anthem," said Supervising Rehabilitation Therapist Lawrence Hawkins. "They also recited the Airmen's Prayer, presented a short film on the history of the Air Force and gave a short speech. Then we cut the cake and they socialized with our veterans by playing cards, chess, and Wii Bowling."

CalVet thanks Edwards Air Force Base for their continuing supporting of the William J. "Pete" Knight Veterans Home of California in Lancaster—and for their legacy of dedicated service.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CalVet News

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Deputy Secretary, Communications

Jaime Arteaga
Public Information Manager

Thomas Morales
Graphic Designer

Angela Slater
Graphic Designer

OCTOBER 7-8

California Women Veterans Conference

Ontario Doubletree Hotel
222 North Vineyard Avenue
Ontario, CA 91764

www.calvet.ca.gov/WomenMinority/Conference.aspx

OCTOBER 8-9

San Francisco Fleet Week

San Francisco, CA
www.fleetweek.us

OCTOBER 20

California Veterans Board

Veterans Home of California—
West Los Angeles

OCTOBER 28

Secretary's Conference

Okinawa Armory
Sacramento, CA

NOVEMBER 2

Third Annual County of Santa Clara Salute to Military Women

County of Santa Clara Government Center,
Board Chambers
70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110
Contact: owp@ceo.sccgov.org
(408) 299-5152

NOVEMBER 11 VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 12-13

2011 Native American Veteran Association Annual Veterans Appreciation Gathering

South Gate Park
4900 Southern Avenue
www.spanishhillsc.com

NOVEMBER 12-13

A Day of Golf Honoring Lifetimes of Commitment

Bayonet Gold Course
Central Coast Veterans Cemetery
Foundation
Contact: (831) 679-2610
www.ccvcf.com

THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT

By Stacey Frank

CalVet Health & Safety Officer

CalVet staff, along with millions of Californians will “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” during The Great California ShakeOut at 10:20 a.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2011.

Major earthquakes can cause unprecedented catastrophes. With earthquakes as an inevitable part of our future, people should plan to take actions that will ensure disasters do not become catastrophes. What we do now will determine what our lives will be like afterwards.

You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake. The drill provides the opportunity to provide important information to CalVet employees and their families on how to perform Drop, Cover, and Hold On—which is a quake-safe action designed to protect people from falling furniture and flying objects during ground shaking.

How Can You Prepare for the Drill?

1. Consider what may happen when an earthquake shakes your area. Plan what you will do now to prepare, so that when it happens you will be able to protect yourself and to recover quickly.
2. Secure Your Space – (At Home) Reduce potential damage and injuries by strapping furniture and large appliances to walls, securing TVs and electronics, applying quake putty to small items and more. (At the Office) Reduce potential damage and injuries by securing or removing all items that could fall on top of you during an earthquake. This includes permanently removing all items stored on top of cubicles and ensuring furniture over 5 feet high is either bolted to the wall or each other.



What Are You Expected to do On October 20, 2011 at 10:20 a.m.?

1. Drop, Cover and Hold On – Drop to the ground, take Cover under a table or desk, and Hold On to it as a major earthquake was happening (stay down for at least 60 seconds).
2. While still under the table, or wherever you are, look around and imagine what would happen in a major earthquake. What would fall on you or others? What would be damaged?

More information about the Great California ShakeOut can be found at www.shakeout.org.

CHANGES TO “TEAM HUMAN RESOURCES”

By Stacey Frank

CalVet Health & Safety Officer

The one thing that never changes, however, is the Human Resources Division’s commitment to the employees of CalVet. We strive to extend services and assistance to our staff that is unsurpassed. With that being said, we would like you to be aware of some changes in the Human Resources Division.

Jacque Ruiz, who has been a respected member of our Human Resources Division team since 2005,

is now the department’s Training Coordinator. Jacque accepted this new position when Julia Niazov left CalVet at the end of July. We are quite confident Jacque will excel in this role just as she has in every capacity she has worked in the Human Resources Division.

Another talented member of our team is working in a new capacity. Jason Drenik, who has worked in the Exam Unit since 2005, has accepted a position as a Classification and Pay Analyst. This new role will allow Jason to continue to provide CalVet staff with the same extraordinary level of customer service and professionalism that we have all come to count on.

Lastly, the Human Resources Division

welcomes Zainab (Zeena) Morales to the team as our new Exam Analyst. Zeena, formally of the Office of Procurement and Contracts and the Veterans Services Division has over seven years Human Resources experience in the United States Navy and over two years performing analytical duties within CalVet. We are certain staff at all levels will enjoy working with Zeena.

