



# The California Zephyr®

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## New Council Committee

I am writing to provide an update on the Condolence Committee and recent CSC meeting developments.

In April, I suggested to the Board of Directors that we formally recognize passing members from all chapters, as these losses are not always widely known. President Jerry Orlemann asked me to lead this effort.

During the July CSC meeting, I asked all delegates to gather the names of deceased members from their respective chapters and forward them to me. At the October CSC meeting, I read 50 names accompanied by a ringing of the bell. I request that we continue this remembrance tradition at every future CSC meeting.

Regarding the membership tier discussions, the recent meeting was spent addressing Mission 75 and the Leadership Conference. Confusion continues, as National President Tom Burke set aside the six options for our VVA future and announced his own plan, which was not well received. We are now tasked with coming up with our version of how to proceed.

Best regards,  
Deek Segovia

## Chapter 201

In conjunction with AVVA Chapter 201, sponsored a special POW/MIA day event to include Missing Man Table for both American and South Vietnamese Soldiers.

Donated \$500 to Vet Boars

Joint VVA Bay Area Chapters/Veterans Celebration of Freedom 250 held a luncheon on September 26 at the new Redwood City Veterans Building. Honor Flight Bay Area received a commendation from the Chapters for supporting veterans and providing lasting memories of their service

Donated \$1,000 to the Moving Wall to be located in Cupertino November 10 – 14, 2026.

Participating in the Annual Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2026 in downtown San Jose.

A Scout troop honor for Veterans

June of this year, I received a text from the mother of Nithilan Balasubramanian, Scout Patrol leader, Troop 908. The troop wanted to collect a number of used American Flags for a project entitled "Honor the Flag. Serve those who carried it.

The troop had decided on a goal to create 250 handwritten notes from members of the troop and attach a star from an American Flag. The message was a simple gesture of gratitude to those that served.

VFW Post 6298 and VVA Chapter 201 have a flag collection container and use a local Mortuary to perform proper ceremonial retirement of all used flags collected. The proper disposal of a used American Flag. I had to be sure that the proper ceremonial retirement would occur once they had removed the stars and was assured that this would be the process they would follow.

## SAVE THE DATE

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL



Honoring the Life of

*Diane Carlson-Evans*

November 10, 2026

5:00 p.m. ET

Vietnam Women's Memorial  
Washington, D.C.

Candlelight Memorial in Honor of Diane Carlson Evans  
If you plan to come to Washington for the memorial, the VVA has reserved a block of rooms at Embassy Suites Georgetown. Use group code VVA.



When I met with this young man and his family, I was moved with the level of dedication that they demonstrated and the utmost level of courtesy and respect toward me as a Veteran. After listening to what the overall plans were, I agreed to provide the used flags that they needed.

Nithilan and his Sout Troop spent the next few weeks cutting out the stars and then each of the young men wrote a note on a thank you card, signed their name and attached a star and placed in a special envelope. This was no small task since they were planning to put together 250 thank you cards for distribution.

Once they completed the project, we met again and they gave me the 250 envelopes for distribution to veterans.

I started with the 149 VVA 201 members and mailed a card to each one that I had a mailing address, provided 100 to the Veterans First Program at Los Positas College and the remainder to members of VFW Post 6298.

When I mailed the notes, I used my return address and I was surprised by the fact that a number of people sent a note back to me to thank me for sending, but more importantly to share how much the note and sentiment touched them and made them feel special. As we know, Vietnam Vets were not welcomed home or appreciated when we came home and felt betrayed and forgotten so this level of kindness was appreciated.

It is these types of gestures that lift up my spirits and give me sense of hope for the future of our country. I have often said that America is the greatest country in the world, not discounting the many flaws and mistakes that we have made throughout our history and the mistakes I am sure we will make going forward.

I want to offer a very special thank you to Nithilan Balasubramanian, his troop and his parents for all of their dedication and devotion to Veterans and to our great country.

## Chapter 355

Chapter 355 is in Northern LA County, in the Santa Clarita Valley, home of William S. Hart, a famous silent movie star. Hart built the first movie theatre in the valley and immediately donated it to the American Legion Post 507, with the stipulation that they show one Western movie each week. It closed as a theatre in 1965, but remains as a Post today. VVA 355 used to meet there as well.

Today VVA 355 meets the 2nd Thursday for breakfast at the Black Bear Diner on Sand Canyon. We average 30-40 in attendance.

We are in the process of TWO fundraisers. A "Gas Card" donation that we hope will bring in about \$4,000 to help our AVVA Chapter get their 501c3 rating. Shirley Scott is our AVVA Chapter Rep., AND she is YOUR State Council AVVA Rep.

Our second fundraiser is a 'Magazine' honoring local Female Veterans & Women in Leadership. The content will be interviews with these Ladies in Leadership, but we will sell ad space and sponsorships. Last year our Magazine about the 250th Birthday of the Army, Navy & Marines brought in over \$10,000 for our Veterans Relief Fund!

We are preparing for Veterans Day. One of our Members will be speaking. And our Christmas/Hanukah Holiday Party is December 10 at Black Bear Diner. We will be supporting Toys4Tots.

Remember to support your Chapter's AVVA & the CA Council

AVVA!

## Chapter 933

Chapter 933's Veterans Gamfest (a convention for military and other tabletop game enthusiasts) raises several thousand dollars annually for JROTC and ROTC scholarships. Here at the 2026 event, Chapter 933 Member John Sturdivant (r) and AVVA member Michael Kaser discuss strategy for a war game scenario.



Alex Fabros at eighty became the oldest recipient of a PhD in UC Santa Barbara's history with the announcement of publication

of his dissertation on ethnic social history in the Central Valley of California. Alex served two tours as a Marine Sergeant in Vietnam, in 1975 was sent to Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, and later continued his studies at USCB. He has served as President of VVA



## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC., CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL - FALL 2026

President Chapter 933 and in many veterans -related programs.

Fresno City Councilman Mike Kardassi presents a proclamation from the city to Jim Doyle (l) and Paul Kaser recognizing VVA



Chapter 933's twenty-five- plus years of service to local veterans and families. Recently Clovis Mayor Vang Mouaoutoua presented a similar proclamation from Clovis City to the Chapter.

### Chapter 53

Chapter 53 hosted three former Continental Airlines flight attendants for an interview and Q&A. All three ladies, Kathy Dun-

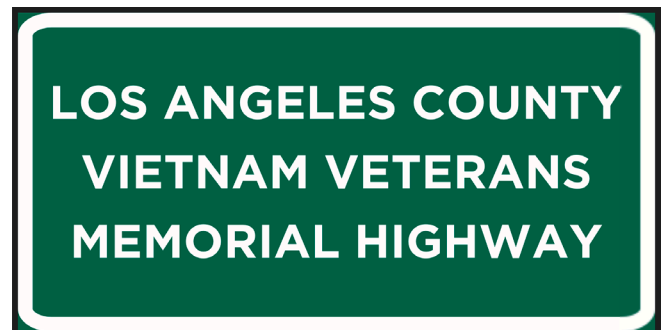


babin, Susan Fisher and Roni Dressel provided services on MACV contracted flights from CONUS to the Vietnam War theater circa +- '67- '74. The ladies shared their personal reflections of their service with moving stories. There were details shared that were previously unknown. The audience learned about hospital visits they made at



rear areas, specific reactions of troops they remembered, close calls, sights from the plane, etc. Of interest, the flight attendants were issued ID's as Second Lieutenants in case of capture. The ladies described the soldiers' conditions and moods they experienced. It is noted they made many flights in and out of South Vietnam and were not paid any premium. I have a QR code to the Video should you want to watch.

Chapter 53 sponsored and funded the designation of Pacific Coast Highway in Los Angeles County as Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway with some 16 signs.



On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary, we discovered one of the signs was missing. After a lengthy outreach to various government officials, the matter was recognized and CalTrans has an order to replace the sign.

During the recent period the Chapter held a fundraiser at The Brews Hall, a local bar and restaurant and raised funds we may use in support of worthy causes. It was well attended and provided a social venue as wives and friends attended.

Ongoing programs include a monthly Memorial clean-up, breakfast at a local restaurant and a monthly bike ride along the beach.

We are nearly set with our plans for our annual Holiday Party where we collect Toys for Tots and/or other programs.

We continue to set aside funds for our annual High School

Scholarship Program.

## Chapter 982

Tee It Up for Veterans Golf Tournament Fundraiser, Central Coast

Welcome Home Military Heroes (WHMH) is a Veteran-run nonprofit organization based on the Central Coast, dedicated to honoring and supporting our local military heroes and their families. Their mission is to unite the community in recognizing the sacrifices made by our service members because “NO DUTY IS MORE URGENT, THAN THAT OF RETURNING THANKS.” The organization strives to uplift the lives of those who have served and continue to serve our country through events and partnerships. Since 2010, they have gathered people to welcome home active-duty personnel and veterans returning to the central coast from deployment and Honor Flight; organized flag lines and vehicle salutes; hosted holiday angel trees; offered scholarships; managed a care package program; and participated with Chapter 982 for the last salute to veterans in hospice care.

The success of their activities depends on volunteers and fundraising. That is where Chapter 982 fits in. Our members participate in activities making both organizations successful. In 2025 and 2026, Chapter 982 partnered with WHMH to co-host the annual Tee It Up for Veterans Golf Tournament benefitting both organizations.

On October 9, 2026, the Chapter opened the event with the color guard presenting the colors as local artist and Singer/Songwriter Debra Sykes led everyone in singing the National Anthem. Standing with the color guard were the American Heritage Girls (a



faith-based youth organization) who sang God Bless America and gave out thank you cards, that they each created, to golfers who are veterans. The chapter had a pop-up tent where golf balls were sold for the golf ball drop from a helicopter. Contributed to the event were two helicopters, which a few members were offered a ride while one dropped the golf balls over a designated hole.

With their experience in past events, WHMH coordinated with the country club, vendors, sponsors, and golf teams. With the support role of Chapter 982, the tournaments were a great success.

## Chapter 500

Sacramento Valley Chapter 500 participated in the River City Quilters Guild quilt show here in Sacramento on October 9th at 10:30 by presenting and posting the colors. The show was a three-day event marking their 49th quilt show. The RCQG reached out Treasurer Patrick Graham to see if the chapter could provide a Color



Guard for the show because of the 250th year of the nation and they had made patriotic quilts to display at the show. Treasurer Graham spoke with Vice-President McNeill and the Board about the event. Board members Jim Singleton and Joe Feirl gladly volunteered to participate.

The day started with doors opening at 10 am to the public with about 100 people in line. At 10:20 an announcement was made that Chapter 500 would be posting the colors at 10:30 they also requested that any Veteran or First Responder identify themselves and come to the front of the room to be honored. Treasurer Graham presented the Stars and Stripes followed by Board member Joe Feirl with the POW/MIA flag, and Jim Singleton carrying the California flag, followed by Vice-President Gregory McNeill with the VVA flag. Once the Colors were posted, the National Anthem was played over the PA system. At that time the Color Guard did an about face and left the room. The Colors remained posted throughout the entire show then Treasurer Graham retired them once the show was concluded.

In photo: Board member Joe Feirl, Board member Jim Singleton, and Vice-President McNeill.

## Chapter 47

Our July general meeting included guest speakers from Innovage a company that provides home care for veterans through the VA.

The chapter received donations of two electric scooters and one electric wheelchair which chapter member Jim Corns repaired and replaced the batteries. We will donate these to veterans in need or family members of veterans in need.

The chapter continues to support pantry programs at three veterans villages in Riverside County and two veterans villages in San Bernardino County with weekly delivery of milk and eggs, as well as quarterly delivery of canned goods and personal care items.

And lastly, the chapter will participate in the following events over the next several months:

October 10 we participated in the Placencia Heritage festival parade

November 7th we will participate in the Cathedral City veterans expo

November 11th we will participate in the Redlands Veterans Day parade

November 14th we will participate in the Riverside Veterans Day parade

December 12, the City of Yucaipa has their annual Christmas parade which the chapter will be attending.

In December will also participate in VFW 10267's annual Christmas dinner. Post 10267 and Chapter 47 share the meeting room. We have been blessed with this alliance with the two organizations. We also annually donate to the post.

The coins have arrived, they are available for \$10 dollars at our monthly general chapter meetings, if you can't make the meetings you may purchase them and we can mail them to you.

The cost is \$15 for the first coin and \$10 each for additional coins if we mail them to you. Make check payable to VVA Chapter 47 and send your check and mailing information to me, I will process your order and mail the coins to you.

Send to :

Tony Scrudato



1588 Phoenix Drive

Beaumont, Ca. 92223

Make check payable to VVA Chapter 47

## Chapter 446

On a monthly basis, we keep our Chapter Members informed with 1) treasurer's and emergency fund reports, 2) membership report, 3) reading of the prior months minutes and 4) old and new business.

In our meetings, we schedule a variety of speakers that present relevant and interesting topics. The following are some of the topics; 1) Merging AVVA with VVA, including the history and legacy of the groups 2) Health tips dealing with exercise, nutrition, vitamins and supplements and 3) Home Goods Donation Program (HGDP) including the history, function and contact information.

The Chapter 446 President keeps the members informed of various activities by issuing timely messages concerning the events. Examples are 1) 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at Pasadena City Hall, 2) Patriotic Celebration to recognize the Former Vet Center Chief and 3) Flag Day Veterans Luncheon at the Pasadena Elks Club.

Chapter Members are working to bring the Moving Wall that Heals to Pasadena.

Our Chapter Members are always allowed to bring up any pertinent topic in our monthly meetings. Recent examples include 1) status of the American Legion Post 13 lawsuit, and 2) current events regarding other Veteran groups such as the VFW and American Legion.

Donations and assistance from Chapter 446 were made to several deserving and needy Veterans, projects and organizations. Included are donations to assist Veterans that suffered property losses due to the January 2025 Eaton fire. We are working with the VSO Veterans Affairs to determine those Veterans in need of the funds and have developed a flyer (handed out at Veteran Events and facilities) to inform them of available funding.

Chapter 446 Members are encouraged by the Chapter President to try to increase membership in the VVA and AVVA. When meeting new Veterans, they should hand them a VVA or AVVA business card and let them know about our monthly meetings, provide them with the notice of the meeting and suggest their attendance. Our membership has steadily increased.

To preserve Veterans assistance and care in the future, the Chapter 446 Members, family and friends are encouraged to join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).

Chapter Members are reminded to donate blood or platelets at the American Red Cross, if able. Several Chapter 446 Members are consistent donors.

Our Chapter Members support the Korean War Memorial Project in Pasadena. The project By-laws are in place and they are moving forward with the preparation of a brochure. They are currently working on the names that will be on the memorial.

In support of the American Legion Pasadena Post 13, VVA Chapter 446 Members attended criminal and civil court sessions in the Pasadena and Glendale Superior Court. The defendant allegedly stole funds and real property from the American Legion Post 13.

Our Chapter Members also volunteered and participated at Veteran and Pasadena Events. For example 1) Veterans Coffee at the Pasadena Senior Center and 2) monthly cleaning of the Vietnam Memorial in Memorial Park, Pasadena, CA.

Several Chapter Members have attended and participated in Veteran Funerals, Celebrations of Life and acknowledgements for both Chapter Members and non-members.

Our Chapter Members have not attended all CSC quarterly meetings due to the burden of driving to the Visalia meeting site. Our Chapter Members are finding it difficult to make the 3.5 hour trip. Last year our Vice President and a Board Member passed away. They consistently volunteered to attend the quarterly meetings. Other officers have had serious medical issues.



members leads the SCV Young Marines, and they marched along with us old guys! That's probably why we won First Place in the Color Guard category!

And riding with us was a 103 year old WWII combat pilot!



We continue to coordinate with other veterans groups in Santa Clarita, including the American Legion, VFW, the Veterans Collaborative, and Coffee4Vets, a group of veterans from different eras, branches, duty assignments, etc.

Chapter 0355 meets on the 2nd Thursday 10:00 am at the Canyon Country Black Bear Diner, 16526 Soledad Canyon Rd, 91387.

## Chapter 355

Happy Birthday America! From Chapter#355, Valencia in the Santa Clarita Valley. We have members in Simi Valley and the Antelope Valley as well.

In June we Celebrated Flag Day and the Birthday of the US Army on June 14 with an 'All American Outdoor BBQ' at our local VFW. It was also a fundraiser, co-hosted by Moms4Liberty, raising money for our Veterans Relief Fund. But 'All Vets ate FREE'!

And several of our Purple Heart recipients received Certificates



Chapter#355 Valencia, Purple Heart recipients acknowledged at the June 14 Flag Day/Army BD Celebration. Members Max Morgan, Greg Nutter, RJ Kelly (#355 President)

of Appreciation from Congressman George Whitesides office.

In July we again participated in the Santa Clarita July 4th Parade. The banner on our float read: "In 1776 we fought for our freedom. In Vietnam we fought for someone else's freedom." One of our

## Chapter 464

Joint VVA Bay Area Chapters/Veterans Celebration of Freedom 250 held a luncheon on September 26 at the new Redwood City Veterans Building. Honor Flight Bay Area received a commendation from the Chapters for supporting veterans and providing lasting memories of their service.

Chapter 464 purchased book carts for the Pat Tillman VA clinic, and "Doc" Lanier created placards for the carts.

Chapter voted to purchase a "Chapter" laptop for the Secretary to archive & keep documents. Similar to the CSC's decision to preserve record integrity.

Chapter Scholarships are being reviewed for the upcoming school year to determine the amount that will be awarded.

National Purple Heart Day Ceremony, held at Golden Gate National Cemetery on August 7 by Chapter 464.

Update Chapter By-Laws on hold pending feedback from peer review. Changes were made to align with the CSC's changes.

Presented a commendation to Operation Care & Comfort for their continued support of active military, their families, and Veterans at their annual Golf tournament in Fairfield.

Helen Wong and Ponce Gonzalez attended this year's CalVet Native American Day and received a Commemorative Pin honoring Native American veterans who have served with courage, sacrifice, and distinction.

### New Business:

Soft copies of the Chapter Legacy procedure will be distributed to chapter members, and video sessions will be scheduled before chapter meetings.

Ponce Gonzalez has committed to participating in an oral history for two sessions at Nueve HS in San Mateo with the senior English class in December.

## POW/MIA Committee

Committee Members Present Terry Moxley, Kirk Gillett, Robert L, Harrison. •

Handed out the DPAA updates for Progress in Vietnam. That also covers Laos and Cambodia. Our missing count Remains at 1565. WWII 71351, Korea 7344, Cold War 126 Golf Wars and Libya 6 for a total of 80,692.

Discussed this year's POW/MIA Recognition Day September 18, 2026.

Then we went a little off track with a discussion of the Oriskany Detachment of 1967 – 1968. And the number of KIA's MIA's and POW's • 17 KIA, 12 POW/MIA.

## Legislative Report

California State Council, End of Year 2026

Prepared by Seth Reeb, Legislative Advocate, Reeb Government Relations, LLC The Year in Review

The Legislature finished its regular work on bills on August 31. The two-year session officially ends November 30. The Governor announced his veterans package on September 28. He signed SB 99 and vetoed AB 264 on September 30, finishing his decisions on the bills in this report.

This year brought new benefits, and other proposals died or were vetoed. SB 694, the claim shark bill, was signed in February as Chap-

ter 1 of 2026. Starting January 1, 2027, it bans charges for helping with VA benefit claims except where federal law allows them. SB 296 provides new property-tax relief for qualifying disabled-veteran homeowners. Other new laws cover county veterans service officers, early class registration, in-state tuition for military dependents and paid family leave. Proposals to expand military retirement-pay tax relief and several other property-tax benefits did not pass. The Governor also vetoed SB 1340, a small-business contracting bill.

Eight of the 11 proposals that did not advance stopped in Appropriations committees, which review the cost of bills. The other three stopped in a policy committee, were set aside by the Assembly or never reached a committee. Veterans can help by explaining how a bill would affect people in their districts while lawmakers review its cost. The summaries below make clear which bills became law and which did not.

### Budget and CalVet Through the Year

California's 2026-27 budget became law on June 29. It includes \$251.5 billion in spending from the General Fund, the state's main spending account. The Legislative Analyst's Office warned that yearly spending was still higher than yearly income. Money left from earlier years and other budget changes covered the gap.

The state's budget forecast shows operating deficits in the years ahead.

The Governor highlighted \$34 million for veterans in the budget. This covers selected programs, not the full budget of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). It includes \$6 million for County Veterans Service Offices, \$7 million to continue Veterans Support to Self-Reliance and \$2 million for legal help with discharge upgrades. The money supports services and assistance; it is not a payment every veteran can claim.

Self-Reliance helps veterans age 55 and older who are homeless or at risk of losing their housing. Services include nursing, care for mental health and substance-use needs, and help managing medications. The discharge-upgrade money pays for legal help that may remove barriers to federal benefits. Cases can involve military sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, mental health or substance-use conditions, or discrimination.

The remaining \$19 million is for the Southern California Veterans Cemetery in Orange County. It includes \$9 million for an access road and permission to spend \$10 million on first-phase planning, detailed drawings Page 2 and construction. These steps help move the project forward. The Governor called these steps "another major milestone toward establishing" the cemetery.

In July, California announced \$109.6 million in Homekey+ awards to help create 278 permanent supportive homes in four communities. Plans reserve 103 of those homes for veterans. The housing includes ongoing support services. The money also serves other eligible residents. The announcement did not say when veterans could move in. Separately, the federal VA announced a grant of more than \$110 million in June for a new 240-bed building at the Veterans Home of California-Yountville. This construction grant comes from the federal State Home Construction Grant Program. The announcement did not give an opening date.

Budget sources: LAO enacted budget overview | July veterans investments | Homekey housing awards | VA Yountville construction grant

## Key Election Dates

- October 5: County elections offices must begin mailing ballots by this date. Early voting sites open.
- October 19: Regular voter-registration deadline. After this date, you can still register and vote a provisional ballot at your county elections office or a vote center through Election Day, using California's same-day voter registration process.
- November 3: Election Day. Mail in your ballot or drop it off by November 3.

## Signed Into Law In 2026

Most bills signed this year take effect January 1, 2027. Some benefits and other requirements start later.

Those dates are noted below.

SB 99 (Blakespear) - Military Protective Orders Status: Signed September 30, 2026.

When deciding whether to issue a domestic-violence protective order, a court may consider a military protective order for the same or similar conduct. Civilian police must follow rules for checking military orders and notifying the proper authorities. This law does not let civilian police enforce every military order on its own.

SB 296 (Archuleta) - Property Tax Exemption for Totally Disabled Veterans Status: Signed September 28, 2026. The law took effect immediately. The exemption begins with the January 1, 2027 property-tax assessment date.

For a qualifying veteran's main home, this law generally exempts half of the first \$1 million in value from property tax. Qualifying households with income at or below the \$83,474 base limit can exempt the full value within that \$1 million cap. Both dollar limits are adjusted each year. The exemption applies to annual assessment dates from 2027 through 2031 and includes eligible unmarried surviving spouses. Some households above the income limit with lower-value homes keep the existing exemption instead. Ask your county assessor which exemption you qualify for and how to apply.

Does VA disability compensation count toward the household-income limit? The State Board of Equalization's sample claim form for the existing exemption counts veterans benefits received from the VA as household income. That form uses the previous calendar year's income, which would mean 2026 income for a 2027 claim. Check your county assessor's updated SB 296 instructions before filing.

Source: BOE household income instructions AB 2219 (Schiavo) - County Veterans Service Officer Standards Status: Signed September 28, 2026.

Counties must fill vacant county veterans service officer positions within 12 months. New officers must earn and keep the official approval, called accreditation, required by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). They have nine months after appointment to earn it. The law also adds training, reporting Page 3 and funding rules. By January 1, 2029, a statewide system must be available to share claims and appeals work among county offices. It does not set a deadline for the VA to decide a claim.

AB 2203 (Tangipa) - Priority Registration for GI Bill Students Status: Signed September 28, 2026.

Starting in the 2028-29 school year, California State University (CSU) and community colleges that offer early registration must include students using GI Bill benefits or the dependent fee waiver

covered by this law. The University of California (UC) is asked to do the same. Early registration does not guarantee admission or a place in a class.

AB 1346 (DeMaio) - In-State Tuition for Military Dependents Status: Signed September 28, 2026.

Eligible military dependents can keep in-state tuition when returning to a California State University bachelor's degree program through the process covered by this law (the University of California is asked to follow the same rule), even after the servicemember moves out of California on orders or retires. It applies to students who left in good academic standing. Existing eligibility rules still apply. The law preserves the in-state rate; it does not make tuition free.

AB 2054 (Gipson) - Family Leave for Military Families Status: Signed September 28, 2026. The expanded benefit begins when the Employment Development Department makes the required claims-system change through the state's EDDNext computer system update, or July 1, 2028, whichever comes first.

Expands Paid Family Leave to cover certain urgent family needs, when a spouse, domestic partner, child or parent is on duty for training, deployed within the United States, or called to state active duty with the reserve or National Guard. Eligible workers can receive part of their wages while handling those needs. This is not automatic paid leave for a servicemember's own deployment. The law does not add a separate right to keep your job while on leave.

SB 974 (Seyarto) - Special Needs Trusts and Property Tax Status: Signed September 27, 2026.

Some court-approved trusts for people with disabilities, called special-needs trusts, can qualify for existing property-tax protections when a family home or farm passes to children or, in some cases, grandchildren.

Rules about the family relationship, filing a claim, living in the home and property value still apply. The change does not cover every trust transfer.

AB 2467 (Committee on Education) - School Enrollment for Military Families Status: Signed September 27, 2026.

Lets military families use more types of addresses, including temporary housing, to enroll children in school when a parent is moving or preparing to move on qualifying military orders. Parents must still prove they live in the school district within ten days after the arrival date shown in their records. This part of the law took effect when signed.

SB 694 (Archuleta) - Stopping Claim Sharks Status: Signed February 10, 2026, Chapter 1. Takes effect January 1, 2027.

Bans charges for preparing, submitting or pursuing VA benefit claims except where federal law allows them. Anyone who breaks the law can be held liable for the veteran's actual damages, attorney's fees and costs, and breaking it is a misdemeanor crime. Free help with VA claims is still available from county veterans service officers and accredited veterans service organizations.

Page 4 Can every existing claims contract be canceled on January 1? No. SB 694 does not cancel every contract. Its specific rule canceling transactions applies when someone breaks the law's rules on using a veteran's military ID card, PIN or government account sign-in. The fee ban and a veteran's right to seek compensation are separate rules. Have a qualified legal adviser review your agreement before assuming you no longer owe anything.

Source: SB 694 chaptered law SB 1188 (Archuleta) - JROTC for page eight

Homeschool Students Status: Signed August 27, 2026, Chapter 154.

Schools with a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program must let eligible homeschooled students in their area take part. The State Department of Education will post information about existing JROTC programs on its website.

SB 892 (Grove) - Priority Class Registration Status: Signed August 27, 2026, Chapter 146. Registration changes begin July 1, 2027.

Starting July 1, 2027, the law removes the old limits of four school years and 15 years after leaving service for early class registration. This applies to eligible servicemembers and former members at CSU and community colleges that offer early registration. UC is asked to follow the same rule. Other eligibility requirements remain.

SB 1354 (Archuleta) - Defense of the State Status: Signed September 19, 2026, Chapter 329.

Military personnel from another state generally may not enter California to carry out military or law enforcement duties for that state without the Governor's permission.

AB 2331 (Nguyen) - Removal of Remains from Cemeteries Status: Signed July 13, 2026, Chapter 74.

If the required consent to move someone's remains from a cemetery cannot be obtained, a superior court must allow the move when there is good cause. Families must still meet other cemetery rules and obtain required removal permits.

SB 417 (Limón) - Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act Status: Signed June 25, 2026, Chapter 16. The law took effect immediately, but voters must approve the bond program before it can proceed.

Resolutions adopted this year SCR 110 (Women's Military History Week), SCR 113 (Gold Star Mothers' and Families' Day), SCR 121 (The Purple Heart Community), and SCR 154 (Green Star Veterans and Families Day). These resolutions recognize people and occasions, and SCR 121 names a stretch of State Route 162 in Glenn County the Purple Heart Community. They do not go to the Governor and do not create enforceable laws.

VETOED SB 1340 (Richardson) - Small Business Contracting Status: Vetoed September 27, 2026.

Would have required prime contractors to certify that the small businesses on their state contracts were paid, and required each agency's small business liaison to report that information every year. The Governor's veto means these changes did not become law.

The Governor said the bill would cost state agencies tens of millions of dollars each year to collect and report payment information by hand. Governor's veto message Page 5 AB 264 (Carrillo) - Education Benefits for Dependents Status: Vetoed September 30, 2026.

Would have removed a restriction on certain state education benefits for eligible dependents who are also entitled to specified federal education benefits or overlapping government aid. Because the Governor vetoed the bill, that restriction remains. Families should check the rules for the benefits they plan to use together.

The Governor said the bill would cost the General Fund millions of dollars each year. He said lawmakers should consider that spending as part of the yearly budget. Governor's veto message MEASURES THAT DID NOT ADVANCE As of October 5, none of these proposals had become law or been placed on the ballot. They stopped at different stages. Supporters would need a new legislative effort to bring them back. These proposals do not provide new benefits veterans can claim now.

SB 1407 (Archuleta) - Military Retirement Pay Tax Exemption Status: Dead as of August 31, 2026.

Would have increased the amount of military retirement pay and Survivor Benefit Plan payments excluded from state income tax from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and extended the tax relief through 2036. The existing tax relief remains. Eligible taxpayers can still exclude up to \$20,000 of military retirement pay and up to \$20,000 of Survivor Benefit Plan payments for tax years 2025 through 2029. Income limits apply.

AB 2022 (Gonzalez) - Property Tax Exemption for 100 Percent Disabled Veterans Status: Dead as of August 31, 2026.

Would have exempted 50 percent of a qualifying home's full value from property tax, or 100 percent for qualifying lower-income households. SB 296, which became law, instead applies the exemption only to the first \$1 million in value, with that cap adjusted each year.

SB 888 and SB 56 (Seyarto) - Disability Pay and the Property Tax Income Test Status: SB 888 was dead as of August 31, 2026. SB 56 stopped in Assembly Revenue and Taxation on July 15, 2025. It was dead as of August 31, 2026.

Would have stopped counting service-connected disability payments, such as VA disability compensation, against the income limit for the disabled veterans' property tax exemption.

SCA 4 (Archuleta) and ACA 5 (Schiavo) - Veterans Property Tax Constitutional Amendments Status: SCA 4 was dead as of August 31, 2026. ACA 5 shows no committee assignment in its history, and it was dead as of August 31, 2026. Neither reached the ballot. They would allow later changes in state law, rather than give every veteran a full property-tax exemption automatically.

Others that stopped this year • SB 1201 (McNerney): Proposed changes to CalFresh food benefits that needed federal permission. **Stopped in Assembly Appropriations.**

• SB 970 (Cervantes): Proposed rules for securely returning military and overseas ballots. Passed

Appropriations, then was set aside on the Assembly's inactive list.

• AB 1765 (Alanis): Would have raised the vehicle-weight limit for certain veterans' vehicle-fee exemptions. Stopped in Assembly Appropriations.

• AB 1638 (Ta): Proposed payments to counties for service officers on military bases, if funding and approvals were provided. Stopped in Assembly Appropriations.

• SB 1040 (Choi): Proposed state matching funds for veterans cemetery maintenance, if lawmakers provided the money. Stopped in Senate Appropriations.

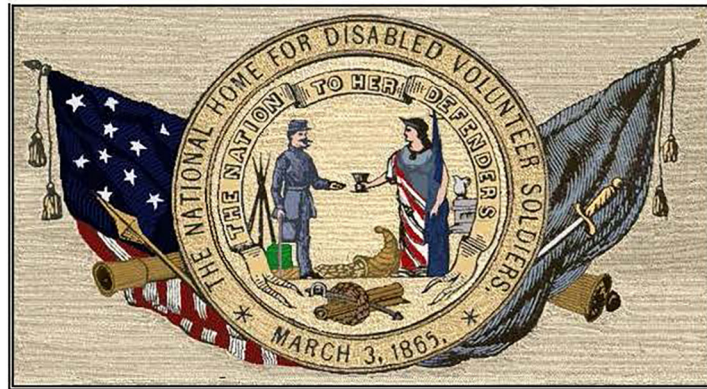
Page 6 LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027 The new Legislature meets December 7, 2026, and next year's bills will be introduced in the months that follow. Veterans and fellow organizations have already suggested these ideas:

• Another property tax exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans.

• DMV carpool lane access for 100 percent disabled veterans, depending on what happens this year.

• Changing the definition of "disabled veteran" in state law. We will check with County Veterans

Service Officers first, because today's broad language helps



Whereas

The People's Advocacy advances the fact that the National Soldiers Home of Los Angeles, California, is on Constitutionally Acquired Federal Lands for the United States Government's Permanent Maintenance as only a Home for Disabled and Homeless U.S. Military Veterans, and

Whereas

The 139-years-long migration of disabled and unhoused Veterans from across our country to this federal land called "Home" is unknowingly being subjected to illegal land misuse which does not align to the Constitutionally acquired deeds, thereby, facilitating destruction of the "home environment," preventable death, illegal evictions, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and mental anguish,

Therefore Be It Resolved

That the United States Government, described as "Party of the Second Part" in the permanent Constitutionally Acquired Land Deeds, adopt this Advocacy's authoritative basis and singular objective of legitimately obstructing and removing the perpetrators of the blatant and harmful land-racket at the National Soldiers Home at Los Angeles, CA, in order to restore the successful operation that served all Disabled and unhoused Veterans when it was operated as a "Home" by the federal government.

many veterans and we do not want to narrow it by accident.

- Funding for veterans service officers. We want to see dependable funding for this work.

Have a bill idea? Send it to your organization's legislative chair. The best bills start with a veteran who saw a problem firsthand.

How To Get Involved

Join the Rapid Response Team The Rapid Response Team helps veterans speak up together and build relationships with local Assembly and Senate offices. Posts and chapters can ask members to follow legislative alerts and share accurate updates. Contact Reeb Government Relations for current meeting details and how to take part.

Follow current legislative alerts Before contacting a lawmaker about a bill, check your organization's latest dated instructions. Make sure you have the current bill, know where it stands and understand what action is needed. Ask your legislative chair or Reeb Government Relations for the latest information.

Know your legislator Look yours up at legislature.ca.gov. A veteran talking to their own Assembly member carries weight that nobody in Sacramento can match.

## California State Commanders Veterans Council Elections

Contact Seth Reeb for the current Commanders Council meeting, election and nomination details before making plans or submitting a nomination.

## Key Dates

- September 30: Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills.
- November 3: General Election.
- November 30: The 2025-2026 session ends.
- December 7: The 2027-2028 session begins.
- January 1, 2027: Most new laws take effect. Later start dates are noted in the bill summaries.

If you don't use your voice, someone else will make the decision for you.

Questions about anything in this report? Contact Seth Reeb, Reeb Government Relations, [www.water-warrior.com](http://www.water-warrior.com).



## The California Zephyr

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

## Who Are The Vietnam Veterans Of America?

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

## VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another."

## PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FUNDING

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



## The California Zephyr Where Our Name Came From

Nearly three years after its acquisition, the Colorado Railroad Museum's prized Vista Dome is on the move. Silver Rifle, a Budd-built dome coach for the California Zephyr, departed its longtime home of Portola, Calif., on Sept. 2, 2026.

The car is being ferried by rail to Ohio where it will undergo a contracted restoration to its as-built appearance, the museum said in a press release. Once the work is completed, Silver Rifle will be relocated to its new home at the Golden-based museum. As a display piece, it'll take its place as one of three significant artifacts of the California Zephyr's past alongside Denver & Rio Grande Western F9A No. 5771, which pulled the train between Denver and Salt Lake City; and the dome car Monument, which had been placed alongside the route in Glenwood Canyon to commemorate the location's significance in inspiring the dome car concept.

"The Colorado Railroad Museum in 2026 is commemorating Colorado's 150th anniversary, along with America's 250th anniversary," museum Executive Director Paul Hammond said.

"Numerous museum initiatives are taking place, including traveling steam locomotives and special excursions, groundbreaking new exhibits, and more. We're delighted to add the Silver Rifle to this list of exciting projects and programs for 2026."

Built for the Burlington Route in 1948 as part of the three-railroad California Zephyr operating partnership (which also included the Denver & Rio Grande Western and Western Pacific railroads), Silver Rifle was never significantly modified throughout its service years. According to the release, it still retains its original under-floor-level skirting and only received new upholstery during its brief time with Amtrak. It has remained that way into preservation, having been previously owned by the Golden Gate Railroad Museum and on loan for many years to the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, Calif., prior to being acquired by the Colorado Railroad Museum in 2023 with the help of donations.

The museum has determined to restore the car to its as-built configuration, complete with its original mechanical systems. Since the Silver Rifle is intended for display rather than operation, it will not be upgraded to incorporate Head-End Power or receive other modifications.

Visit the Colorado Railroad Museum website for more information.



Thank you to Jim Doyle, past Zephyr editor, Past CSC President, for forwarding me this info. - Editor



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To:

### ***In this issue:***

- Chapter/Council Activities-Events/Photos
- Legislative News
- Veteran Info
- And more...

### ***CSC Meeting Dates & Events***

2027 CSC Meeting Dates  
March 25-27 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday)  
Easter weekend and WHVVD Monday  
June 11-13 Sep: 10-12 Nov: 12-14  
Zephyr deadlines-reminders will be emailed