



California Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Inc.

Professional Veterans Advocates Serving California's Veterans and their Families

2019 ANNUAL REPORT AND DIRECTORY

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE
OFFICERS BRING IN
**A HALF-BILLION
DOLLARS FOR
VETERANS**





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COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS BRING IN A HALF-BILLION DOLLARS FOR VETERANS

In a remarkable demonstration of fiscal responsibility, California's County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) secured more than a half-billion in federal benefits for California veterans in 2017-2018, with only \$5.6 million in state funds.

This monumental achievement is in keeping with the CVSO's long tradition of success. For nearly a century, CVSOs have worked hard for the men and women who have served in defense of our freedom — helping veterans cut through federal red tape to get the billions of dollars in benefits and badly needed assistance they're entitled to.

And veterans are not the only beneficiaries. Veterans are pumping this money back into the California economy, spending it on a wide variety of products and services.

"The \$505.5 million in federal benefits tells only part of the story," said Scott Holwell, President of the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO). "The full impact is actually far greater, in that it includes \$333.5 million that is annually recurring for the rest of the veterans' lives.

"And thanks to their new income, veterans will no longer need to turn to state and local government social services for assistance," said Holwell. "What's more, the entire economy will grow stronger as veterans use their benefits to pay rent, buy food and medicine, and make other purchases in their communities."

Veterans earn a variety of benefits through their military service. Many of the 1.7 million veterans living in California are eligible to receive these benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Yet some don't know they're eligible, or how to apply.

Veterans benefits aren't automatic, and they can vary depending on when and where a veteran served, what physical or mental issues they have, and what Congress has authorized.

That's where CVSOs provide critically needed help. These highly trained, hardworking and dedicated professionals guide veterans through a maze of regulations to find benefits and programs available to them, and then help them successfully apply.

The response of CVSOs to a new driver's license law highlights their determination to go the extra mile. Beginning in 2015, veterans were allowed to request that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) add the designation VETERAN to their drivers' licenses. More than 104,000 veterans have gone to CVSOs to request the change. CVSOs handled their DMV applications but they didn't stop there.

CVSOs went on to examine veterans' military records and found that 32,000 veterans — nearly a third of the veterans applying for the designation — were not receiving the benefits they had earned. The CVSOs then helped these veterans gain \$63 million in monthly annualized benefits and \$34.7 million in retroactive benefits.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR 2018

The California Association of County Veterans Service Officers continues to grow and transform in the areas of training, legislative advocacy, support of CVSOs and as always, serving those who served. Some of our more notable accomplishments in FY 2017-18 include:

- Serving approximately 225,123 veterans and family members throughout the state
- Attending 3,374 outreach events, with 191,673 veterans/family members in attendance, with 44,421 one-on-one benefits and services sessions
- Provided services at 57 Standown events (for homeless veterans), with 15,576 veterans in attendance
- Provided services at 172 job fairs, with 17,874 in attendance
- Provided numerous other services locally and statewide

The veterans' driver license initiative saw a new change this year, with honorably serving Guard and Reserve veterans now being eligible to have "Veteran" printed on their California drivers licenses as well.

We continue to be challenged with an approximate 25% turnover rate among CVSOs and Veteran Service Representatives (VSRs), which reemphasizes the need for consistent training and mentoring, in order to maintain a high level of readiness and proficiency.

Finally, we are committed to our continued collaboration with the Veterans Administration, CalVet, NACVSO and the many other Veteran Service Organizations in order to best serve our California Veterans with the honor they deserve.

Scott Holwell, President
California Association of County Veterans Service Officers

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IN WAKE OF WORLD WAR I, CALIFORNIA COUNTIES LED NATION IN AIDING VETERANS

As thousands of Californians returned home from the battlefields of World War I, farsighted county leaders quickly launched a groundbreaking effort to advocate on behalf of the veterans of that bloody conflict.

Stanislaus County led the way in 1924, establishing the state's first County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) to serve not only veterans of World War I but also the Spanish-American War. San Bernardino County followed in 1926, Riverside in 1930, Ventura in 1931 and San Diego in 1933.

The movement soon spread throughout the state, and as World War II ended, the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) was formed in 1945. Fifty-six of California's 58 counties now have CVSOs to advocate not only for veterans and their families but also for active duty and military reserve members.

The growth of the CVSO in the aftermath of World War I paralleled the development of veterans advocacy groups nationwide, including the American Legion, which is now celebrating its 100th anniversary. The list has grown to include the AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

States and counties kept pace with the growth of these service organizations, forming a variety of boards, commissions and other agencies to assist veterans.

In the aftermath of World War I, California and other states began to establish a system of CVSOs. This system has grown to be the most widely used approach to delivering services to veterans and assisting them in obtaining the federal and state benefits they have earned by their service.

... farsighted county leaders quickly launched a ground-breaking effort to advocate on behalf of the veterans of that bloody conflict.



Californians, during World War I, in training at Camp Kearny, San Diego County, California, later to be the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Veterans and their families come to CVSOs for free assistance in filing claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the benefits they have earned by their service in defense of our nation. Our offices also offer free information and referral to other federal, state and local programs.

The CACVSO doesn't stop there: it fights for the rights of veterans through legislative advocacy and helps county offices untangle the red tape surrounding difficult federal claims issues. The

Association also provides training for the staffs of county offices.

The counties have led the state in serving the men and women who have served our state and nation in the military. On their own, without a state mandate, they established the CVSO system, and they pay 82 percent of the costs.

In 1989, the CACVSO joined its counterparts in seven other states to form the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO). California was not only a founding member, but a Californian served as first President of the association.

All of the 24 states that have CVSOs belong to NACVSO. Other members include one state with State Service Officers, three Tribal Nations and six protectorates and territories.

This system has grown to be the most widely used approach to delivering services to veterans and assisting them in obtaining the federal and state benefits they have earned by their service.

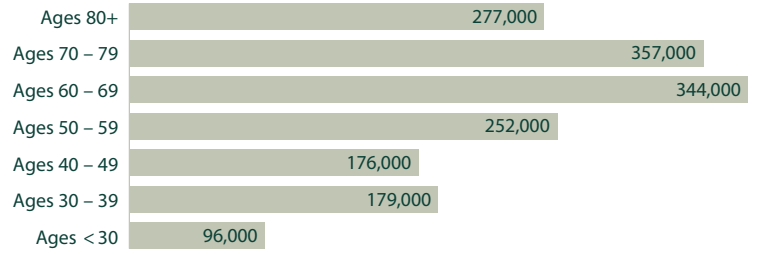
U.S. World War I veteran Joseph Ambrose (1896-1988) attends the dedication parade for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial holding the flag that covered the casket of his son, who was killed in the Korean War.



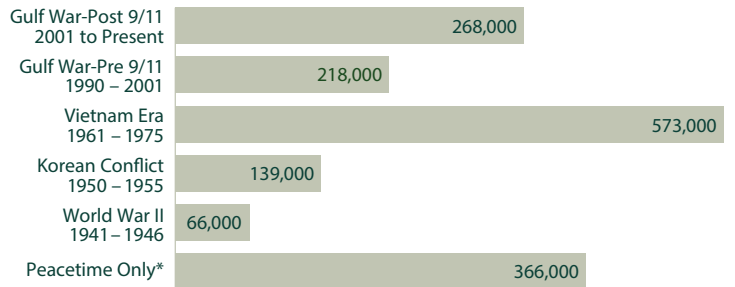
California Veterans by the Numbers

Estimated By County as of September 30, 2017

California Veterans by Age Group

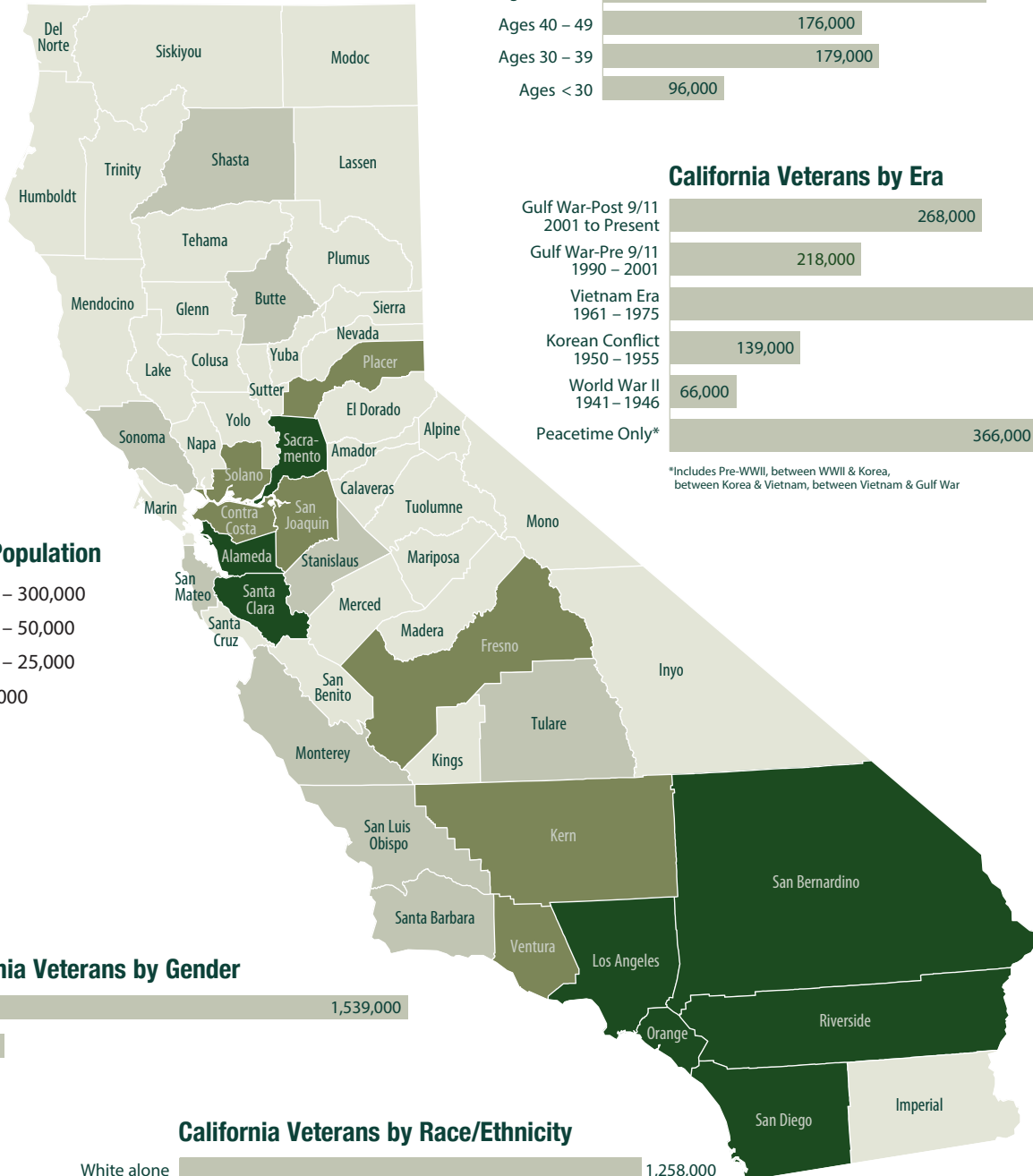
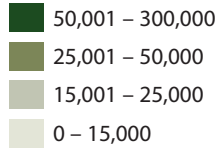


California Veterans by Era



*Includes Pre-WWII, between WWII & Korea, between Korea & Vietnam, between Vietnam & Gulf War

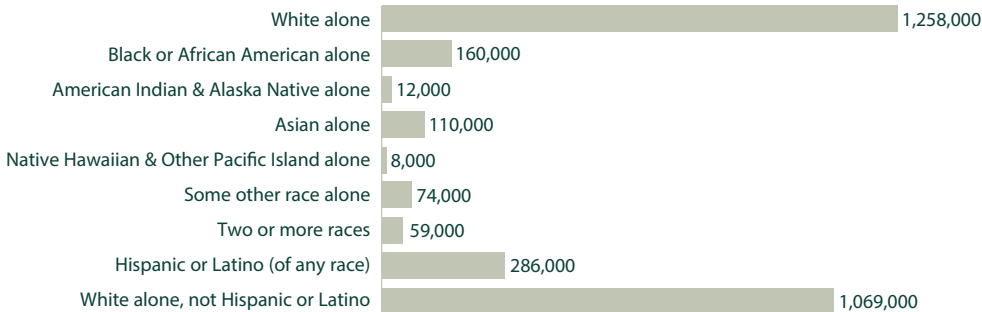
Veteran Population



California Veterans by Gender



California Veterans by Race/Ethnicity



Sources: USDVA VetPop 2016 tables 6L, 7L, 8L as of Sept. 30, 2017

VETERANS BENEFITS ARE NOT LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Unlike Social Security, the veterans benefit system is complicated and benefits are highly individualized

Applying for Social Security and other federal benefits is a simple, uncomplicated process. Individuals can generally do it on their own, with no professional help. The opposite is true of veterans' benefits. Without professional assistance, many veterans lose benefits they have earned by their service — often thousands of dollars a year.

Unlike other federal benefits, veteran's benefits are extremely individualized and must be applied for, otherwise benefits are lost. They depend on a wide variety of factors — when and where you served, if you served in combat, or served during a congressionally approved war-time period, the cause and severity of a disability and other individual factors. Additionally, Congress, federal courts and the Veterans Administration are constantly changing what benefits and services those who served in the military are eligible to receive. Veterans put themselves at financial risk when they try to tackle the complex system on their own or with a nonprofessional. That's why County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) play such an important role.

Studies show veterans get more benefits when they come to a professional for help. CVSOs do the job well.

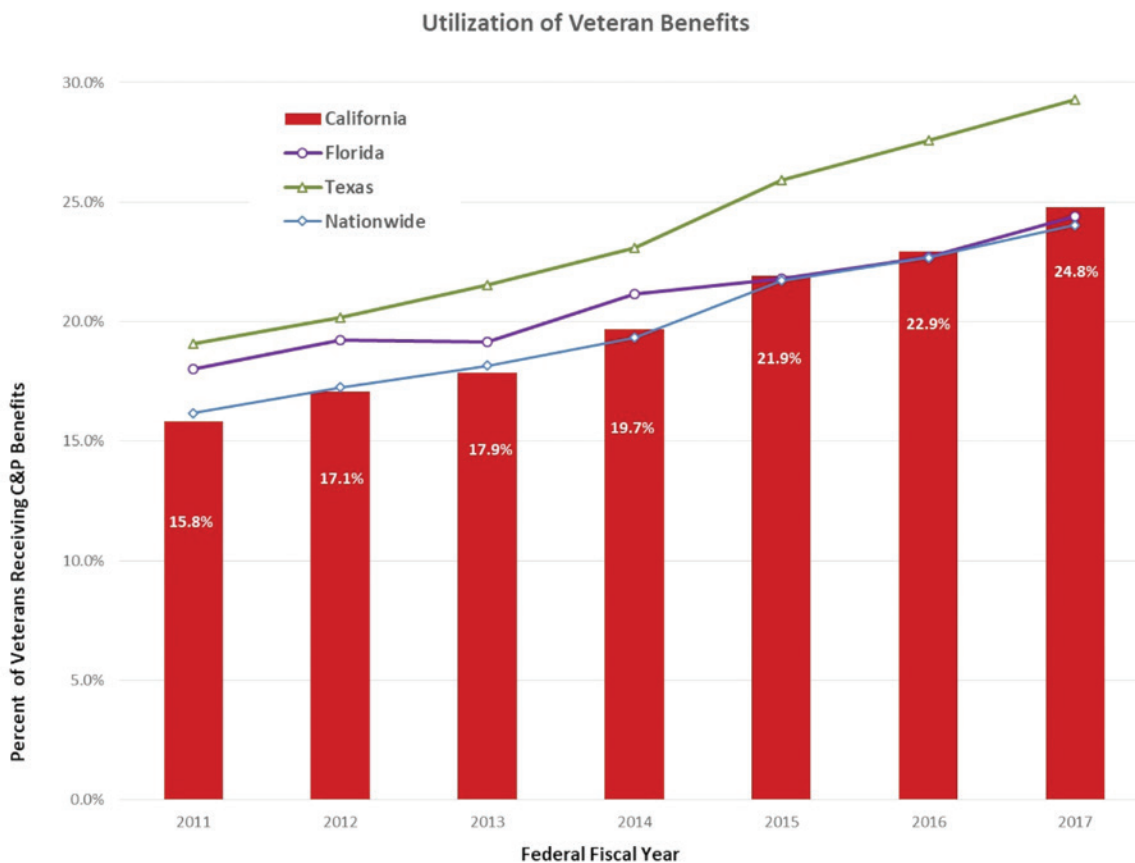
Studies show veterans get more benefits when they come to a professional for help. CVSOs do the job well. In fact, they turned \$36 million in county and state funding into more than the \$505 million in benefits for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

- CVSOs use their skills and experience to not only win hundreds of millions of dollars in federal benefits, but they do it with a much-needed personal touch.
- CVSOs are not remote, paper-shuffling bureaucrats. They meet veterans face-to-face with a look that says, "We're on your side." In this relaxed atmosphere, veterans discuss their situation freely, and the CVSO is able to develop a claim that nets the largest possible benefit.
- CVSOs walk alongside veterans, guiding them through the complex process — a real and caring person, not an anonymous voice at the end of a phone line.
- CVSOs succeed where others fail because they blend an understanding of the system with concern for the veteran sitting across the table.
- CVSOs also save the state money by connecting veterans with veteran treatment courts, homeless veterans Stand Downs and other local services. They help find homeless veterans a warm place to sleep on a cold winter night. They get at-risk veterans mental health services today, not some distant tomorrow.
- California's CVSO model puts into action the state's commitment to bringing government as close as possible to the people it serves.

LAGGING STATE AID COSTS CALIFORNIA ECONOMY \$1.3 BILLION A YEAR

The California economy is losing \$1.3 billion a year because the state is failing to adequately fund efforts to ensure veterans receive all of their federal benefits.

California's 1.75 million veterans population is the largest in the nation, yet it trails its nearest rivals in utilization of veterans compensation and pension benefits. If the state increased staffing for County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) it could match Texas (1.67 million veterans) and Florida (1.53 million veterans).



Sources: USDVA Data by FY: "C&P by County", "Geographic Distribution of Expenditures", "VetPop"

Those states outperform California because they hire more veterans service representatives — as a ratio of veterans served — than California. Our state's shortfall means 75,000 veterans and their families aren't getting all of their benefits.

Still, CVSOs work tirelessly on behalf of veterans with one goal in mind: helping them to receive all the benefits they have earned their years of military service. The results of their efforts spread throughout California, as veterans spend their increased benefits in a wide variety of ways.

Increased state funding for CVSOs would be a wise investment of taxpayer money. New veteran benefits would circulate through the state's economy, year after year.

Businesses would ring up more sales. State and local governments would collect more taxes.

California has underperformed other states for years. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), the Bureau of State Audits and others have studied the problem in depth. The solution is clear: the state needs more professional Veterans Service Representatives (VSRs) to guide veterans through the complex process of filing claims successfully.

In California, VSRs work primarily on CVSO staffs. They do good work, but the workload is too heavy. In 2007, CalVet called for tackling the problem by “providing resources in support of additional full-time service representative staff with a focus on areas with large veteran populations and lower than average benefit participation rates.”

	Veteran Population¹	C&P Beneficiaries²	C&P Utilization Rate	C&P Dollars³
California	1,681,730	416,627	24.8%	\$7,271,511,000
Florida	1,525,400	372,184	24.4%	\$6,371,816,000
Texas	1,584,844	463,832	29.3%	\$8,581,720,000
Nationwide	19,998,799	4,807,639	24.0%	\$84,138,460,000

Sources: ¹ USDVA VetPop2016 as of 9/30/2017

² USDVA FY2017 Compensation & Pension by County

³ USDVA FY2017 Geographic Distribution of Expenditures

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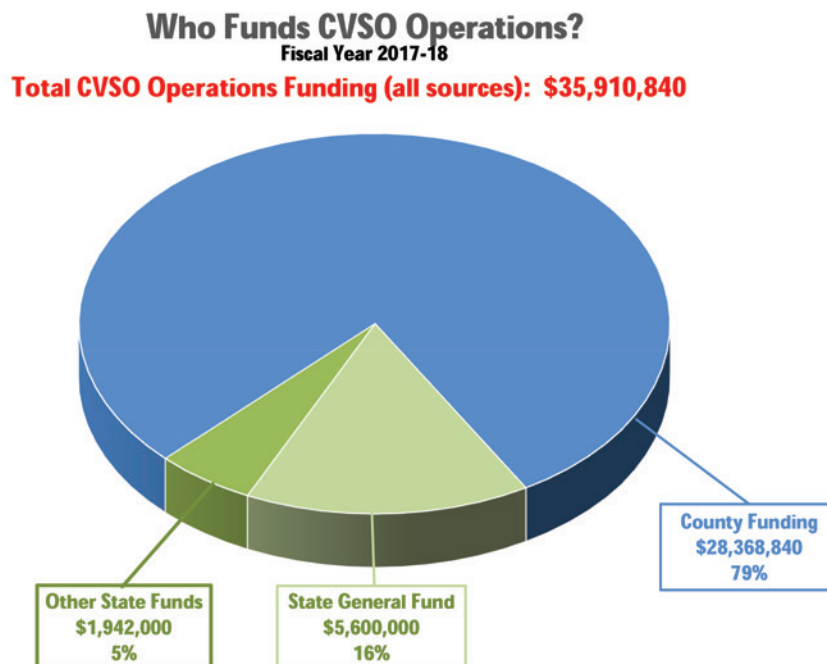
Pat Joyce

MORE FUNDS NEEDED TO UNLOCK DOOR TO BILLIONS IN BENEFITS

For nearly a century, California counties have been winning over a billion dollars in veteran benefits for men and women who have served in the defense of our freedom. It's an impressive achievement, but with more assistance from the state, County Veterans Service Officers (CSVO) can unlock the door to over a billion dollars more owed to veterans.

Many veterans don't know what benefits are available. It's not their fault. The system is so complex, they need a professional to lead them through the maze. With more funding from the state, CVSOs can reach out to many more veterans and help them get all of the benefits they have earned.

The CVSOs in 56 of California's 58 counties proudly continue their tradition of success, year after year, with little help from the state. Counties paid 79 percent of the \$35.9 million of CVSO operating costs in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Only 16 percent (\$5.6 million) came from the state general fund. The rest of the state funding came from a variety of sources.

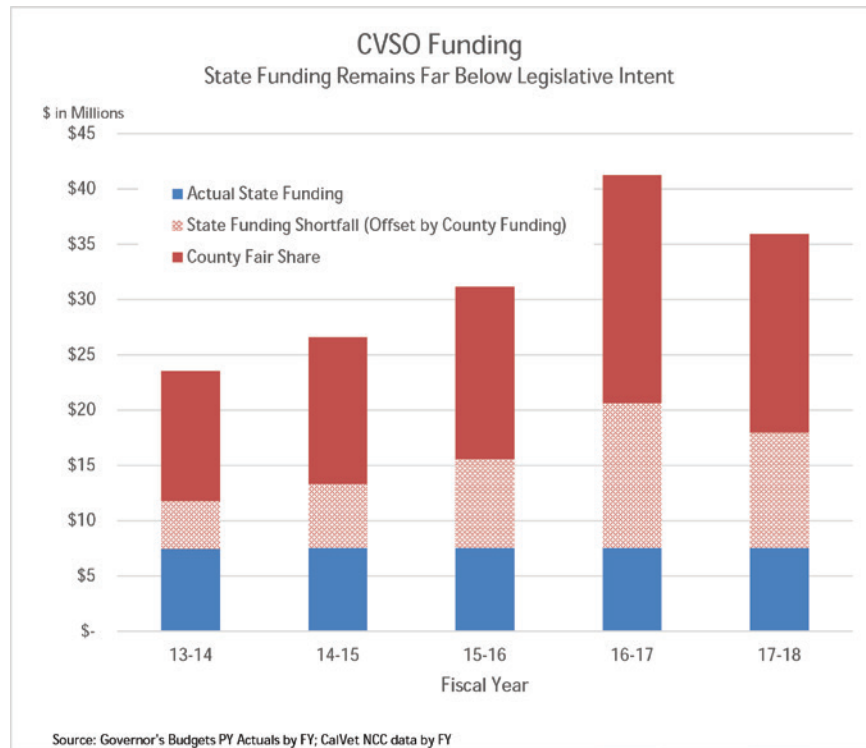


Source: CalVet NCC Data FY 17-18

Still, the CVSOs have managed over the years to leverage their funding to win billions of dollars of hard-earned benefits for veterans. Last year alone, they brought home a half-billion dollars in increased federal benefits for veterans throughout California. It's no accident. Skilled and dedicated professionals at the CVSOs guide veterans through a confusing maze of federal regulations until they receive all the benefits and services the veterans have earned in their years of service to our nation.

The record is clear. The CVSOs have done much for California’s 1.7 million veterans. They could do much more, but only with increased assistance from the state. Without state matching funds, the CVSOs simply do not have enough staff to keep up with demand.

With demand from veterans outpacing the available staff at the CVSOs, California veterans lose an estimated \$1.3 billion a year in federal benefits in the critical monetary benefits of compensation and pension. That means 75,000 veterans and their families are not getting the benefits owed them.



The state is falling far short of the commitment made by the Legislature — and the gap keeps widening. In 2012, the Legislature promised to increase state funding to cover half the cost of operating CVSOs. The state’s share would have been \$11 million a year at that time. Six years later, total state funding from all sources was far short of its goal.

Throughout our nation’s history, brave Americans have gone in harm’s way in defense of freedom. California counties are proud to honor their service — and eager to do even more. CVSOs gladly accept the state funding they now receive, but they cannot forget the veterans who must wait years to get the benefits they have earned.

VETERAN STATISTICS BY COUNTY

The county veteran statistics on pages 12 and 13 provide a comparison between counties using two common metrics, Compensation & Pension Utilization and New Awards Obtained. To provide a more equitable comparison, the counties are grouped by size (large, medium, small or very small) based upon veteran population. County size is an arbitrary designation based upon veteran population with “Very Small” being less than 7,500 veterans, “Small” being more than 7,500 and less than 20,000 veterans, “Medium” being more than 20,000 and less than 75,000 veterans and “Large” as more than 75,000 veterans.

The left section of the table, “Compensation & Pension Utilization Rates by County,” includes the same metric, compensation and pension utilization rate as used when comparing California to other states. Utilization rate is the percentage of veterans receiving compensation or pension benefits within the county for federal fiscal year 2016 as reported by the USDVA. This part of the table also shows the total compensation and pension paid, and the average amount each beneficiary receives for those benefits within the county. These metrics reflect the efforts of all organizations that assist veterans with receiving those benefits, not just the CVSOs. As such, this section represents the overall health of veterans service programs within that county, both public and private.

In total, the CVSOs accounted for over \$505 million in new or increased federal veteran benefits being brought into California’s economy.

The right section of the table, “New Awards Attributable to CVSOs,” provides the monetary value of new or increased monetary benefits paid to eligible veterans and their dependents by the USDVA during the state’s fiscal year 2017-18. These amounts are directly attributable to the activities and efforts of the CVSOs. In total, the CVSOs accounted for over \$505 million in new or increased federal veteran benefits being brought into California’s economy. It should be noted that this table reports only the new or increased benefits obtained in the fiscal year, not the cumulative benefits and, as such, is a reflection of the ongoing effort of CVSOs to assist veterans in attaining the benefits they have earned — this is truly a “what have you done for me lately” metric.

VETERAN STATISTICS BY COUNTY

Veteran Statistics By County										New Awards Attributable to CVSOs FY 2017-18		
County	Total Compensation & Pension (C&P) Utilization by County									Total New Awards FY 2017-18 (Note 7)	Average New Award FY 2017-18	County
	Veteran Population (Note 1)	County Size (Note 2)	C&P Cases (Note 3)	Utilization Rate (Note 4)	C&P Dollars (Note 5)	Average C&P Award per Claimant (Note 6)						
LOS ANGELES	281,067	Large	62,240	22.1%	\$1,101,816,000	\$17,703	\$41,485,665	\$11,004	LOS ANGELES			
SAN DIEGO	243,369	Large	77,002	31.6%	\$1,220,662,000	\$15,852	\$28,705,855	\$11,688	SAN DIEGO			
RIVERSIDE	128,680	Large	36,658	28.5%	\$683,179,000	\$18,637	\$31,855,061	\$10,145	RIVERSIDE			
ORANGE	109,928	Large	22,209	20.2%	\$385,590,000	\$17,362	\$18,832,694	\$10,434	ORANGE			
SAN BERNARDINO	100,236	Large	26,206	26.1%	\$471,710,000	\$18,000	\$50,069,324	\$9,454	SAN BERNARDINO			
SACRAMENTO	84,074	Large	19,935	23.7%	\$357,518,000	\$17,934	\$3,720,329	\$18,327	SACRAMENTO			
SANTA CLARA	53,093	Medium	8,848	16.7%	\$168,819,000	\$19,080	\$12,340,507	\$11,384	SANTA CLARA			
ALAMEDA	51,403	Medium	10,030	19.5%	\$174,543,000	\$17,402	\$2,363,730	\$26,861	ALAMEDA			
CONTRA COSTA	49,770	Medium	10,101	20.3%	\$166,072,000	\$16,441	\$20,196,705	\$11,196	CONTRA COSTA			
VENTURA	40,547	Medium	9,258	22.8%	\$166,115,000	\$17,943	\$10,488,656	\$9,407	VENTURA			
FRESNO	39,682	Medium	11,054	27.9%	\$182,373,000	\$16,498	\$7,384,659	\$11,344	FRESNO			
KERN	39,387	Medium	11,279	28.6%	\$184,531,000	\$16,361	\$23,347,339	\$17,634	KERN			
SOLANO	34,951	Medium	12,116	34.7%	\$216,140,000	\$17,839	\$38,719,211	\$12,932	SOLANO			
SAN JOAQUIN	31,270	Medium	6,954	22.2%	\$133,634,000	\$19,217	\$9,637,103	\$9,240	SAN JOAQUIN			
PLACER	27,605	Medium	6,090	22.1%	\$107,462,000	\$17,646	\$8,881,023	\$18,896	PLACER			
STANISLAUS	24,204	Medium	4,843	20.0%	\$101,973,000	\$21,056	\$14,168,303	\$9,751	STANISLAUS			
SONOMA	23,372	Medium	5,073	21.7%	\$96,550,000	\$19,032	\$10,545,756	\$9,341	SONOMA			
SAN MATEO	23,253	Medium	3,989	17.2%	\$68,679,000	\$17,217	\$7,336,621	\$10,496	SAN MATEO			
SAN FRANCISCO	22,912	Medium	4,324	18.9%	\$74,163,000	\$17,151	\$20,597,927	\$22,785	SAN FRANCISCO			
SANTA BARBARA	21,613	Medium	5,282	24.4%	\$86,627,000	\$16,400	\$11,487,358	\$10,094	SANTA BARBARA			
MONTEREY	18,282	Small	5,019	27.5%	\$103,290,000	\$20,580	\$6,324,103	\$16,469	MONTEREY			
SAN LUIS OBISPO	16,889	Small	3,901	23.1%	\$65,089,000	\$16,685	\$8,800,549	\$10,269	SAN LUIS OBISPO			
TULARE	16,021	Small	5,418	33.8%	\$78,446,000	\$14,479	\$7,439,036	\$6,933	TULARE			
BUTTE	15,921	Small	3,611	22.7%	\$69,370,000	\$19,211	\$6,678,719	\$5,520	BUTTE			
SHASTA	15,634	Small	4,020	25.7%	\$89,938,000	\$22,373	\$6,515,884	\$5,579	SHASTA			
EL DORADO	14,248	Small	2,946	20.7%	\$52,222,000	\$17,726	\$4,713,716	\$8,328	EL DORADO			
MARIN	11,161	Small	1,636	14.7%	\$28,152,000	\$17,208	\$2,019,839	\$19,610	MARIN			
MERCED	10,946	Small	2,540	23.2%	\$42,687,000	\$16,806	\$5,998,190	\$9,597	MERCED			
SANTA CRUZ	10,650	Small	2,218	20.8%	\$46,078,000	\$20,775	\$7,894,854	\$14,486	SANTA CRUZ			
KINGS	9,721	Small	3,263	33.6%	\$42,115,000	\$12,907	\$4,938,411	\$6,692	KINGS			
YOLO	8,881	Small	2,127	24.0%	\$34,361,000	\$16,155	\$4,308,156	\$11,427	YOLO			
HUMBOLDT	8,649	Small	2,281	26.4%	\$44,845,000	\$19,660	\$5,493,913	\$8,720	HUMBOLDT			
NAPA	8,525	Small	1,853	21.7%	\$31,865,000	\$17,196	\$2,293,696	\$2,814	NAPA			
NEVADA	8,337	Small	1,938	23.2%	\$37,607,000	\$19,405	\$4,992,453	\$20,050	NEVADA			
MADERA	7,465	Very Small	2,153	28.8%	\$35,363,000	\$16,425	\$1,542,391	\$7,636	MADERA			
YUBA	6,957	Very Small	1,914	27.5%	\$34,544,000	\$18,048	\$11,676,118	\$8,968	YUBA			
SUTTER	6,386	Very Small	1,780	27.9%	\$31,644,000	\$17,778	See Yuba		SUTTER			
IMPERIAL	6,225	Very Small	2,062	33.1%	\$30,743,000	\$14,909	\$1,302,158	\$7,615	IMPERIAL			

Total Compensation & Pension (C&P) Utilization by County								New Awards Attributable to CVSOs FY 2017-18		
County	Veteran Population (Note 1)	County Size (Note 2)	C&P Cases (Note 3)	Utilization Rate (Note 4)	C&P Dollars (Note 5)	Average C&P Award per Claimant (Note 6)	Total New Awards FY 2017-18 (Note 7)	Average New Award FY 2017-18	County	
MENDOCINO	5,677	Very Small	1,391	24.5%	\$29,099,000	\$20,919	\$1,886,205	\$6,618	MENDOCINO	
LAKE	5,458	Very Small	1,565	28.7%	\$30,070,000	\$19,214	\$5,187,576	\$6,011	LAKE	
TEHAMA	4,940	Very Small	1,352	27.4%	\$18,556,000	\$13,725	\$1,881,667	\$5,099	TEHAMA	
TUOLUMNE	4,697	Very Small	1,211	25.8%	\$22,493,000	\$18,574	\$2,440,436	\$7,923	TUOLUMNE	
CALAVERAS	4,277	Very Small	943	22.0%	\$17,681,000	\$18,750	\$1,099,344	\$12,493	CALAVERAS	
SISKIYOU	4,270	Very Small	998	23.4%	\$17,917,000	\$17,953	\$1,793,046	\$6,017	SISKIYOU	
AMADOR	3,772	Very Small	801	21.2%	\$13,158,000	\$16,427	\$1,631,444	\$6,686	AMADOR	
SAN BENITO	2,488	Very Small	647	26.0%	\$13,277,000	\$20,521	\$2,786,059	\$15,142	SAN BENITO	
LASSEN	2,205	Very Small	532	24.1%	\$9,642,000	\$18,124	\$38,506	\$4,278	LASSEN	
DEL NORTE	2,137	Very Small	629	29.4%	\$11,541,000	\$18,348	\$931,605	\$11,792	DEL NORTE	
PLUMAS	1,924	Very Small	508	26.4%	\$7,574,000	\$14,909	\$788,958	\$4,197	PLUMAS	
MARIPOSA	1,676	Very Small	362	21.6%	\$6,631,000	\$18,318	\$26,174	\$6,544	MARIPOSA	
INYO	1,372	Very Small	328	23.9%	\$5,723,000	\$17,448	\$1,384,657	\$16,484	TRINITY	
GLENN	1,350	Very Small	326	24.1%	\$5,531,000	\$16,966	\$540,900	\$18,030	GLENN	
TRINITY	1,285	Very Small	291	22.6%	\$5,607,000	\$19,268	\$248,655	\$31,082	INYO	
COLUSA	871	Very Small	194	22.3%	\$4,013,000	\$20,686	\$1,153,774	\$16,250	COLUSA	
MONO	822	Very Small	106	12.9%	\$1,942,000	\$18,321	\$0	\$0	MONO	
MODOC	772	Very Small	222	28.8%	\$3,505,000	\$15,788	\$163,389	\$16,339	MODOC	
SIERRA	331	Very Small	50	15.1%	\$850,000	\$17,000	No CVSO		SIERRA	
ALPINE	94	Very Small	NOTE 8	N/A	\$188,000	N/A	No CVSO		ALPINE	
STATEWIDE	1,681,730		416,627	24.8%	\$7,271,513,000	\$17,453	\$489,078,408	\$10,817	STATEWIDE	

Notes:

1. Veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2017, published by the USDVA National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics as "VetPop 2016."
2. County size is an arbitrary designation for comparison purposes based upon veteran population with "Very Small" <= 7,500; "Small" <= 20,000; "Medium" <= 75,000; and "Large" >= 75,000.
3. The number of compensation and pension beneficiaries in the county as reported by the USDVA National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics as "FY 2017 Compensation and Pension by County." These cases are the result of all veteran service organizations or individual veterans who filed claims (i.e. they are not CVSO unique).
4. Utilization rates is the percent of veterans in the county receiving either compensation or pension benefits from the USDVA.
5. The total amount of compensation and pension benefits paid to beneficiaries in the county as reported by the USDVA National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics as "FY 2017 Geographic Distribution of Expenditures." These amounts are the total amount paid by USDVA for C&P benefits to claimants with addresses in the respective county. They are the cumulative result of all veteran service organizations or individual veterans who filed claims (i.e. they are not CVSO unique).
6. The average compensation and pension award received by beneficiaries in the county.
7. These amounts are the new or increased benefits obtained by the CVSO as reported in CalVet's Annual Report to the Legislature "Monetary Benefits Attributable to the Assistance of County Veterans Service Offices" for Fiscal Year 2017-18. They do not include any awards attributable to other veteran service organizations or individual filers.
8. Less than 10 recipients, not reported by USDVA.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
1227 O STREET, SUITE 300 | SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

THE SECRETARY

For the past three years, I have had the tremendous honor of leading the state agency that is responsible for ensuring that California's 1.7 million veterans have access to the benefits they have earned through their service – whether that means helping with education benefits, job training, starting a business, buying a home or transitioning back to civilian life. At CalVet, we aim to be of service to all veterans, regardless of their age, gender, or period of service. For as many veterans that CalVet is able to assist, this work is enhanced by our partners in our California counties.

County Veterans Service Officers play a vital role in serving California's large and diverse veteran population, helping to link veterans to the benefits they have earned and the resources they need. In 2018, CVSOs brought in over \$500 million in new federal benefits for California veterans. In the past year, CVSOs have joined our California Transition Assistance Program (CalTAP) at 23 military installations throughout the state, and helped CalTAP inform its outreach. From Beale Air Force Base in Northern California to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CalTAP has presented to thousands of transitioning service members with the goal to educate veterans and service members regarding benefits they have earned through their military service. The CVSOs are a vital point of access for transitioning troops, and they have been critical to our program's success.

This type of teamwork is a shining example of what we can accomplish when different levels of government work together. CVSOs and CalVet share an important mission and I know you are thoroughly committed to working with us to improve the lives of California veterans and their families. The entire CalVet team and I greatly appreciate your steadfast support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vito Imbasciani MD".

Vito Imbasciani MD
Secretary

CVSOS GET VETERANS BENEFITS THEY NEED — AND DESERVE

County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) help California veterans and their families find and qualify for a wide variety of federal and state benefits and services — some well known, others largely unknown — earned by their service. CVSOs spend 50 percent of their time filing claims for compensation and pension benefits.

Federal Benefits and Services

PENSION BENEFITS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) pension benefit programs are often a lifeline for veterans and their families sinking in a sea of debt. These income-based programs assist both veterans and their dependents.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Tax-free disability compensation benefits help veterans struggling with wounds or diseases suffered during their service. Disability Compensation benefits also cover injuries and disease aggravated during military service and service-related conditions discovered after leaving the military. CVSOs can help veterans apply for USDVA health care for service-related and nonservice-related conditions.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Veterans also qualify for vocational rehabilitation and employment services, job training, resume development, and assistance in developing job-seeking skills. The USDVA Education and Career Counseling program offers personalized counseling to guide veterans into new careers and help them get the most out of their benefits.

HEALTH CARE

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), America's largest integrated health care system, provides care at 1,250 health care facilities, including 172 medical centers and 1,069 outpatient sites. VHA outpatient clinics serve nine million veterans each year. Major VA Health Services facilities are in:

- San Francisco
- Central California (Fresno)
- Livermore
- Loma Linda
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles
- Mather (Sacramento)
- Menlo Park
- Palo Alto
- San Diego

Sixty outpatient clinics located in all parts of the state also offer health care services to veterans in all parts of California.

EDUCATION

The Post-9/11 GI Bill offers up to three years of education benefits, including a monthly housing allowance and stipends for books and supplies. Generally, veterans may access the benefits during the first 15 years following their release from active duty.

JOBS

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E): This helps veterans with service-connected disabilities of 20% or more prepare for, find, and keep good jobs. VR&E also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

Apprenticeship and On-The-Job Training Programs: GI Bill benefits are available for more than college. Many veterans and employers do not know that benefits are also paid to those who are employed and learning a new skill.

Federal government jobs: Federal laws provide preferences and special appointing authorities for veterans. The federal government emphasizes the fact that hiring veterans makes good business sense.

NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces who have met a minimum active duty service requirement and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. A veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial.

The VA's National Cemetery Administration maintains 135 national cemeteries with nine in California.

Accepting new interments:

- Bakersfield National Cemetery, Arvin
- Miramar National Cemetery, San Diego
- Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside
- Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon
- San Joaquin National Cemetery, Santa Nella

Closed to new interments:

- Fort Rosecrans, San Diego
- Golden Gate, San Bruno
- Los Angeles
- San Francisco

State Benefits and Services

HOUSING

CalVet Home Loans save veterans money and provide protection for their home and investment. CalVet Home Loans offer below market interest rates with low or no down payment requirements. In addition, CalVet Home Loans has expanded eligibility — now, nearly any veteran wanting to buy a home in California is eligible.

Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP) provides \$600 million for development of new affordable housing for veterans and their families. The VHHP requires an emphasis on developing housing for veterans who are homeless or have extremely low income. Housing developers work with veterans service providers on the program.

JOBS

State government jobs: Most jobs with the State of California can be obtained by

successfully completing a civil service examination. Some job openings offer veterans' preference credits.

California Transition Assistance Program: This informs and connects veterans of all eras to their earned federal and state benefits, as well as provide continued support and assistance as their needs change over time through four pathways: Core Curriculum (Veteran 101, CA Benefits, Financial Literacy); Education (Selecting a School, Educational Benefits, UC & State Schools); Employment (Apprenticeship, Job Search, State Employment); Entrepreneurship (DVBE, Business Centers, Business Resources).

CEMETERIES

The State of California operates three veterans cemeteries:

- California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, Seaside
- Northern California Veterans Cemetery, Igo
- Yountville Veterans Home Cemetery, Yountville

The state is also developing the Southern California Veterans Cemetery at the former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in Irvine.

HEALTH CARE

CalVet Veterans Benefit Enhancement (VBE) Program partners with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to promote USDVA health care. CalVet VBE staff contact DHCS veteran referrals via mail, email, and phone. These referrals are generated from a combination of the Public Assistance and Reporting Information System and the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System.

VETERANS HOMES

The State of California operates eight veterans homes, including five assisted living facilities that ranked high in a national survey. Learn more about them on page 35.

OTHER STATE BENEFITS

Veterans may still receive their VA benefits even though they have been incarcerated. The details are spelled out in the *Guidebook for California Incarcerated Veterans*.

The children of veterans with service-connected disabilities benefit from the state's College Fee Waiver. The program waives mandatory systemwide fees at campuses of the University of California, California State University and California Community Colleges. CalVet administers the program. The CVSO has approval authority.

The CVSO also helps veterans gain many other state benefits, including business license tax and fee waivers, fishing and hunting licenses, veterans license plates, motor vehicle registration fee waivers, property tax exemptions, and state park passes.

AROUND THE CAPITOL



CACVSO Legislative Chair and Solano County CVSO Ted Puntillo (1st row, 2nd from left) attends the California State Commanders Veterans Council's Capitol Day, which is attended by the leaders of all active veterans groups in the state. The CACVSO is a member of this group, which coordinates advocacy on behalf of the veteran.

Ted Puntillo, Solano County CVSO (left) and Nathan Johnson, Contra Costa County CVSO (right) with Assemblyman Jim Frazier (D-Oakley) at the California State Commanders Veterans Council Capitol Day.



CACVSO Executive Director Tom Splitgerber (left) and CalVet Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani (2nd from left) at the head table of the 11th Annual California State Assembly Veterans Recognition Luncheon in Sacramento. The CACVSO has participated in this event since its inception.

HOT TOPICS

Helping Deported Veterans

Under current law, legal U.S. immigrants who serve in the military are eligible for citizenship, but they must complete an application to be awarded citizenship.

A CVSO saw a television program about deported veterans in Mexico which centered on “the Bunker” in Tijuana, which was being run by Hector Barajas, a deported U.S. Army veteran.

Hector was a permanent resident, but he had not completed his citizenship application based upon his military service before he became involved with the criminal justice system. After completing his prison sentence, he was deported to Mexico.

Marin County CVSO Sean Stephens contacted Hector on Facebook and then worked with him via email to assist Hector in applying for and receiving the VA benefits he had earned from injuries he sustained during his military service. To do this, Sean directed Hector to see a doctor in Mexico and have him complete the required VA forms so that Sean could file his claim.

As a result of his high profile and legislative efforts on his behalf, Hector was pardoned by Governor Brown and had his United States citizenship restored. He continues to work on helping other deported veterans and supports the Bunker in Tijuana, Mexico.

Over 323 U.S. military veterans, most of whom were honorably discharged, have been deported to 42 different countries under current federal law.

Veterans Treatment Courts

In 2006, California became the first state to establish an alternative sentencing program for veterans and military members when the Governor signed AB 2586 (Parra) into law. Under this statute, veterans or active duty service members with service-related mental health issues may be sentenced to therapy (federal VA) in lieu of incarceration. The veteran, upon completion of the program, may have charges dropped, records expunged and rights restored, and will not have to list the conviction on job applications. This law is the basis for the state’s network of voluntary Veteran Treatment Courts (VTCs), although it can be implemented in any courtroom. VTCs in California are not mandated and receive no allocated state funding.

Another related law — SB 1227 (Hancock) signed in 2014 — established diversion for veterans accused of misdemeanors. Qualifying veterans completing therapy can have their charges dismissed.

In 2017, SB 725 (Jackson) was signed into law, clarifying that veterans and servicemembers suffering from PTSD and other mental health disorders are eligible for pretrial diversion programs for misdemeanor DUIs, thus ensuring that these veterans get the help they need sooner and more effectively. There were no new Veterans Treatment Courts created in 2018. For more information on veterans’ justice-related matters, visit www.cvltf.org.

WHAT CVSOS DO FOR CALIFORNIA VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

While California's County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) bring a great deal of additional federal funding to the state every year, pure numbers can't quantify the value of what we do. There is a real human value to the services we provide, which is seen and felt by the California veterans and families we help. Here are some of their stories:

CVSO continues to advocate for a surviving spouse

A veteran sought Agent Orange compensation stemming from his service in Thailand during the Vietnam War. After several unsuccessful claims he submitted on his own, he sought help from the local County Veterans Service Office. Unfortunately, the veteran passed away after two appeals were filed, but his claim was approved. The surviving spouse was able to receive a back payment in the amount of \$19,095 due the assistance of the CVSO. In addition, the surviving spouse was awarded Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) after linking the cause of death to Agent Orange. (Del Norte County)

CVSO and County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar assist veterans with documents and benefits

Operation Documentation was held in November and hosted by the Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department and the County Veterans Service Office. For veterans and their spouses, the most important document they have is the DD-214 honorable discharge. As per state law, counties shall record and store a veteran's DD-214 in a nonpublic index. Over 50 veterans recorded their DD-214 and received consultation on their benefits from CVSOs. The local federal VA clinic, Vet Center, and Supportive Service for Veterans Families housing program also participated. This one-stop concept is an effective form of outreach to veterans and was the county's second event of this type. (Contra Costa County)



Homeless veteran receives assistance from CVSO office

A homeless Vietnam veteran had been living in an RV on desert land near the Colorado River. He was struggling with the combined effects of PTSD, alcoholism, and anger issues. A Riverside County Veterans Service Representative took up his case and helped him initiate a disability claim for injuries incurred during his military service in Vietnam. After a lengthy claims process, the veteran's claim was approved and he now receives monthly compensation payments from the federal VA. He is now renting a place to live and volunteers his time helping to distribute food to those in need. (Riverside County)



Veteran's widow seeks help from CVSO office, becomes Veterans Service Representative



Jeannette Phillips began her relationship with the Riverside County Veterans Service Office when she was seeking benefits as the widow of a veteran. Herself a Marine Corps veteran, she was inspired by what the CVSO did to help veterans. She is now a Senior Veterans Representative with the Riverside CVSO and has helped many veterans and their families obtain the benefits earned by virtue of military service. She is proud that she has been able

to help other widows of veterans. She was also able to help the son of a veteran who was trying to help his widowed mother. The veteran had died six months after his military discharge. This was a red flag to Jeannette and she pursued a claim until the widow received a retroactive award of \$300,000. (Riverside County)

Veteran seeks driver license designation, qualifies for \$10,000 back payment in federal benefits

An Air Force veteran who was injured off-base in an auto accident in the 1960s attempted to file for benefits from the VA for the neck injury in 1968 and was turned down. In 2017, when his driver license expired, he saw a DMV pamphlet that indicated he could get a veteran designation on his license. He was directed to the Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs where the CVSO, as part of a routine review, ordered medical records and re-discovered the neck injury. The CVSO filed a claim and requested service-related compensation. The VA awarded him

\$10,000 in back payment and he now receives a monthly payment from the VA for a 90% service-connected disability. (Los Angeles County)

Preparing women veterans to go back to school

The Los Angeles CVSO, in conjunction with a community organization supporting homeless veterans in Long Beach, organized an event that focused on how female veterans can successfully complete their education and achieve their educational and career goals. Over sixty women and children attended “Back to School, Veteran and Child Day.” Speakers and panel discussions covered topics such as looking for a job, divorce, removal of children, and other legal obstacles. Participants included the American Red Cross, U.S. VETS, UCLA Veteran Family Wellness Center, LA County Departments of Mental Health and Social Services, and the Foundation for Women Warriors. (Los Angeles County)

Deceased veteran receives full military honors due to CVSO acquiring lost DD-214

A decorated Marine veteran from the Vietnam War passed away and his family did not have a copy of his most important military document, the DD-214 — Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. The Solano County CVSO stepped in and acquired the document in time for the veteran to be accorded full military funeral honors. (Solano County)

Homeless veteran and mother of four assisted by CVSO

A mother of four, who is a veteran, was dropped from her VA health care and VA Supportive Housing (VASH). She was advised to contact the San Mateo County Veterans Service Office. The CVSO e-filed a claim and noted that two children were residing with different families, while the veteran slept in her car with an infant. The VA rushed the mental health claim and within a month completed her Compensation and Pension physical exam. The CVSO office immediately notified her with instructions to see the VASH team. She subsequently received VASH certificate with which she obtained a 3-bedroom 2-bath home. Furthermore, she was able to resume her mental health treatment. (San Mateo County)

Reaching out to veterans via the county library system

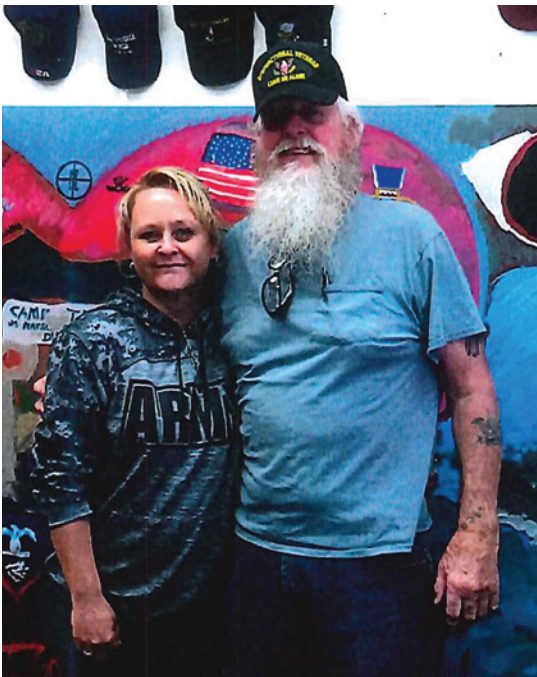
The San Diego County CVSO office participates in the county’s aggressive veteran outreach program that provides an accredited Veterans Service Representative (VSR) to the innovative Library Outreach Program known as VetConnect. VetConnect is a resource for military, veterans and their families that allows connection with a VSR through a video teleconferencing system located at designated county libraries throughout the San Diego region. Currently, there are six VetConnect systems. In addition to VetConnect, a VSR also rotates around libraries in various regions of the county. (San Diego County)

Homeless veterans permanently housed

The Marin County CVSO assists homeless veterans using the VA Supportive Housing Program (VASH). One veteran had been living on the street for 22 years and was a frequent visitor to the hospital's emergency room and the county jail. He had been using opiates and methamphetamine for many years and was diagnosed with a heart condition at the hospital. Over a three week period, the CVSO accumulated copies of the veteran's I.D., Social Security card, bank statements, and DD-214 discharge papers. He was placed in a one-bedroom unit and is doing well. (Marin County)

Veteran receives higher VA disability rating during routine driver license designation visit

A veteran was directed from the DMV to the Lassen County CVSO to be verified as a veteran so he could obtain the veteran designation on his driver license. Since the CVSO had not seen this veteran before, he was screened for possible eligibility for veteran's benefits. The veteran indicated that he had a VA service-connected disability rating of 20%. The CVSO, noticing that the 76 year old veteran had a severely asymmetrical neck, asked him if that injury was the source of his 20% rating, to which he replied yes. The CVSO then assisted him with the process to be re-examined and reassessed, since the laws governing eligibility and medical technology had changed since his medical evaluation 53 years ago. The veteran is now rated at a 90% service connected disability. (Lassen County)



Grateful veteran praises CVSO

A veteran visited the Tuolumne CVSO to obtain a veterans ID card. The CVSO quickly completed the process then immediately scanned the veteran's discharge papers to see if he might be eligible for further benefits. She instructed the veteran to bring in various personal records as soon as possible, which may help increase his 80% disability rating to 100% due to his Type 2 diabetes and prostate cancer. The veteran was most impressed by the CVSO's "sincerity and heartfelt concern" and "a radiant glow about her when she talks about her vets" and wrote a letter to the office expressing this. (Tuolumne County)

THE CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS VETERANS COUNCIL AND THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS:

WORKING TOGETHER ON BEHALF OF CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS FOR OVER 50 YEARS



ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS VETERANS COUNCIL:

Founded in 1966, the California State Commanders Veterans Council promotes the rights, benefits, and opportunities of veterans in the State of California.

The Council conducts advocacy efforts at the state legislature, the California Department of Veterans Affairs, the CalVet board, the Dept. of General Services, and other state and federal entities as well as businesses concerned with veterans.

As per California Military and Veterans Code Section 73.4; The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is directed to confer with the California State Commanders Veterans Council twice yearly on issues affecting California veterans.

MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS VETERANS COUNCIL:

AMERICAN G.I. FORUM OF CALIFORNIA • AMERICAN LEGION-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA • AMVETS-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA • ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S. ARMY, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS • ELITE SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS NETWORK • FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION, CALIFORNIA • JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA • MARINE CORPS LEAGUE-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA • MARINE CORPS VETERANS ASSOCIATION • MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA • MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA-CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS • NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA • NATIONAL VETERANS FOUNDATION • PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA • RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES-DEPARTMENT OF THE GOLDEN WEST • SCOTTISH AMERICAN MILITARY SOCIETY • UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS • VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA • VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA-CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL • WOMEN VETERANS ALLIANCE



CALIFORNIA MILITARY DEPARTMENT

The California Military Department (CMD) is a state agency that includes the California Army National Guard (over 13,300 Soldiers), the California Air National Guard (over 4,500 Airmen), California State Military Reserve (over 1,200 Servicemembers) and the California Cadet Corps. The Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard are mostly part-time and hold civilian jobs in their communities.

The CMD has three functions:

1. **Federal** — Soldiers and Airmen are deployed by the Department of Defense in support of military operations overseas.
 - Since the attacks of 9/11, National Guardsmen have deployed more than 50,000 times around the globe in support of the fight against terrorism and currently, the Guard has over 1,300 Soldiers and Airmen on federal deployments.
2. **State** — Servicemembers are activated by the state government to protect the lives and property of Californians during natural and man-made disasters. The CMD brings unique capabilities to the state, including water purification systems; high altitude and water rescue; and remotely piloted aircraft.
 - In 2018, the CMD was activated for 118 Civil Support Missions such as wildfires, flood, mudslides, support to law enforcement, search and rescue, cyber response, shelters, medical evacuation, transportation and logistical support.
 - Major 2018 Civil Support Missions: Southern California Mudflows and the Ferguson, Carr, Mendocino, and Camp fires.
3. **Community** — The CMD supports communities throughout the state by providing warming shelters to the homeless, conducting veteran funeral honors, supporting community events and programs with military personnel and equipment, and allowing communities to use National Guard armories.

The CMD also manages a number of award-winning youth programs that improve the lives of over ten thousand California youth every year. These include the:

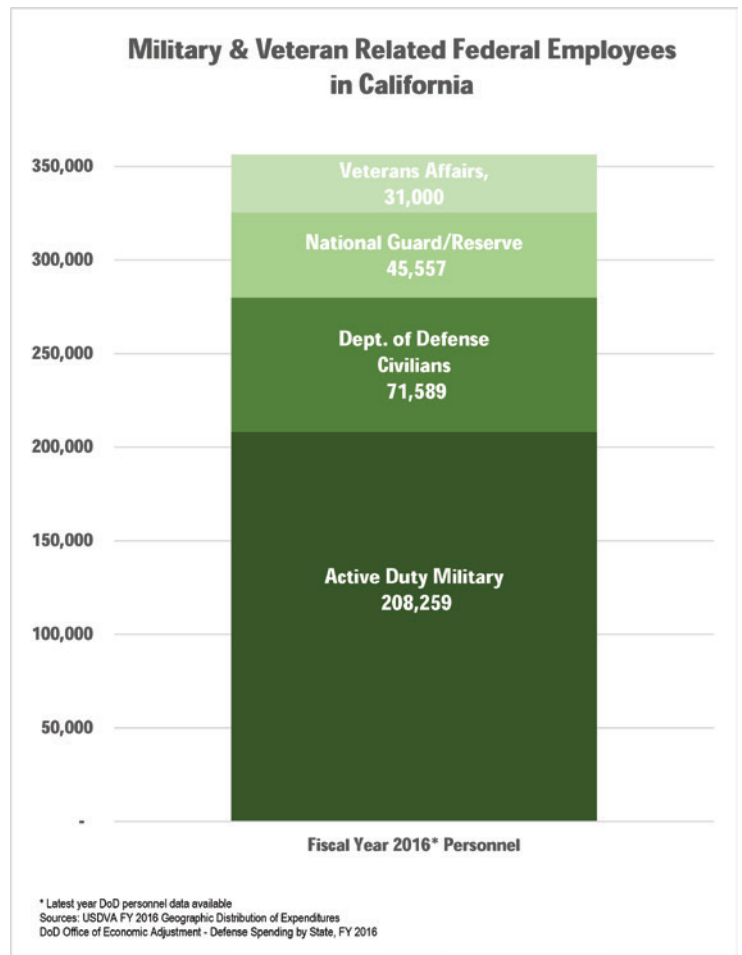
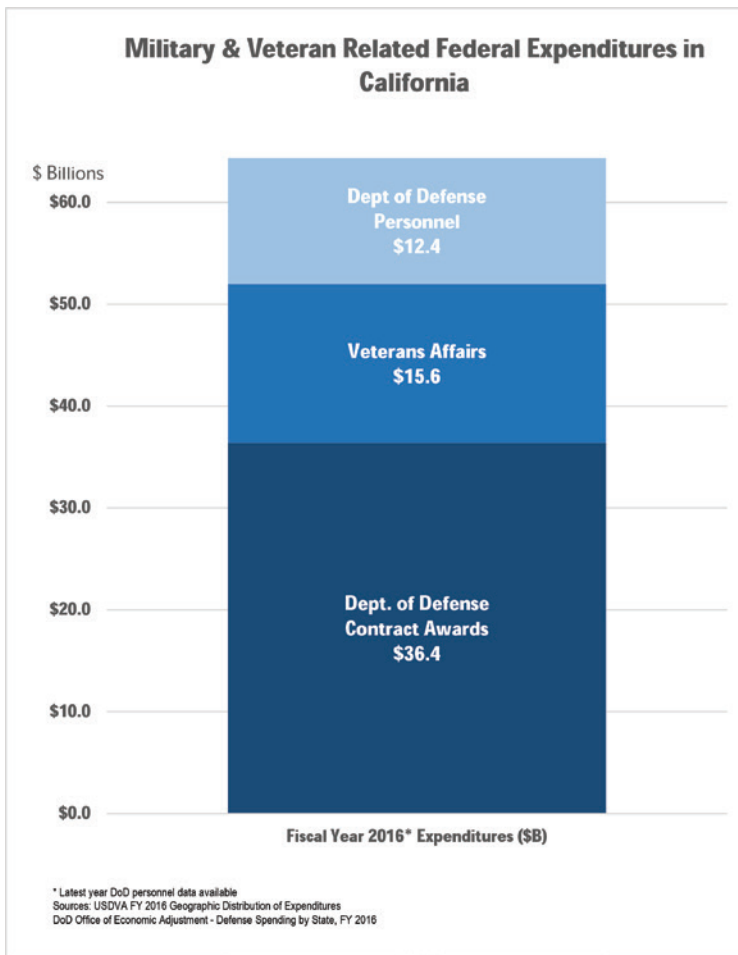
- **Grizzly/Sunburst/Discovery Challenge Youth Academies:** Offer a life-changing experience for California's at-risk youth ages 16-18 years.
- **Oakland Military Institute:** College preparatory academy.
- **STARBASE:** Hands-on STEM training for 5th graders.
- **California Cadet Corps:** Since 1911, the CCC is a partnership between the Guard and local school districts to develop leadership, improve academics, foster school safety, and develop citizenship.

Other CMD programs that benefit the people of California include Work for Warriors — a veteran's job placement program — State cyber operations, and the Behavioral Health Liaison Program.

MILITARY & VETERAN IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY

One of the most underrecognized segments of the California economy is our military and veteran communities, as these charts display. Their economic impact on the California economy is over \$64 billion.

Concerning the workforce, California has more active duty military, more reserve forces, and more National Guard members than any other state. Given the size and population of California, they are often overlooked by decision-makers who don't realize the contributions they make to the state's economy and the state as a whole. The federal military workforce, defense employees, and veterans alone total 148,000, but when their family members are added, the total rises to over 340,000.



CALIFORNIA MILITARY BASES

Air Force Bases	Location	Population*
Beale Air Force Base	Yuba County, Marysville	14,923
Edwards Air Force Base	Kern County	9,247
Los Angeles Air Force Base	El Segundo, Los Angeles County	5,262
Travis Air Force Base	Solano County	19,546
Vandenberg Air Force Base	Santa Barbra County, Lompoc	7,600
	Total	56,578

Army Bases	Location	Population
Fort Irwin	Barstow, Mojave Desert	11,915
Presidio	Monterey	9,501
	Total	21,416

Marine Corps Bases	Location	Population
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms	San Bernardino County	19,059
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar	Mira Mesa, San Diego	19,872
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton	Oceanside, North San Diego County	80,096
Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego	San Diego	9,666
	Total	128,693

Navy Bases	Location	Population
Naval Air Weapon Station China Lake Navy Base	China Lake	6,172
Naval Base San Diego	San Diego	71,616
Naval Air Station Lemoore Navy Base	Lemoore	10,697
Naval Base Ventura County	Point Mugu/Port Hueneme	13,565
Naval Medical Center San Diego	San Diego	10,436
Naval Postgraduate School	Monterey	3,681
Navy Base Coronado	Coronado	20,293
	Total	136,460

Total population	343,147
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* The population figures include active duty, reserve military members, Department of Defense civilians, and military dependents. The figures are taken from the Military Times 2019 Installation Guide.

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The CACVSO has selected State Senator Hannah Beth-Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) and Assemblyman Marc Levine (D-Marin County) as the recipients of the Motomu Nakasako Legislator of the Year awards for 2018.

The Motomu Nakasako Award is named after “Mote” Nakasako, a Los Angeles County Veterans Service Officer who was actively involved in legislation to improve the lives of veterans at the local, state, and federal levels. He was a decorated member of the Army’s 442nd Regimental Combat Team, having volunteered for combat duty from the Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Wyoming.



Senator Hannah Beth-Jackson (D-Santa Barbara)

Senator Jackson was elected to the California State Senate in 2012 to represent the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Santa Barbara County and western Ventura County. A graduate of Scripps College in Claremont, California, she went on to receive her law degree from Boston University Law School. From 1998 to 2004, she served in the State Assembly. She is currently chair of the Senate

Judiciary Committee.

Santa Barbara County’s Veterans Treatment Court program had been helping veterans involved in the criminal justice system for crimes that had arisen as a result of PTSD, TBI, and other mental health issues connected to their military service. Senator Jackson saw the success (0% recidivism) of this program and decided to author SB 1110, which was signed into law by the Governor. Under SB 1110, defendants are notified at arraignment that, if they are current or former members of the military, they may be eligible for participation in the Veteran’s Treatment Court. In 2017, Senator Jackson authored SB 725 (pre-trial diversion), which was signed into law. SB 725 clarifies that active duty military and veterans who suffer from military related traumatic mental health conditions and are before the court for DUIs, are and have always been eligible for military diversion under the Penal Code.

In 2018, she also carried SB 1123, which was signed into law and expands the state’s Paid Family Leave policy to include those who must take time off to attend to situations arising out of a family member or loved one’s status as a covered active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces.



Assemblyman Marc Levine (D-Marin County)

Assemblyman Marc Levine was elected in November 2012 to represent the 10th Assembly District in Marin County and portions of Sonoma County. Prior to his time in the Legislature, he served on the San Rafael City Council. He earned his Master’s Degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey.

In 2014, Levine authored AB 2098, which was signed into law by the Governor.

AB 2098 requires judges to consider military status and mental health problems outlined in Penal code 1170.9 as a factor in favor of granting probation. It also requires courts to consider military status and service induced mental health problems as a mitigating factor for offenses with determinate sentencing.

Levine has authored many bills relating to suicide and mental illness. In 2017, he authored SB 665, which sought to expand the provisions of AB 2098 to incarcerated veterans who were convicted prior to that bill's enactment in 2015. Levine was concerned that a veteran who was suffering from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, substance abuse, or mental health problems as a result of his or her military service, would not receive the treatment and consideration extended to veterans in the prior legislation. The bill did not pass. Undeterred, Levine again introduced similar legislation in 2018 (AB 865), which he was able to push through the legislative process and which was signed into law by the Governor.

Past Recipients of the CACVSO Motomu Nakasako Award for Legislator of the Year

2017 — Senator Josh Newman and Assemblyman Rocky Chávez

2016 — Senator Jim Nielsen and Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin

2015 — Senator Richard Roth and Assemblyman Jim Frazier

2014 — Senator Ben Hueso and Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva

Recipients of CACVSO Lifetime Achievement Award

2015 — Assemblywoman Toni Atkins

2011 — Assemblyman Paul Cook

CACVSO LEGISLATIVE TEAM

Since the 1980s, the CACVSO has been active at the State Capitol, advocating on behalf of California veterans, military members, and their families. From 2001 to 2017, the CACVSO was represented by Pete Conaty & Associates. Army Veteran Seth Reeb joined the firm in 2017, and in 2018, representation of the CACVSO transitioned to Reeb Government Relations (RGR). Pete Conaty serves as a consultant to RGR to share his wealth of institutional knowledge with the new firm.



About Seth Reeb

Seth enlisted in the US Army in 2004 as an infantryman with the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Polk, Louisiana. He served in Afghanistan in 2006 and Iraq in 2007-2008. He is the recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, and Army Commendation Medal for Valor. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant prior to leaving the Army in 2009.

Seth joined his father's firm, Reeb Government Relations, LLC (RGR), as a legislative advocate in January 2017 and has lobbied on behalf of veterans organizations ever since.

RGR was established in January 2005 to assist clients with policy analysis, issues management and California legislative and regulatory advocacy. With the addition of Seth Reeb to the firm, RGR is now representing the CACVSO, as well as the veterans service organizations formerly represented by Pete Conaty.



About Dana Nichol

Dana Nichol joined Pete Conaty and Associates in 2004 as an Associate Lobbyist and has worked on all aspects of legislative and budget issues pertaining to the CVSOs and veterans service organizations, as well as business, water, non-profit museums, local government, and recreational land-use clients. In 2018, Dana transferred to Reeb Government Relations to continue to serve veterans and military clients.



About Pete Conaty

After his 21-year military career, Pete established the advocacy firm of Pete Conaty and Associates in 1996. Over the last 31 years, he has worked on over 1,300 veterans and military legislative bills at the State Capitol. In 2010 and 2015, he was awarded the CalVet Secretary's Award for his "invaluable contributions to California veterans." He has retired from active lobbying, however, he continues to consult with Reeb Government Relations on veterans and military issues.

CACVSO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



About Tom Splitgerber

Tom Splitgerber is the CACVSO Executive Director. Dr. Splitgerber served in the United States Navy for 30 years. He then served as a San Diego County Veterans Service Officer for 11 years.

Tom served as President of the CACVSO for two years and President of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers for two years.

CACVSO STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR THE 2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Additional Local Assistance Funding For CVSOs

In, 2019 the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) is sponsoring legislation to raise the state's Local Assistance to counties for CVSO offices from the current \$5.6 million funding level to \$11 million. This brings the state in line with paying half of the funding actually needed to operate CVSOs throughout the state as per SB 419 of 2009. Currently, the counties pick up the majority of the funding. As part of this legislative effort, the CACVSO will continue to educate the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public on the importance and value of County Veterans Service Officers.



Other Legislative Priorities, 2019-2020 Legislative Session

Support legislation that would create a Governor's Memorial Certificate similar to the Presidential Memorial Certificate. Include information directing survivors to the CVSOs.

Support legislation that would provide state income tax relief to retirement pay of military retirees.

Support legislation that would require an individual, who is assisting a veteran with filing a claim for benefits, to notify that veteran if they are not a VA-accredited representative, and make it a criminal offense to intentionally misdirect or mislead a veteran, or anyone acting on a veteran's behalf, concerning benefits or entitlements for their own monetary gain.

Support legislation that would expand laws to prevent dishonest vendors and businesses that prey on or scam veterans and active duty military personnel by criminalizing their activities.

Support legislation that would continue to support expansion of Veterans Treatment Courts to more counties by providing state funding of Veterans' Treatment Courts in California.

Support legislation that would reform the current system of property tax relief for disabled veterans by raising the current state dollar limitation on property tax relief for disabled veterans.

Support legislation that would reduce property tax assessment on veterans service organizations' posts and chapters.

Support legislation that would support the awarding of state grants through CalVet to veterans service organizations and veterans service agencies that provide claims assistance and outreach to California veterans.

Support legislation that would restore the veterans-only specialized license plate, so that there would be two plates available for sale — “Veteran” and “Honoring Veterans.”

Support legislation to ensure that federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) protections are also in state law and supersede any binding arbitration contracts.

Fund state-sponsored veterans resource centers at state community colleges and universities (CSU and UC systems).

Support legislation that would increase transparency in asbestos claims cases that affect veterans who were exposed to asbestos while in the service, so that there will be funds available for future claims by veterans.

Support legislation that would create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) between CalVet Veterans Homes and veterans service organization to provide volunteers to the state veterans homes similar to the federal Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) program.

Support legislation that would require that California Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBES) hire more disabled and non-disabled veterans. Currently, there is no requirement for DVBES to hire veterans.

Support the legislative priorities of the state veterans service organizations that are in-line with our own legislative priorities.

Support legislation that would grant the license plate fee waiver to all veterans rated at 100% either scheduled or through Individual Unemployability and separate the disabled placard and make it an option for veterans with mobility impairment.

CACVSO Top Federal Legislative Priorities, 2019-2020

Support legislation that would provide increased access for CVSOs to USDVA information systems (i.e., VBMS, VACOLS, SHARE, MAPD, etc.) for use in developing and monitoring claims submitted on behalf of veterans, regardless of VA Power-of-Attorney (POA), to USDVA client and claims databases. Enhancing this access will result in better, timelier services to claimants and reduce the workload in USDVA call centers.

Support legislative, regulatory or policy changes that would create a federal/state/local government partnership to reduce the USDVA veterans claims backlog and expand outreach services to veterans.

Support legislation that would authorize USDVA pharmacies to honor prescriptions written by non-USDVA physicians. Currently, the USDVA medical system will only provide prescription medication to eligible veterans if the prescription is written by a USDVA physician.



It is an honor to partner with the CACVSOs in their efforts to improve the lives of veterans.

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CALVET'S FIVE SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES WIN HIGH MARKS IN U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

All five skilled nursing facilities operated by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) won high marks in a *U.S. News & World Report* nursing home survey for 2018-2019. The facilities ranked in the top 100 of 1,199 nursing homes evaluated by the publication.

CalVet operates Medicare-certified SNFs across the state in Barstow, Chula Vista, Fresno, Redding and Yountville. Each was listed by *U.S. News & World Report*, and all five homes received 'high-performing' notations for their overall rating or short-stay rating.

"CalVet maintains our standing as operators of one of the finest health systems in America for 2019," said Thomas Bucci, CalVet Director of Long-Term Care. "Our employees' hard work and ever-increasing standards led to these great rankings and I thank them for what they do day-in and day-out for the 2,400 veterans entrusted to our care in our Homes."

"CalVet maintains our standing as operators of one of the finest health systems in America for 2019"

Veterans Home of California – Barstow

Opened February 1996, the Veterans Home in Barstow is a 220-bed facility providing options for independent living for senior and disabled veterans, intermediate care and skilled nursing care.

Veterans Home of California – Chula Vista

Completed in May 2000, the Veterans Home in Chula Vista is a 305-bed long-term care facility providing options for domiciliary, independent living, licensed residential, and skilled nursing care. Employed physicians provide medical care in both the licensed outpatient clinic and the inpatient skilled nursing settings.

Veterans Home of California – Fresno

The Home in Fresno is a 300-bed, long-term care facility located on 30 acres in the fifth-largest city in the state. The Home opened in October 2013, and currently offers the assisted living level of care, skilled nursing and skilled nursing memory care.

Veterans Home of California – Redding

The Home in Redding is a 155-bed, long-term care facility located at the crown of the beautiful Northern Sacramento Valley. The Home provides veterans with two levels of care including residential care and skilled nursing care. A future memory care program within the residential care unit will provide a supervised environment for veterans with symptoms of memory loss, confusion or poor decision-making.

Veterans Home of California – Yountville

Located in the heart of scenic Napa Valley, the Veterans Home in Yountville is the oldest and largest veterans home in the nation. Founded in 1884, the 1,120-bed Home offers residential accommodations with a wealth of recreational, social, and therapeutic activities for independent living. Facilities on the 900-acre campus include residential care for the elderly, intermediate care, skilled nursing care, and memory care.

Veterans Home of California – West Los Angeles

“This Home should join the list soon — once a survey from the California Department of Public Health is complete,” Bucci said. The West Los Angeles Home has 396 beds, including 320 beds in its skilled nursing facility. Completed in September 2010, this Home is the largest this Home in the County of Los Angeles. Adjacent to the Memory Care unit is an open-air garden where residents can enjoy being outdoors in a safe and comfortable environment.

Veterans Home of California – Lancaster

This 60-bed Residential Care Facility for the Elderly opened in 2009. All health care needs, meals, transportation and activities are provided, in partnership with the VA Greater Los Angeles Health care System. The home was named in memory of the late Senator William J. “Pete” Knight, a former United States Air Force Colonel who spent 32 years in service to his country. He was one of the Veterans Home’s strongest and most vocal advocates when he served in the California State Senate

Veterans Home of California – Ventura

This a 60-bed Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) offers assisted living. All health care needs, meals, transportation and activities are provided in partnership with the VA Greater Los Angeles Health care System. The veterans home provides California veterans with an environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feeling of self-reliance and self-worth.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

THESE CVSOs JOINED FORCES WITH N&R PUBLICATIONS TO REACH THEIR VETERANS!



“One of the challenges for a VSO is to make sure veterans know how to contact you and what benefits may be available. Working with N&R helped solve this challenge. We were so successful that veterans would make their way to the office, newspaper in hand.”

Josh Dahnens, CVSO
Kern County Veterans Service Department



“Since each publication is customized to the client, the information is timely, accurate and pertinent to the County’s veteran population.”

Marion Moses, former CVSO
Santa Clara County Veterans Service Office



“I would whole heartedly encourage other CVSOs to work with N&R Publications. They provide a unique design for each publication for personal and professional services. N&R is as committed to serving veterans as CVSOs are.”

Virginia Wimmer, CVSO
San Joaquin County Veterans Service Office



“Our third publication, which highlighted the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exception (DVE), resulted in a 27% increase in DVE applications, for a total of 1,650 applications. This was more than all California Counties combined. San Diego County veterans were able to save \$10 million in property taxes. BZ to N&R Publications!!!”

Wil Quintong, CVSO
San Diego County Office of Military and Veterans Affairs

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