Veterans

A Resource Guide

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 3086
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4039

California State Senate

CHRISTINE KEHOE

SENATE DISTRICT 39

DISTRICT OFFICE
2445 FIFTH AVENUE
SUITE 200
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 645-3133

The State of California is home to more than three million veterans, the largest state veteran population in America. These courageous men and women have fulfilled the highest duty to our nation by serving in the Armed Forces. We owe them a great deal.

California is committed to ensuring that all veterans, of all wars, receive the services and programs to which they are entitled.

This brochure lists a variety of services available to veterans and their families, including employment, rehabilitation, housing and training. Additional information on memorial sites and veterans homes is also included.

I hope this brochure will serve as a guide to the opportunities available to the men and women who have served our country so bravely.

Sincerely,

SENATOR CHRISTINE KEHOE

39th Senate District

Table of Contents

A History of Veterans Day 1

California Veterans Memorial Registry 2

Veterans Memorials in Capitol Park 3

Veterans Homes of California..... 4

Veterans Cemeteries 5

Resource/Directory Guide 7
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 8
- House and Senate Committees 9
- California Legislative Committees..... 9
- California Department of Veterans Affairs .. 9
- California Association of County Veterans Service Officers 10
- Job Services..... 13
- Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise 15
- Housing 15
- Rehabilitation Services..... 16
- Motor Vehicles..... 16
- State Taxes and Tax Deductions 16

Miscellaneous..... 17

Veterans Organizations..... 17
- The American Legion 17
- Veterans of Foreign Wars 18
- Purple Heart 19
- Disabled American Vets 19
- American GI Forum 20

A History of Veterans Day

"….remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain…."

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

In 1921, an unknown American World War I soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Similar ceremonies were carried out in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey, and in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the end of World War I hostilities. The day became known as "Armistice day", dedicated to the cause of world peace.

A 1926 Congressional resolution proclaimed the holiday official; shortly thereafter, World War II broke out. Millions of Americans took part; hundreds of thousands died. A proposal was made in Washington to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day, making it an occasion to honor those who served America in wartime. President Eisenhower signed it into law in 1954, and November 11th become a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Since then, three more unidentified American war dead have been interred in Arlington Cemetery: one each from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Veterans Day continues to recognize the important contributions of those citizens whose military service had a profound effect

on our history. It is a celebration that honors veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. The celebration also provides millions with a greater appreciation of this significant part of our national heritage.

Currently, there are over 25 million veterans in the United States and over 45 million survivors and dependents of veterans. They represent nearly 1/3 of the United States population.

California Veterans Memorial Registry

California maintains more than 500 veterans memorials throughout the state, ranging in size and description from small roadside plaques to large structures, including buildings and bridges. In 2000, Senate Bill 1635 created a registry that would catalogue these memorials.

That law provided for the establishment of a Veterans Memorial Registry, to be made publicly accessible on the web site of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA). The registry provides the location and condition of all known veterans memorials in California.

The CDVA is currently collecting information for inclusion in this registry. A survey form is available on the web site to assist in identifying these commemorative structures: www.cdva.ca.gov/registry

Veterans Memorial Registry
California Department of Veterans Affairs
1227 O Street, Room 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Veterans Memorials in Capitol Park

Designed in the 19th century as a Victorian garden, Capitol Park surrounds the State Capitol building with 40 acres of trees and plants from around the world. Today, the park includes many historical monuments, including those erected in honor of our country's veterans.

Civil War Memorial

Situated in the center of the park, behind the trout pond, this grove of trees was the first war memorial in Capitol Park. Dedicated in 1897 by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the grove was designed with more that 40 saplings transplanted from various Civil War battlefields.

Mexican-American Veterans Memorial

Located across from the State Capitol, this memorial was dedicated in 1951 by the Society of Mexican Mothers to soldiers of Hispanic descent who served during the second World War.

Spanish-American War Memorial

Located near the trout pond, the memorial of "The Hiker" honors those veterans of the 1898 Spanish-American War.

California Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

Situated in the northeast corner of the park, this memorial was built entirely with donated funds. The names of 5,822 Californians who gave their lives or are listed as MIA (Missing in Action) are included on 22 black granite panels.

California Veterans Memorial

Dedicated in 1998, this unique memorial honors all Californians who served in all U.S. wars, regardless of branch, rank or

duty. A registry of veterans is accessible through a computer kiosk.

Veterans Homes of California

One of the missions of the CDVA is to provide veterans, and sometimes their dependents, with rehabilitative, residential and medical care and services in a home-like setting. These facilities offer veterans a therapeutic environment that provides support and encouragement to live quality lives. CDVA operates three veterans home facilities:

Veterans Home of California, Yountville (founded 1884)
Attn: Admissions and Information
P.O. Box 1200
Yountville, CA 94599-1297
800-400-8387
800-404-8387 (Public Information)

Veterans Home of California, Barstow (founded 1996)
Attn: Admissions Office
100 East Veterans Parkway
Barstow, CA 92311-7003
760-252-6200

Veterans Home of California, Chula Vista (founded 2000)
Attn: Admissions
700 East Naples Court
Chula Vista, CA 91911
619-482-6010
888-857-2146 (Toll Free)

In 1999, Assembly Bill 193 established the Governor's Commission on California

Veterans Homes. Its purpose was to advise the Governor and Legislature on the establishment of sites for future veterans homes in areas currently underserved, specifically the San Joaquin Valley and the Los Angeles Basin. The Commission was also to consider sites for a specialized facility dealing with Alzheimer's Disease and dementia.

In August 2002, legislation was signed authorizing five new veterans homes in Lancaster, Saticoy, Los Angeles, Shasta County and Fresno County. Two new units for veterans with Alzheimer's are slated for the Los Angeles and Yountville homes.

Veterans Cemeteries in California

National Veterans Cemeteries

www.cem.va.gov

One of the missions of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) is to maintain national veterans cemeteries; the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) currently oversees 120 cemeteries throughout the country. It provides burial space for veterans and their eligible family members, maintains each site, and administers grants for establishing or expanding existing state veterans cemeteries. For more information on eligibility requirements, call 1-800-827-1000.

There are six national veterans cemeteries in California. At this time, only the San Joaquin and Riverside cemeteries are open for new burial; the remaining are closed to all but dependents of veterans already buried there.

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery
Point Loma
P.O. Box 6237
San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 553-2084

Golden Gate National Cemetery
1300 Sneath Lane
San Bruno, CA 94066
(650) 761-1646

Los Angeles National Cemetery
950 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049
(310) 268-4675

Riverside National Cemetery
22495 Van Buren Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92518
(909) 653-8417

San Francisco National Cemetery
Presidio of San Francisco
P.O. Box 29012
San Francisco, CA 94129
(650) 761-1646

San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery
32053 West McCabe Road
Gustine, CA 95322
(209) 854-1040

State Veterans Cemeteries
California is one of many states that has established state veterans cemeteries through the VA's State Cemetery Grants Program. Eligibility is similar to that of national cemeteries, but may include residency requirements. Although funding is provided through the grants program, state veterans cemeteries are run solely by each state.

While there are no current state veterans cemeteries open, there is one under

construction at Igo, near Redding in Shasta County. It is expected to open by December 2004. The state veterans cemetery located at the State Veterans Home in Yountville is for residents of the home, with very few exceptions.

Veteran Memorial Grove Cemetery
Veterans Home of California, Yountville
1 (800) 404-8387

For more information on the Igo cemetery, or the new national cemetery planned for the Sacramento area, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs, Legislation and Public Affairs Office, at (916) 653-2192.

Resource/ Directory Guide

The following list of resources and web sites is designed to assist veterans in researching services, special entitlements, benefits, etc. Before applying for any entitlement claims, however, please be sure you are aware of the following:

Whenever you apply for any veteran's entitlement, you will be asked to provide a copy of your military discharge document, commonly known as a "DD-214". You may want to have your DD-214 recorded at your county recorder's office, at no charge. By doing so, you will be able to obtain a free official copy when the need arises.

Be sure to look into the security measures at your county recorder's office. If you are concerned about identity theft, you can keep your DD-214 in a safe place, such as a strong box, or bank safety deposit box. Make copies only as needed.

If you have lost or misplaced your DD-214, obtaining an official replacement from the Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, may take up to three months or more, thus delaying your ability to obtain medical care and other entitlements. You can also contact your local County Veterans Service Officer for assistance. See pages 11 - 13 for a county-by-county listing.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) www.va.gov

The Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for providing federal benefits to veterans and their dependents. It provides significant education and vocational rehabilitation benefits, home loans, service-connected disability compensation, medical and dental care, burial benefits, readjustment counseling and life insurance. There are three regional offices in California:

Oakland
1301 Clay Street, Room 1300 North
Oakland, CA 94612
1-800-827-1000

San Diego
8810 Rio San Diego Drive
San Diego, CA 92108
1-800-827-1000

Los Angeles
Federal Building
11000 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
1-800-827-1000

Each of the two branches of Congress has a committee dedicated to veterans issues. Their web sites include news, legislation and contact information.

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
http://veterans.house.gov
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515
(202) 225-3527

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
http://veterans.senate.gov
Majority Staff
412 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-9126
Minority Staff
202 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2074

Both houses of the California Legislature have committees on veterans affairs. These committees meet on a regular basis during the legislative session, and are staffed full time. They review bills relating to veterans, military affairs and armories, as well as bills amending the Military and Veterans Code.

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-5798

Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 319-2002

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) www.cdva.ca.gov
The mission of the CDVA is to confer and administer the benefits provided by California to its veterans and their dependents. CDVA provides them with aid and assistance in a variety of ways,

including claims for benefits, low-cost loans, rehabilitative care and medical services.

For information on CAL-VET loans, which include loans to first-time home buyers, construction loans and home improvement loans, go to the CDVA web site, Cal-VET Home Loans page, or contact:

CDVA
1227 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
1-800-952-5626
Mailing address: P.O. Box 942895
Sacramento, CA 94295-0001
1-800-952-LOAN (5626)

California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOS)

www.cacvso.org
54 of California's 58 counties have services available to assist veterans and dependents at the county level, to provide information on federal and state veterans benefits and to help veterans or their dependents complete application forms.

CVSOS are authorized to administer the College Fee Waiver Program for veterans dependents. The program is applicable at California State Universities, University of California campuses and California Community Colleges. To obtain eligibility requirements and application assistance, contact your local CVSOS office.

County Veterans Services Offices

County		Number
Alameda	Oakland	510-383-8781
	Fremont	510-795-2686
Alpine	contact CDVA	510-286-0627
Amador		209-223-6373
Butte		530-891-2759
Calaveras		209-754-6452
Colusa		530-458-0494
Contra Costa	Martinez	925-313-1481
	Richmond	510-374-3241
Del Norte		707-464-2154
El Dorado	Placerville	530-621-5892
	South Lake Tahoe	530-573-3456
Fresno		559-488-3436
Glenn		530-934-6524
Humboldt		707-445-7431
Imperial		760-355-8620
Inyo-Mono		760-873-7850
Kern	Bakersfield	661-868-7300
	Delano	661-725-3101
	Lake Isabella	no phone
	Ridgecrest	760-375-1564 ext. 226
	Mojave	661-824-4631
	Taft	661-763-2490
Kings		559-582-3211 ext. 2663
Lake	Lakeport	707-263-2384
	Clearlake	707-994-0646
Lassen	Susanville	530-251-8192
	Herlong	530-827-2858
Los Angeles	Los Angeles	213-744-4825
	Lancaster	661-723-4495
	Rancho Dominquez	310-761-2221
	West Covina	626-813-3402
	Whittier	562-695-9040
	City of Industry	626-854-4844
	W. Los Angeles	310-268-4690 ext. 48425
Madera		559-675-7766
Marin		415-499-6193
Mariposa		209-966-3696

County		Number
Mendocino	Ukiah	707-463-4226
	Fort Bragg	707-964-5823
Merced		209-725-3840
Modoc		530-233-6208
Mono	Contact Inyo Co	760-873-7850
Monterey	Marina	831-384-0605
	Salinas	831-796-3585
	Seaside	831-883-3811
Napa		707-253-4558
Nevada		530-273-3396
Orange		714-567-7450
Placer		530-889-7968
Plumas		530-283-6275
Riverside	Riverside	909-955-3010
	Indio	760-863-8266
	Banning	no phone
	Blythe	no phone
	Hemet	909-766-2566
	Lake Elsinore	no phone
	Perris	no phone
	Corona	no phone
	Idyllwild	no phone
	Moreno Valley	no phone
	Desert Hot Springs	no phone
	Temecula	no phone
	Palm Springs	no phone
Sacramento		916-874-6811
San Benito		831-637-4846
San Bernardino		
	San Bernardino	909-387-5516
	Ontario	909-458-1550
	Victorville	760-843-2790
	Yucca Valley	760-228-5441
	Twentynine Palms	no phone
	Loma Linda	909-422-3021
San Diego	San Diego	619-531-4545
	Vista	760-945-8941
San Francisco		415-554-7100
San Joaquin		209-468-2916
San Luis Obispo		
	San Luis Obispo	805-781-5766
	Paso Robles	805-237-3880

County		Number
San Mateo		650-802-6598
Santa Barbara		
	Santa Barbara	805-681-4500
	Santa Maria	805-346-7160
	Lompoc	805-737-7900
Santa Clara	San Jose	408-363-3000 ext. 7-5544
	Santa Clara	408-553-6015
	Gilroy	408-846-3930
	Palo Alto	650-493-5000 ext. 65389
Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	831-458-7110
	Watsonville	831-763-4419
Shasta		530-225-5616
Sierra	contact CDVA	510-286-0627
Siskiyou	Yreka	530-842-8010
	Mt. Shasta	530-842-8010
Solano	Fairfield	707-421-6590
	Vallejo	707-553-5261
Sonoma		707-565-5960
Stanislaus		209-558-7380

Job Services www.edd.ca.gov

Eligible veterans receive the highest priority for employment opportunities from the California Employment Development Department (EDD). EDD's objective is to develop and support programs that increase employment and job training opportunities for veterans. EDD works in partnership with a multitude of local

employment and training agencies. There are many services available to veterans seeking jobs and for employers who hire veterans, including:

- CalJOBS *California Job Order Browse System*
  An internet-based labor exchange system that increases public access to employment services
- DVOP *Disabled Veteran Outreach Program*
- LVER *Local Veterans Employment Representative*
  Specialists on veteran's employment issues that can provide assistance with applications, interviews and vocational guidance.
- JTPA *Job Training Partnership Act*
  Provides funds for programs to train veterans on the job. The program is administered state-wide through the Private Industry Council. To locate the one nearest you, check the white pages of your phone book.
- TAP *Transition Assistance Program*
  Intensive preparation program to assist those leaving the military in making a smooth transition to the private sector.

To locate your nearest EDD Field Office, consult your phone directory, "State of California, Employment Development Department".

Employment with the State

Most jobs with the State of California can be obtained only as a result of successfully competing in a civil service exam. Special consideration is granted to veterans. Check the State Personnel Board's internet

website at www.spb.ca.gov for listings, exam information and helpful publications.

State Personnel Board
801 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 944201
Sacramento, CA 94244-2010
916-653-1705
Veterans Preference Desk: 916-653-1502

Department of Personnel Administration (DPA)

www.dpa.ca.gov
DPA administers military leave provisions for State Employees. For more information, contact your employer's personnel officer.

Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise

www.dgs.ca.gov/osbcr
Certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE) are eligible for participation in California's Participation Program in state contracting. To become a certified DVBE, contact:

Department of General Services
Office of Small Business Certification and Resources
707 Third Street, 1st Floor
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Mailing address: P.O. Box 989052
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9052
916-375-4940 or 800-559-5529

Housing

Disabled veterans are entitled to special property tax exemptions if they own and occupy a mobile home. For information on license fee exemptions, contact:

Department of Housing and Community Development
Registration and Titling Program
P.O. Box 2111
Sacramento, CA 95812-2111
916-323-9224 or 800-952-8356

Rehabilitation Services

www.rehab.cahwnet.gov
The State Department of Rehabilitation provides vocational rehabilitation and career preparation services for disabled veterans. Priority is given to those individuals with the most severe disabilities. Field offices are located statewide. To locate your nearest office, check the white pages of the phone book under "State of California," or contact:

State Department of Rehabilitation
2000 Evergreen Street
Sacramento, CA 95815
916-263-8981

Motor Vehicles

www.dmv.ca.gov
The Department of Motor Vehicles issues registration cards and license plates for all vehicles in California. Service-connected disabled veterans may be eligible to receive special license plates. Veterans license plates can be obtained with various armed forces or veteran service organization logo/emblems. Contact your local County Veterans Service Officer or DMV office.

State Taxes and Tax Deductions

www.ftb.ca.gov
There are ways to compute tax on income received while out of the state or out of the country. Contact the Franchise Tax Board for the publication: *Tax Information for Military Personnel* (FTB Pub. 1032). There

are field offices statewide. To locate your nearest office, contact the Franchise Tax Board at
1-800-852-5711.

Miscellaneous

California State Parks

Lifetime passes at reduced prices are available to parks, camping, and boat launching for qualified veterans. For more information, contact:

California State Parks
Disabled Veterans Discount Pass Program
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
1-800-777-0369

Department of Fish and Game

Reduced-fee hunting and fishing licenses are available to qualified veterans. For more information, contact:

Department of Fish and Game
License and Revenue Branch
3211 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 227-2245

Veterans Organizations

The American Legion

www.legion.org
Chartered in 1919 by Congress, the American Legion is a patriotic, community service veterans organization with 3 million members in nearly 16,000 posts worldwide.

National Headquarters
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
202-861-2700

Department of California Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

www.vfwca.org
Founded in 1899, the VFW is the oldest major veterans group in the United States. Part of its mission is to assist veterans and their families in enhancing their quality of life.

One such endeavor is the VFW State Service Program, in which Department Staff Officers (DSOs) represent veterans and their dependents with benefit claims. Veterans do not need to be members to apply for these services.

California Headquarters
1510 J Street, Suite 110
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-449-8850
National Vet Service 24-hour hotline:
800-VFW-1899

There are three regional offices state-wide:

Oakland
Oakland Federal Building
1301 Clay Street, Room 1140N
Oakland, CA 94612
510-835-1246

Los Angeles
Federal Building, Room 5202
11000 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-477-1791

San Diego
VA Regional Office
8810 Rio San Diego Drive, #1161
San Diego, CA 92108
619-400-5322

VFW California Ladies Auxiliary Headquarters
1510 J Street, Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-449-8857

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

www.purpleheart.org
Formed in 1932 for the protection of all veterans who have received the decoration, the Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients. MOPH represents all veterans and their dependents.

Military Order of the Purple Heart
5413-B Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151-3960
703-642-5360

Disabled American Vets (DAV)

www.dav.org
The Disabled American Vets organization was chartered by Congress in 1932 for all service-connected disabled veterans. The network of services offered is free to all veterans and their dependents.

One such endeavor is the National Service Program, in which National Service Officers (NSOs) represent veterans and their dependents with claims for benefits. Veterans do not need to be members to apply for these services.

National Headquarters
3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301
859-441-7300

National Service and Legislative Headquarters

807 Maine Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024
202-554-3501

American GI Forum

www.agif.org
Founded in 1948, the American GI Forum was the nation's first Hispanic veterans organization. It is an advocate for the rights of Hispanic war veterans, and provides assistance with veterans affairs, education, civil rights, employment and economic development. Two of its largest programs are the Veterans Outreach Program (VOP) and Ser-Jobs for Progress, Inc. (SER). There are various chapters located throughout California.

California Chapters
1953 Supreme Drive
San Jose, CA 95148
408-259-8944

National Headquarters
2870 North Speer Blvd., Suite 220
Denver, CO 80211
Toll free: 1-866-AGIFNAT

Designed and printed by the Office of Senate Reprographics

Senator
Christine Kehoe

District Office
2445 Fifth Avenue, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 645-3133

Capitol Office
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814
tel (916) 651-4039

1/03