CALVET
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

All veterans are reminded that the fastest way to learn about and secure the benefits they have earned is by visiting their local County Veterans Service Office. A listing of these offices is available at www.cacvso.org.

MARCH 2014

CALL FOR VIETNAM WAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT INFO

In August of 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the so-called Tonkin Gulf Resolution, which enabled President Johnson to employ military force as he saw fit against the Vietnamese Communists. This is often recognized as the start of America's long and costly Vietnam War.

If your organization is planning an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War, CalVet would like to include your information on its online calendar.

Please submit the following information:

1. Event name
2. Sponsoring organization
3. Time
4. Location
5. Contact name
6. Contact phone number or e-mail address

to Greg.Nannini@calvet.ca.gov as soon as the details of your event are known.

NEW GI BILL® COMPARISON TOOL

For many veterans, servicemembers and dependents who want to begin or resume their college education using GI Bill® benefits, choosing a school has been difficult. Now there's a simple way to evaluate school choices. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has launched the online GI Bill® Comparison Tool to make it easier for education benefits users to learn about USDVA-approved colleges, universities and other education and training programs across the country.

The tool helps users determine their eligibility and calculate their

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Secretary's Message

Women have always played an important role in our country's many military conflicts, from the fight for our freedom to the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Although relegated to roles considered appropriate for women for many years, women now serve in the theater of operations alongside their male counterparts.

From nursing the injured to engaging the enemy in combat, women have come a long way and in so doing, they have set an important example creating a legacy for future generations of young women.

Because of the many important contributions women have made to our society, and most importantly to in our armed forces throughout the years, the month of March is designated as Women's History Month and the third week as California Women's Military History Week.

With each passing year, women continue to contribute to the distinguished military service of our great country and build upon the legacy of those that served before them. Women have always been dedicated patriots, consistently willing to put their lives on the line to protect our nation and the freedoms of our people.

Many women continue serving our country and its veterans once they leave active duty in many vocations and careers. Here at CalVet we are fortunate to have three women with distinguished military careers on our executive team. Diane Vanderpot, Undersecretary for Veterans Home is a retired U.S. Army Colonel; Lindsey Sin, Deputy Secretary for Women Veterans Affairs served in the U.S. Navy and achieved the rank of Petty Officer First Class and Mirtha Villarreal-Younger, Deputy Secretary for Minority Veterans Affairs who federally retired as a Major and achieved LTC in State Military Reserve. She served 11 years active and 11 years national guard. These women represent not only our nation's proud military heritage, but also the selfless and caring service side of their gender.

I invite you to attend the many events being planned locally during this month recognizing the many contributions of women in our Armed Forces. You will find them posted on CalVet's online events calendar and Facebook pages.

Of special note is a CalVet sponsored reception on March 19, 2014 at the California State Library. Join us in recognizing the outstanding contributions of this year's selected trailblazers Delphine Metcalf-Foster and Brigadier General Sylvia R. Crockett.

To register for the event, please visit calvet.ca.gov/women and visit our Military History Week Page or email Womenveterans@calvet.ca.gov.

And finally, I want to thank all staff who worked on making the California Black Veterans Summit held this past February 24 in Los Angeles a total success. We had more than 300 attendees and feedback from speakers, panelists and attendees has been nothing but complimentary. We are proud to have had this opportunity to reach out to Black and other minority veterans with information to help them better access the benefits and services they so richly deserve.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Gravett

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

FAA TO HIRE HUNDREDS OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALISTS

There's great news for veterans interested in working in air traffic control! The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is planning to hire more than 600 new Air Traffic Control Specialists and wants as many of them as possible to be veterans. Given the pre-qualification requirements, many recently-transitioning veterans will likely qualify.

To be considered for a position as an air traffic controller, applicants must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- start the FAA Academy no later than their 31st birthday;
- be willing to relocate to an air traffic facility based on the FAA's highest needs at the time; and
- have three years of progressively responsible work experience, or a Bachelor's degree, or a combination of post-secondary education and work experience that totals three years.

For more information about these job opportunities and to apply, go to www.faa.gov/jobs/recruiting_kit.

NEW VETERAN HEALTH INFORMATION CARDS COMING SOON

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) will soon be issuing new Veteran Health Identification Cards (VHIC). These cards, which will be used as identification and for check-in at USDVA appointments, will provide better security since no veteran personal information will be displayed. Each veteran's card will also salute their military service by displaying their latest branch of service emblem and, in some cases, several special awards.

The USDVA will automatically mail VHICs to enrolled veterans who currently hold the old-style cards. Since 4 million cards will be issued, the USDVA asks veterans to be patient while waiting for their cards to arrive.

Enrolled veterans who do not have the old identification card may contact their local USDVA medical center Enrollment Coordinator to arrange to have their picture taken for the new VHIC, or they may request a new card at their next USDVA health care appointment. To ensure their identity, veterans must provide appropriate identification. New VHIC cards should arrive within 7 to 10 days after a veteran applies for enrollment.

NOTE: Veterans who are already enrolled should ensure the address USDVA has on file is correct. To update or to confirm your address, call (877) 222-8387.

For more information about the VHIC, including a list of appropriate personal identification documents, go to http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/.

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benefits, provides key information about college affordability and brings together information from more than 17 different online sources and three federal agencies. Besides comparing schools, the tool allows users to explore career options, apply for benefits, learn what it takes to succeed in school, and find employment.

The GI Bill® Comparison Tool is one item in a series of resources the USDVA is launching in response to a presidential executive order which directs agencies to implement and promote "Principles of Excellence" for education institutions that interact with veterans, servicemembers and their families; and to ensure beneficiaries have the information they need to make educated choices about USDVA education benefits and approved programs.

Check out the GI Bill® Comparison Tool at http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison.

PROTECTING VETERAN STUDENTS

By Carolyn Ballou

Many veterans eager to begin using their post-9/11GI Bill education benefits find themselves deluged by pitches from for-profit schools hoping to take advantage of those government benefits. While for-profit institutions are often more accessible and may offer a more flexible course study, it's important for veterans to understand that not all course credits transfer from one institution to another, and not all college degrees are created equal.

To help protect veteran students, the California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE)—an arm of the CalVet Veterans Services Division—operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide initial approval of veteran education and training programs. CSAAVE also performs compliance visits to ensure quality in veterans' education by evaluating and monitoring programs and preventing abuses.

Among other protections, CSAAVE requires a document titled, "Student Bill of Rights and Considerations Prior to Enrollment" be given to all enrolling veterans and eligible persons when using GI Bill education benefits at a private post-secondary institution approved for training by CSAAVE. The document, which must be signed by the student, outlines students' rights and the information they are entitled to receive from the school. To view the Student Bill of Rights, go to www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/StudentBillOfRights.pdf.

The California Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Private Post-Secondary Education (BPPE) regulates California private postsecondary educational institutions. BPPE is responsible for protecting consumers and students against fraud, misrepresentation, or other business practices that may lead to loss of students' tuition and related educational funds. The BPPE website offers a number of student resources, including information on how to choose a school, what to consider before enrolling, how to ensure your educational success, what to do if the school you are attending is closing, how to file a complaint and more. For information about BPPE or to file a complaint against a school, go to www.bppe.ca.gov/students/index.shtml.

In addition, the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Education, and Justice, and the Federal Trade Commission recently announced a new online student complaint system that allows servicemembers, veterans, and their families to report negative experiences at education institutions and training programs administering the Post-9/11 GI Bill, DoD Military

Tuition Assistance, and other military-related education benefit programs.

The new feedback system is just one in a series of new tools launched recently to help veteran and military education beneficiaries learn more about their vocational aptitudes, select an educational institution and best use their education benefits. Additional resources include:

- The 'Factors to Consider When Choosing a School' guide offers future students steps to take when researching, choosing and attending a school.
- CareerScope® is a free, new tool that measures a student's aptitude and interests through a self-administered online test, identifying potential career paths.

For more information about the federal online student complaint system, to offer feedback, or to file a complaint, go to www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/feedback.asp.

CALIFORNIA INTERSTATE NOW HONORS TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

A stretch of Interstate 80 through Solano County officially has been designated as the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway.

Before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. Military. Civil rights organizations and the Black press exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an all African-American pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1941, they became known as the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air.

To honor the brave and honorable service of those individuals during World War II, the stretch of Interstate 80 between Midway Road and the State Route 12 East interchange has been named after them.

The dedication ceremony recently held at the VA Memorial Hall in Dixon, California included a number of notable guest speakers, including Vacaville resident Lt. Colonel James C. Warren, USAF, retired, an original Tuskegee Airman. The wife of now-deceased Col. George S. "Spanky" Roberts helped unveil a replica of the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway Sign.

Roberts was the first African-American selected for pilot training at the famed Tuskegee Army Airfield. He commanded the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group, which saw action over North Africa and Italy. He flew 78 combat missions over Europe in the Second World War.

The effort to honor the Tuskegee Airmen by naming that portion of the interstate was led by State Senator Lois Wolk.

HUD VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTING GRANTS AVAILABLE

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced that it has set aside roughly $7 million in the HUD-Veterans Supporting Housing (VASH) program to support 1,000 units of project-based voucher assistance. Project-based vouchers are tied to single-site developments and enable veterans who experience homelessness to receive housing assistance with an array of clinical and supportive services provided through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Interested public housing agencies (PHA) should read the notice of funding opportunity found at http://bit.ly/1gqKcOE and submit an application to HUD by May 5, 2014. The notice allows a PHA to request up to 75 project-based vouchers in its application. PHAs are required to select proposals from single-site owners by issuing a request for proposal or using the results of a previous competition. In applying, PHAs should carefully review the threshold factors and scoring criteria found in the notice.

EMT CERTIFICATION, LICENSURE WITH PRIOR MILITARY TRAINING

California veterans and active duty servicemembers who received medical training during military service may be eligible to apply for certification and licensure as California Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or Advanced EMTs (AEMT).

Any individual who possesses a valid National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians EMT card is eligible to apply for EMT certification in California. In addition, individuals who can provide evidence of having successfully completed a qualifying emergency medical services training program of the U.S. Armed Forces within the preceding two years may be permitted to take the challenge exam. Individuals may also be able to challenge the exam if they were active in the last two years in a pre-hospital emergency medical classification during military service which does not have formal recertification requirements. Those individuals may be required to take a refresher course or complete Continuing Education courses as a condition of certification.

Those who possess a qualifying AEMT card and those who can provide an AEMT course completion record or other qualifying proof of successful course completion may apply for that certification.

For more information, call the California Emergency Medical Services Authority at (916) 323-9875 or go to www.emsa.ca.gov/Veteran_Pathways_to_EMS_Certification_and_Licensure. You may also contact your local EMS agency for information and assistance. To find the EMS agency nearest you, go to www.emsa.ca.gov/local_ems_agency_administrators.

LOS ANGELES VETERANS SURVEY

The USC Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans & Military Families and the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative have developed the first-ever Los Angeles Veterans Survey to assess the opportunities and challenges in the region's military community.

The survey will allow the collaborative to fully understand the needs of veterans and their family members, and identify resources throughout the county. The Center's researchers will employ the data to evaluate what works, what doesn't and why.

The survey also will reveal insights into creating more effective programs and services, responsive community support systems, and informed policy change for veterans and their families throughout Los Angeles County.

If you are a veteran or service member, go to https://uscsocialwork.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bwL68HMTeHKWaSV to take the survey. If you are the spouse or partner of a veteran or service member, go to http://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eG1AoeoS7yTYZWI to take the survey.

For more information about the survey or about the USC Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans & Military Families, contact Margaret Thomas at Margaret.thomas@usc.edu.

ANIMAL ACCOMMODATIONS IN HOUSING

By Phyllis W. Cheng and Mallory Sepler-King

Using animals to assist people with disabilities is a well-established practice. Many veterans use animals in some capacity to help manage or alleviate the symptoms of physical or psychological disabilities. If you are one of them, it's important to know your housing rights.

Two different categories of animals are defined under the law: service animals and emotional support animals. A service animal, which must be accommodated by all businesses and other public accommodations, is defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as "dogs trained to perform a task to benefit an individual with a disability." Guide dogs and signal dogs, which assist with hearing impairment, fall under the service animal category.

Emotional support animals are those that, by their mere presence, provide comfort to their owner by lowering anxiety or improving the mental state of the owner. While not accommodated under the ADA, emotional support animals can be beneficial for individuals suffering from psychological trauma or disability.

The distinction between whether an animal is a service or support animal can be subtle. A dog will qualify as a service animal if it performs a specific task, such as retrieving dropped items, reminding individuals to take medicine, providing safety checks for individuals with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and interfering to stop damaging behavior. Recognition of a symptom of the owner's disability coupled with a specific response by the animal are the key elements.

In contrast, the benefit of an emotional support animal comes not from its performance of a task, but from the comfort provided by its mere presence. Emotional support animals have benefited many people by providing them with comfort, motivating them to be more active, and helping to "ground" them in the case of anxiety or bouts of depression. Additionally, emotional support animals can be species other than dogs or miniature horses; cats or birds have also been known to effectively serve this purpose.

For tenants, making this distinction is largely unnecessary when requesting accommodation of an animal in housing. The federal Fair Housing Act and California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) both require waiver of "no pet" policies and associated fees where accommodation of an animal is necessary for the purpose of alleviating a disability. Further, both allow for broader accommodations than are mandated under ADA.

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Whereas public accommodations must accommodate only animals that are "service animals" for the purposes of the ADA, housing law further includes emotional support animals in the scope of "reasonable accommodations" by landlords and housing providers.

To be reasonably accommodated in housing, a tenant need only provide a doctor's note indicating that the tenant suffers from a disability, and that this disability will be alleviated or improved by the presence of the service or support animal. Under current law, a minor psychological disability, such as anxiety, is sufficient to justify a request for accommodation of a support animal. Once this information has been provided, the burden is on a landlord to show that the accommodation would not have been reasonable, due to safety or other concerns, or to accommodate the animal. Accommodation is generally reasonable, provided that the animal is well-behaved and presents no threat to the safety of other tenants. No broad prohibition of animals on the basis of species, breed, or other factor is permitted; each request for accommodation of a service or emotional support animal must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

If a tenant has been denied accommodation of a service or support animal by the housing provider, this may constitute discrimination on the basis of disability under the FEHA. The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) can receive, investigate, conciliate, mediate and prosecute such meritorious complaints. Complaints can be filed online through the Department's website, http://www.dfeh.ca.gov, by calling (800) 884-1684, or e-mailing contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov. Persons with hearing impairment can also use the Videophone at (916) 226-5285 or TDD at (800) 700-2320.

Under a work share agreement, nearly all housing discrimination claims are jointly filed between the DFEH and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, so filing with one of these agencies is sufficient. For additional information on California's housing anti-discrimination laws, go to www.dfeh.ca.gov/Publications_StatLaws_DisabHous.htm.

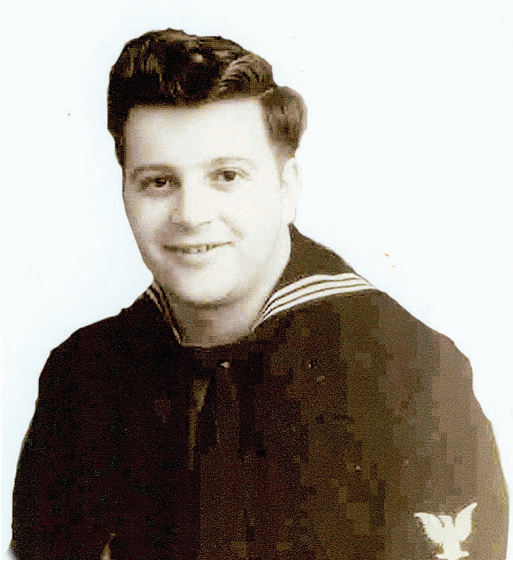
Phyllis W. Cheng is Director of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Mallory Sepler-King is a Civil Rights Fellow at the Department.

CHILD SUPPORT LEGAL CLINICS FOR VETS, MILITARY

There's good news for Los Angeles County veterans and military personnel who need help with their child support cases. The Los Angeles Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office offers FREE self-help legal clinics. The clinics are offered at 1:30 p.m. on the 4th Friday of each month (March 28, April 25, May 23, etc.) at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles.

Space is limited, so reserve your seat early. Contact Josephine Richardson at (213) 765-9226 or jrichardson@mva.lacounty.gov.

ONE SAILOR'S STORY: U.S. NAVY VETERAN RECALLS SURVIVING KAMIKAZE ATTACKS; CONTINUES ONGOING BATTLE WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE



By Joe Wolfcale

Harold Anderson knows he has a story to tell.

The former U.S. Navy radioman spent his entire military career tapping out top-secret transmissions in Morse code to fighter pilots, ship commanders and administrative staff in the expansive Pacific Fleet in the 1940s.

Anderson often worked from the bowels of the ship and seldom saw the light of day. He survived two Japanese kamikaze attacks on the USS Bunker Hill and served on a number of ships, mostly carriers, during World War II and the Korean War conflict.

"Everything was in code in those days," Anderson said in his home, reminiscing about his war years. "We sometimes had to work 24-hour watches. And I had top-secret clearances."

Now, the 88-year-old veteran lives quietly in a modest Novato home. About a decade ago, Anderson was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a degenerative condition that has robbed him of his ability to communicate—the very duties he performed so well during his nearly decade-long Naval career.

Harold Anderson with his son Dave in Novato, CA. Harold is holding a photograph of his family, including his parents and 10 of the 11 Anderson children. Anderson's parents are holding a portrait of son Leonard, who was killed in battle while aboard the USS Indianapolis in 1945. All seven of the Anderson boys served in the military.

Today, most of Anderson's Navy memorabilia are stuffed in a weathered manila envelope, including old newspaper clippings, copies of photographs, actual Navy transcriptions and commendations from navy brass. It also contains unit citations as well as his top-secret clearance card.

Anderson doesn't talk much about the Navy. Many of his memories remain frozen in time.

"He has better days and not so good days," said his son Dave Anderson, who helps Anderson with most of his daily activities. "He gets frustrated sometimes,. But he was always a hard worker. It wasn't that many years ago that he helped me roof my house. He was always helping others."

Parkinson's affects the central nervous system first with the most obvious symptoms being shaking and rigidity, progressing to dementia and depression in later stages.

One of 11 children born to William and Victoria Anderson in Bemidji, Minnesota, Harold helped his father pick up and deliver mail as a young boy. On Sept. 20, 1943, at the age of 18, he was inducted into the military.

With two years of high school under his belt, Anderson chose the Navy.

"The funny thing was, he didn't know how to swim," his son Dave said. "I guess he faked it."

Anderson served on the USS Hornet, the Bunker Hills, the Yorktown, the

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Benington and the Lexington. He also did a stint on the amphibious assault ship, the USS Wasp.

He made second class as a radioman and was onboard the Bunker Hill in 1945 when two Japanese kamikaze pilots unleashed a pair of 550-pound bombs on the morning of May 11.

The first bomb penetrated the flight deck and exited at the alley level before exploding in the Pacific. The plane crashed into the deck and caused a huge fire. Then about 30 seconds later, a second plant struck at the carrier's island—the main nerve center, crashed through the flight deck and exploded.

A total of 346 sailors and airmen died that day, 43 more went missing and were never found and 264 were wounded. Anderson survived and remembered the dreadful day.

"Yes, I remember," Anderson said, softly.

Anderson, along with those who survived the attack on the Bunker Hill, received the Presidential Unit Citation. It was signed by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal on behalf of the President.

The citation reads: "for extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat in the South, Central, Southwest and Western Pacific …"

Anderson also received commendations aboard the Wasp and the Yorktown, and a ribbon for his contributions in Korea.

"He still has his Morse Code books in the garage," Dave Anderson said. "I didn't know much about all of this until I took him for his 80th birthday a few years ago to visit the USS Hornet in Alameda. He was reliving it all."

Gertrude Canet, 94, is Anderson's oldest surviving sibling. She also served in the Navy.

Canet said all seven Anderson boys served.

"I had so many brothers to talk to, I didn't have time to listen to one," Canet said by telephone. They never discussed their duties overseas. We were sworn, we couldn't say anything."

Anderson's brother Leonard died when a Japanese submarine torpedoed the USS Indianapolis July 30, 1945 in the Pacific. The cruiser sunk in 12 minutes and only 316 sailors of the 1,196 on board survived –the single most loss of life at sea in the History of the U.S. Navy.

A few years later, Anderson was honorably discharged from the Navy in San Francisco. After the military, Anderson worked a number of jobs, working for a railroad, delivering mail and driving trucks.

He has three grown children, Dave, Lisa, Karen, six grand children and four great grand children. His wife, Betty Jane Christine Anderson, died in 2011.

"Harold, he has always been the dreamer of the family," Canet said. "The good Lord does things sometimes in mysterious ways, we're not to understand."

Originally appeared in Ross Valley Reporter, August, 2013.

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GREAT RESOURCE FOR THE GRANT-SEEKING COMMUNITY

If you are a nonprofit or community based organization serving veterans and their families, and you are looking for grant opportunities that will allow you to enhance your services, check out the Foundation Center web site.

Established in 1956 and today supported by close to 550 foundations, the Foundation Center is a great source of information about philanthropy worldwide. Through data, analysis, and training, it connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to succeed.

The Center boasts the most comprehensive database on U.S.

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(and, increasingly, global) grant makers and their grants. The Center operates research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level. Thousands of people visit the Center's web site each day and are served in its five library/learning centers and at more than 470 Funding Information Network locations nationwide and around the world.

When it comes to online research sources for funding, you're not likely to find a more exhaustive resource than our Foundation Directory. Updated weekly and providing access to 120,000+ foundations and corporate donors, 3 million recent grants and more than half a million key decision makers, it's comprehensive! Listing funders from Anheuser-Bush to Weingart Foundation, many of which specifically serve military and veterans, the directory offers information about each funder's purpose and activities, fields of interest, population groups served and geographic focus, application process, and contact information.

For more information about grant opportunities your organization may qualify for or to sign up for newsletters, e-mail updates and other services, go to http://foundationcenter.org. You can also visit the San Francisco Foundation Center website at www.foundationcenter.org/sanfrancisco or call (415) 397-0902.

COCA-COLA TROOPS TO FITNESS PROGRAM

Thanks to a $3 million grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation, veterans are working with their local parks and recreation departments to teach fitness and nutrition classes and to help inspire healthier, active lifestyles among the public.

Over the next three years, parks and recreation departments in 12 communities will seek to hire nearly 200 veterans for the Coca-Cola Troops to Fitness program. The grants, managed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), will help local parks and recreation agencies create more opportunities for physical activity and wellness while also offering employment opportunities for our nation's veterans and their spouses.

In 2013, the Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness programs kicked-off programs in four Communities nationwide, including in Sacramento. Additional communities will be added to the program in 2014 and 2015 with a goal of sustaining the programs and employment of veterans over the course of the three years and beyond.

As part of the Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness program, NRPA and Coca-Cola are also working with Hire Heroes USA, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating job opportunities for U.S. Military veterans and their spouses through personalized employment training and corporate engagement, at no cost to the veteran. Hire Heroes will help engage veterans in the Troops for Fitness employment opportunities. Visit the Hire Heroes website at www.hireheroesusa.org.

Parks and recreation agencies across the country offer specific programming for returning military veterans as well as adaptive and therapeutic recreation opportunities for injured service members and veterans. In addition, the military's recreation programs, often referred to as Morale, Welfare and Recreation are a key component to fostering quality of life for service members and their families on military bases and installations globally.

For more information about the Troops for Fitness program, go to www.nrpa.org/troopsforfitness. For more information about the Sacramento Troops for Fitness program, call (916) 808-6525.

HELP DESIGN USDVA VETERANS DAY POSTER

Do you have an idea for a national Veterans Day poster? If so, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) wants to hear from you. The Veterans Day National Committee is seeking submissions for the 2014 national Veterans Day poster. The final poster must be 18"x24" at a resolution of 300 dpi (dots per inch), but please scale down submissions to 9"x12" and submit the electronic versions as JPEG images or PDF files, via e-mail to: vetsday@va.gov. Alternatively, send copies of artwork or a CD with artwork files to: Department of Veterans Affairs (002D), 810 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420. Please do not send originals. The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2014.

To see posters from prior years, visit USDVA's Veterans Day webpage http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday and click on "Poster Gallery."

Submissions must include sufficient information to demonstrate that the image is the work of the artist and is not copyrighted material, e.g., photos and concepts. The committee may select a particular submission but ask the artist to make modifications to the original design. Additional changes may be required prior to printing.

For more information about the contest, contact Micheal Migliara, Veterans Day National Committee, at (202) 461-5386 or micheal.migliara@va.gov.

KOREA REBORN BOOKS NOT FOR SALE

CalVet's efforts, on behalf of the Korean government, to give *Korea Reborn* books to Korean War veterans and their families were richly rewarded by the heartfelt thanks of grateful recipients. The department worked with many government, nonprofit, and private-sector organizations to distribute the books statewide and understands the disappointment of those unable to get one before supplies were exhausted. The good news is the book can now be downloaded in its entirety at http://remembermyservice.com/Downloads/Korea-Reborn-Book-Preview.pdf.

Unfortunately, CalVet has learned that some recipients were asked to pay for books that were supposed to be given for free. Hopefully, the offending individuals or organizations misunderstood CalVet's instructions rather than intentionally disregarding them.

If you were changed for one of these books, please request a refund from whoever sold it to you. If they refuse to give you your money back, please send their contact information to CalVet. If we cannot correct the misunderstanding on your behalf, we will consider pursing prosecution.

VETERANS

Getting the benefits you've earned?

Aware of benefit changes?

Know where to find services?

Download the CalVet mobile app and stay informed!

GET IT ON Google play

Available on the App Store

CALVET
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

www.calvet.ca.gov

FOLLOW CALVET ON FACEBOOK

CalVet has launched new Facebook pages to promote the activities, news, and employee recruitment for the Veterans Homes of California. Every home now has an active page.

Interested veterans and community members can "LIKE" our pages at:

Veterans Home of California–Barstow
www.facebook.com\VHCBarstow

Veterans Home of California–Chula Vista
www.facebook.com\VHCChulaVista

Veterans Home of California–Fresno
www.facebook.com\VHCFresno

Veterans Home of California–Lancaster
www.facebook.com/VHCLancaster

Veterans Home of California–Redding
www.facebook.com\VHCRedding

Veterans Home of California–Ventura
www.facebook.com\VHCVentura

Veterans Home of California–West Los Angeles
www.facebook.com\VHCWestLA

Veterans Home of California–Yountville
www.facebook.com\VHCYountville

These pages offer veterans information from the Veterans Homes, VA, and other veterans' service providers and organizations. Followers will find News regarding the Veterans Home and the veterans' community in the area. Included in the information are local, regional and statewide job opportunities.

Your organization can have their events shared either on the Facebook pages or in the CalVet events calendar by sending the event information to pao@calvet.ca.gov.

CALVET HOME LOANS

VETERANS IN CALIFORNIA PURCHASING HOMES

RATES AS LOW AS 3.90%* NO MONEY DOWN**

For more information contact (866) 653-2510 or loanapps@calvet.ca.gov

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

*4.25% - Estimated total monthly payment/APR based on a $200K sales price, no down payment & financing of the VA funding fee under the CalVet/VA program, $200K assessed value, mandatory hazard, and disaster indemnity insurance. Your actual payment can vary due to replacement costs for your home, location, local taxes, fees, and assessments and subsequent use of VA benefit, etc.
** Not all buyers will qualify.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 5

MARCH 7
Free Criminal Record Expungement Legal Clinic
Legal Services of Northern California, Ukiah, CA
Appointment: (707) 513-1026

MARCH 8
Sacramento Veterans Resource Center Crab Feed Fundraiser
Jose Rizal Community Center, Sacramento
Contact: (916) 393-8387

Free Criminal Record Expungement Legal Clinic
United Methodist Church
Kelseyville

MARCH 14
Patriots Recognition Ceremony and Dinner
Presented by Assemlyman Mike Morrell
Cable Airport, Upland
Contact: (909) 466-9096

MARCH 19
VA Women's History Month Summit & Gala
West LA Medical Center, Los Angeles
Contact: Callie Wight (818) 891-7711 x5185

MARCH 21
Women Veterans Symposium
City of Carson/Veterans Affairs Commission
Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center

MARCH 26
Vietnam Veterans of America
CA State Council
Capitol Legislative Day
State Capitol Basement, Sacramento, CA

MARCH 26-29
Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall
Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Yreka
Contact: Robert Ballesteros (530) 643-2851

MARCH 29
5th Annual Celebration
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
Guadalupe, CA

APRIL 2
AMVETS Capitol Legislative Day
Capitol Basement, Sacramento, CA

Note: To view full calendar, visit www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/Events_Calendar.pdf

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