California Veteran Reintegration Program Fact Sheet
Veterans Service Organizations

Inclusion of an organization does not constitute approval or endorsement by CalVet or the United States Government of the organization or its activities. Some Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) are "chartered", which means that they are federally licensed and recognized or approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary for purposes of preparation, presentation, and prosecution of benefit claims under laws administered by the VA.

American Legion
The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran’s organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation’s largest VSO, committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans. To find out more about the American Legion, become a member or to locate the nearest American Legion post, please call (800) 433-3318 or visit www.legion.org.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service since many arrived home wounded or sick with no medical care or veterans' pension for them. Their mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military, and our communities; and to advocate on behalf of all veterans. To find out more about the VFW or to locate your nearest VFW post, please call (800) 839-1899 or visit www.vfw.org.

Disabled American Veterans
The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) was founded in 1920 by disabled veterans returning from World War I to represent their unique interests. In 1932, the DAV was congressionally chartered as the official voice of the nation’s wartime disabled veterans. The 1.2 million-member DAV is a non-profit 501(c) (4) charity dedicated to building better lives for America’s disabled veterans and their families. To find out more about the DAV or to locate your nearest DAV post, please call (202) 554-3501 or visit www.dav.org/.
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Chartered by Congress in 1958, The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. Although membership is restricted to the combat wounded, we support all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers. To find more about the MOPH or to locate your nearest MOPH post, please call (703) 354-2140 or visit www.purpleheart.org.

AMVETS
As one of America’s foremost VSOs, AMVETS (or American Veterans) has a proud history of assisting veterans and sponsoring numerous programs that serve our country and its citizens. The helping hand that AMVETS extends to veterans and their families takes many forms. To find out more about the AMVETS or to locate the nearest AMVETS post, please call (877) 726-8387 or visit www.amvets.org/.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. VVA’s goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans. To find out more about the VVA or to locate your local chapter, please visit www.vva.org/.

More VSO Information
There are over 50 Veterans Service Organizations so if you are interested in another organization which is not listed please visit www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp or call (800) 952-6526 for assistance.