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.

JULY 2014

SKILLED NURSING CARE APPROVED AT THE REDDING VETERANS HOME

By Gary Moore

Citizens in the North State got great news when the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) gave its seal of approval for the Veterans Home of California - Redding to open its Skilled Nursing facility. After the survey team completed its initial survey, CDPH granted approval. The decision was unanimous to pass the veterans home with zero deficiencies in all areas of the Skilled Nursing facility.

"We are excited to offer a higher level of service to our veterans in Northern California," said CalVet Secretary Peter Gravett. "The staffs at the home and in headquarters have had to make a major effort to accomplish this task in a timely manner. I applaud them all."

CDPH is dedicated to optimizing the health and well-being of the people in California, and that extends to all veterans in each of the eight veteran homes operated by CalVet. The CDPH staff reviewed all policies and procedures of the Skilled Nursing facility and determined that the veterans home is ready. All departments, including plant operations, dietary and clinical divisions, were inspected and approved, which allows the veterans home to begin admitting veterans that are in need of skilled nursing facility care.

"This was no easy effort given the startup nature of the home" said Timothy Bouseman, Veterans Home Administrator. "The staff's dedication to getting the home ready for a new level of care for veterans has been rewarded".

The Veterans Home of California – Redding, which opened in October of 2013 with only residential care, will now begin admitting and serving veterans in need of skilled nursing care. The first resident of the Skilled Nursing Facility served in the Army Air Corp and was a WWII P.O.W.

Those who are interested in applying for residency or have family members in need of care at the veterans home may call (530) 224-3300 to make an appointment with our admissions team.

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Secretary's Message

Last week we celebrated Independence Day on the 4th of July evoking a strong sense of patriotism and pride. While we enjoyed vacations, picnics, and barbecues and watched parades, and enjoyed other activities, I hope that all of us took a moment to reflect on the day; how it began and why we celebrate this special day every year.

We are able to celebrate this great holiday because of the sacrifices and service of literally millions of men and women over the past 238 years who defend our freedoms and protect this great nation.

George Washington, the leader of the American Revolution and the first President of the United States, once said; "The willingness with which our young people will fight in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

That statement has held true for more than 200 years.

This country was built through honorable service of men and women that have sworn to defend it and protect our freedoms and liberties. There may have been times when we as a country were slow to recognize that service and to care for them, but in the end we have always stepped up to "care for him who shall have borne the battle..." as President Abraham Lincoln said in this second inaugural speech.

Here in California we have a history of standing up for our veterans. Less than 20 years after the end of the Civil War the Veterans Home of California at Yountville was founded for the disabled and homeless veterans of the civil war. Since 1884 this state has provided long-term care for veterans that have borne the battle for our freedom. That is a record of which we in California should all be proud.

In 1922 we as a state stepped up again and created the Veterans Farm and Home Loan program to help veterans and their families buy a home or start a farm. After World War II our own chief counsel for the Department, Warren Atherton, helped draft the original GI Bill also known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

But as usual there is still more than needs to be done. Today we have nearly 2 million veterans living in California and approximately 35,000 returning to our state every year. Many return and continue their lives, building families and careers continuing their honorable services.

But some come back and need a little help reconnecting with their community or adjusting to life as a civilian. Some have physical injuries that need continued treatment and care and others have mental health injuries that also need attention and treatment.

One of the things we can be proud of today as Californians is the fact that this state has once again stepped up to help "those that have borne the battle." While the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was getting overwhelmed with claims for benefits and assistance, their processing of those claims exceeding months sometime years of waiting for the veteran, California stepped up and provided assistance in the form of a partnership with the VA that has allowed state employees to work with the VA claims offices to process the back-log of benefits claims.

The three 12-member teams are working in concert with their counterparts in the three VA Regional Offices to ensure the claims are complete, forms are properly filled out and the files are ready to rate for each veteran.

Since starting this collaboration these strike teams have reviewed more than 21,000 claims which has resulted in veterans receiving the benefits and services that they have so justly earned.

Beyond just the fact that it was the right thing to do, these strike teams have also helped veterans receive needed assistance and benefits. During the first 12 months of this program the effort has resulted in $13.3 million in lump sum payments to veterans whose claims had been in the back log of claims. Additionally, these same veterans are receiving $1.7 million in monthly payments that go directly to them for injuries they endured while in the military. Annualized that is more than $20.7 million in new payments to veterans as a result of this collaborate effort.

As we look back on another 4th of July and the history of this great country, we in California can be proud of the fact that we are caring for those that "have borne the battle."

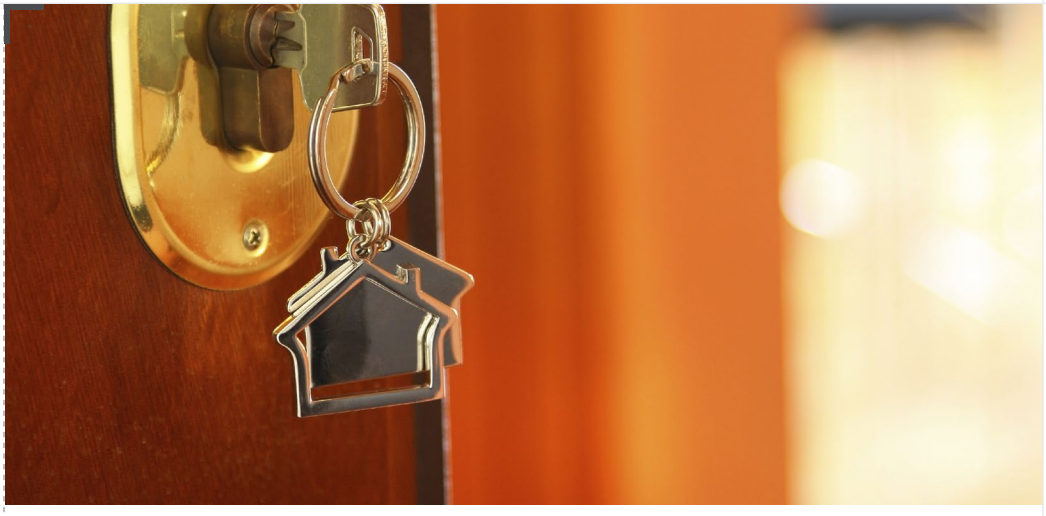
Sincerely,

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

CALVET STRIKE TEAMS CELEBRATE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The CalVet Strike Teams in Los Angeles, Oakland and San Diego District Offices—hired to move backlogged benefits claims of California veterans through the USDVA system—continue to impress! Collectively, the teams have reviewed more than 21,000 claims since September of last year, with 33 out of 36 authorized positions filled. Though implementation of the new procedures at all three offices and expected complications with technology were challenging, CalVet/USDVA teams are producing significant numbers!

As of June 26, 2014, $13.3M in lump sum payments (retroactive payments based on the time the claim has been at the USDVA) and monthly award payments totaling $1.7M have been awarded. This means a total of $20.7M in payments will be going to California veterans every year for the rest of their lives. Keep in mind that a small portion of the 21,000 claims have been adjudicated, so these awards are expected to increase significantly over the next year!



VETERANS ARE WELL PROTECTED WITH A CALVET HOME LOAN

Did you know that a CalVet Home Loan comes with a premier insurance package that protects veterans when disaster strikes? CalVet provides an insurance benefit that people in the private sector would love to get. Unlike the outside insurance industry, CalVet does not increase the veteran's insurance premiums or drop the veteran's coverage if a claim is filed. CalVet is here for veterans!

- All CalVet home loans are covered under the department's guaranteed replacement cost Fire & Hazard Program (excluding manufactured housing and condominiums with HOA fees that provide coverage);
- All CalVet home loans are protected under the Disaster Indemnity Program, which provides guaranteed replacement cost coverage in the event of an earthquake or flood loss. Many veterans consider this coverage to be so valuable that they obtain a Home Improvement loan when their basic loan is about to pay off in order to continue their participation in these programs. Like the Fire and Hazard program, premiums will not be increased and coverage will not be dropped due to a loss.
- Both insurance programs have the lowest deductible in the industry;
- CalVet insurance coverage cannot be purchased by veterans who are not in the CalVet Home Loan program.

For more information about CalVet Home Loans go to www.calvet.ca.gov/calvet-programs/home-loans or call (866) 653-2510, toll free.

CALIFORNIA VETERAN LICENSE PLATE SALES LOW, PRODUCTION UNCERTAIN

California veterans were quick to voice their disappointment when the state's VETERAN license plate was replaced by an HONORING VETERANS version that appealed to family and friends of veterans. A bill, sponsored by the County Veterans Service Officers and the California State Commanders Veterans Council and signed by the Governor authorized the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to recreate the specialty plate.

The law requires CalVet to collect and hold pre-paid VETERAN license plate applications until 7,500 are received before DMV will actually produce the plate. CalVet has until the end of this year to accomplish that task. Once that threshold is crossed, DMV will produce the plates and take responsibility for processing future applications. That same "hold and wait" process applies to all new specialty license plates in California.

Sadly, as of June 30, CalVet had received fewer than 200 of the 7,500 hundred applications needed by year's end for plate to be produced. Unless sales skyrocket in the next six months and the threshold number is reached, the VETERAN plates will not be produced, and the money sent to CalVet to reserve plates will be refunded to those who paid. HONORING VETERANS plates will still be available.

Both VETERAN and HONORING VETERANS plates can be personalized and can be customized with the distinctive military branch or veterans service organization logo of choice. Proceeds from the sale of these plates help support efforts of the California Department of Veterans Affairs and 56 county veteran service offices to connect veterans and their families with the benefits they've earned through military service.

The veteran license plate program is a partnership between the California Department of Veterans Affairs, the California Department of Motor Vehicles, and the California Association of County Veterans Services Officers, Inc.

To purchase either specialty license plate, go to www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/License-Plates.aspx. You may also call CalVet at (877) 741-8532 (toll free) to request that a specialty license plate application be mailed to you.

VETERAN LICENSE PLATE

RESERVE YOURS TODAY!

All proceeds from the sale of Veteran plates will be used to expand veterans services in your community.

WWW.CALVET.CA.GOV

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SACRAMENTO COUNTY ESTABLISHES VETERAN COURT

Some veterans find the transition to civilian life very difficult. Those who resort to abusing alcohol or using illicit drugs to ease the pain sometimes run afoul of the law.

Fortunately, the nationwide effort to establish "veteran courts" continues. Veteran courts are hybrid drug and mental health courts that serve veterans struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. They promote sobriety, recovery and stability by offering veterans treatment alternatives instead of incarceration.

Sacramento recently became the 18th* California county to establish a Veteran's Treatment Court for those charged with a criminal offense. The court will divert eligible Sacramento County veterans into treatment programs with more options than regular criminal justice system, including expungement or reduction of charges. Participants must suffer from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems stemming from U.S. Military service and be eligible for VA benefits. There are also restrictions on the types of crimes that are appropriate for the program.

Participants who go through the veteran court will be paired with mentors to help them through the criminal justice system and treatment. Mentors must be veterans that can commit to a minimum of one year participation, complete an orientation/training, and be able to pass a criminal background check.

If you are interested in becoming a Sacramento County Veterans Treatament Court mentor, please contact franklinsc@saccounty.net.

**Other counties that have established veteran treatment courts include: Alameda, El Dorado, Kings, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Tulare and Ventura.*

STAND DOWNS PROVIDE RESPITE TO HOMELESS VETERANS

During the Vietnam War, "stand down" offered a safe place where units returning from combat operations could take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, get mail and enjoy the camaraderie of friends. Stand Downs offered well-deserved and badly needed relief to battle-weary soldiers and went a long way toward restoring their health and sense of wellbeing. Veteran Stand Downs coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies, and community organizations offer the same type of support to homeless veterans and their family members.

Between now and the end of the year, Stand Downs are scheduled statewide. To view a partial list, go to https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Documents/Stand%20Down%20Schedule%202014-2015.pdf#search=stand%20down. Service providers, volunteers and supplies are often needed, so help if you can.

If you are aware of a California stand down scheduled but not listed, please send the event and contact information to PAO@calvet.ca.gov.

CALVET'S CALIFORNIA VETERANS SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE ACADEMY

The first classes of CalVet's new California Veterans Service Representative Academy have been scheduled to start in July. The Veterans Service Division and District Office Staff in Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego have been busy putting together the curriculum to provide a high standard of training for the new and already accredited County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) Veteran Service Representatives (VSR). A CVSO employee may assist a claimant in preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for VA benefits, however only a representative accredited by CalVet for such purpose, may actually sign documents.

This new training curriculum for CVSO VSRs will consist of three days of in-classroom training, six-month on-the-job training, and then two more days of classroom training prior to taking the accreditation exam. CVSO personnel who are already accredited will be required to complete three hours of qualifying Continuing Education Units each year to maintain accreditation. CalVet's objectives for the Academy are to increasing the passing rate for its accreditation exam, while improving the claims filing service to California's veterans.

CALVET WORKS TO ASSIST INCARCERATED VETERANS

By Pernell Sullivan

It is important for incarcerated veterans to be aware of the state and federal benefits they are entitled to receive because of their military service. It's equally important to know which benefits are affected by incarceration and what programs are available to assist veterans with reintegrating into the community once they are released. CalVet is working to educate incarcerated veterans about all of these things.

CalVet has been working with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to explore ways to work together to ensure that incarcerated veterans get educated about the benefits and services available to them. Despite their circumstance, some incarcerated veterans may be eligible for VA benefits, including disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial.

With the assistance of Community Resource Managers in each CDCR facility, CalVet staff is visiting facilities to ascertain the service delivery system within the California prison system and to identify best practices. Along with regularly scheduled visits and providing information to each CDCR institution's library, CalVet will be able to identify gaps in current service, identify ongoing issues related to veterans accessing their benefits, develop a best practice model for other CDCR institutions, and connect veterans to benefits-related information and forms.

To learn more about benefits available to incarcerated veterans, go to http://www.benefits.va.gov/PERSONA/veteran-incarcerated.asp.

LOCAL CHEFS TO COMPETE IN CALVET MRE COOKING CHALLENGE

The California State Fair in Sacramento will honor patriots during Military Appreciation Day on Thursday, July 17, 2014 with a variety of specially designed attractions and exhibits. Veterans, active duty military, reserve and retired will be admitted for free on that day with appropriate ID. Those who have a Distinguished Veteran Pass will be admitted without charge for the entire run of the Fair, July 11-27, 2014.

As part of the tribute and part of the fun, CalVet will host an MRE (meal ready to eat) Cooking Challenge featuring local chefs. When the contest begins, chefs from The Foundation, Blackbird Kitchen, Hook and Ladder, Rubicon Brewing, Papa Dale's Mobile Diner and Moon River Inn Café will have 30-minutes to create a culinary "masterpiece" using randomly-selected MREs and other simple ingredients provided.

News10 talent will help judge the dishes created based on taste, presentation, skill level, use of MRE ingredients, and competitor showmanship. Winners will receive official State Fair ribbons, bragging rights and maybe even some new customers.

Join the fun and cheer for your favorite chef in the California Kitchen located in Building B at Cal Expo.

1. Qualifying Round 1
   11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
2. Qualifying Round 2
   1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
3. Final Round
   7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Please also visit the CalVet information table (located near the Administration Building) to learn about your state and federal education, employment, housing, health and other veterans benefits. We'll be there all day.

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.

(L-R) U.S. Navy Logistics Specialist Third Class Lauren Wallace, World War II Veterans Gordon Caldis, Evelyn Rockwell, Charles Stein

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE VETERANS LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER

By Julie Cusaator

A program hosted by the Fresno Veterans Home brought together military personnel from the past, present and future. Three World War II veteran residents from the Home and five enlisted sailors from Naval Air Station Lemoore formed a panel to answer questions of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) students from five area high schools.

"These men and women have amazing stories and experiences to share," said Roy De La Cerda, the Fresno Home's administrator. "We wanted to give the JROTC cadets and opportunity to ask their questions and speak with those soldiers who came before them."

Many questions the JROTC cadets had for the panel were about what to expect when they go to boot camp. Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Allison Stahl shared how difficult it was for her to go way to boot camp.

"I enlisted while I was still in high school. My parents weren't happy about it," Stahl said. "Going away to boot camp and leaving everything behind was the hardest part. But if you keep going, keep pursuing that dream you know you wanted in the first place, then you'll be fine."

Many of the JROTC cadets attending the program were young women. They were curious about what life is like for a woman in a male-dominated field.

"I grew up with all brothers, so it was in my nature to deal with guys before I went into the Navy," said Logistics Specialist Third Class Lauren Wallace. "Still, it's hard, because guys have certain behaviors and some treat you differently because you are a female, even though you can do everything they can."

Wallace also shared how eye-opening it was to see how women in other countries are treated and how they do not enjoy as much freedom as women have in the United States.

The three World War II residents of the Home shared the most compelling stories.

"It was such a shocking time for us when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor," said Evelyn Rockwell, a member of the Navy Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or WAVES. "My brother, who was two years older than I, immediately enlisted. He joined the Marines and ended up fighting in Guadalcanal and various parts of the Pacific. I was 19 at the time and felt I was invincible, so I volunteered too."

Gordon Caldis was a PT boat captain during WWII. The students asked him about being afraid during the war.

"I never felt fear. When you are in charge, you have so many things to think about, orders to give and tactics to consider, that fear doesn't enter in. There just isn't time," he said.

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Caldis went on to describe the intense sadness he felt witnessing so much death. However, he also shared the immense surprise and joy he felt when he returned home. He had been out of communication with his wife for over a year and when he returned home, he discovered he was the father of a 9-month-old son.

The overwhelming sentiment from all the service personnel, past and present, was to encourage the JROTC cadets to take advantage of all the benefits and programs available to them through the armed services. They shared that today's military is so much more than "picking up a gun and going to war."

Today's military is technically trained men and women who are a tremendous resource for this country.

VA PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES SEEKING BENEFITS

After close consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is providing guidance to same-sex married couples on the benefits and services to which they are entitled under current laws and regulations.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which governed the definitions of "marriage" and "spouse" for all federal agencies. However, there remain certain provisions of federal law governing veterans' benefits and services that, like DOMA, define a spouse as a member of the opposite sex. In September 2013, the U.S. Attorney General announced President Obama's directive to cease enforcement of those VA-specific definitional provisions.

However, another provision of the law governing VA – 38 U.S.C. § 103(c) – requires the Department to look to the place of residency rather than the place of celebration to determine whether a veteran's marriage is recognized for the purposes of VA benefits. This statutory requirement to look at the laws governing marriage in the place where the veteran or veteran's spouse resided at the time of the marriage or at the time they filed their claim or application precludes VA from recognizing certain same-sex marriages, such as when a couple has never lived in a state that recognizes same-sex marriages. VA has worked with DOJ to develop guidance to process claims and applications for same-sex married couples while still following the statutory requirement to look to the place of residency.

VA is committed to treating all Veterans and their spouses as equally as possible under the law. Since the Windsor decision, VA has worked with DOJ to develop guidance to process claims and applications for same-sex married couples while still following the statutory requirement

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NEW ENGINEERING TECH PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

Las Positas College, in Livermore, California, is taking applications now for a new Engineering Tech Program for veterans beginning this fall semester. Developed by Las Positas College in partnership with engineers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), this two-year Associate in Science Degree program will give student veterans the skills and experience they need to qualify for Engineering Technologist positions at national laboratories, NASA and other public and private agencies.

"We are proud to partner with LLNL to create a local pipeline of qualified people for these jobs," said Las Positas College Veterans First Coordinator Todd Steffan. He said Engineering Technologists typically earn about $50,000-$60,000 per year.

As part of the program, students will benefit from a paid internship, guaranteed registration and additional student support, tutoring and counseling. Coursework, which is specifically designed for the program, includes courses in Math, Engineering, Welding and English. The program provides skills training in welding, machining, fabrication, prototyping and engineering. Most all courses are approved for GI Bill® benefits.

Applicants must be veterans and must be eligible to take Math 55 (Intermediate Algebra) in the fall semester. Prerequisite classes and assessments are offered during the Summer Session.

The Las Positas College Veterans First Program provides veterans with services and resources to help them achieve their educational goals. This past academic year, more than 300 veterans or active duty military personnel were enrolled at the college. The college has been recognized as a Military Friendly School by "G.I. Jobs" magazine, placing the college in the top 15 percent of educational institutions nationwide.

Veteran support services include a full-time program coordinator, priority registration, transfer workshops, a book loan program, a study/drop-in tutorial center, work-study program and an active Student Veterans Organization.

For more information, go to www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans, call (925) 424-1571 or e-mail TSteffan@laspositascollege.edu.

to look to the place of residency. Importantly, the administrations within VA will aim to apply the same level of scrutiny to all veterans' marriages, regardless of whether it is a same-sex or opposite-sex marriage. VA will therefore process claims and applications involving same-sex marriage in the same manner that VA processes claims based on opposite-sex marriage without any additional scrutiny or development. This means generally that VA will accept a claimant or applicant's assertion that he or she is married as sufficient evidence to establish a veteran's marriage for the purpose of VA benefits. VA has made efforts to ensure that claimants will not be negatively impacted as a result of the time that has passed while developing this guidance.

VA is now processing all claims and applications involving same-sex marriages that were previously being held by the program offices. VA launched a new website and is continuing to update forms to inform Veterans and beneficiaries of the recent changes in the law and procedures. The new website provides important information to help Veterans and beneficiaries understand the eligibility requirements under federal law and VA regulations, and answers frequently asked questions.

Veterans can learn more about VA's guidance regarding same-sex marriages at http://www.va.gov/opa/marriage or by calling (800) 827-1000.

WHEN A CHILD'S PARENT HAS PTSD

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health problem that can occur after someone goes through a traumatic event like war, assault, or disaster. Sometimes, PTSD affects not only the person who experienced the traumatic event, but their family members as well.

Some research shows that children of veterans with PTSD are more likely to have problems with behaviors and school and problems getting along with others. Their parents see them as more sad, anxious, aggressive, and hyper than children of veterans who do not have PTSD. Some research has also found that PTSD in a parent is related to violence in the home and to children acting violent. But it is important to note that most veterans have homes without violence.

Some children of combat veterans with PTSD are more sad and anxious than children of non-combat veterans who do not have PTSD. Although not common, children may start to have symptoms like the ones the parent has. For example, a child may have nightmares about the parent's trauma. Children may have PTSD symptoms related to watching their parent's symptoms. For example, a child might have trouble paying attention at school because she is thinking about her parent's problems. The impact of a parent's PTSD symptoms on a child is sometimes called "secondary traumatization." Since violence occurs in some homes in which a parent has PTSD, the children may also develop their own PTSD symptoms related to the violence. A child's PTSD symptoms can get worse if there is not a parent who can help the child feel better.

Teenage children of veterans with PTSD can also be affected by their parent's symptoms. One research study compared teens of non-veteran fathers to those with Vietnam combat veteran fathers. The teens of the Vietnam combat veterans showed worse attitudes toward school and toward their fathers. They were more sad and anxious and were less creative. Their mothers also rated them as having more problem behaviors. However, their behavior at school and their social functioning looked like the children of non-veterans. This might be because the fathers in this study were not actually diagnosed with PTSD. Overall, teens' problems are much more likely when the parent Veteran has mental health issues, such as PTSD.

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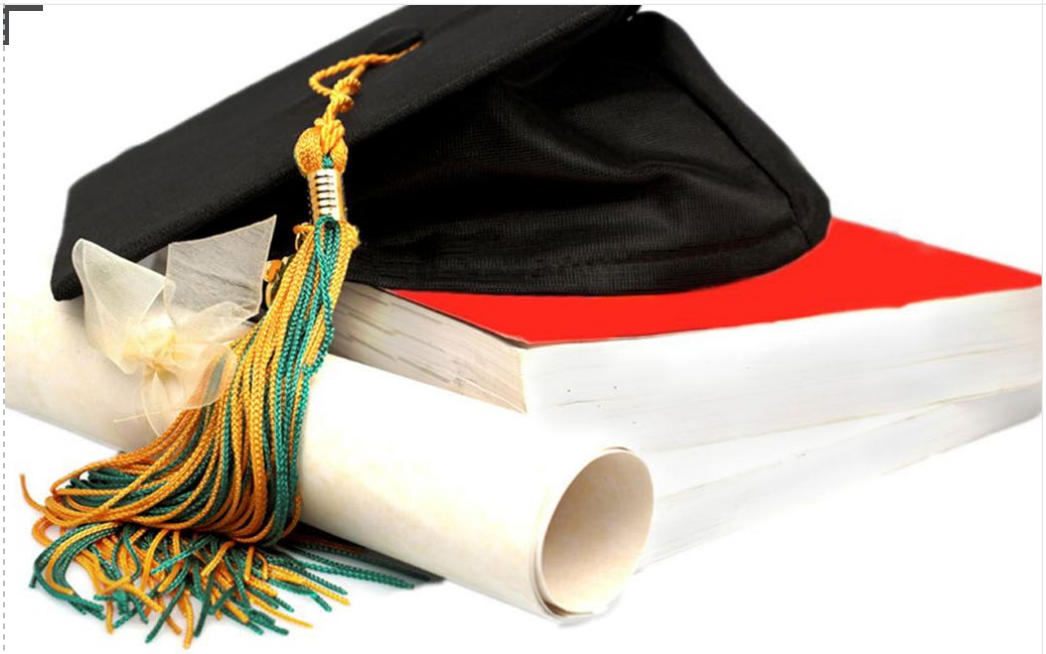
A good first step in helping children cope with a parent's PTSD is to explain the reasons for the parent's difficulties. Be careful not to share too many details of the event(s) with the child. How much you say depends on your child's age and maturity level. It is important to help children see that your symptoms are not their fault. Some parents want help with what to say to their children, and a counselor could help with this.

There are also many treatment options. Treatment can include individual treatment for the veteran or adult with PTSD as well as family therapy. Family therapy supports the parent with PTSD and teaches family members how to get their own needs met.

Children may benefit from their own therapy as well, which might differ based on the child's age. Each family is different, and decisions about what kind of treatment to seek, if any, can be hard. The most important thing is to help each member of the family, including the children, say what he or she needs.

Vet centers across the country and some U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities offer group, couples, and individual programs for family members of veterans.

For more information about PTSD, go to the National Center for PTSD website at www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/children-of-vets-adults-ptsd.asp, call (802) 296-6300 or e-mail ncptsd@va.gov.



GI BILL BENEFIT SUSPENDED FOR CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.

In an effort to protect student veterans, Calvet's California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE) suspended the approval of one of state's largest for-profit colleges late last month following the school's admission that it might not continue to operate. Corinthian Colleges, Inc. (CCI) and its subsidiaries, which own 23 California Everest, Heald and WyoTech colleges, made public disclosures in late June that their fiscal reserves were likely not sufficient to remain open following punitive action by the U.S. Department of Education in delaying financial aid payments.

CSAAVE took immediate steps to suspend the enrollment of new veteran students and cap benefits extending beyond the June-July term for current GI Bill recipients. The suspension requires CCI to present CSAAVE with a plan demonstrating the ability to meet all its obligations to effectively teach veterans. CSAAVE actions underscore its responsibility to ensure schools approved to teach veterans operate free from circumstances that would negatively impact teaching operations. CCI has 60 days to provide the information requested in the suspension letter, or possibly face permanent loss of CSAAVE approval, meaning veterans could no longer use their GI benefits at those schools.

CSAAVE began monitoring CCI's compliance with federal regulations following the announcement by the California Attorney General's Office (AG) that it was filing suit against the company for alleged false and

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predatory advertising, intentional misrepresentations to students, securities fraud and unlawful use of military seals in advertisements. (A story about the AG's complaint was published in November, 2013 edition of CalVet Newsletter.) While awaiting a judicial finding regarding the AG's complaint, CSAAVE determined that the CCI's public admission in its June 19, 2014 Security and Exchange Commission filling were indisputable grounds for the suspension

CSAAVE is working very closely with the CCI schools as well as other state and federal agencies in order to minimize the impact of this suspension on the veterans. As of July 8, 2014, the state agencies responsible for approving schools for veteran's education benefits in Hawaii, Florida, New York, and Virginia have followed with their own suspensions.

As part of the plan to address the immediate needs of the approximate 1,700 GI Bill recipients attending CCI schools, CSAAVE staff will make outreach visits to each campus to meet with veterans and address their concerns in the coming weeks. CalVet has also created an online resource page for veterans who are impacted. That page can be found at https://www.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/GI-Bill-Benefit-Suspended-for-Corinthian-Colleges,-Inc.aspx.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 14

JULY 12
Orange County Veterans' Fair
Garden Grove Elks' Lodge
11551 Trask Ave., Garden Grove

JULY 12
Welcome Home Bike Run & BBQ
Western Gateway Park
18560 Penn Valley Drive, Penn Valley
Contact: (530) 272-3300

JULY 17
California State Fair
Military Appreciation Day
Free admission for Active, Guard, Reserves, Veterans with appropriate ID
CalExpo, Sacramento

JULY 18
Veterans Employment Transitional Fair
3302 N. Blackstone Ave., Ste. 225, Rm. 314
Fresno
Contact: (559) 230-4077

JULY 19
Military & Veterans Career Expo
10:00a - 3:30p
DeAnza College
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino

JULY 23
Hiring Our Heroes
10:00a - 1:00p
University of Phoenix
3150 Bristol Street, Ste., 100, Costa Mesa

JULY 26
Women Veteran Professional Network
Swords to Plowshares
10:00a – 4:00p
1727 Haight Street, San Francisco
Register: http://conta.cc/1oj4VI3

JULY 31
Military/Veteran Job Fair
10:00a - 1:00p
Raley Field
400 Ballpark Drive, West Sacramento
Contact: (916) 376-4867

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

CalVet News
1227 O Street, Room 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
P (916) 653-2192
F (916) 653-2611
pao@calvet.ca.gov

JP Tremblay
Deputy Secretary, Communications

Carolyn Ballou
Public Information Officer

Jaime Arteaga
Public Information Officer

Ron Brand
Public Information Officer

Thomas Moralez
Graphic Designer

Greg Nannini
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