



[Check the Website for DAV Chapter #23](#)



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Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday May 28, 2025.

DAV Chapter #23 Monthly Meeting Location:

VFW Post 3173 Anaheim, CA. 805 E Sycamore St, Anaheim, CA 92805

All Monthly Meetings will be the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Save Chapter Monthly Meeting Dates in your Phone Calendars and set alerts

E-Board How to know what Color polo Shirt to wear:

RED (3) Letter = ODD: 1-Jan / 3-March / 5-May / 7-July / 9-September / 11-November

BLUE (4) Letters = EVEN: 2-Feb / 4-April / 6-June / 8-August / 10-October / 12- December

Setup Volunteers, Please arrive at 4:00 PM to assist with the meeting room.

1700-1800 - E-board meeting (Back room)

1800-1900 - Social Hour (Meal Time)

1900-TBD - Members Meeting



Feeling Generous and want to make a Donation to our chapter?

Donate by Mail

Make Checks Payable to: "DAV - Chapter #23"

Mail to: DAV Chapter #23, PO Box 10335, Santa Ana, CA 92711

Your gift gives ill and injured veterans the opportunity to live a life with respect and dignity. Help change the lives of even more veterans in need with a donation to DAV Chapter 23 today.

About Your Gift, By making a gift to DAV Chapter 23, you are empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

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Thursdays Weekly Brunch get together with our Brothers/Sisters in Arms!
Know someone interested in joining our Chapter?



Bring them or have them join us at Denny's on any Thursday 12:00 - 2:00. Let's support each other. This is an informal get together, the food is on your dime. The restaurant is veteran-friendly, casual, and comfortable. You can usually find 15 or more DAV Chapter 23 members from all military branches (*young & old*) hanging out and enjoying each other's company.

Location: DENNY'S [1695 E Lincoln Ave, Orange, CA 92865](https://www.dennys.com/locations/1695-E-Lincoln-Ave-Orange-CA-92865)

Corner of: Lincoln / Tustin Ave, just off the 55 Freeway

Contact: "Nightrain" Joe Gramolia to be added to his email list reminder
(jammer6979@aol.com)



Congratulations 2025-2026 E-Board

Commander Randy "Ron" Counts / Jr. Past Commander Mel Forbes
Sr Vice Commander Bob Sanchez / Jr Vice Commander Jesse Valdez
Treasurer Richard Sundell / Chaplain Doug "Chief" Zimmer
Chaplain Charles Frost / Committee Member Karen Kingsley
Committee Member David King / Committee Member William Combs
Adjutant/Secretary Wayne Ogelvie / Judge Advocate Joe "Nightrain" Gramoglia
Sergeant-At-Arms? / Officer Of The Day?
Benefits Protection Team Leader Giovanni D. "John" Tornicelli
Membership Administrator / Webmaster / John "Mack" Mackus
Come and show your support to these "Unpaid" Volunteers and ask how you can support this year's mission.

Volunteer, still needed for Memorial week Fund raising, If you can assist, give the commander a call. Phone number listed on DAV23.com

FYI -

Dear Community Partners,

We are excited to share that the **Tierney Center for Veteran Services** will be hosting a **Disneyland Employment Workshop** on **Thursday, May 29th, from 10:30 AM to 1:00 M.**

This in-person event has been thoughtfully designed to support the Veterans we collectively serve and will include valuable insights into employment opportunities at Disneyland Resort, a recognized military-friendly employer.

The workshop will feature two major components:

1. **Recruitment Presentation:** Representatives from Disneyland's recruitment team will deliver a Veteran-focused presentation highlighting the benefits of employment with Disneyland, the organization's historical ties to the military, and the internal support systems available for veterans, specifically the SALUTE Business Employee Resource Group (BERG), which is dedicated to veteran engagement and professional growth.
1. **Veteran Panel Discussion:** Following a complimentary lunch for all attendees, a panel of veterans currently employed at Disneyland will share their personal career journeys. These panelists, representing various departments and backgrounds, will provide authentic perspectives on how their military experience contributed to their professional advancement within The Walt Disney Company.

At the conclusion of the workshop, attendees will have the opportunity to connect directly with D to ask questions, gain tailored advice, and explore potential career pathways.

We kindly ask for your support in sharing this opportunity with the Veterans you serve. Encouraging us ensure we are adequately prepared to provide food and seating for all participants.

Event Details & Registration Link:

👉 [Disney SALUTE & Tierney Center Information Session & Panel Discussion](#)

Please feel free to reach out to our team with any questions about the event. We sincerely appreciate and commitment to empowering Veterans as they transition into meaningful civilian careers.

Orange County Veterans Cemetery Update.





VA Long Beach Healthcare System proudly offers Audiology services at our Laguna Hills VA Clinic location. Scheduled Appointments Only - call 562-826-5414

[Be vigilant of scammers targeting SMC benefits, Purple Heart recipients](#)

The increased financial compensation associated with SMC benefits and the visibility of Purple Heart recipients can attract scammers looking to exploit Veterans.



Veterans who receive higher compensation with Special Monthly Compensation (SMC), Purple Heart recipients, Veterans receiving income-based pension or survivors' pension, and those receiving specially adapted housing (SAH) benefits are frequently targeted by bad actors.

The increased financial compensation associated with [SMC benefits](#) and the visibility of Purple Heart recipients can attract scammers looking to exploit Veterans. These scams range from identity theft and fraudulent investment schemes to fraudulent financial services charging unnecessary fees for services VA offers for free.

VA is committed to safeguarding Veterans, their families and [caregivers](#) against fraudulent activity, and it provides the following guidance to protect Veterans' benefits and avoid [benefit payment redirection](#).

- Do not share VA.gov usernames, passwords or answers to security questions with anyone—including family members, accredited representatives, or anyone who receives compensation from their VA benefits.
- Do not deposit VA benefits directly into a bank account that does not have the Veteran's name on it, such as a caregiver's bank account. VA benefits should be deposited into a bank account the beneficiary can access, and where the beneficiary's name is included on the account.

Pension poaching

VA [pension](#) and [survivors' pension](#) are income-based benefits which are frequently targeted by bad actors in a scam called 'Pension Poaching'. Pension poaching is a financial scam where bad actors advise Veterans to transfer assets or add unnecessary home health care expenses so they can adjust their income to qualify for VA pension or survivors pension benefits. Obtaining VA benefits through deceptive practices may require Veterans (and not the bad actor) to repay any falsified amounts. If a Veteran needs assistance filing a claim for [VA benefits or services](#), they should work with a [VA accredited Veterans Service Organization representative, attorney or claims agent](#).

Specially Adapted Housing Grant recipients

Veterans with a service-connected disability who have been approved for [Specially Adapted Housing](#) grants should exercise caution when hiring contractors. Many scammers go door to door, so be wary of uninvited home improvement salespeople. Veterans should obtain multiple bids for any home improvement project, take time to decide on a contractor, seek references, read reviews and contact licensing agencies for verification. Veterans should also take the following precautions:

- Verify necessary permits are filed with the city before the contractor initiates work. Regularly check on the progress of your home improvements.
- Ask questions about the quality of materials, get a breakdown of costs for specific tasks, and verify the contractor's source of labor and meeting licensing requirements by state.
- Always read contracts carefully. Legitimate businesses usually provide a contract to protect their business, and a well-written contract should protect the homeowner, too.
- Do not sign a contract with blank areas to be filled later by the contractor.
- Carefully read all contracts and do not sign them if they are not readily understandable. If there are questions, contact a lawyer for assistance.
- Do not be rushed into signing a contract. The salesperson or contractor should willingly leave the contract with the Veteran so they can read it carefully on their own time. If anyone exerts pressure to sign immediately or is unwilling to leave a copy for review, it is a red flag.

One of the best ways we can honor a Veteran's service is to protect their benefits against scams by raising awareness and keeping them informed about the common scams impacting Veterans with high SMC benefits, Purple Heart recipients and their dependents.

If a Veteran is missing a VA benefits payment, identifies a discrepancy in payments or finds suspicious activity with their direct deposit account, they should contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000. Veterans who suspect they have experienced fraud can find resources to [file a report to the appropriate agency at VSAFE.gov](#), by visiting <https://vsafe.gov/>, or calling 833-38V-SAFE.



Updated Veteran Service Officer Scheduling Process

The graphic is a blue and white informational poster. At the top left is the VA logo and the text 'U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, VA Long Beach Healthcare System'. To the right, a blue box contains the title 'Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Scheduling Process'. Below the title, the text reads: 'We are currently experiencing a significant volume of VSO appointment requests and are diligently working to respond to all calls and emails received. Effective September 23, appointments can only be scheduled via phone. Call (562) 826-8713 for an appointment. Visits with local VSOs can still be scheduled through the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and online. Call 1-800-827-1000 to schedule local non-VA Long Beach VSOs through VBA.' On the left side, under the heading 'Additional Resources', there are four QR codes. The first is labeled 'Find a VA accredited representative or VSO:', the second 'VBA Appointment Scheduler', the third 'California Association of County Veterans Service Officers:', and the fourth 'Orange County Veterans Service Office'.

We are currently experiencing a significant volume of VSO appointment requests and are diligently working to respond to all calls and emails received.

Effective September 23, appointments can only be scheduled via phone. Call (562) 826-8713 for an appointment.

Visits with local VSOs can still be scheduled through the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and online. Call 1-800-827-1000 to schedule local non-VA Long Beach VSOs through VBA.

You may also schedule a VSO appointment online using the following resources:

[VBA Appointment Scheduler](#)

[California Association of County Veterans Service Officers](#)

[OC Veterans Service Office](#)

[VA implements new flag display policy at facilities](#)



VA [has announced a new policy](#) limiting the display of flags at [VA facilities](#), effective immediately. The policy is intended to establish consistency across the department and aligns with longstanding Department of Defense guidelines.

Under the new directive, only specific flags may be publicly displayed or depicted at VA facilities. These include the United States flag, flags of U.S. states and territories, military service flags, VA flags and official flags of U.S. agencies. Additionally, flags representing prisoner of war/missing in action (POW/MIA), Senior Executive Service (SES), military command units and burial flags for honoring Veterans and reservists are permitted.

The policy applies to all VA facilities, including offices, government vehicles, medical centers, common areas and parking lots. However, it does not prohibit the inclusion of unauthorized flags in museum exhibits, state-issued license plates, grave sites, historical displays or works of art, provided they do not imply official endorsement by the department.

This guidance supersedes VA's previous memorandum on displaying flags during Pride Month, issued in May 2024. However, it does not affect existing policies governing national cemeteries.

"All Veterans and VA beneficiaries will always be welcome at all VA facilities to receive the benefits and services they have earned under the law," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins said in an email to all employees. "This policy will bring consistency and simplicity to the display of flags throughout the department, ensuring a singular focus on serving the needs of Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors."

VA's implementation follows similar policies maintained by the Department of Defense since the previous Trump administration and upheld during the Biden administration.

Eligibility for Veterans Pension

The Veterans Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements, and who have income and net worth within certain limits. Find out if you're eligible for this benefit.

Am I eligible for Veterans Pension benefits?

You may be eligible for the Veterans Pension program if you meet these requirements.

Both of these must be true:

- You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, **and**
- Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth includes all personal property you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe. Your net worth includes the net worth of your spouse.

[Find out about Veterans Pension rates](#)

And at least one of these must be true about your service:

- You started on active duty before September 8, 1980, and you served at least 90 days on active duty with at least 1 day during wartime, **or**
- You started on active duty as an enlisted person after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions) with at least 1 day during wartime, **or**
- You were an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and you hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

And at least one of these must be true:

- You're at least 65 years old, **or**
- You have a permanent and total disability, **or**
- You're a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability, **or**
- You're getting Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income

How do I know if I served under an eligible wartime period?

Under current law, we recognize the following wartime periods to decide eligibility for VA pension benefits:

- Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or in adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)

- Vietnam War era for Veterans who served **in the Republic of Vietnam** (November 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975)
- Vietnam War era for Veterans who served **outside the Republic of Vietnam** (August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation)

What should I do if I received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge?

If you've received one of these discharge statuses, you may not be eligible for VA pension benefits.

There are 2 ways you can try to qualify:

- [Find out how to apply for a discharge upgrade](#)
- [Learn about the VA Character of Discharge review process](#)

How do I apply?

You can apply online right now.

[Apply for Veterans Pension benefits](#)

Or you can apply by mail, in person, or with the help of a trained professional.

[Learn more about how to apply](#)

RESOURCES

Some California State Benefits

California offers special benefits for its military service members and veterans including motor vehicle registration fees waived, veterans license plates, fishing and hunting licenses, state parks and recreation pass, business license, property tax exemptions, disabled veteran business enterprise business license, tax, and fee waiver. Eligibility for some benefits may depend on residency, military component and veteran disability status.

- [College Fee Waiver](#)

The College Tuition Fee Waiver for Veteran Dependents benefit waives mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus.

- [Fishing and Hunting Licenses](#)

This benefit reduces annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses for disabled veterans.

- [License Plates](#)
- [State Parks and Recreation Pass](#)

A lifetime State of California Parks pass. The pass is free of charge and entitles the holder to the use of all basic State Park System operated facilities at no further charge.

- [Veterans Tax Benefits](#)

Veterans Tax Benefits

Benefits and Services for Veterans and their Families

[Education](#) / [Employment](#) / [Healthcare](#) / [Home Loans](#) / [Housing](#) / [Advocacy](#) / [VA Claims](#)

Custom benefits and services [Login Register](#)

Contact CalVet: 1-800-952-5626

[Contact Us](#)

VA Benefits Hotline: 1-800-827-1000

Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 Press 1

No-cost camp for veteran, military kids opens registration



For the 13th year, the DAV-supported Camp Corral summer program will return to support the children of those who've served. Between June and August, Camp Corral will host 21 weeklong summer camps across the country, providing recreational opportunities and assistance to children ages 8 to 15 who have a parent who either is a disabled veteran or died as a result of their service.

DAV has been a long-standing champion for Camp Corral due to their programs designed to empower children who share in the sacrifices of military service. Through DAV's Just B Kids scholarship program, more than 6,800 children of ill, injured or fallen veterans and service members have attended Camp Corral programs at no cost to their families. This special camp gives them the opportunity to simply be kids while making connections, building coping skills and increasing self-confidence.

"In 2016, we began our partnership with Camp Corral to help expand the program's outstanding mission to support veterans and their families," said DAV National Adjutant Barry Jesinoski. "Children of disabled or fallen veterans have endured unique hardships and sacrifices due to their parents' service. We're grateful for Camp Corral's commitment to providing kids from around the country the joy of a week away at camp and a community with which they relate."

As a national leader and provider of educational resources, research and advocacy related to the challenges faced by wounded, ill and fallen military service members' children—many of whom provide caregiving duties within their families—Camp Corral partners with DAV to build life skills, resilience and independence. [View schedule](#)

House Passes 7 Bipartisan Bills for Veterans and their Families

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Washington, April 10, 2025 | [Kathleen McCarthy](#)

Subcommittees: [Full Committee](#)

Today, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.), released the following statement after the House passed seven bipartisan veterans' bills this week:

"I am proud to see the House advance six bipartisan bills this week for veterans and their families. Each of these bills will cut through the bureaucratic red tape and get veterans their benefits faster. Including a commonsense bill to cut down on the legal jargon in the disability claims process, and another bill to allow veterans to use their education benefits in the best way that works for them and their family. These are solutions that make a real difference in veterans' day to day lives," **said Chairman Bost.** "I want to thank Rep. Barrett, Rep. Van Orden, Rep. Ciscomani, Rep. LaLota, and Del. Moylan for their leadership on these bills to make VA work better for the veterans, their families, and their survivors it serves."

The following bills were passed out of the House this week:

[H.R. 1228](#) – Prioritizing Veterans' Survivors Act (Rep. Ciscomani)

[H.R. 981](#) – VETT Act (Rep. Van Orden)

[H.R. 983](#) – Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2025 (Rep. Van Orden)

[H.R. 586](#) – Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act, as amended (Rep. LaLota)

[H.R. 1039](#) – Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act, as amended (Rep. Barrett)

[H.R. 877](#) – Deliver for Veterans Act, as amended (Del. Moylan)

[H.R. 970](#) – Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2025 (Rep. Strickland)

**2025 Military Discounts Offered by Stores,
Services and Online Sites**

<https://veteran.com/military-discounts/>



Discounts and Deals for Veterans

[National Park Service](#) Free lifetime pass.

[GET YOUR FREE LIFETIME PASS](#)

[SAVE MONEY, FIND MORE DISCOUNTS](#)

Need a Ride?



Use the [DAV Hospital Service Coordinator Directory](#) to contact your nearest HSC for information or assistance about getting a ride.

DAV operates a fleet of vehicles around the country to provide free transportation to and from VA medical facilities for injured and ill veterans. [Volunteer drivers](#) operate these vehicles at more than 247 VA locations around the country.

Since the program's inception in 1987, DAV departments and chapters have donated 3,833 vehicles and Ford Motor Co. has donated 269 vehicles at a cost of more than \$100 million.

Hospital Service Directory

To find out whether there is vehicle near you, use the [DAV Hospital Service Coordinator Directory](#) to contact your nearest HSC. Because the DAV Transportation Network is staffed by volunteers it is unable to cover every community. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver, please [let us know](#).

[Locate your nearest VA Medical Center](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VA Long Beach Ca.

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week

Healing Touch Drop-In Clinic

Events at VA



Healing Touch Drop-In Clinic

11 a.m. to noon

Bldg. 166 (Blind Rehab)
Room F235

Healing Touch is energy healing - a holistic practice where certified healers work with you to help balance, harmonize, heal and remove blockages from the body.

Offered 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays

For more information: Linda Garrow, 562-826-8000 x1-6269

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VIL Long Beach Healthcare System

Calling all enrolled Veterans! Got 15-20 minutes? Join us for a Healing Touch treatment! This energy treatment is a relaxing, nurturing, heart-centered energy therapy that uses gentle, intentional touch that assists in balancing physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. It's complementary to standard medical care.

Healing Touch is beneficial in calming anxiety and reducing symptoms of depression, decreasing pain, strengthening the immune system, enhancing recovery from surgery, complementing care for neck and spine problems, deepening spiritual connection, supporting cancer care, creating a sense of well-being, easing acute and chronic conditions, and supporting resiliency in health care providers. Fifteen minute treatments are given as you sit in a chair.

Meet us in building 166, room F235. No appointment needed, just show up. We are here from 11:00-Noon the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays of every month. Bring a Veteran friend!



VA NEWS

[Veterans May Be Eligible for an Additional Year of G.I. Bill Benefits](#)

Are you a Veteran who served at least two periods of service? In other words, [did you reenlist](#)? If so, there's a chance that you're eligible for additional G.I. Bill benefits.

Today, VA announced that it has updated its process for awarding G.I. Bill benefits. This means that many Veterans who served multiple periods of military service ([for example, Veterans who reenlisted](#)) may be eligible for additional benefits for themselves or their beneficiaries.

[Read more](#)

[Whole Health](#)

Joe Fox knew there had to be more to healing than pain medication. The Air Force Veteran found what he was looking for in a ceramics lab. A potter's wheel and wood-fired kiln empowered him to transform his pain, addiction, and depression into something beautiful: hope. With the help of Whole Health, Joe is using what he learned during his own personal development journey to show other Veterans how they can build wellness through art and community.

[Read his story.](#)

Experience the healing power of the Creative Arts at VA Long Beach! VA Long Beach offers Creative Arts Therapy groups (Operation Art & Story Corps), Ceramics, Woodworking, and the Patient garden. To enroll in any of these programs, 1) stop by the Veterans Resource Center (Building 165, Room C108, 2) Call (562) 826-8000, ext. 1-8670, and/or 3) Ask your healthcare team to place a Whole Health consult.

[My VA Health: New Sign-On](#)

Prepare for VA's sign-in changes

We're moving to a more modern online sign-in experience — to simplify your options and continue to protect your identity and benefits.



Here's what's changing for VA websites and mobile apps:

- After March 4, 2025, we'll remove the option to sign in with a My HealtheVet user ID and password.
- After September 30, 2025, we'll remove the option to sign in with a DS Logon username and password.
- You'll then have two sign-in account options: **Login.gov** or **ID.me**.

Note: Your My HealtheVet portal isn't going away. We're just changing the way you sign in.

Create your account now

Learn why we're making these changes — and how to create your Login.gov or ID.me account.



www.va.gov/sign-in-changes

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

In 2025, you'll need to switch to using a Login.gov or ID.me account to sign in to all VA websites and apps - including My VA Health.

[Create your account now](https://www.va.gov/sign-in-changes)



RESOURCES

[Health & Heroes Magazine](#)

We hope you find [Health & Heroes](#) a helpful resource to keep you informed about the many great resources and services available at VA Long Beach Healthcare System (VALBHS). We look forward to highlighting and sharing stories about our Veterans and the dedicated team members who are entrusted with your care.

We want you to have the information you need to manage your health and live your healthiest life. We're excited to bring you [Health & Heroes](#) and hope you enjoy our facility magazine!

[VA Resource Navigator](#)



Are you a Veteran but you're not sure where to start with the VA? Check out the [VA Resource Navigator](#), a short, sweet combination of all the most valuable resources to get you started on your way to VA benefits and health care. [Read more](#)

MyVA411



[VA Podcast Network](#)

The [VA Podcast Network](#) offers a diverse selection of top-quality podcasts made with a Veteran community in mind. Each podcast specializes on a different topic and covers gripping content that no Veteran should want to miss out on.

[#theSITREP - VA YouTube Channel](#)

[Mindfulness Meditation - Free Classes](#)

[VA Health and Benefits App](#)

[The Bulldog](#)

[PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#)

[Caregiver Support Program](#)

VA Caregiver Support Line

1-855-260-3274 toll-free

Check your Veteran Health Identification Card

1.5 million VHICs have or will expire soon

The Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) is not required to receive VA health care, but it is beneficial to quickly check in for your VA appointments.

Please see the notification regarding the VHIC renewal is not a scam: The National Health Eligibility Center (HEC) is in the process of notifying 1.5 million Veterans nationwide that their VHIC has or will expire soon.

How to renew online... the preferred method



Renew your [VHIC online](#). Online or self-service requests are processed by our local team as soon as possible.

Make sure your camera is in photo mode when scanning the QR code. Go directly to the website noted on the postcard. If the QR code doesn't work, choose the VHIC option and submit the required information to renew your card.

Once your card request is submitted, you will receive a response that your request is “On Hold.” The card request will then be manually reviewed and approved for printing and shipping.

Card processing procedures

Once your VHIC request (photo and ID) has been received, the facility will review your photo and ID to make sure it meets the requirements.



If your VHIC request didn’t meet the guidelines, you will receive an email stating why and you will be asked to re-submit online or at your local VA facility.

Presenting in person will not result in receiving your renewed card any faster.

All cards are printed and mailed from a central off-site location regardless of renewal method. Normal processing time is 7 to 14 days for domestic and 21 to 30 days for foreign addresses, but could be longer during this mass renewal period. If it has been longer than 30 days, contact your local VA facility.

If you renew online and your card request status says HOLD or On Hold, your card request was received and is in the queue for processing.

Travel pay is not authorized when visiting a VA location solely for the purpose of renewing a VHIC; however, you can renew your VHIC before or after your next VA appointment. Having a VHIC is not required to receive VA health care.

In-person renewals

If renewing in person, bring a valid or non-expired state-issued driver’s license, passport, or federal, state or local government-issued photo ID containing your name and date of birth. There may be a bit of a wait due to the high volume of walk-ins. The renewal process includes presenting a valid photo ID and taking a photo for your VHIC renewal.





Dial 988 then press 1
Text 838255
[Chat online](#)



Southern California Fires Update

Our hearts go out to all those impacted by the tragic fires. Our posture continues to evolve as the fires persist. VALBHS will continue to monitor the situation and are prepared to implement additional safety measures, as necessary.

VA services in Long Beach are open and operational to include the main hospital, emergency department, and all Community Based Outpatient Clinics.

Additionally, VA has proactively reached out to share updates and resources to Veterans and employees potentially impacted by the fires.

Veterans in need of disaster-related assistance can call the **VAGLAHS resource line at 877-251-7295** for information and support. Phone support is available 24/7 through the VISN 22 Clinical Contact Center at 1-800-952-4852, Option 2 to for virtual care and support (including pharmacy) to Veterans.

For the latest updates on VA Long Beach Healthcare System, please visit our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [website](#).

More information can also be found at the [VA Disaster Help website](#).

VA Community Resource and Referral Center

Do you know a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless?

The VA Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) may be able to help. The CRRC is a service center located in the community that offers a one stop shop approach for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless with access to VA and community-based services including housing, medical and mental health care, supportive services and access to VA and non-VA benefits. No appointment necessary!

Location Information:

VA Community Resource and Referral Center
888 W Santa Ana Blvd. Suite 150
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 568-9803

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – noon & 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Services available:

VA Enrollment, Storage Lockers, Transportation, Hygiene Items, Phone Access, Mail Service, Food access & Snacks, Housing (GRP, HUDVASH), Peer Support, Brief Case Management.

Monthly Community Partner Schedule:

Volunteers of America: First & Third Monday 10:00 a.m. – noon

Mental Health America OC: First & Third Tuesday 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Veterans Benefits Administration: Second Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – noon

1736 Family Crisis Center: Second & Fourth Thursday 10:00 a.m. – noon

OC Social Services Agency: Second Friday 8:00 a.m. – noon



The Community Resource and Referral Center, located in downtown Santa Ana, CA, has started providing additional resources onsite for Veterans who are currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These services include Veterans Benefits Administration, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Volunteers of America Los Angeles & 1736 Family Crisis Center), Orange County Social Services Agency (Medi-CAL, CAL Fresh, General Relief), and OC MHA Veteran Services.

Location Information:

VA Community Resource and Referral Center
888 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Suite 150
Santa Ana, CA 92701
714-568-9803

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



VA NEWS

Whole Health

Army Veteran Bill Seelaus struggled with homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues. Then a beginner's Tai Chi for Arthritis class at his local VA Medical Center enabled him to embark on a journey of recovery. Now, a Whole Health approach has empowered him to take the next step toward helping fellow Veterans and building a healthier relationship with his family. Whole Health inspires Veterans like Bill to discover their mission, aspiration, and purpose.

[Read his story.](#)

Experience the healing power of Tai Chi at VA Long Beach! To request a Tai Chi referral, reach out to your healthcare team today

[2025 National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic - September 7-12](#)

Veterans with visual impairments and other qualifying, life-changing disabilities are given an opportunity to develop new skills and challenge their perceived limitations through adaptive golf and a variety of other activities. The event uses a therapeutic format to promote rehabilitation, fellowship and camaraderie among the Veterans attending.

For those interested in applying as a Veteran participant, please review the qualifying disabilities listed below. If you have a qualifying disability please review the informational letter below and download a [Veteran participant application](#). The application window for Veteran participants is from January 13th – April 4th, 2025.

All the activities offered by the NDVGC office will give Veterans an opportunity to develop new skills, strengthen their self-esteem, and expand fellowship and camaraderie among the participants. The event provides eligible Veterans with an opportunity to participate in therapeutic adaptive sporting and other recreational activities; which demonstrates that having a visual impairment or physical disability is a conquerable obstacle to an active, fulfilling and rewarding life.

Qualifying disabilities include:

- Visual Impairments
- Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)
- Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI)
- Limb-loss or amputations
- Parkinson's
- Multiple Sclerosis
- CVA with Residual

Common disabilities that do not qualify include:

- Anxiety
- Chronic Pain
- Degenerative Joint Disease
- Depression
- Low Back Pain
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

All disabilities are subject to review the by National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic medical director and program director. If you have any questions related to qualifying disabilities please contact Nick Beelner at (319) 358-5963 or Nicholas.Beelner@va.gov.



California 100% Disabled Veterans Vehicle Registration Procedures

21.095 Disabled Veteran License Plates and Fees Exemption (VC §§5007 and 9105)

A qualified disabled veteran is exempt from the payment of all fees, **except** fees for duplicate certificates, license plates, and stickers for **one** passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds or less, that is **not** used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit that is owned by the disabled veteran and displays Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plates. Vehicles assigned DV License Plates expire on 12/31/XX and must be renewed annually.

The fee exemption in VC §9105 can be used for one vehicle only. An individual who qualifies for more than one type of fee-exempt license plate, such as POW or DV License Plate, **cannot** obtain both.

Certification Card—A disabled veteran must present a Disabled Person or Disabled Veteran License Plate Certification Form (REG 3060), upon request, to law enforcement or parking enforcement personnel, which verifies the person's eligibility for DV License Plates. The license plate owner must be the driver or a passenger for the vehicle to be eligible for disabled person (DP) parking privileges.

Disabled Veterans With Special Interest License Plates—A qualified disabled veteran who chooses to have special license plates on his/her vehicle rather than DV License Plates must have a DP placard displayed in the vehicle to receive the disabled veteran parking privileges.

Disabled Veterans Who Are Also Purple Heart Recipients—A disabled veteran who is also a Purple Heart recipient may request the DV License Plate fee exemption and issuance of Purple Heart License Plates in lieu of DV License Plates.

In this case, advise the applicant that a DP placard **must** be displayed in the vehicle to receive the DP parking privileges.

In addition to the requirements for a DV License Plate application, the applicant **must** provide the proof of eligibility documentation required for the issuance of Purple Heart License Plates, as shown in the Purple Heart License Plates section in this chapter.

Original Sequential License Plate Application—The following must be submitted:

- The current registration card in the applicant's name or the document required to register the vehicle to the applicant.
- A letter issued by a USDVA Regional Office specifically for the disabled veteran program stating the veteran's service-connected disabilities or a USDVA letter certifying that the veteran meets the service-connected qualifications of a disabled veteran, according to the provisions of VC §295.7.
- A Disabled Veteran Certification front of Miscellaneous Statement of Facts (REG 256A) form completed by the applicant and must include the:
 - License plate number, vehicle identification number, year model, and make of the vehicle.
 - Disabled veteran's certification (Section A).
 - Disabled veteran's signature (Section F).
- A medical certification (reverse of REG 256A) form completed by an authorized medical provider certifying that the veteran meets the qualifications of a disabled veteran, according to the provisions of the VC §295.7. Only one eligibility box on the form needs to be checked.
- A USDVA certification letter is acceptable in lieu of a medical certification on the back of the REG 256A.

The USDVA certification letter:

- **Must** certifying that the veteran meets the service-connected qualifications of a disabled veteran, according to the provisions of the VC §295.7. Only one eligibility box on the form needs to be checked.
- Does not require the signature of a medical professional.
- Can be signed by an authorized employee of USDVA.

Continue to accept a letter from the USDVA that certifies the applicant meets the service-connected qualifications of a disabled veteran as described in VC § 295.7 in lieu of the medical certification

The license plates currently assigned to the vehicle or a completed Statement of Facts (REG 256) form requesting fees exemption but not disabled veteran license plates.

Proof of Eligibility Required—The veteran must submit a letter issued by a USDVA Regional Office specifically for the disabled veteran program stating the veteran's service-connected disabilities or a USDVA letter certifying that the veteran meets the service-connected qualifications of a disabled veteran, according to the provisions of VC §295.7.

Renewal/Reassignment—No additional fee for renewal or reassignment . **Retention**—Do not require an additional fee for retention.

Surrender of License Plates Required—DV License Plates must be returned to DMV within 60 days of the death of the disabled veteran, or by December 31 of the current registration year, whichever occurs first.

Transfer of Ownership—The DV License Plate remains with the owner and the transfer is processed as usual. Refer to Chapter 11 for transfer procedures.

VETERANS DESIGNATION ON YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE/ID CARD

Veteran Driver License and ID Available

HAVE YOU EVER SERVED IN THE U.S. MILITARY? YOU MAY QUALIFY TO PROUDLY DISPLAY **VETERAN** ON YOUR CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD.

IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

1 Find your military discharge certificate (DD214). If you need assistance obtaining your military records, then contact your County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO).

2 Take your DD214 and government identification to your CVSO to obtain your Veteran Status Verification Form.

3 Go online or call DMV for an appointment. Then bring your Veteran Status Verification Form to DMV. Complete your application, pay any fees including the \$5 fee to add the Veteran Designation.
Note: tests may be required.

For faster CVSO service, schedule an appointment by finding your local CVSO at www.calvet.ca.gov or calling 1-844-737-8838.

To schedule an appointment at a DMV, visit www.dmv.ca.gov or call 1-800-777-0133.

CAL VET
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



No Cost to
Those Served

**AMERICA'S
VET DOGS**
EST. 2003

**Service Dogs for Veterans and
First Responders with Disabilities**

**LEARN ABOUT ELIGIBILITY
& APPLY TODAY!**

VetDogs.org/Apply

<https://www.vetdogs.org/Apply>

Some other Service Dog Resources:

Service Dog Veterinary Health Benefit i.e. Fact Sheet on Service Dogs Veterinary Benefits & Non VA Related Resources

<https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/ServiceAndGuideDogs.asp>

MS/Resources/Guide & Service Dogs - VA

https://www.va.gov/MS/RESOURCES/Guide_and_Service_Dogs.asp

America's Vet Dogs

<https://www.vetdogs.org/AV/getaservicedog/AV/DogPrograms/getaservicedog.aspx?hkey=d285bc4c-8089-4569-a7c6-46f60f48cb4d>

Canine Companions for Independence

<https://canine.org/>

UCLA Health - Therapy Dogs vs. Service Dogs

<https://www.uclahealth.org/programs/pac/about-us/therapy-dogs-vs-service-dogs>



Guard Yourself Against Scammers Impersonating VA

Scammers often send official-looking posts or emails trying to hijack your personal information and steal your benefits as well as health care and other identifying information. Learn about precautions you can take to guard your benefits.

[LEARN MORE](#)



MIA Update: See website

<https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaRecentlyAccountedFor>

Fraud Prevention Kit- U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs

To Report Financial Abuse or Fraud

- To report the misuse of a Veteran's VA benefits, call 1-800-488-8211 or email VAOIGHotline@VA.gov
- You may also contact the Veterans Benefits Administration at 1-800-827-1000 or VA Fiduciary Hub at 1-888-407-0144
- For assistance concerning VA Extended Care & Home Care (rand, email: VHA.PurchasedLTSSSupportGroup@va.gov)
- Visit the **Elder Abuse Resource Roadmap: Financial** to find the right reporting agency for financial harms at elderjustice.gov/roadmap



Other Helpful Resources

- Visit the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect's Veteran website <http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/veterans.asp>
- A *Guide for VA Fiduciaries* can be downloaded at http://benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY/Fid_Guide.pdf

For more information about the Department of Justice's efforts to prevent and combat elder abuse, please visit the Elder Justice Website at:

elderjustice.gov

elderjustice.gov

How to Get Immediate Help

Call 911
For life threatening circumstances

Call the Veterans Crisis Line
If you are in imminent danger and would like immediate assistance
1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), Press 1
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

Contact your local Adult Protective Services
Find your local Adult Protective Services office using the locator map
<http://www.napsa-now.org/get-help/help-in-your-area/>



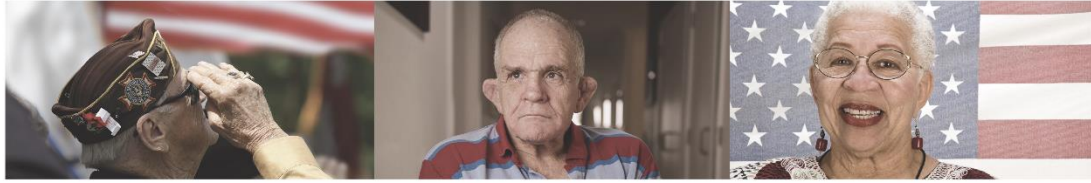
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ElderJustice
INITIATIVE

Get the facts about

Elder Abuse

Empowering Older Veterans



Older Veterans may be at Risk for Elder Abuse

- Almost 10 million Veterans are 65 or older. National studies find that over 10% of older adults are victims of elder abuse annually.
- Exposure to combat and military sexual trauma is associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and physical, mental health, alcohol, and drug problems. These problems are known to put older adults at risk for abuse and financial exploitation.
- Family members and caretakers may encourage or force older Veterans to take drugs or drink excessively to make them "easier" to care for or exploit financially.
- Veterans who have poor relationships with their families may not receive adequate care by these family members.
- Veterans who receive Veteran benefits such as a VA pension, VA Compensation per VBA, or Aid and Attendance can be at risk for financial abuse.
- As a result of providing care for an older Veteran with physical and mental health problems, caregivers may experience a decline in their own physical and mental health.

Warning Signs by Type of Abuse

Physical Abuse

- Bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, or rope marks
- Broken eyeglasses
- Medication overdose or under-utilization of prescribed drugs
- A sudden change in behavior

Psychological Abuse

- Being emotionally upset, agitated, withdrawn, non-communicative, or non-responsive
- Unusual behavior such as sucking, biting, or rocking
- The caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see an older Veteran alone
- Apologizing excessively

Sexual Abuse

- Bruises around the breasts or genital area
- Unexplained venereal disease or genital infections
- Showing fear or becoming withdrawn when around a specific person
- Unexplained blood found on sheets, linens, or clothing

Neglect and Abandonment

- Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, and poor personal hygiene
- Unattended or untreated health problems
- Unsanitary, unclean, or unsafe living conditions
- The desertion of an older Veteran at a shopping center or other public location

Financial Abuse

- Unexplained changes in bank accounts or banking practices
- Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- Sudden unexplained transfer of assets

Claim Shark companies have made statements that they aren't breaking the law because they don't charge fees for "preparing" veterans' claims. Claim Sharks state that they "assist" or "consult" for veterans' claims, and this how they rationalize why they should be allowed to charge thousands of dollars for their services.

This is still illegal. Using creative semantics to skirt the law is not innovative, and it is not honest or transparent.

There are no "good actors" or "bad actors". Every company that charges for initial claims assistance is doing it illegally.

Claim Sharks say veterans should have the "choice" to be fleeced out of thousands of dollars. No matter how much money these companies spend on Capitol Hill, We will not allow them to dismantle consumer protections and normalize harming veterans.

VA care and benefits access expanded to some previously denied



In April, the Department of Veterans Affairs posted a final rule amending its regulations regarding character of discharge determinations, expanding access to VA care and benefits for some former service members discharged under other-than-honorable conditions or by special court martial.

The VA's new regulation expands access to care and benefits for certain former service members with other-than-honorable and bad-conduct discharges. The VA character of discharge determination does not change the military's characterization of service and has no effect on the former service member's military discharge status. The VA's determination is for VA benefits and services eligibility only.

This opens the door for previously denied service members to reapply for VA benefits and services. If you have been previously denied VA benefits and services because of your discharge status, DAV benefits advocates can help you file for a character of discharge determination. Please contact your nearest DAV service office by visiting benefitsquestions.org.

VETERANS, GET ON THIS TODAY:

DON'T MISS OUT ON WHAT BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU.

**"You can only blame yourself if you are
not receiving the VA benefits you rate"**

**The VA will only give you what you ask for,
So ask for every injury you know you received in service,
remember most injuries get worse over time for most of us aging veterans
(Yes, We know a Few of you are Extremally healthy)**

**You can do this yourself Online,
Just need to create a VA.Gov account if you have not already done so.**

DAV Veteran Service Officer (VSO)

Were here to help you submit your claim/s.

Long Beach VAMC

5901 E. 7th St.

Bldg. 8, Room 107

Long Beach, CA 90822

Hours: 8-3 M-F

(562) 826-5711

Department Service Officer:

Bryan Root

562-826-8000 x8587

bryan.root@davcal.org



Disabled American Veterans Department of CA

Website: <https://www.davcal.org/newsroom.html>

Hours: Weekdays: 8-4

DAV California Headquarters, 13733 E Rosecrans Ave.

Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Phone: (562) 404-1266

Fax: (562) 404- 8044

Your Local DAV National Service Officer (NSO) can help with:

- Assisting veterans in filing claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs for compensation, pension, healthcare, and other benefits.
- Caregiver benefits
- Guidance on state and local veteran benefits
- Burial benefits for qualified veterans and their spouse
- Vocational Readiness and Employment benefits

SAN DIEGO, CA YOUR OFFICE
VA Regional Office
8810 Rio San Diego Dr, Ste 1160
(619) 299-6916

Have Ideas for the New Website / Newsletter,
Please send them in.

I am always looking for new content for the website and our Newsletters,



Link's to things you need to know



Careers and Employment



Life Insurance



Disability



Pension



Burials and Memorials



Education and Training



Housing Assistance



Records

VA is here for you.

[1-800-MyVA411](tel:1800MyVA411) ([800-698-2411](tel:8006982411)) is always the right number



[DAV Helps Keep the Promises Made to Veterans](#)

DAV--Disabled American Veterans--is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year. The organization provides more than 500,000 rides for veterans attending medical appointments annually and has assisted veterans with more than 12 million benefit claims since the organization was chartered by Congress in 1932. In 2022, DAV helped attain more than \$26 billion in earned benefits to care for veterans, their families and survivors.

Hello New DAV Chapter #23 Partial & Full Life Members
You are a Life Member once you pay \$325.00
Click link below to join now



Recruit A Warrior

[Recruit a Warrior](#)

If you are a Paid up for Life Member, Come to our meeting
(4th Wednesday of each month). Show the Commander (Ron Counts) your Life Membership
card and receive a DAV Chapter Tee Shirt while supplies last.



FURNITURE PICK-UPS

Patriots and Paws provide our Veterans/Active Military/Reservists and their families with the items donated at no cost to them. Thank you for your interest in donating to Patriots and Paws! For more information and to arrange for a pick-up, visit PATRIOTS and PAWS.us 🐾



For any Information that needs to be put into our newsletter. Please email Newsletter editor: [Past Commander John "Mack" Mackus](mailto:PastCommanderJohnMackus@msn.com)



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GySgtMackus@msn.com
www.DAV23.com

**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED**

ORANGE COUNTY DAV CHAPTER #23

MONTHLY MEETING'S: 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
LOCATION: VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3173
805 E. SYCAMORE ST., ANAHEIM, CA 92805

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