



JANUARY 2026



**THE VETERANS EASY ACCESS PROGRAM  
AND**

**THE SALVATION ARMY**



**WISH YOU A PROSPEROUS AND BLESSED  
NEW YEAR**

Majors Neil & Rubina Navarro  
760/324-2275  
neil.navarro@usw.salvationarmy.org  
rubina.navarro@usw.salvationarmy.org  
30-400 Landau Blvd,  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Bill Young  
760/861-0037  
majorbill1@aol.com

Editor:  
Deanna Young  
760/832-2883  
readback.veap@gmail.com

## KEY SENATE EFFORTS FOR VETERANS

In late 2025 and looking toward 2026, key Senate efforts for veterans include funding bills like the FY2026 VA Appropriations Act (\$133.5B discretionary, \$312.3B total funding), healthcare access bills such as S.3466 (VA Health Improvement) and S.219 (VA/Community Care Choice Program), compensation adjustments via bills like S.2392, and reform measures like S.1657 (Review Every Veteran's Claim) and the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act (H.R.333), alongside initiatives for Purple Heart education benefits and firearms storage.

### Key Senate Bills & Initiatives (119th Congress - 2025-2026)

#### Health Care & Access:

S.3466: Aims to improve overall VA healthcare services.

S.219: Proposes a pilot program to let veterans choose providers from VA facilities, community care, and Veterans Care Agreements, with potential permanent expansion.

S.1657 (Review Every Veteran's Claim Act): Seeks to stop VA benefit denials solely for missing a medical exam.

#### Benefits & Compensation:

FY2026 VA Appropriations: Provides significant funding for VA medical care, benefits, and advance appropriations for FY2027.

S.2392 (Veterans' Compensation COLA Act): Links disability, dependent, and clothing allowance increases to the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment.

H.R.333 (Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act): Allows some disabled veterans to receive both military retirement and VA disability pay.

Purple Heart Education: A bill (related to SB926) to allow unused Post-9/11 education benefits to be transferred by Purple Heart recipients.

#### Support & Reform:

S.264 (Improving Veterans' Experience Act): Establishes a Veterans Experience Office to boost customer satisfaction with VA services.

VA Procurement Reform: Legislation passed in late 2025 to standardize and streamline how the VA acquires goods and services.

#### Emergency Relief:

Social Security Emergency Inflation Relief Act: A Democratic proposal from late 2025 to temporarily boost Social Security and VA benefits by \$200/month due to inflation.

#### Firearms Safety:

SB926 (Related): A bill to provide certain veterans with secure firearm storage items.



## FEBRUARY DEADLINES

Dec. 1, 2025, 12:51 PM PST / Source: Reuters

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration said on Monday it will begin charging air travelers \$45 on February 1 if their IDs do not meet stricter federal standards, a move aimed at encouraging travelers to get the enhanced identity documents.

In May 2025, the TSA began enforcing the standards known as “REAL ID” but gave warnings and conducted enhanced screening for passengers without the new IDs. TSA officials said they would urge passengers without REAL IDs to obtain them or pay the fee before arriving at the airport. The \$45 fee will cover travel for a 10-day period.

On November 20, TSA said in a notice posted in the Federal Register that travelers could face an \$18 fee if they did not have REAL ID but officials in a briefing with reporters said that they had raised the price because expenses for the option were higher than forecast.

The fees are nonrefundable and it may take travelers up to 30 minutes to pay the fee to go through security if they fail to pay before arriving at the airport. Officials said in extraordinary circumstances they could waive the fees.

Children under 18 do not have to present an ID at an airport checkpoint. Most travelers use state-government-issued driver's licenses that meet the requirements but passports issued by any government are also an acceptable form of ID as are other forms of IDs, opens new tab including permanent resident cards, Department of Defense IDs, DHS trusted traveler cards and others.

Congress in 2005 approved new, stricter federal standards for issuing identification cards but enforcement has been pushed back repeatedly. People also need those IDs to visit a federal building.



## VA NEWS: PEER SUPPORT

Because sometimes the best support comes from a peer...

Everyone, including Veterans, faces challenges. Sometimes these challenges lead to a breaking point. It could be a tough transition, an illness, a job loss or a divorce. It could be feeling isolated from the people you served with or disconnected from people who've never served.

If the weight of life starts piling up, and those moments edge toward crisis, it can leave you feeling exhausted, frustrated or even wondering why you can't "handle it better."

In reality, no one has it all figured out. And you're not alone in feeling that way, no matter how it may seem right now. If you're feeling isolated or overwhelmed, peer support can help you feel seen, understood and connected.

### **What's peer support?**

Think about a time someone was there for you and listened—really listened—when you were going through a tough time. They didn't try to fix it or one-up your experience. They heard you. They showed up. They understood the weight you were carrying and reminded you that you don't have to carry it alone. That's what peer support is all about.

With VA peer support, trained and certified peer specialists, use their own experiences to help other

Veterans. They've walked similar roads—mental health challenges, substance abuse, relationship changes, a tough transition to civilian life, or even thoughts of suicide. They understand how heavy life can feel, and they're ready to walk beside you.

### **How does it work?**

When you connect with a peer specialist, they'll share what's worked for them, help you set goals, and point you toward resources, whether that's through VA or in your community. It's not about handing you a checklist or telling you what to do. It's about figuring things out together, at your pace, with someone who knows where you're coming from.

Peer specialists are available in VA facilities across the country. You can meet one-on-one, join a group session, or even connect by telehealth. If you call, chat or text the Veterans Crisis Line, a peer specialist from the Peer Support Outreach Center may follow up afterward to help you build a plan and get connected with the right support.

### **Does it actually help?**

In a word, yes. Veterans who work with peer specialists often say they feel less alone and more hopeful. Research shows they're more likely to stay connected with VA, take advantage of available resources and services, and feel supported in facing whatever life

throws their way. Peer support can make daily life feel more manageable and help you build confidence in handling whatever comes next.

### **Why it matters**

Peer support works because it's real. It's Veterans helping Veterans. Not as a fixer, but as a teammate who's got your back.

If things feel too heavy to carry, remember: You don't have to carry them alone. Reaching out isn't weak. It's a sign that you know your own limits and that you're ready for backup.

You don't have to wait until things spiral to take that step. Whether you're feeling disconnected, stuck or just need someone who truly gets it, peer support is there. And the best part? You'll meet other Veterans who've been through hard times and found their way forward—living proof that healing is possible.

### **Take the next step**

If you're ready to connect with a peer specialist, contact your local VA Medical Center and ask about peer support services. Whether you're dealing with everyday stress or navigating a potential crisis or thoughts of suicide, support is available.

You can also call, chat or text with the Veterans Crisis Line 24/7: Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text 838255.

## GROUP PLANS TO REBUILD THE LEGENDARY BIRTHPLACE OF THE MARINE CORPS

In the early days of boot camp, every Marine is told that their beloved Corps was founded in Tun Tavern, a Philadelphia bar and brewery, on November 10, 1775. Beyond that, little else is known about the historic meeting place, even among leathernecks. The tavern was razed in 1781.

Patrick Dailey is founder of the Tun Legacy Foundation, a nonprofit organization that wants to build an authentic reproduction of the tavern as a monument to the original's place in American history. The goal is for the foundation's Tun to be a gathering place that will inspire civic engagement and philanthropy.

The foundation had a ceremonial groundbreaking for the project on November 10, 2024, but construction is delayed as it continues to raise funds for the Tun which will be a three-minute walk from the original tavern's site – at the corner of Water Street and Tun Alley, now covered by Interstate 95.

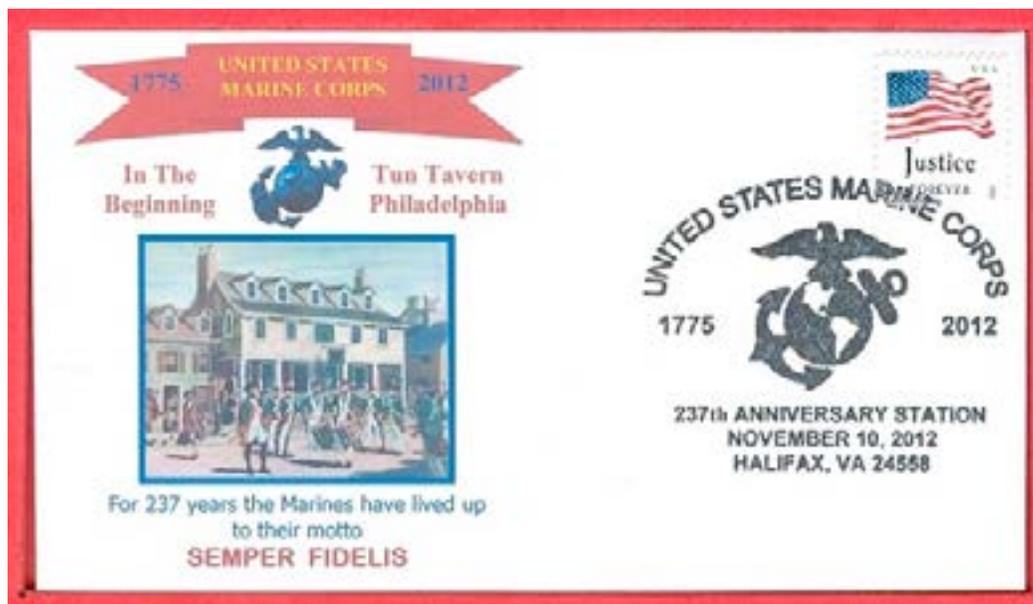
Opened in 1686, Tun Tavern hosted

patrons such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and members of the Continental Congress. It was an early gathering place for the Pennsylvania Freemasons and numerous other groups.

Future President John Adams was part of a seven-man committee that met at the tavern in October 1775 to draw up plans to establish the U.S. Navy. But it is Tun Tavern's connection to prominent Philadelphian Samuel Nicholas that cements it in Marine Corps lore.

After Congress authorized creation of the Continental Marines on November 10, 1775, Nicholas was given authority to raise two battalions. He led the recruiting drive from the pub, which had strategic value due to its location on the Delaware River waterfront. Nicholas was commissioned a captain in the sea-to-land service, which was patterned after the British military Royal Marines. He led a successful raid on a British military depot in Nassau and established the Marine Barracks in Philadelphia after the British evacuation. He fought gallantly throughout the American Revolution before retiring as a Major. Marine Corps historians consider Nicholas the service's first commandant.

"To re-create this building as a gathering place for Marines to be commissioned, recommissioned, enlist, get married and have events ... is going to be of great importance to them," he adds. "That's reflected by the number of people who just come here to look at the historical marker." From an article by John Raughter





## US SPACE COMMAND BREAKS GROUND

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth visited the site of U.S. Space Command's future home Dec. 12 and endorsed the move to establish the headquarters here after years of political back and forth.

Space Command is currently located in Colorado Springs, Colo., which has been its provisional home since it was re-established in 2019 during President Donald Trump's first term. In recent years, there has been a bitter political tug-of-war over its location.

During the waning days of Trump's first term in 2021, his administration selected Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville as the command's permanent location. But President Joe Biden overturned that decision in July 2023, keeping the command in Colorado for the time being. In December of that year, SPACECOM declared full operational capability at Peterson Space Force Base, Colo.

With Trump's return to the White House, Biden's decision was reversed in September, and Redstone Arsenal again became the new command's future home.

Hegseth, Meink, Whiting, and others unveiled the sign for Space Command in a nearly empty field.

The construction equipment, which provided a backdrop, signaled that the command still has a long way to go before it is operational in Alabama.

Officials say the unveiling was a milestone in the Trump administration's push to make Alabama the permanent location of America's newest combatant command.

The process to transfer the combatant command, which has advanced capabilities and responsibilities such as orbital warfare, is expected to take years. Operators need to have fully functional capabilities in place before they can assume their role in Huntsville.

While Hegseth and other officials emphasized the importance of speed—the invocation delivered by an Army chaplain prayed for on-time and on-budget military construction—none provided a precise timeline for the move.

The number of Space Command's personnel at Redstone Arsenal is currently in the single digits but is expected to grow to a few dozen in the early part of next year, a SPACECOM spokesperson told Air & Space Forces Magazine. In total, the move involves transferring more than 1,300 personnel, 60 percent of whom are civilian employees, from Colorado to Alabama, Whiting said in a speech in Huntsville on Dec. 10.

Air & Space Forces Magazine traveled with Hegseth on his trip to Huntsville, which included a stop at Boeing's facilities that produce advanced PAC-3 seekers for Patriot ballistic missile defense systems and the Army's newly established Portfolio Acquisition Executive Fires, which was established to align with the Pentagon's acquisition reforms. He also visited the headquarters of the Missile Defense Agency.

The SPACECOM spokesperson said there would be "irreversible progress" within several years to move the command to Alabama, while maintaining its capability in Colorado in the interim. Whiting met with Hegseth last month at the Pentagon to discuss plans for the move.

The Army's service component to SPACECOM, Space and Missile Defense Command, is located at Redstone Arsenal. But the Space Force's service component to U.S. Space Command, U.S. Space Force Combat Forces Command, is set to remain in Colorado Springs. "Once established, this warfighting platform will optimize our already unmatched mission readiness and ensure the United States continues to lead and shape military spacepower for the future fight because it is vital we remain the world's preeminent space power, ensuring that America's interests are protected in the high frontier," Whiting said. "We must guarantee that there is never a day without space."

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM PAUL HARVEY

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker"

-- so God made a Farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper, then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board"

-- so God made a Farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild; somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it"

-- so God made a Farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt, and watch it die, then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps; who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, and then pain'n from tractor back, put in another seventy-two hours"

-- so God made a Farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds, and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place

-- so God made a Farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark."

It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners; somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church; somebody who would bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh, and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says that he wants to spend his life "doing what dad does"

-- so God made a Farmer.

**"Success is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.**

**-Colin Powell**

# SURVEY: 3000 WOMEN VETERANS ACROSS CALIFORNIA HEARD

## What you need to know:

New survey results from California women veterans highlight clear priorities and insights that will inform statewide efforts on how to address and meet the needs of women who served our nation.

SACRAMENTO — Nearly 3,000 women veterans across all 58 California counties have spoken — and their voices highlight key themes and areas of opportunity. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) recently released findings from its 2025 Women Veterans Survey, one of the largest efforts of its kind in the state's history.

## Key Findings

- Greater awareness and utilization of high impact services: More women veterans are turning to VA Healthcare and County

Veterans Service Offices to file claims.

- Ongoing themes: Respondents cited challenges related to Military Sexual Trauma, housing stability, service-related disability claims, and mental and behavioral health.

## Emerging Priorities:

Increased focus on LGBTQIA+ experiences and caregiving responsibilities than in past surveys.

## Why It Matters

Women now represent 11% of California's veteran population. The 2025 survey results provide critical insights to help federal, state, and local government and community partners deliver more inclusive and effective support.

The full report is available at [cal-vet.ca.gov/womenvets](http://cal-vet.ca.gov/womenvets).



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 20, 2019



## Veterans Coalition Keeping In Touch



The Coachella Valley Veterans Coalition (CVVC) is currently in the final stages of formation. The founding committee has completed the core groundwork, including the development and review of bylaws, governance policies, and a phased action plan to ensure transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability. These foundational materials will be shared with partner organizations and refined through collaborative feedback.

The Coalition is now entering its formal launch phase. Next steps include nonprofit incorporation, securing federal tax-exempt status, opening initial financial accounts, and finalizing branding and communications. An email will be sent shortly to all participating organizations to schedule the next coalition meeting and provide a detailed progress update, along with an overview of upcoming milestones.

We are grateful for the continued support and partnership of organizations like The Salvation Army as we work together to bring the CVVC fully to life.

HAPPY NEW YEAR:  
Steve Sanchez  
ssanchez@laquintaca.gov

# MILITARY HISTORY

January 1962: The U.S. Navy authorizes the first two SEAL (Sea, Air and Land) teams. One team stationed on the West Coast (San Diego) and one on the East Coast (Virginia Beach, VA). Their first deployment came during Vietnam.

January 1, 1863: President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation took effect freeing slaves in rebellious states, a major turning point in the Civil War.

January 15, 1943: The Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense was dedicated. Before the Pentagon, the Department of War was headquarters in the Gregory Building, a temporary structure erected during WWI along Constitution Ave on the National Mall. The War Dept., which was a civilian agency created to administer the U.S. Army, was spread out in additional buildings on the National Mall as well as other buildings in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

January 28, 1986: At 11:38AM Space Shuttle Challenger lifts off from Cape Canaveral Florida with a crew including the first "ordinary citizen", 37-year old New Hampshire teacher Christa McAuliffe. The launch had been delayed 6 days due to weather and technical concerns. It exploded 73 seconds after take-off with no survivors.

January 30, 1862: Monitor, the Union's first iron-clad vessel is launched at Greenpoint, NY

January 31, 1958: Explorer I, the first successful U.S. satellite is launched by a Jupiter C Rocket, moving the United States into the space age.



January 16, 1991: Operation Desert Storm, the Coalition's military operation to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation began.

January 21, 1972: The prototype of the S-3 Viking, the Navy's first jet-powered antisubmarine warfare aircraft makes its first flight.

January 26, 1970: U.S. Navy Lt Everett Alvarez Jr spends his 2,000th day in captivity in Southeast Asia. First taken prisoner when his aircraft was shot down August 5, 1964, he was eventually released in 1973.

January 27, 1939: First flight of the Lockheed P-38 Lightning, a staple of U.S. aircraft in WWII

January 27, 1967: A launch pad fire during Apollo program tests at Cape Canaveral, Florida kills Astronauts Gus Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chafee.

January 28, 1915: President Woodrow Wilson signs into law the "Act to create the Coast Guard"

# ASFA ON THE FLY



## A Message from the New Chapter 134 President

Chapter 134 is alive and thriving with solid membership (and growing), great programs and lots of opportunities for fellowship. We have much to be proud of and even more to look forward to.

Coming off a special Holiday Luncheon December 18th, attended by several Valley dignitaries and the instalment of the new officers for 2026, we have a number of major goals for the New Year. First and foremost is to focus on the National ASFA Mission to promote careers in aviation and the military. We are also well aware of our unique relationship with the Palm Springs Air Museum (PSAM) as our host facility. Most ASFA chapters reside on or near Air Force Bases. We are blessed to have the PSAM provide many opportunities to work alongside them, but also to access their great facility for meetings and interact with many of their docents who have become valued members of our organization. We look forward to growing that bond further in the coming years.

One of the major programs developed over the past couple of years is our extension of the ASAF Cyber Patriot Program. Currently, in the second year of competition, our Cyber Challenge has a number of local High School teams competing for the trophy won last year by the La Quinta High School JROTC. The competition will close with awards presented to the new champions in January. Those reaching required levels of scoring will next be able to compete at higher levels in the national Cyber Patriot Competition.

Our Community Partner program is growing and three in particular are worth mentioning. Our long time partnership with the local DAV chapter and all the great work they are doing for veterans is self-explanatory. Our partnership with Roc's Firehouse Café includes twice a month gatherings with one featuring a special guest speaker. Finally, our special relationship with the General Patton Memorial Museum at Chiriaco Summit, an amazing museum to visit with many unique displays. While visiting the museum, plan to stop in at their restaurant for a great meal.

There is much more to look forward to in 2026 as the new leadership seeks to expand upon existing programs and develop new ones. I will be going into more detail on what the Chapter is and what we hope to be in future ReadBacks. Meanwhile, consider coming to a meeting and joining us. Next monthly meeting is Thursday January 8th starting at 2PM at the Palm Springs Air Museum and is open to all. Normally, meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 2PM. Questions? Contact Bill Young at [majorbill1@aol.com](mailto:majorbill1@aol.com)



**JOIN OUR MEETINGS HELD AT THE FAMOUS  
PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM EACH MONTH**



## ONLINE VETERANS DISCOUNTS

Sometimes it's just easier to shop from the comfort of our own homes. That's why it's so great that so many military discounts are available online.

As you scroll through the following deals, keep in mind that many companies require you to verify your military status online in order to redeem the discount, but sometimes all that's required is a coupon code or an email or phone call to customer service.

### **Fitness**

Although some gyms like 24 Hour Fitness offer military discounts on memberships, there are also fitness options at home.

Peloton, which streams live and on-demand workout classes, offers active-duty military, veterans, reservists, and registered dependents special pricing on App Memberships and equipment. Barre3 provides full-body, low-impact workouts, and it offers military discounts on subscriptions to its online classes. The Fitness App by Jillian Michaels, which provides customized workouts and meal plans, offers up to a 40% military discount off all subscription tiers after verification. And Aaptiv, which provides access to thousands of workouts, offers a military discount on their annual subscription plan.

### **Education**

Whether you're a parent homeschooling your children or you're a student looking for a little extra help with school assignments, Tutor.com can help for free. Tutor.com provides on-demand online academic help with live tutors at no cost to eligible military families.

Have you always wanted to learn a different language? Babbel can help you get started with military discounts.

### **Electronics and Gadgets**

If you're looking to upgrade your devices, Apple offers a military purchase program that allows veterans and active-duty service members to take 10% off eligible products and accessories.

### **Home and Garden**

If you're working on indoor or outdoor home improvement projects, both Lowe's and Home

Depot offer military discounts that are available online.

For more specific home wants and needs, iRobot, Maytag, KitchenAid and Waterdrop all offer military discounts online.

Looking for a new mattress? Several mattress companies, such as Tuft & Needle, Purple and Saatva offer military discounts when buying online.

For coffee lovers, Fire Department Coffee offers military discounts. And if you're looking for drinkware, YETI and Corkcicle offer military discounts online as well.

### **Clothing**

Military families can find a long list of online discounts for various types and styles of clothing, including the following:

- DEVIL-DOG Dungarees
- UNTUCKit
- Carhartt
- Columbia
- The North Face
- L.L.Bean
- Buckle
- Roxy
- J.Crew
- Levi's
- Under Armour
- Wrangler
- Hanes
- American Giant
- Bonobos
- Quiksilver
- vineyard vines
- PUMA
- OOFOS

### **Jewelry and Accessories**

Jewelry stores such as Helzberg Diamonds, Pandora and Alpine Rings offer online military discounts.

If you're looking for other accessories such as bags, wallets and backpacks, Vera Bradley offers a 10% online military discount.

### **Eye Care**

Need to order glasses, sunglasses or contacts? Zenni Optical offers a 10% military discount, and both ContactsDirect.com and Ray-Ban offer 15% off.

### **Shoes**

Like clothing, there's a wide variety of online military discounts for shoes, including:

- Nike
- Crocs
- Converse
- Xero Shoes
- Asics
- New Balance
- Steve Madden
- Clarks
- Adidas
- Reebok



"Hi"  
Notes

"Laws are made for men of ordinary understanding, and should therefore be construed by the ordinary rules of common sense. Their meaning is not to be sought for in metaphysical subtleties, which may make anything mean everything or nothing, at [their] pleasure."  
George Washington

"If you once forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem. It is true that you may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all of the people all the time."

Abraham Lincoln



A loser will look at difficulty in every opportunity but a winner looks at opportunity in every difficulty.

Aaron Brown

You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.

Wayne Gretzky

YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT  
THE PERSON WHO  
NEVER GIVES UP.  
BABE RUTH

Time spent  
laughing at  
yourself is time  
well spent.

Jim Carey

Keep working even  
when no one is look-  
ing.

Alex Morgan

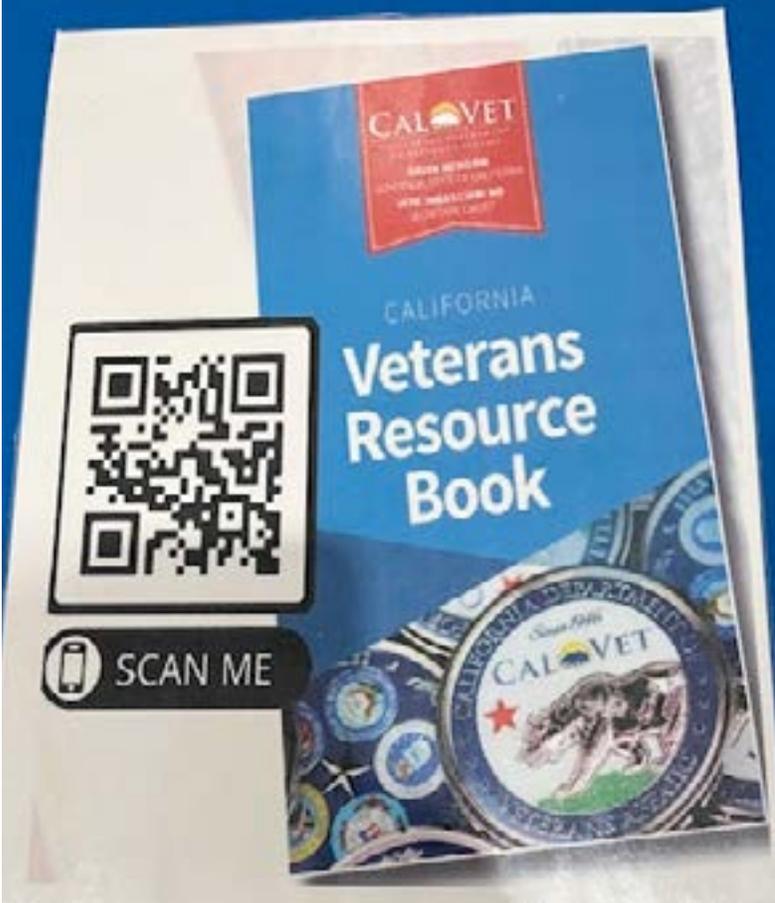




# BITS AND PIECES

## The new California Veterans Resource Book is available

Due to budget constraints this year, the new additions will only be available on-line. Any Veteran or family members wishing to receive a copy must SCAN the QR Code shown on the picture below to obtain the Current updates.



In January, key features and changes for veterans include a 2.8% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in benefits, an expanded age of disability onset for ABLE accounts, and a deadline for mandatory new Uniformed Services ID Cards.

Blue plastic ID cards will become invalid starting January 2026. Retirees should schedule an appointment at a DEERS/ ID Card Office to get the updated, more secure card for continued access to military benefits and installations.

Additional positive and set improvements to veterans services will be revealed in the upcoming issues of ReadBack.

**A NEW LAW** will secure a stronger voice for veterans, caregivers, families, and survivors in how the VA delivers care and benefits. A Senate bill signed August 14th by the President includes the provision known as the Improving Veterans Experience Act. Many Veteran's organizations including MOAA, have supported stand-alone legislation, first introduced in the 118th Congress, to make permanent the Veterans Experience Office (VEO), which was set up in 2015.

VEO helps VA beneficiaries navigate the department's complex health care and benefits systems. Over the past decade, the office has improved veteran's trust in VA services through better digital access, more responsive feedback channels, and more accountability across the department. By codifying VEO, Congress ensures its permanence within the VA and strengthens its authority. The office is now formally housed in the VA Office of the Secretary, led by a chief veterans experience officer, with clear mandates to oversee metrics, policies and feedback driven improvements.

**RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE** for the Tour De Palm Springs that will benefit EITHER the Air Force Association OR the General Patton Memorial Museum...\$1.00, \$5.00 and \$20. All for either charity of your choosing. Call or email Bill 760/861-0037 majorbill1@aol.com...or Deanna Young 760/832-2883 readback.VEAP@gmail.com

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## January

1 - New Year's Day ... 2026 marks the 250th birthday of our nation. Lots of great events across the country throughout the year. Let us help highlight your events.

3 - JFK and the Secret Service. By Michael Carra. 1-2PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

6 - Monthly meeting Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 78. 5PM. Denny's. 42445 Washington, Palm Desert. 760-600-0684.

6 - Monthly meeting VFW Post 3699. 6:30PM. American Legion Hall. 44200 Sungold, Indio. Lenny at 760-668-5988.

7 - Monthly meeting of American Legion Post 739. 6:30PM. 44200 American Legion Hall. Sungold, Indio. Steve at 760-969-0035.

8 - Monthly meeting of the Palm Springs Chapter of the Air and Space Forces Association. 2PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. All welcome. If you are an aviation enthusiast come on out. Bill Young at majorbill1@aol.com

10 - Brigadier General Chuck Yeager. The story. 1-2PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

14 - Coachella Valley Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 182. 7PM. American Legion Hall. 44200 Sungold, Indio. Kaygauthier@aol.com

15 - Veterans Services Zoom meeting. 9AM. All welcome to join in. Contact Anita Worthen at abird82@aol.com in advance to learn more and to get connected.

15 - Coachella Valley Chapter of

MOAA monthly meeting/luncheon. 11:30AM. Oasis Country Club. 42-330 Casbah Way, Palm Desert. Maj (ret) Terrie Heer at 503-357-7614 or heercom@aol.com See Webpage at PSC-MOAA.com

16 - U.S. enters Persian Gulf War (1991)

17 - Hitler's Wonder Weapons by Dr. Edward Gordon. 1-2 PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

19 - Martin Luther King Day. Fly your flag proudly.

24 - Pass Area Veterans Expo. Albert A. Chatigny Community Center, 1310 Oak Valley Parkway, Beaumont. 10AM to 1PM. Anita Worthen at bird82@aol.com See attached flyer.

24 - Atomic Weapons to Atomic Power. 1-2 PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

25 - Deadline for input for the February VEAP Readback.

27 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day

28 - U.S. - Vietnam Cease-Fire (1973)

31 - Guadalcanal's (the Cactus Air Force" by Michael Carra. 1-2 PM. 760-778-6262.

31 - Live from Joshua Tree - an evening of Desert Stories and Songs. 7PM. The Sanctuary Bldg, Joshua Tree Retreat Center. 59700 29 Palms Hwy, Joshua Tree. www.mil-tree.org/programs

## February

1 - National Freedom Day. A good day to fly your flag.

3 - Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of The Disabled American Veterans (DAV). 5PM. Denny's. 42445 Washington, Palm Desert. 760-600-0684.

3 - Monthly meeting of VFW Post 3699. 6:30PM. American Legion Hall. 44200 Sungold, Indio. Lenny at 760-668-5988.

4 - Monthly meeting of American Legion Post 739. 6:30PM. American Legion Hall. 44200 Sungold, Indio. Steve at 760-969-0035.

5 - Palm Springs Chapter of the Air and Space Forces Association (ASFA) monthly meeting. 2PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. All welcome. Bill Young at majorbill1@aol.com

7 - 28th Annual Tour de Palm Springs Bicycle Event. Variety of cycling and walking activities for all ages. Downtown Palm Springs and throughout the Coachella Valley. One of the largest charity cycling events in America. info@tourdepalmsprings.com or go to www.TourDePalmSprings.com

7 - Palm Springs Air Museum Annual Gala. Come and support this great Valley Museum. Call 760-778-6262 for details. See attached flyer.

12 - Lincoln's Birthday

16 - President's Day. Fly your flag proudly.

19 - Veterans Services Zoom Meeting. 9AM. All welcome to join in. Contact Anita Worthen at abird82@aol.com to learn more and to get connected.

19 - Coachella Valley Chapter of MOAA monthly meeting/luncheon. 11:30AM. Oasis Country Club. 42-330 Casbah Way, Palm Desert. Maj (ret) Terrie Heer at 503-357-7614 or heercom@aol.com. See webpage at PSC-MOAA.com

23 - Flag Raised on Iwo Jima (1945)

25 - Deadline for input into the March VEAP Readback.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

## YOUR STORY, YOUR LEGACY

VA's Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) is the nation's largest online memorial site dedicated to America's Veterans, honoring the service and sacrifice of more than 10 million Veterans.

VLM's new [Living Veterans](#) page allows Veterans to tell their military and life stories today, in their own words.



Add images



Write your autobiography



Share military and life milestones



Upload historical documents

Once the Veteran passes away, their content will appear on their publicly visible VLM Memorial page.

## PRESERVE YOUR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Living Veterans feature is available to those Veterans who have been approved for pre-need eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery.

Complete the simple, online VA pre-need burial eligibility application today.



*"This is something that you're building for your family and your loved ones—your children, your grandchildren, their grandchildren—to be able to see long after you're gone."*

**Derek White,  
U.S. Air Force  
Veteran**



Want to write your own story? Complete your pre-need application and start sharing your Veteran journey today.

[www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families/#VLM](http://www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families/#VLM)



**PALM SPRINGS  
AIR MUSEUM**  
EST. 1996



### ANNUAL GALA

February 7, 2026

Our annual black tie or military uniform Gala is an event not to be missed. This annual celebration honors special members in the world of aviation and supports the education mission of the Palm Springs Air Museum. This year's theme is a celebration marking 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War.

---

### MORE AMAZING EVENTS FROM THE AIR MUSEUM

- Feb. 8 – 11: RUTT Traveling Vietnam Wall and the Price of Freedom
- Feb 14 at 1 pm – Women Ordnance Workers
- Feb 21 at 1 pm – Divided on D-Day
- Feb 28 at 1 pm – Before the Tuskegee Airmen Came the National Association of America
- Mar 7 at 1 pm – Spy Pilot: Gary Powers, the U-2 Incident and a Controversial Cold War Legacy
- Mar 14 at 1 pm – Explaining Hitler and the 3rd Reich
- nothing on Mar 21
- Mar 28 at 1 pm – Welcome Home! National Vietnam Veterans' Day
- April 4 at 1 pm – Women Air Service Pilots
- April 11 at 1 pm – Killing Hitler
- April 18 at 1 pm – How Hollywood Filmed World War II
- May 25 – 10 am Memorial Day Air Fair
- May 25 – 2 pm – Memorial Day Flower Drop



# JANUARY 21ST 2026

## HEALTH -FIT DAY

# Active Seniors

WEDNESDAY 10AM TO NOON



Join us now! COME  
SEE COACH

30-400 LANDAU BLVD  
CATHEDRAL CITY.CA 92234  
(760)4245820



**VETERANS EXPO SERVICES**



# PASS AREA VETERANS EXPO & JOB FAIR

OPEN TO ALL MILITARY, VETERANS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**SATURDAY**

**January 24, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**LOCATION**

1310 Oak Valley Parkway, Beaumont, CA 92223  
Albert A. Cratigny Sr. Community Recreation Center



**INFORMATION & RESOURCE EVENT**

**VA & SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IN ATTENDANCE**

Have your questions answered and update your knowledge about the current benefits available to you and your loved ones.

Questions regarding your benefits? Bring a copy of your 2024 with you to the event. VA claims assistance is available.



**PASS AREA VETERANS EXPO**

(951)769-8524 | parko@beaumontca.gov | BeaumontCa.gov

# TOUR DE PALM SPRINGS



TOUR DE PALM SPRINGS IN COACHELLA VALLEY

**One of the largest Charity cycling & walking events**

102. 88mi. 57mi. 32mi. 7mi. 1 & 3 mi walk

The first 5,000 registrants will be entered into a drawing for a FREE weekend stay at the Palm Springs Hilton

## Saturday, Feb 7, 2026

### Downtown Palm Springs Beer Garden/Music/Vendors

**Pasta Dinner: Friday 5-8PM Sponsored by Marios Italian Cafe**

Sign up today at "[Tourdepalmsprings.com](http://Tourdepalmsprings.com)"

10% Disc code # NPD 2026

CVSPIN 501(C)3: #33-0 836672

Limited Time only

NonProfit code \_\_\_\_\_

Event participation and Raffle Tickets benefit, DAV, The Salvation Army, the General Patton Memorial Museum, The Air Force Association, and most other military and charitable organizations which help the homeless and veterans. Consider participating in any of the various ways. Sign up or get additional information at [tourdepalmsprings.com](http://tourdepalmsprings.com). Make sure the Non Profit code you use matches the charity you would like to help with your donation/participation.

PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM

HONORING CHARACTER  
REMEMBERING COURAGE



FIFTY YEARS

VIETNAM

SAVE THE DATE  
FEB 7 ★ 2026

Master of Ceremonies  
**JOE MANTEGNA**

Musical Entertainment by  
**THE ELITE SHOW BAND**

For information and reservations please call 760-482-1832

# MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT



**COLLEGE OF THE DESERT  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 1PM  
& MEN'S BASKETBALL 3PM  
FEBRUARY 14, 2026**

**FREE ENTRY FOR ACTIVE-DUTY AND VETERAN MILITARY**



U.S. AIR FORCE



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SERVICE**

43500 Monterey Avenue, Palm Desert  
Use San Pablo Avenue entrance