



# VEAP READBACK

MARCH 2026

## ReadBack Marches through an historic look at MARCH.

The month of March represents some of the most important milestones in the history of our Nation. Noting the dates and events gives us a deep appreciation of where we are and how we got here.

- The Peace Corps was established by executive order by President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961. It was organized to promote global stability.
- Operation Rolling Thunder began in Vietnam on March 2, 1965. The 2nd Air Division and Republic of Vietnam began as an intense air/ground battle. It is considered the first sustained American assault on North Vietnam.
- Congress approved the establishment of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers on March 3, 1865. In 1873 the name was changed to the National Home of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers...predecessor to the Veterans Administration (VA).
- National K9 Veterans Day is celebrated annually on March 13th to honor the service, loyalty, and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history. It commemorates the establishment of the U.S. Army's "War Dog Program" (K-9 Corps) on March 13, 1942, marking the first official inclusion of dogs in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- The American Legion was formed in Paris, France on March 15, 1919 and was chartered on Sept. 16, 1919 by the US Congress. Today, it's the Nation's largest wartime veterans organization.
- The 99th Pursuit Squadron was activated on March 19, 1941. today known as the Tuskegee Airmen.
- Rosie The Riveter is a general title given to women who worked in the trades during war time. The 21st of March celebrates their contribution to the Nation.
- On March 23, 1775 the "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech was given by Patrick Henry. Thomas Jefferson and George Washington were in the audience at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia.
- The National Medal of Honor has its day on March 25 of each year. The first medal of Honor was awarded to Private Jacob Parrott during the Civil War. The same war notes the only National Medal of Honor given to a woman. Dr. Mary Edwards was a surgeon during the Civil War and still holds that distinction.
- The Battle of Iwo Jima was won by American Forces on March 26, 1945. 6,871 Americans were killed, 19,217 wounded and 22 Marines and 5 Sailors were awarded Medals of Honor...14 were awarded posthumously.

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

## SB 694 ENACTED



The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) announces the enactment of Senate Bill 694, legislation designed to protect California veterans from predatory “claims sharks” — unaccredited individuals who exploit veterans seeking help accessing the benefits they earned through service.

For California’s veteran community, access to reliable, accredited assistance remains essential when navigating the VA disability benefits process. SB 694 reinforces standards that support transparency, accountability, and confidence while helping ensure veterans can pursue the benefits they’ve earned without unnecessary risk.

### About Senate Bill 694

SB 694 directly targets abusive practices used by claims sharks by:

- Prohibiting unaccredited individuals from providing veterans benefits claims assistance.
- Banning anyone from requesting or using a veteran’s federal login credentials.
- Enforcing clear limits on fees, aligned with what VA-accredited professionals are legally allowed to charge.

These protections help close dangerous legal loopholes while reinforcing fair, transparent access to earned benefits.

SB 694 was authored by Senator Bob Archuleta, co-authored by Senator Sabrina Ceervantes and Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, and co-sponsored by Attorney General Rob Bonta. The bill takes effect January 2027.

The County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs), which work directly with veterans across California, provided valuable frontline insight that informed broader efforts to strengthen protections.

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### VETERANS ENCOURAGED TO USE TRUSTED, FREE CLAIMS ASSISTANCE

Across California, veterans can access free, accredited help when filing benefits claims:

- County Veterans Service Officers and nonprofit Veterans Service Organizations are accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, professionally trained, and held to strict accountability standards.
- Organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and others provide free assistance nationwide.
- CalVet strengthens this network through the California Veterans Service Representative Academy, which trains County Veterans Service Representatives to connect veterans with the benefits they’ve earned.
- The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act) expanded eligibility for many veterans, resulting in millions of approved claims nationwide and hundreds of thousands of newly enrolled veterans in VA health care. Veterans who were previously ineligible for benefits may now qualify under the PACT Act.
- For veterans who believe they might have been scammed, contact the California Attorney General’s office.
- Visit Calvet to learn about the full range of state veteran benefits, including education, jobs, home loans, and more.



## DENTAL CARE BEING ADDRESSED IN DC

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has released a request for proposals for a new dental care administrator to operate the department's next generation network of community care dental providers.

The goal is to contract with a vendor that will support the department in building and maintaining a robust national network of licensed dental providers and practitioners. The network will include general and specialty dental care, preventive dental services, and pharmacy support.

Through this new contract, VA aims to improve and standardize dental care delivery, ensuring Veterans receive the preventive and restorative dental services they need to maintain their health.

VA's community care program enables Veterans to access health care from non-VA medical providers at the department's expense. Community care has been an integral part of caring for Veterans since the World War II era. In 2018, President Trump enshrined this right for Veterans by signing the bipartisan MISSION Act. Today, about 40% of all VA care is provided through community care.

Of the nearly nine million Veterans enrolled in VA health care, approximately 26% are eligible for dental care. In fiscal year 2025 alone, 888,051 Veterans received dental care through VA, with more than 3.5 million dental procedures delivered through community care.

"Dental health is a critical component of overall well-being," said VA Secretary Doug Collins. "This RFP will result in a contract that dramatically improves our ability to provide quality dental care to eligible Veterans while ensuring they can choose the provider that's best for them."

EDITOR: This brief article did not mention affordability of dental care, nor did it mention increasing the number of those eligible to receive and use such a dental care plan.

## The VA's New Survivors' Benefits Rule

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has finalized a new rule that it says is designed to streamline certain decisions around veteran survivors' benefit claims—a move the agency says will result in “faster decisions and quicker payments” for survivors.

Previously, under existing regulations, the VA had to individually process survivors' claims for “Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)” and “Survivors Pension.” This often slowed decisions, because each benefit required a separate formal review.

Under the new rule, which will be effective from February 23, the VA will pay a surviving spouse or child claimant whichever benefit is higher—either the DIC or the Survivors Pension (the agency says the higher benefit is usually the DIC)—without delaying payment to fully process the lesser benefit.

The VA identified one exception: if the claimant is the veteran's surviving spouse, has no dependents, is residing in a nursing home, and has applied for or is receiving Medicaid, then the Survivors' Pension will be awarded instead of DIC.

Under the new rule, when a surviving spouse stops Medicaid-covered nursing home care, DIC may become effective, as of the date Medicaid coverage ended, if a claim is filed within one year. Conversely, if a spouse receiving DIC begins Medicaid covered nursing home care and otherwise qualifies for Survivors Pension, the pension may take effect on the first day of the month after DIC ends, provided a claim is filed within one year.

VA Secretary Doug Collins said, “This common-sense change streamlines the survivors' claims process, reduces administrative burdens, and delivers quicker decisions to beneficiaries during challenging times.”

### The Difference Between a DIC and a Standard Pension

The VA says DIC is a tax free monthly benefit that is paid to eligible surviving spouses, children, and parents of service members who died in the line of duty, or veterans whose deaths resulted from service related conditions.

Survivors' Pension, by contrast, provides tax free monthly payments to qualifying surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime veterans who meet specific income and net worth limits.

### What Happens Next

The new regulation follows a broader survivors' benefits reform effort, which was launched in 2025 and included a “three-pronged approach to eliminate barriers and streamline the process for how eligible survivors and dependents of deceased veterans and service members apply for and receive VA benefits and services.”

This involved moving the Office of Survivors Assistance into the Office of the VA Secretary, creating a specialized “white glove” outreach team to guide survivors through the DIC claims process, and identifying areas for automation to make the claims process quicker and easier for survivors.

Collins said, “The last thing survivors need in their time of grief is frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. That's why we are creating a better system to more quickly and effectively provide survivors the services, support, and compassion they've earned.”

For questions, or help and support with the new regulation, the VA advises survivors call the VA benefits hotline at 800-827-1000 or email the media to the Office of Media Relations at [vapublicaffairs@va.gov](mailto:vapublicaffairs@va.gov).



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## VETERANS UNIVERSITY 2026

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Organizations are invited to host an informational booth in support of our Veteran community.

### Event Details

#### Location

Rancho Mirage High School  
31001 Rattler Road  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

#### Date

Saturday, March 28, 2026

#### Time

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### Participation Confirmation Required

To secure booth participation, please confirm no later than **Monday, March 2, 2026 (Close of Business)**.

The participation agreement may be accessed and obtained by contacting:  
[Priscilla.Garcia@mail.house.gov](mailto:Priscilla.Garcia@mail.house.gov)

Additional event logistics, including parking information and final setup instructions will be shared closer to the event date.

### Contact Information

Priscilla Garcia  
Caseworker | Office of Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D. (CA-25)  
Office: (951) 492-3575  
[Priscilla.Garcia@mail.house.gov](mailto:Priscilla.Garcia@mail.house.gov)

## SMUGGLED SANDWICHES, GORILLAS & MORE: 9 INCREDIBLE SPACE STORIES

Space exploration might seem like all rockets and science on the surface, but behind NASA's historic missions lie some truly weird and hilarious moments. Did you know about these 11?

### **1 Smuggled sandwich**

During the Gemini 3 mission, astronaut John Young secretly brought a corned beef sandwich into space. He and fellow astronaut Gus Grissom took a few bites while in orbit.

Needless to say, Mission Control wasn't amused—there were serious concerns about crumbs floating around and interfering with the spacecraft's systems.

### **2 A gorilla in the ISS**

Astronaut Scott Kelly pulled off a wild prank during his year in space by dressing in a gorilla suit and chasing fellow astronaut Tim Peake around the International Space Station.

The costume had been secretly sent by Scott's twin brother, Mark Kelly, as a surprise birthday gift during the mission.

### **3 Fined by Mars "owners"**

In 1997, NASA was sued by three men from Yemen who claimed that Mars had been passed down to them by their ancestors.

They accused NASA of trespassing when the Pathfinder rover landed—and even began selling plots of Martian land for \$2 per square meter. Of course, the case was never taken seriously.

### **4 Metric vs. Imperial**

Back in 1999, NASA lost a Mars orbiter due to a mix-up between metric and imperial units. One team used the metric system, while another used imperial units to track thruster force.

The error caused the spacecraft to veer off course and burn up in the Martian atmosphere. It had been intended to be the first satellite to study Mars's climate and weather in detail.

### **5 Another fine—for littering**

In 1979, NASA's Skylab space station re-entered Earth's atmosphere and broke apart, scattering debris across Western Australia, about 482 kilometers east of Perth.

In response, the Shire of Esperance, a local government body in Western Australia, jokingly fined NASA \$400 for littering.

### **6 A building with its own weather**

NASA's Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) at the Kennedy Space Center is one of the largest buildings in the world by volume, enclosing over 3.7 million cubic meters of space. It was originally built to assemble the massive Saturn V rockets used in the Apollo missions.

But its immense size—combined with Florida's high humidity—once led to clouds forming inside. To prevent this, NASA installed a 10,000-ton air conditioning system to control moisture and protect delicate spacecraft.

### **7 Mutiny in space**

In 1974, the Skylab 4 crew spent 84 days in space—the longest mission at the time. Overworked and stressed, the astronauts staged the first space mutiny by taking a surprise day off and cutting communication with NASA.

They relaxed and enjoyed the view of Earth before resuming contact the next day. NASA wasn't thrilled but learned a valuable lesson: space missions must care for astronauts' mental health, not just their physical well-being.

### **8 Paid to stay in bed**

NASA once paid volunteers \$15,000 to lie in bed for 90 days to simulate the effects of zero gravity on the human body.

It sounds like a dream job (pun intended)—until you realize they weren't allowed to get up at all, not even for a second.

### **9 No insurance**

Before Apollo 11 launched, the crew couldn't get life insurance due to the mission's high risks. So Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins came up with a clever backup plan.

They signed envelopes and postcards, which friends postmarked during the mission. If the astronauts didn't return, their families could sell them to collectors for financial support.

## VETERANS EVENTS IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY, MARCH 2026

Based on preliminary schedules for early 2026, here are the veterans-related events, resources, and community activities in the Coachella Valley for March 2026:

### March 2026 Veterans Events & Activities

- Invisible Wounds Fundraiser (Tentative - March 28, 2026): Veteran Front Inc. is tentatively planning this inaugural event, which follows a 122-mile "Ride2Zero" to support veteran initiatives.
- Desert Marines Monthly Luncheon: Held at the Classic Club, this ongoing monthly event invites Marines, Sailors, and all veterans for fellowship.
- Coachella Valley Firebirds "Theme Nights" (March 2026): Acrisure Arena hosts several themed hockey games, which often include salutes to local heroes and veterans.
- Coachella Valley Rescue Mission 55th Anniversary Gala (March 19, 2026): An evening at the Agua Caliente Resort & Casino in Rancho Mirage, which brings together community leaders to support local services.

### Veteran Resources & Support

- Veterans Input and Program Development: The Desert Recreation District is working with local leaders (including Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez and Supervisor V. Manuel Perez) to establish new veteran-oriented programs and pilot activities in early 2026.
- Veterans Memorial Park (Coachella): Located at 82-925 Avenue 52, this park remains a dedicated site for honoring veterans with a memorial monument.

It is recommended to check the Coachella Valley Veterans Coalition Facebook page for finalized dates, as some events are tentatively scheduled.



## ASFA ON THE FLY



In February, ASFA held the 2nd Annual Awards Presentation for the AFA Cyber Cup Challenge. Again, La Quinta JROTC came out on top although the competition was close. The unique Cyber Cup trophy will be retained at La Quinta High for another year with competition expected to become even more challenging when next year's school year starts up. The Cyber Cup is a part of the AFA nationwide Cyber Patriot Competition with those teams scoring high enough to qualify to move up to the next level. In the meantime, plans are well underway for a summer cyber camp open to students across the Valley to prepare them for the next competition. Many thanks to Tony Della-Moretta and Jim McFarlin for moving this program along and growing it over the past two years. For information, [tonydm@gmail.com](mailto:tonydm@gmail.com).

Our Wednesday lunches at Roc's Firehouse Grille continue to draw large participation especially the one each month with a guest speaker. In February, Joe Veca, a Navy veteran, spoke on the origin of flight and on March 18th, Frank Brabec will speak on the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). It's a perfect way to learn about AFA, have a great lunch and hear from an outstanding guest speaker. AFA lunches are normally twice a month at Roc's, one with a guest speaker. Attendees arrive about 11:30AM. Come on out and experience it. Information contact Rick Johnson [yamahawk@aol.com](mailto:yamahawk@aol.com).

We are working on a Speakers Bureau using the many talented individuals in our chapter with the goal of going out into the community and enlightening groups about a diverse list of topics. One particular target for this would be local High Schools to tell the stories from our generation to younger Americans, something they do not often get the opportunity to hear. We hope to get the Community Partners Program up and running in the next couple of months. Ideas?...input? [majorbill1@aol.com](mailto:majorbill1@aol.com).

AFA has a great group of Community Partners that I want to be sure and recognize for their support including the aforementioned Roc's Firehouse Grille, The General Patton Memorial Museum, J. Chiriaco

Corp., Coachella Valley Disabled American Veterans (DAV), renowned, aviation artist Stan Stokes and Stan Stokes Art, Inc., and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). I also need to give a shout out to the Palm Springs Air Museum (PSAM) who hosts us for our monthly meetings the first Thursday of each month and with whom we share a number of goals and activities. Other AFA Chapters interact with nearby USAF Bases, we interact with the PSAM.

This is just a snapshot of what we are and what we are doing. Come out to a monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month starting at 2PM at the PSAM, or visit our webpage at [afapalmsprings.wordpress.com](http://afapalmsprings.wordpress.com). We are always looking for new members and new ideas of how to best support the community and enjoy our time together. You do not have to have served in the Air Force to become a member. Questions? Let me know at [majorbill1@aol.com](mailto:majorbill1@aol.com).

Come say HI...Bill Young, president



L to R: Ethan Miller, Tony Della-Moretta, Jasmin Gonzeles-Navarro, Jim Mcfarlin Jose Rameriz II, Melissa Tran and Coach, MSgt Dean Temple

## THE MOST BIZARRE THINGS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

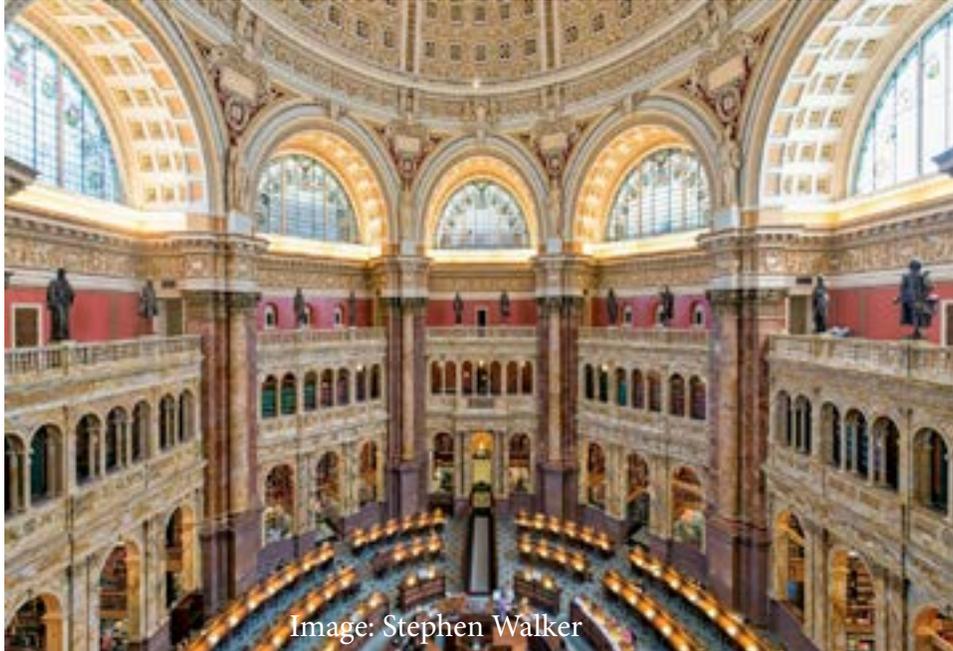


Image: Stephen Walker

The Library of Congress is famously vast, but the strangest treasures are the ones that make you blink and ask: why? Old cake, locks of hair, specific songs, and even ordinary social media posts are all part of the nation's most important collection. Read on to discover some of the oddest items the national library keeps guarded!

### 1. 12 years of all tweets

If you were an active and public Twitter user between the years 2006 and 2017, guess what? Your words are preserved in the Library of Congress.

The platform's first twelve years are contained in a digital collection meant as a historical record of a new communications channel. From 2018 onwards, the Library started acquiring only "particularly interesting" tweets.

### 2. Oddly specific movies, like "Shrek" or "Wall-E"

The Library preserves film culture through the National Film Registry and other collections.

Recent registry additions have included animated hits such as Shrek, while the Library's preservation programs and official announcements explain why even mainstream animated features matter as cultural artifacts worth saving. The Registry also contains enduring classics such as Grease, Citizen Kane, and The Wizard of Oz.

### 3. Specific songs, like "Livin' La Vida Loca"

Music enters the Library's life via the National Recording Registry and the Music Division. Ricky Martin's "Livin' La Vida Loca" is one of the recordings the Library has recognized for cultural impact; these entries help posterity understand what particular songs meant to listeners at the time.

Other anthems are also preserved in the collection, like Aretha Franklin's "Respect" and Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'."

### 4. A moldy wedding cake

A sliver of wedding cake from P.T. Barnum's era spectacles survives in the Library of Congress's Manuscript Division as a historical oddity. Donated in the 1950s, it now sits darkened with age and mold.

## THE TERRORIST and THE REST OF THE STORY



William was a political terrorist and jailbird... and the governor of New Jersey. And all within the space of four years.

But not in that order.

How did William, governor of New Jersey, go so far downhill so fast? The descent is even more remarkable when you consider the strength of his beginnings.

William was born to a rather distinguished and well-known father.

He was once postmaster of Philadelphia and served as clerk of the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly.

A captain in the army, his war record was excellent.

Through his father, William became acquainted with the higher-ups who helped him become governor of New Jersey.

And William was an enormously popular governor for quite some while, perhaps through the power of his own personality or perhaps through the previous popularity of his father's name. There's just no way to tell. All we know for certain is that the good times didn't last. Arguments with the legislature got William deeper and deeper into trouble until he was repudiated by the New Jersey Congress, declared dangerous, and imprisoned. Within two years, he'd be out of jail; in another two years, William would seek his revenge as leader of a terrorist army.

Now we're going to stop right here for a moment. This is not a tale of contemporary corruption. In fact, William was born in 1731 and it was not *his* political ideals that changed. It was the people of New Jersey who changed, caught in the shifting tide.

This was that agonizing hour in our nation's history when some American colonists wanted to break away from England - others did not. They remained loyal to the crown. William was a loyalist, a royalist, a monarchist. So this is really the story of how bitterness grew to hatred for an otherwise peaceful man.

In 1778, William was released from custody in exchange for some revolutionary prisoners. At that time, he fled to the safety of British-held New York. It was there, in New York, that the loyalists had been organizing themselves into small guerrilla bands. During the two years William had been imprisoned, the loyalists, calling themselves the "Refugees", had been launching infrequent small-scale attacks on New Jersey's patriot towns, using New York as a base of operations.

That is how William, the former governor of New Jersey, became involved in terrorist activity against the very state he had previously governed. But the dilemma did not end there.

Read more on page 15

## TAKING FLIGHT: THE STORY OF CADET LT COL ETHAN MILLER

Ethan Miller is a Senior at La Quinta High School. He has just been awarded, along with his cyber team, a first place in the 2nd Annual Cyber Cup competition sponsored by the Palm Springs Chapter 134 Air and Space Forces Association.

By any measure, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Ethan Miller is a young man who understands both leadership and altitude.

As Senior Advisor of the La Quinta High School AFJROTC Blackhawk Squadron, Ethan serves at the top of the cadet chain of command — a role that demands responsibility, steady judgment, and the ability to inspire others. But long before he stepped into uniform, his journey toward leadership began somewhere else: 30,000 feet above the ground.

Growing up in California with family in Texas meant frequent cross-country flights. For Ethan, those trips were more than travel — they were transformative. Looking down at cities reduced to specks and highways that looked like threads, he began to grasp a powerful perspective: how small each of us may seem individually, yet how capable humanity is when working with purpose. That realization sparked not only a fascination with aviation, but a calling to serve something greater than himself.

That calling found structure and direction in AFJROTC.

Over four years in the program, Ethan has experienced the realities of military organization — a true chain of command, meaningful responsibility, accountability, and leadership under pressure. Through drill, planning, mentoring younger cadets, and guiding squadron operations, he has gained a deep respect for the Armed Forces and for the character forged through service. “You don’t just learn about leadership,” he often reflects. “You practice it every day.”

Leadership for Ethan extends beyond the cadet corps. He serves as Captain of the Boys Varsity Tennis Team, where he leads by example on the court, and he is an avid guitarist, demonstrating that discipline and creativity can coexist. Whether coordinating a squadron event or rallying teammates during a tight match, he approaches every challenge with focus and humility.



Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Ethan  
Miller



## VA Won't Enforce New Rule on Disability Ratings, Secretary Says. Congress Members Want It Rescinded

Members of Congress pressed the Department of Veterans Affairs to officially rescind a controversial new rule on the assessment of disability ratings after VA Secretary Doug Collins pledged that the rule “will not be enforced at any time in the future.”

Collins said Feb. 19 on the social media platform X that the VA “is halting the enforcement of the interim final rule,” which took effect Feb. 17, the same day of the rule’s announcement in the Federal Register.

The rule changes how the VA assesses functional impairment, directing medical examiners that if medication lowers the level of a disability, “the rating will be based on that lowered disability level.” Veterans’ disability ratings determine their level of compensation.

In the Federal Register announcement, the VA said it intended to override “erroneous” court interpretations. Under those rulings, medical examiners rated disabilities on baseline severity, factoring in medication’s benefits only if the specific rating criteria for that condition mentioned medication.

Read More: [New VA Rule Ties Disability Ratings to Medicated Symptoms, Drawing Fire From Veterans Groups](#)

Rep. Mark Takano (D-California), ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, said in a statement Feb. 18 that the new rule “penalizes veterans for taking medications to address their conditions and symptoms, putting veterans in a place of deciding between managing their health and receiving their full benefits.”

Collins called Takano’s comment “fake news!” in a post on X that same day, stating that the rule “simply formalizes VA’s longstanding practice.”

But by Feb. 19, the VA had received additional feedback in the form of thousands of public comments lodged at [regulations.gov](#) under docket RIN 2900-AS49.

In his Feb. 19 post reversing course and pledging never to enforce the rule, Collins said the department “does not agree with the way this rule has been characterized” and that calling off the enforcement is instead to “alleviate” veterans’ concerns.

As of early on the morning of Feb. 20, the rule had received more than 10,600 comments. Collins said the VA will continue to accept comments for the duration of the public comment period, which ends April 20.

Collins’ announcement was met with applause by the likes of Disabled American Veterans National Commander Coleman Nee but also the insistence by others that the VA must officially rescind the rule.

“Halting enforcement is not enough. This rule is wrong, and it should be rescinded immediately,” Rep. Tim Kennedy (D-New York) replied on X. “As an occupational therapist, I know recovery depends on following medical guidance, not being penalized for it.”

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) said on X that he’s encouraged that Collins has “temporarily walked away from this short-sighted policy to slash disability benefits for thousands of veterans” but that it “must be permanently rescinded.”



"Hi"  
Notes

SUCCESS IS NOT MEASURED  
BY RANK OR MEDALS, BUT BY  
THE INTEGRITY YOU CARRY  
INTO CIVILIAN LIFE.

"Maintain three  
disciplines: your  
health, your  
relationships, and  
your integrity.  
Success follows."

STAY  
CONNECTED.  
ISOLATION  
IS THE  
ENEMY OF  
STRENGTH.



"IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"  
***Dare to Be a Daniel***  
*Dare to be a Daniel,  
Dare to stand alone!  
Dare to have a purpose firm!  
Dare to make it known!*

-Philip P. Bliss



## BITS AND PIECES

The General Patton Memorial Museum is offering curated tours for a minimum of 10 and maximum of 40 people. Please see flyer attached for information about booking and special events.

Always special consideration for veterans.



Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces  
January 21 @ 10:00 am - March 20 @ 5:00 pm Palm Springs Air Museum

Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces honors the Native Americans who have served in the U.S. military, often in extraordinary numbers, since the American Revolution. The exhibition offers a comprehensive look at Native military involvement and explores Native American military service from its origins to the modern day. It highlights the contributions Native Americans have made to the U.S. military throughout our country's history.

**Warbird Wednesdays at the Palm Springs Air Museum are presented as a video series, with new episodes featuring historic aircraft released online, often highlighting specific planes in their collection. The museum itself is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM, where visitors can view flyable aircraft. Palm Springs Air Museum Parking, lot 745 N Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92262... 760-778-6262**

## THE TERRORIST AND THE REST OF THE STORY

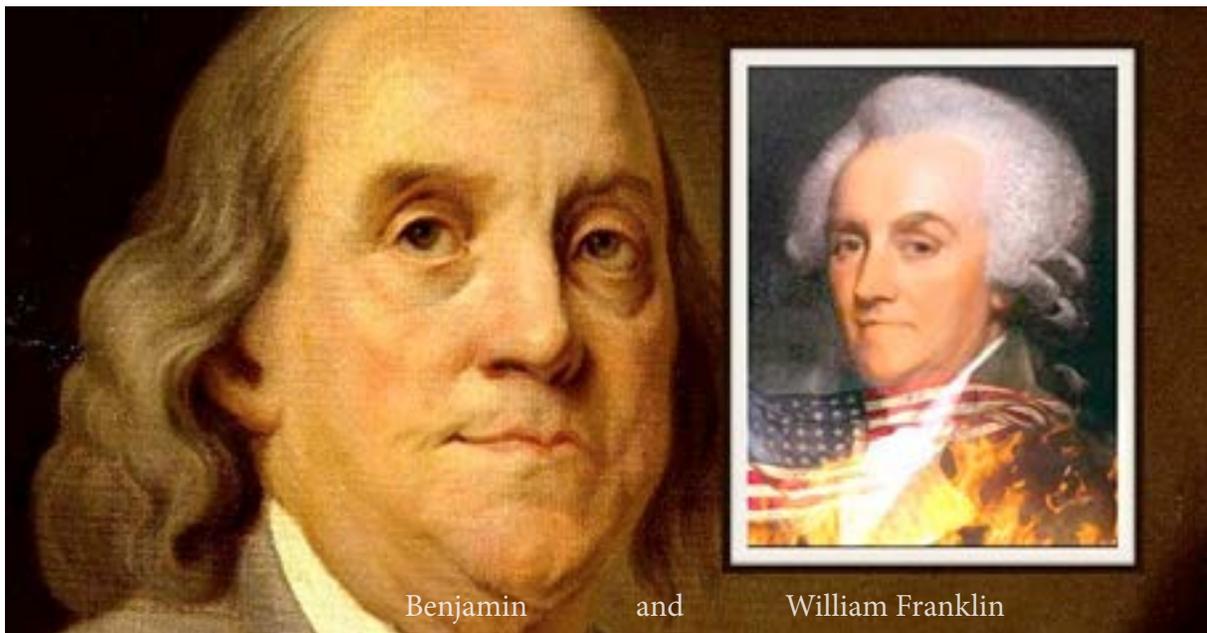
For William, it was not enough to become merely involved. So when King George created an official Refugee Army in 1780, who was its leader? That's right...William. And now the attacks on New Jersey were neither small-scale nor infrequent.

Soon horror stories of arson, rape, mutilation, and murder spilled over the New Jersey landscape. Ex-Governor William was on the rampage. Retaliation followed. What had begun as military raids degenerated into personal vendettas on both sides. One historian described it as the "cruellest kind of warfare", those back-and-forth skirmishes between the Refugees and the New Jersey militia. In fact, the fighting was so bitter, so personal, that the ill feelings did not fade with the British capitulation at Yorktown in 1781. In 1792, the violence and brutality were still going on.

Revolutionary "Renaissance man" Benjamin Franklin made an interesting observation when he described the Revolution as a "civil war". It really was, you know. Even though the Declaration of Independence suggests that a united people opposed the British, nothing could have been further from the truth. It has never been accurately determined whether the loyalists or the patriots were in the majority when the Declaration was signed.

So Ben Franklin was right. The revolution was really a civil war. How keenly that point is brought home in the story of New Jersey's governor-turned-terrorist, William...Franklin.

You see, William was Ben Franklin's only son! And THAT's the REST OF THE STORY.



Benjamin and William Franklin

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



1 to 20 - Why we serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces. Presented by the Smithsonian Inst. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

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. Indio. Lenny at 760-668-5988.

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

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

7 - Spy Pilot: Gary Powers, U-2 Incident and a Controversial Cold War Legacy. Gary Powers Jr. 1PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

8 - Daylight Savings Time Begins

14 - Explaining Hitler and the 3rd Reich. Dr Edward Gordon. 1PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

14 - Veterans Resource Day DHS. 10am - 2 See Flyer

14 - Patriot Lecture Series. Lee Wilson Jr., founder of the Palm Springs Fallen Heroes Project 10am, and Pulitzer Prize winning author Steven A. Holmes with new book, Black Messiahs. 1PM. General Patton Memorial Museum. Admission free with general admission to museum. 760-507-4143. Info@generalpattonmuseum.org

17 - St Patrick's Day

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

19 - Coachella Valley Chapter of MOAA monthly meeting/luncheon. 11:30AM. Oasis Country Club. Palm Desert. Speaker: Author Todd Anton (Sports Personalities That Went to War). Maj (ret) Terrie Heer at 503-357-7614 or heercom@aol.com See webpage at PSC-MOAA.com

21 - Sound the Alarm, Save a Life. 8AM to 1PM. Sahara Mobile Home Park, 1955 S. Camino Real, Palm Springs. Red Cross event ... need volunteers. Register at <https://tinyud.com/STD-PalmSprings2026> or contact Angela at [angela.fie2@redcross.org](mailto:angela.fie2@redcross.org) for more details.

25 - National Medal of Honor Day

25 - Deadline for input to the April VEAP Readback.

Memorial Day Event? Let us know.

25 - Camo to Career Job & Resource Fair. March Air Reserve Base (ARB), 15305 6th Street, March ARB (Riverside). 9AM to Noon. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/1970630548017?aff=oddtcreat> or More Info? Go to [www.usvets.org](http://www.usvets.org) or see attached flyer.

27 - Mini-Job Fair. Riverside-America's Job Center of CA (AJCC) 1325 Spruce Street, Riverside. 9AM to 12:30PM. Bring resume, dress professionally and register at [www.caljobs.ca.gov](http://www.caljobs.ca.gov) lance.sayavong@edd.ca.gov

28 - Veterans University. Presented by the Office of Congressman Raul Ruiz. Rancho Mirage High School. 9:30AM to 12:30PM. Call 951-492-3575 to learn more.

28 - Welcome Home. National Vietnam Veterans Day. 1PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262. Vietnam Veterans receive free admission.

29 - Palm Sunday/Vietnam War Veterans Day. Fly your flag proudly.

29 - American Legion Post 739, Indio invites all Vietnam Era Veterans to the 3rd Annual Free Social Lunch. 12 Noon to 3:30PM. American Legion Hall, 44200 Sungold, Indio. Juanita Godwin at 760-541-6878.



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

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

3 - Good Friday

4 - Women Airforce Service Pilots. Michael Carra. 1PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

5 - Easter Sunday

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

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

9 - Coachella Valley Chapter of MOAA monthly meeting/luncheon. 11:30AM. Oasis Country Club. 42-330 Casbah Way, Palm Desert. Guest speaker: Captain David Daly, USMC (5 combat tours in Iraq) covering Wounded Warrior Project. Maj(ret) Terrie Herr at 503-357-7614 or herrcom@aol.com

11 - Killing Hitler. Dr. Edward Gordon. 1PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

14 - U.S. Air Force Reserve Birthday

15 - Tax Day

16 - Veterans Services Zoom Meeting. 9AM. All welcome to join in. Contact Anita Worthen at [abird82@aol.com](mailto:abird82@aol.com) to learn more and to get connected.

18 - Doolittle Raid (1942)

18 - How Hollywood Filmed World War II by Stephen Smith. 1PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 760-778-6262.

23 - U.S. Army Reserve Birthday

24 - Mini-Job Fair. Riverside-America's Job Center of Ca (AJCC). 1325 Spruce Street, Riverside. 9AM to 12:30PM. Bring resume, dress professionally and register at [www.caljobs.ca.gov](http://www.caljobs.ca.gov) lance.sayavong@edd.ca.gov

25 - Deadline for input into the May VEAP Readback. Last chance to get us info on your Memorial Day event!



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

7 - National Day of Prayer

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

8 - VE Day (1945) Fly your flag proudly. VE = Victory in Europe.

10 - Mother's Day

15 - National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Fly your flag proudly.

16 - Armed Forces Day. Fly your flag proudly

21 - Coachella Valley Chapter of MOAA. Annual JROTC Scholarship Awards. 5PM. Maj (ret) Terrie Herr at 503-357-7614 or herrcom@aol.com More details to follow.

25 - Memorial Day. Remember all those who sacrificed all for us. Lots of great events/activities all across the country. Fly your flag proudly.

25 - Memorial Day Air Fair and Flower Drop at the Palm Springs Air Museum. 1:45PM. Always a special day. 760-778-6262.



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**MORE AMAZING EVENTS FROM THE AIR MUSEUM**

**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**



THE GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM

★ Patriot Lecture Series ★

PRESENTS

## A Salute to Service, Leadership & Legacy



### E. Lee Wilson, Jr.

Founder, Palm Springs Fallen Heroes Project

Mr. Wilson will discuss his personal journey and the creation and mission of the Palm Springs Fallen Heroes Project, honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's fallen.

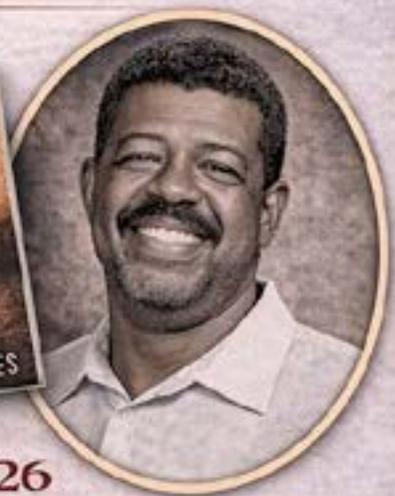
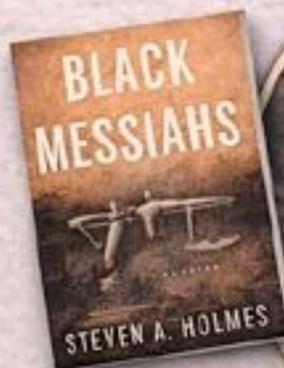
🕒 Lecture begins at 10:00 AM

### Steven A. Holmes

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author

Mr. Holmes will speak about his new book, **BLACK MESSIAHS**, which explores the legacy, leadership, and overlooked contributions of Black soldiers in American military history.

🕒 Lecture begins at 1:00 PM



**Saturday, March 14, 2026**

**General Patton Memorial Museum**

62510 Chiriaco Road • Chiriaco Summit, CA 92201

Event Admission: Free with paid admission to the Museum



FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR  
**V. MANUEL PEREZ**  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



## VETERANS RESOURCE DAY

**JOIN US AS WE BRING VETERANS AND  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES TOGETHER  
FOR A DAY OF SUPPORT AND  
CONNECTION.**

**MARCH 14, 2026  
10 AM - 2 PM**

12800 W Arroyo Dr,  
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

[rivcoveterans.org](http://rivcoveterans.org)

951.955.3060

### **Services Available**

- VA Benefits Questions
- Claims Filing & Documentation
- Navigating Available Resources
- Referrals for Additional Support Services
- Legal Services
- And More!



Portrayed by "Dodgem" as Willie in the event

## PATTON'S PAL RETURNS: MEET "WILLIE"!

Funds raised benefit the *General Patton Memorial Museum Education Fund for Valley students*

Inspired by General Patton's famous canine companion, "Willie" carries on the spirit and story of the General's dog through special museum programs that *connect history, education, and community.*



### PHOTO OPPORTUNITY — ONE DAY ONLY

**Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 10am**

- Pose with "Willie" for patriotic photos benefiting the Museum's *Educational Fund for Valley students*
- Family-friendly
- Make your own patriotic keepsakes
- Donations encouraged



### WALK WITH "WILLIE" — MOST SUNDAYS

- Weekly Sunday walks/tours
- *Outdoor, leashed & supervised*
- *Perfect for families and dog lovers*

**LOCATION:** General Patton Memorial Museum  
62510 Chiriaco Road  
Chiriaco Summit, CA 92201

**INFO:** 760-507-4143



**GENERAL PATTON  
MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

*"Willie" is a look-alike inspired by General Patton's dog and is not the original dog shown in the historic photograph.*



# CAMO TO CAREERS

## JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE



*ENJOY*  
**FOOD**

**FREE**  
*Event*

*SMOOTH*  
**MUSIC**



**March 25th from 9am to 12pm**

15305 6th St  
MARB, CA 92518

March Air Reserve Base

# America's **JobCenter** of California<sup>SM</sup>

## RIVERSIDE'S LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH JOB FAIR

TIME: 9am - 12:30pm

### LOCATION & ROOM 1A

Riverside-America's Job Center of CA (AJCC)  
1325 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507  
Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/9nhgAokaoPr>

### FUTURE DATES:

~~January 30<sup>th</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup>~~, March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 29<sup>th</sup>,  
June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup>, & Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact [Lance.Savavong@edd.ca.gov](mailto:Lance.Savavong@edd.ca.gov), if you have any question; everyone is welcome, and to save time please be sure to register in [www.CalJOBS.ca.gov](http://www.CalJOBS.ca.gov)

**NOTE:** The Riverside AJCC's Mini Job Fair takes place on the last Friday of each month, except for November and December, which are dark months due to the holidays.

**WIOA:** EOP, EDA, EDD, Goodwill, Job Corps, Learn4Life, and YESOP. For more information or to inquire about sponsorship, partnership, or participation in future events, please email us.

This WIOA Title I-financially assisted program or activity is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. To make a request, please contact 951-955-3100, 951-955-3744 (TTY), CA Relay 711, or [ADACoordinator@rjcc.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@rjcc.org) at least 5 to 7 days in advance.

### OPPORTUNITIES:

1. AlliedUniversal\*\*
2. CalTRANS\*\*
3. City of Riverside
4. County of Riverside HR\*\*
5. County of San Bernardino HR\*\*
6. Complete Coach Works\*\*
7. FBI\*\*
8. San Bernardino County Public Defender's Office\*\*
9. To Be Announce (TBA)
10. TBA
11. TBA
12. TBA

\* Currently, none of these employers have confirmed their participation, as HR staff may still be on their long holiday vacation due to the start of the year.

\*\* Confirmed companies may encounter unforeseen challenges, such as last-minute staff shortages, scheduling conflicts, competing priorities, or traffic delays. These factors could lead to late arrivals, reduced participation, or, in some cases, an inability to attend the event.

### ARE YOU JOB READY?

- Bring multiple copies of your updated resume
- Dress professionally to make a great impression
- Ensure you're registered on [www.CalJOBS.ca.gov](http://www.CalJOBS.ca.gov)



**PALM SPRINGS  
AIR MUSEUM**®  
EST 1996

Visit our YouTube channel to watch our  
Emmy award winning documentaries!





## GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM

62510 Chiriaco Rd • Chiriaco Summit, CA 92201

### HONOR THE LEGACY. EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY.

*A family-friendly destination where America's military heritage comes to life.*



#### ★ HISTORIC GROUND. LIVING LEGACY. ★

Located at the historic site of **Camp Young**, headquarters of the **World War II Desert Training Center**, the museum preserves the story of leadership, readiness, and service forged in the **California desert**.

Walk the same grounds where troops trained for North Africa and where General George S. Patton shaped armored doctrine that influenced generations of American warfighters.

#### EXPLORE

- Matzner Tank Pavilion
- The "Big Map"—1988 Metropolitan Water District topographic display
- Patton's Rock Chapel
- The film *The Sands of War*
- Chandi West Wing
- Historic exhibits honoring Patton's distinguished service

#### EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND

- **Tank Rides Available**  
*(Reservation Required)*  
— **\$180 per person** —
- Group Tours and Student Tours Available

**VISIT** Open Daily | 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

**760/507-4143**



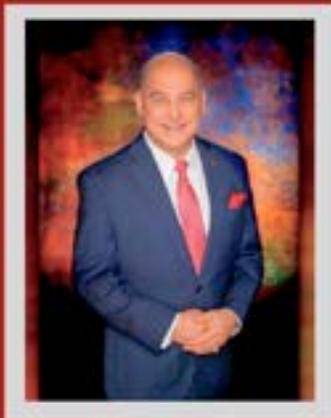
CATHEDRAL CITY CORPS

Presents

# “Celebrating 20 Years of Service”

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Fall Gala



*Emcee*

**PATRICK EVANS**  
KESQ Channel 3 News



*Honoree*

**JEFF GONZALEZ**  
California State Assembly  
AD 36



*Guest Speaker*

**LT. COLONEL MIKE  
DICKINSON**  
The Salvation Army

## The Salvation Army Davis Center

30-400 Landau Blvd, Cathedral City, CA 92234

THURSDAY 10.22.26 / 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Individual Tickets \$150**

Sponsorships Available

Contact Major Rubina Navarro at  
[rubina.navarro@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:rubina.navarro@usw.salvationarmy.org)

Or Call: (760) 324-2275

MAJORS NEIL AND  
RUBINA NAVARRO  
Corps Officers



100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT YOUTH, VETERANS, AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS IN  
COACHELLA VALLEY