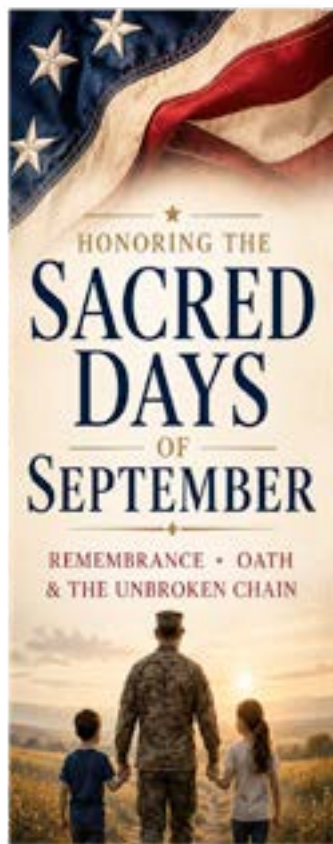




SEPTEMBER 2026



For the veterans community, the month of September is far more than the transition into autumn or a long Labor Day weekend. It marks a series of profound anniversaries that speak directly to our core values: our call to service, our solemn oath, and our unwavering commitment to our fallen and missing comrades. As we look ahead, we invite you to stand with us in honoring four key observances that hold a sacred place in the hearts of all who wore the uniform.

1. Patriot Day & National Day of Service (September 11) To the post-9/11 generation of veterans, this date is the catalyst that defined our service. It is a day of raw remembrance for the lives lost on American soil and the immediate call to arms that followed. **Our Action:** We do not observe this day passively. We honor through action. Join us as we continue our lifelong oath of civic duty.

2. National POW/MIA Recognition Day (September 18) This day strikes at the absolute heart of the military code: "I will never leave a fallen comrade." On the third Friday of September, we stop to honor those who endured the unimaginable as Prisoners of War and keep vigil for those who remain Missing in Action. We fly the black-and-white flag to ensure their names, and their families' sacrifices, are never forgotten. **Our Action:** We will hold a formal MIA/POW Ceremony at the Palm Springs Air Museum to honor those who have yet to return home.

3. Constitution Day (September 17) Every military member—enlisted and officer alike—takes a solemn oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States." Our allegiance is bound not to a person or a political party, but to the document that guarantees American liberty. **Our Action:** Our fraternal organizations offer to host civic discussions and present the colors, ensuring the next generation understands the profound weight of the freedoms we defended.

4. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day (September 27) Within the military community, there is no higher obligation than supporting the families of the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their grief is shared collectively by everyone who has ever worn the uniform. **Our Action:** On the last Sunday of September, we will strive to ensure these families know their loved ones will never be forgotten.

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A 13th VETERANS EXPO?

13th Annual Coachella Valley Veterans Expo — A Fresh Approach

The Coachella Valley Veterans Expo is coming back—with a fresh vision and plenty of new energy.

On August 7, Ed Robles of Mission Veteran brought a group together at the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio to begin planning the 13th Annual Coachella Valley Veterans Expo. The event is tentatively set for March 20, 2027, in the Fairgrounds' Fullenwider Auditorium.

The Expo has a proud history in the Coachella Valley. First held at the old Indio Armory in 2010, it moved to the Fairgrounds in 2012, where seven successful Expos were held through 2019. At its height, the event welcomed as many as 80 exhibitors and 1,500 attendees, honoring veterans and active-duty Marines while connecting veterans with services and benefits—sometimes benefits they didn't even know they had earned.

Following the pandemic, the Expo returned on a smaller scale at The Salvation Army's Cathedral City Corps, where it was held for three years beginning in 2022.

Now, Ed and a growing team of veterans and veterans organizations are looking toward the next chapter.

The goal is ambitious: return the Expo to the Fairgrounds, restore the size and energy of earlier events—and perhaps exceed them. The new team hopes to preserve the traditions that have made the Expo successful while introducing fresh ideas and engaging veterans organizations throughout the Coachella Valley.

That will take a community effort. Over the next six months, committees will be formed to tackle everything from fundraising, exhibitors and honorees to food, volunteers, security, logistics, the opening flag-raising ceremony and the main program.

One important tradition will continue: the goal is to keep the Expo free for both exhibitors and the public. Making that possible will require both financial support and plenty of volunteer time and talent.

Honoree Nominations Are Open

Ed is also seeking nominations for the Expo's veteran honorees. Traditionally, the Marine Corps base selects two active-duty Marines, while the Expo recognizes two local veterans—one man and one woman.

Nominees should have served honorably and, ideally, continued serving the local veterans community following their discharge or retirement. Recommendations, along with a brief explanation of why the nominee deserves recognition, may be sent directly to Ed.

Ready to Get Involved?

The history is here. The format is proven. And most importantly, the need and the passion are still very much alive.

Local legislators and key veterans organizations are already coming aboard. Now the invitation goes out to the rest of the Coachella Valley veterans community: Are you in?

Whether you can volunteer your time, lend your expertise, help raise funds, nominate an honoree or simply bring a good idea to the table, Ed would like to hear from you.

Contact Ed Robles at edward@missionveteran.org. Regular planning meetings are expected to begin in late September.

March 20 may seem a long way off—but building the best Veterans Expo yet starts now.

VA SECURES \$10B+ IN PHARMACEUTICAL PRICE REDUCTIONS SO FAR IN FY 2026



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

August 13 2026

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced it has secured a record-high \$10.44 billion in pharmaceutical price reductions so far in fiscal year 2026 – nearly double the value achieved in the last year of the Biden Administration.

During the second Trump Administration, VA launched a major effort to secure lower prices on the pharmaceuticals the department uses most frequently to treat Veterans, and this effort has yielded the highest level of price reductions ever recorded. Lower prices on pharmaceuticals enable VA to treat more Veterans and focus on emerging therapies that can be more expensive at the beginning of their product life cycle.

In FY 2024, VA achieved \$5.23 billion in price reductions through these negotiations. But under President Trump, VA achieved \$7.99 billion in price reductions in FY 2025 and is benefitting from \$10.44 billion in price reductions so far in FY 2026.

“Under President Trump, VA is racking up huge wins for Veterans and taxpayers by demanding a better deal from pharmaceutical companies,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins. “Our team already provides world-class care for Veterans,

and through smart, tough negotiations with drugmakers, we will continue to deliver more care and better care than ever before.”

Making the most effective use of congressional funding is just one of several steps VA is taking to serve Veterans better. For example, VA has:

Enrolled more than 215,000 new Veterans in VA healthcare in 2026.

Opened 40 new VA healthcare facilities since Jan. 20, 2025, expanding healthcare access for Veterans around the country.

Reduced the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by more than 70% since Jan. 20, 2025, after it increased 24% during the Biden Administration.

Completed a record high 82,083,918 direct care appointments in FY 2025, up 4.1% from FY 2024.

Completed a record high 59,989,662 community care appointments in FY 2025, up 12% from FY 2024.

Offered Veterans more than 3.1 million appointments outside of normal operating hours, giving Veterans more timely and convenient options for care.

Permanently housed 51,936 homeless Veterans across the country in FY 2025, the highest total in seven years.



Hi everyone,

I am reaching out to ask for your help with a special event.

On October 4, 2026, the Foundation is hosting A Veterans Luncheon: Honor Their Service, Preserve Their Story at the March field Air Museum.

Here's where I need your help: please share this with your family, friends, and neighbors and help me collect names of veterans you would like to see honored whether they're still with us or gone but not forgotten. My goal is to gather as many names as possible so we can properly honor them at this event.

To submit a name please include:

branch of service, rank/ title, and veterans full name

the area city they represent

a \$5 donation per name it would be appreciated but not required

For more information you can contact me at the phone numbers below.

Thank you so much for helping me honor these veterans please forward this to anyone who might want to take part.

Thank you,

Elisa Mendoza

ELISA MENDOZA

Transit Manager

City of Beaumont

550 E. 6th Street, Beaumont, Ca 92223

Desk (951) 769-8530 | cell (951) 214-5294

@BeaumontCa.gov

Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube





*Adam French Director
U.S. Army (Ret)
Riverside County
Department of Veterans' Services
4360 Orange Street
Riverside, CA. 92501
Website: <https://rivcoveterans.org>*

For many veterans, filing a VA claim may be the first, and sometimes only, interaction they have with Riverside County Veterans Services. But our role extends well beyond helping veterans file an initial claim.

Veterans' lives change, and their benefits may change with them. A service connected condition may worsen, laws change impacting service connection eligibility, or changes in a veteran's family, health, or financial circumstances may affect the benefits available to them. Veterans who have not reviewed their benefits in several years may also be unaware of programs or eligibility changes that could affect them.

That is where our Veterans Service Representatives can help.

Riverside County Veterans Services provides free assistance to veterans, dependents, and survivors in understanding and navigating the benefits they may have earned through military service. Our certified Veterans Service Representatives can review individual circumstances, assist with VA claims and appeals, and help connect veterans with other federal, state, county, and community resources.

We are also working to bring those services closer to where veterans live. In addition to our branch offices in Riverside, Indio, Hemet, and Temecula, our staff provides regularly scheduled services in communities including Desert Hot Springs, Corona, and at UC Riverside. Our Community Liaisons also work beyond our offices to reach justice involved veterans as well as veterans experiencing homelessness.

Our simple goal is that veterans shouldn't have to figure out the system alone.

If you haven't spoken with a Veterans Service Representative recently or aren't sure whether there is something we can assist you with, we encourage you to connect with us. Sometimes the most important first step is simply having the conversation.

Riverside County Veterans Services remains committed to strengthening our regional presence and making knowledgeable, professional veterans assistance accessible throughout Riverside County.

For information about services, office locations, or upcoming outreach opportunities, visit veteranservices.rivco.org or call (951) 955-3060.

Best Performance in History

Social Security Administration Delivers Best Performance in History

All client-facing service metrics have seen double-digit improvements

Baltimore, MD – The Social Security Administration (SSA) delivered historic service improvements over the last year. Operational and technology improvements under Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano led to better, faster, higher-quality service for the American people.

“Before I arrived, SSA had four different leaders in five months and was an agency in turmoil. Customers endured a failed service model. Under President Trump’s leadership, we are protecting and strengthening Social Security,” said Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano. “We are transforming SSA into a model of excellence, a digital-first agency that meets and exceeds customer expectations for timely, accurate service wherever they want to be met. In the last year, SSA has achieved historic results. We are delivering on the promise of Social Security for the more than 330 million Americans we serve.”

In a recent letter Commissioner Bisignano sent to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, SSA provided a 360-degree view on the agency’s performance and the historic improvements occurring across the agency.

Read the full letter and report [here](#).

Highlighted in the letter are the double-digit improvements in service delivery SSA achieved for the American people under Commissioner Bisignano’s leadership:

Reducing the National 800 Number average

speed of answer from 34 minutes in 2024 to 8 minutes to date, a 75 percent reduction.

Completing 385 million online transactions FY 2026 year to date (YTD), a 37 percent increase from 2024.

Shortening field office wait times by 30 percent.

Reducing the initial disability claims backlog by over 30 percent, from a high of nearly 1.3 million in 2024 to 853,000; and decreasing disability hearing wait times over 90 days to 266 days FY 2026 YTD, reaching historic lows.

Saving \$16 billion with a better control environment.

These customer service improvements have saved the public nearly 40 million hours in time that would have been spent waiting for service in fiscal year 2024.

Notable technology improvements to date include:

Straight Through Processing: Automates end-to-end processing of Medicare claims from initial application through adjudication, improving service, speed, and accuracy for the public. SSA has processed over 340,000 Medicare claims to date with straight through processing and is now expanding to certain retirement claims.

Telephone Support: Immediate service through Interactive Voice Response (IVR). Nearly 40 percent of calls are currently handled through IVR.

Supporting SSA Staff: Technology enhancements have increased program integrity, reduced improper payments, and maximized operational efficiency for SSI claims processing.

For more information about Social Security’s services, visit www.ssa.gov.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING



WRITE TO A DEPLOYED SERVICE MEMBER

Letters of support for our military are always welcome and appreciated as well and you can now send an e-card! Simply fill out the form and we will print it out and mail it with a care package overseas for you!
<https://www.milvt.org/ecard>

If you would like to **mail a card** please send them to:
MilVet - 33040 Antelope Rd. #114 Murrieta, Ca 92563

Electronic letters (emails)

ravensemail@gmail.com

MilVet also has a wishlist on their website where you can either shop online to donate items, donate funds, or find a drop off location for donations.

Shop at home and have donations delivered to us for packing

<https://milvet.org/military-care-packages>

Donations:

<https://milvet.org/donate>

Ask about Drop off Locations

<https://milvet.org/military-care-packages>

MilVet also has a page where you can adopt a service member or a unit.

Special Requests

<https://milvet.org/requests>

Request monthly care packages for a loved one serving:

SIGN UP A LOVED ONE TO RECEIVE MONTHLY CARE PACKAGES

If your active duty military member is currently deployed, we invite you to send them a care package from MilVet along with messages of support from the community. The only information we need is the following:

- Military Member's Full Name, Title and Branch
- Complete shipping address
- Photo preferred
- Favorite Foods or Wish Items
- Deployment Start and estimated End Date
- Your Name, City of Residence, and Phone Number

Please send an email to: military@milvet.org or [click here](#) for to fill out a request form.

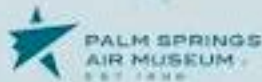
Military Care Packaging <https://milvet.org/military-care-packages>

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

IN LOVING MEMORY



Colonel Dean Hunter, USAF (Ret.)



The Palm Springs Air Museum mourns the passing of Colonel Dean Hunter, USAF (Ret.), a decorated combat veteran, educator, mentor, and cherished museum docent.

Dean dedicated his life to service and generously shared his stories with visitors of all ages. His courage, humility, and commitment to preserving history will never be forgotten.

Our deepest sympathies are with his family, friends, fellow veterans, and all who knew him.

The Salvation Army, VEAP, and the staff of ReadBack join The Palm Springs Air Museum in mourning the passing of our friend and supporter, Colonel Hunter.



Detroit Bound — The Wheelchair Games Are About More Than Medals - Report by Luis Bernal

At 4:00 in the morning on July 8, four veterans, two caregivers and a coach boarded a plane in Ontario, California, bound for Detroit and the 45th National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

They weren't traveling light. Along with the luggage came competition wheelchairs, archery equipment, air rifles and pistols—and a small team ready to represent the Loma Linda VA.

Marine Corps veteran Luis Bernal was among them.

Each summer, hundreds of disabled veterans from across the country, including Puerto Rico, gather to compete in approximately 20 adaptive sports. Athletes are grouped according to disability and competitive level, creating a fair field of competition for gold, silver and bronze medals.

But for Luis, the Games have always been about considerably more than medals.

ReadBack readers may remember his story. Luis became an amputee in 2017 and struggled with how dramatically his life had changed. Then another veteran introduced him to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

In 2019, he boarded a plane for Louisville, Kentucky, to attend his first Games, wondering, “What the hell am I doing here?”

His answer came almost as soon as he arrived. Hundreds of veterans in wheelchairs were rolling through the terminal, greeting one another, laughing and welcoming newcomers. Luis remembers suddenly feeling something familiar—the camaraderie and sense of belonging he'd known in the military. “One big family with some oddballs,” is how he describes it today.

He has been coming back ever since. For competitors, however, the road to the Games begins months before anyone boards an airplane. Veterans begin preparing as early as January, obtaining medical clearances, training and raising funds. Luis says the first trip is covered, but returning athletes must raise money for airfare and hotel expenses—not to mention a little spending money for those gifts that somehow find their way home to family and friends.

Once at the Games, the first day is devoted to registration and making certain everyone—and all that specialized equipment—has arrived safely. Then competition gets underway. And competition it is.

For eight days, wheelchairs aren't something that sets anyone apart. They're racing, turning, shooting, throwing and competing—and everywhere are veterans who understand one another without much explanation. For Luis, that may be one of the Games' greatest victories: disability is present, but it doesn't get to be the whole story.

Veterans compete seriously for gold, silver and bronze, but Luis says the desire to win doesn't interfere with something equally important.

“We keep the same veteran family attitude and support for each other.”

Seven years after that uncertain first trip to Louisville, Luis is no longer the newcomer wondering what he is doing there. He's an experienced competitor and an enthusiastic advocate who wants other wheelchair-using veterans to discover the opportunities he found.

He says he could “write for days” about the Games. Instead, he encourages veterans—and those who know them—to learn more, watch the athletes compete and consider getting involved. Luis is happy to help interested veterans find the information they need to get started.

And what about that small Loma Linda contingent that left Ontario at four in the morning?

They came home from Detroit with 25 medals.

That's certainly something to celebrate.

But after hearing Luis Bernal talk about the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, it's difficult not to conclude that what these veterans bring home in confidence, camaraderie and renewed sense of possibility may weigh considerably more than the medals around their necks.





Presents
“Celebrating 20 Years of Service”

On October 22, the Dick and Beverly Davis Community Center of The Salvation Army will celebrate 20 years of service in the Coachella Valley with a special anniversary Gala to raise funds for programs serving our local community—including an important commitment to our veterans.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with a reception, followed by dinner and a program built around “Then and Now.” Guests will have an opportunity to look back at the programs and partnerships developed over the past 20 years, see the work being done today, and get a glimpse of the five-year vision for what comes next.

Veterans have an important place in that story. Through the Veterans Easy Access Program (VEAP), veterans are connected with information, resources and benefits they may have earned but may not realize are available to them. The Salvation Army has also hosted 12 Veterans Expos since 2010, bringing veterans and service organizations together under one roof, while the monthly ReadBack helps keep veterans informed and connected.

The Center also has an important relationship with Veterans Village. Each month, The Salvation Army provides residents with a free breakfast and assists with food pantry offerings. Residents are welcomed at the Davis Center and have access to its gym and activities. Looking ahead, strengthening that relationship through greater volunteer involvement, activities and fellowship is one of the opportunities for expanding service to veterans in the years ahead.

Veterans programs are part of a much broader mission that includes social services, children’s and senior programs, emergency response and community activities—even pickleball!

Guest speaker Lt. Colonel Mike Dickinson of The Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters will share some of the organization’s larger story of service, including its response to the devastating Southern California fires in January 2025.

The annual Community Champion Award will be presented to Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez, who, in addition to his many community accomplishments, serves on The Salvation Army Advisory Board.

There will be some fun, too. A special silent auction will feature Firebirds tickets, a hot-air balloon ride, a tank ride and plenty more.

Most importantly, funds raised at the Gala stay here in the Coachella Valley, supporting programs that serve our neighbors—and our veterans. Only 200 seats are available, and tickets are going fast. See the accompanying flyer and reserve yours before they’re gone.

And don’t forget—Red Kettle season is just around the corner! From just before Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve, kettles throughout the Valley will raise funds for local programs. Drop in a few dollars when you pass one—or better yet, volunteer to ring the bell for a shift or two. 760/324-2275

It is guaranteed to be an experience you won’t forget!

SEPTEMBER IN MILITARY HISTORY



September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland starting World War II in Europe.

September 2, 1945: Japan formally surrenders ending of World War II. President Truman declares the day to be V-J Day.

September 4, 1781: The City of Los Angeles is founded by Spanish Governor Felipe de Neve.

September 6, 1620: The Mayflower ship departs Plymouth, England bound for America with 102 passengers and a small crew.

September 8, 1900: The worst weather disaster in USA history: A hurricane with winds of 120mph struck Galveston, Texas killing over 8,000 people.

September 9, 1776: The U.S. comes into existence as the Continental Congress changes the name of the American nation from the United Colonies to the United States.

September 11, 2001: The worst terrorist attack on American soil in history. Celebrate Patriots Day by remembering what occurred and flying your American flag proudly.

September 14, 1814: Star Spangled Banner is drafted by Francis Scott Keyes. Ft McHenry withstands the British Bombardment.

September 17, 1787: Thirty-nine delegates sign the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia.

September 17, 1862: The Civil War Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day in American history.

September 18, 1947: The United States Air Force is officially established as an independent branch of the military.

September 21, 1942: First flights of the B-29 Stratofortress.

September 24, 1960: The USS Enterprise (CVN-65) launched as the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

September 28, 1542: Spanish discovery of California by Cabrillo.

Wait Time for Prosthetics Reduced



WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has streamlined the process of purchasing prosthetic limbs to more efficiently serve thousands of Veterans who receive prosthetics through the VA every year.

Under prior procurement rules, orders for all prosthetic limbs had to be approved by a contracting officer, which meant Veterans had to wait several additional weeks before delivery.

On April 22, 2026, VA Secretary Doug Collins exempted approximately 95% of prosthetic limb orders from contracting officer reviews and determined that only the most expensive prosthetic limbs would continue to be subject to these reviews. Secretary Collins also authorized local purchasing agents to source directly from local suppliers whenever prosthetic limb prices are set by Medicare, in which case there is no negotiation over price and no need for review by a contracting officer.

These commonsense changes have already reduced Veterans' wait times for prosthetic limbs by 10 days, and VA expects average wait times to fall more than 40 percent – from 94 days to 54 days – as facilities across the nation fully implement this new process.

“Every day counts for Veterans. By removing needless bureaucracy, VA is enabling clinicians and procurement teams to provide Veterans with high-quality prosthetic care, better and faster than before,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins.

More than 45,000 Veterans rely on VA each year for major limb loss care. For more information, visit these sites:

VA Amputation Care Services
VA Orthotic, Prosthetic & Pedorthic Clinical Services
VA Prosthetic & Sensory Aid Services

As an aside: Did you know VA has a clothing allowance for Veterans that have a prosthetic or orthopedic device, or skin medication that affects your clothing? Learn who qualifies for this \$1000+ annual tax-free benefit. Applications must be submitted by August 1 each year.

[#VetResources](#) is a weekly newsletter for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Connect with Secretary Collins on X

DEDICATED PILOT, FLYING PEACHES, A FABULOUS FOX & THE REST OF THE STORY

The year was 1940, and the Royal Air Force was locked in a desperate struggle against the German Luftwaffe. Up in the skies over North Africa, a towering, 24-year-old fighter pilot was flying a routine ferry mission when he ran low on fuel. Blinded by a sudden sandstorm, he crashed his Gladiator biplane hard into the Libyan desert. The impact fractured his skull, smashed his nose, and left him temporarily blind. He barely escaped the burning wreckage before his fuel tank exploded. Against all medical odds, this young man recovered, went right back to his squadron, and shot down several enemy planes.

But the severe headaches from his head injuries eventually grounded him from flying forever. The British government, however, wasn't done with him. Recognizing his sharp mind, striking looks, and natural charm, they transferred him to Washington, D.C., as an attaché. But that title was merely a front. In reality, he was recruited into a shadow network of British spies operating on American soil. His mission? To mingle with high society, politicians, and journalists, using his charisma to influence American public opinion to join the war effort. He became a fixture at elite dinner parties, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Franklin D. Roosevelt and gathering crucial intelligence.

He was incredibly effective at the espionage game. But when the war finally ended, the handsome former pilot walked away from the world of shadows. He decided to try his hand at a much quieter life, sitting in a small garden shed with a pencil and yellow legal pads. He channeled his vast, vivid imagination away from military strategy and toward a completely different audience.

The pilot-turned-spy went on to create some of the most beloved, magical worlds in literary history, including a giant flying peach, a marvelous fox, and a whimsical chocolate factory. That dashing British secret agent was none other than Roald Dahl.

And now you know **The Rest Of The Story.**





"Hi"
Notes

"Happiness is not a destination, it is a way of traveling."

-J. M. Barrie

**"Integrity
is doing
the right
thing, even
when no one is
watching."**

— (Attributed to Charles
Marshall; often
misattributed to C.S.
Lewis.)

"Before you embark on a journey
of revenge, dig two graves."
- Confucius



*"... anyone who can make you
angry becomes your master
and only holds power when
you are disturbed by them."*

(This thought comes originally from
a quote from Epictetus' work, "The
Enchiridion," which is available in
various translations and editions,
sometimes attributed to Eleanor
Roosevelt)



BITS AND PIECES



Nashville, TN: “Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have lost a champion with the sudden passing of Colonel (Ret) Lindsey Graham, South Carolina’s senior United States Senator.”

Col. Graham is a Veteran of the United States Air Force, South Carolina Guard, and the Air Force Reserve. He served in the House of Representatives before election to the Senate. His military retirement ceremonies were celebrated at the National Guard Association Headquarters in Washington, D.C., in 2015 at age 60. He served 33 years in uniform.

“Lindsey Graham practiced law in the Air Force, and deployed to Iraq & Afghanistan numerous times while the Senate was in recess. We was a Patriots patriot, loved his country, and had a heart for military personnel, dependent family members, and fellow veterans. He will be greatly missed and we send our condolences to Graham’s family, friends, and staff. Rest in peace.”

Tom Freeman &
Donald Belton,
Honor Our Veterans
cofounders.



It has been brought to our attention that bobcats have been reported in the community. As bobcats naturally occur throughout our valley, and there are no roadblocks for them to return to their natural habitat, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife is not able to move them.

Please note CA Fish and Wildlife has provided the linked tips for encountering wildlife such as bobcats or coyotes in the community. Additionally, you can use the Human-Wildlife Conflict Program by following the link below.

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/HWC-Program#55195787-education-and-outreach>



Honor Flight San Diego (HFSD) recognizes American veterans for your sacrifices and service by flying you to Washington, D.C. to see your memorials at no cost. Top priority is given to our most senior veterans from the WWII and Korean Wars, and terminally ill veterans from all wars. For further information, please contact us at (800) 655-6997, email: info@honorflightsandiego.org or visit our website at HonorFlightSanDiego.org

You MUST have TSA-acceptable ID to fly. See the TSA website for acceptable forms of ID required for air travel: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>. (REAL ID required by 05/07/2025)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



1 - Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). First of the season. 5PM. Denny's 42435 Washington, Palm Desert. 760/600-0684.

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

2 - V-J Day (Victory over Japan). Fly your flag.

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

7 - Labor Day

11 - Patriot Day. Fly your flag/ Remember what happened on 9/11 and how our Nation responded. Look for a variety of events across the area and participate.

17 - Veterans Services Zoom Meeting. Third Thursday each month. 9AM. Call in and connect with a variety of key veterans agencies and legislator's representatives. All Welcome. Contact Anita Worthen at abird82@aol.com in advance to learn the details and find out how to get connected.

18 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day and U.S. Air Force Birthday (1947). Fly your flag.

19 - Annual POW/MIA event at Palm Springs Air Museum. Amazing event you won't want to miss. 5:15PM to 8:30PM. More Info? Go to PalmSpringsAirMuseum.org or call 760-482-1836 for info on ticket cost.



4 - A Veterans Luncheon. "Honor Their Service, Preserve Their Story" March Field Air Museum. Sponsored by the San Geronio Memorial Hospital Foundation. Contact Elisa Mendoza at emendoza@beaumontca.gov or 951-769-8530 to learn more about the luncheon and/or to get veteran's names recognized. \$5 donation suggested but not required. See attached flyer.

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

6 - Monthly meeting of 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. American Legion Hall, 44200 Sungold, Indio. Steve at 760-969-0035.

12 - Columbus Day

13 - U.S. Navy (1775) Birthday. Fly your flag.

15 - Veterans Services Zoom. Third Thursday each month. 9AM. Call in and connect with a variety of key veterans services providers and legislator's representatives from Riverside and San Bernardino counties. All welcome. Contact Anita Worthen at abird82@aol.com in advance to learn details and get connected.

15 - MOAA Membership/Lunch Meeting at Palm Springs Air Museum. First of the season. Guest Speaker: Fred Bell. 11AM. Terrie Heer at heercom@aol.com

17 - Exclusive Walt Disney Grumman G-1 Interior Experience with featured speaker. Palm Springs Air Museum (requires separate ticket). 6PM. Palmspringsairmuseum.org or 760-482-1836.

22 - MOAA March ARB Tour. 8AM to 5PM. \$95 per person. Leaves from Sam's Club on Monterey. Terrie Heer at heercom@aol.com for more details. Limited number of seats.

22 - 3rd Annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Gala. 5-9PM. 20th Anniversary of the Dick and Beverly Davis Corps of the Salvation Army on Landau in Cathedral City. Supports all programs of the only Salvation Army Corps in the Coachella Valley including their veteran's program (VEAP). Bill Young at majorbill1@aol.com

24 - United Nations Organization Founded (1945)

25 - Deadline for input to the November VEAP ReadBack Veterans Day coming up.

31 - 17th Annual Halloween Chili Cook-Off and Car Show. Palm Springs Air Museum. 10AM to 3PM. Palmspringsairmuseum.org or 760-482-1836.





Donations Needed!

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

Some Items Currently Needed:

- Beef Jerky/Protein Bars
- Coffee/Powdered Drink Mix
- Canned meat
- Candy/Chewing Gum
- Trail Mix/Fruit Snacks
- Chapstick/Wet Wipes
- Deodorant (Men/Women)
- Travel-Size Q-Tips
- Shower gel/Shampoo
- Letters of Support

For a full list visit of drop off locations please visit
www.milvet.org/military-care-packages

For a list of special requests visit www.milvet.org/requests



*Looking to make a tax-deductible donation? Scan the QR code to
donate by credit, debit, Paypal or Venmo*



www.milvet.org/military-care-packages

(951) 902-9681



INLAND EMPIRE WOMEN VETERANS COLLABORATIVE



All Women Veterans and
Those Who Help Women Veterans
are Welcome!

Join the Zoom Meeting
4th Friday of each month
9:00am-10:00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83676028752?pwd=b2Y3azZoRjU5ZVUvd25zZEJCS0hzZz09>

Meeting ID: 8367602 8752; Password: 844068

Mission: To increase awareness of the unique needs of women veterans

Vision: A caring community that embraces our women veterans and provide access to services

Values: We Community and Collaboration; Advocacy and Awareness; Resiliency and Respect; Empowerment



San Geronimo Memorial Hospital Foundation - SGMHFND
600 N. Highland Springs Ave.
Banning, CA 92220

Date:

DONORS FULL NAME	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER
NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, ST, ZIP, CONTACT PHONE NUMBER OF PERSON FILLING OUT THIS FORM		

NAME, BRANCH, RANK OF VETERAN TO BE CELEBRATED			EACH NAME WILL BE A DONATION OF \$5.00	
BRANCH	RANK/TITLE	VETERAN NAME	Pass Area City they represent	\$
SAMPLE Army	Sgt.	John M. Smith	Banning	\$5.00
1				\$
2				\$
3				\$
4				\$
5				\$
6				\$
7				\$
8				\$
9				\$
10				\$
TOTAL				

DO YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE YOUR VETERAN WITH A PICTURE AND SHORT PARAGRAPH? The cost is \$150

Fill out Veteran information below and email your Veterans picture to SSnowball@sgmh.org

Mail check to

SGMH Foundation

VETERAN NAME

600 N. Highland Springs Ave.

BANNING, CA 92220

OR If you'd like more information

Contact the Foundation office at

(951) 769-2184

Submit Names by August 15, 2026 to be included in the digital presentation scroll



SGMH FOUNDATION QR CODE FOR EVENT

QR CODE TO PAY →



VA LOMA LINDA



VA | MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

HONORING VETERANS

from All Eras

STRONGER MINDS. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.
STRONGER TOGETHER.



A day of connection, education, and empowerment focused on mental wellness, healing, and hope for Veterans, Service Members, and their families.



INSPIRING SPEAKERS



RESOURCE FAIR



PEER SUPPORT & COMMUNITY CONNECTION



EVERY ERA. EVERY STORY. EVERY HERO.

Thank You.



SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



CREATMORE MANOR
7525 Arlington Ave.
Riverside, CA 92503



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Veterans of All Eras, Service Members, Families, Caregivers, Providers & Community Partners



YOUR MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

REGISTER TODAY!

Scan the QR code
or visit the link below.



RESPECT



SERVICE



COURAGE



COMMITMENT

America's **Job** Center of CaliforniaSM

RIVERSIDE'S LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH JOB FAIR

March 2026's Mini-Job Fair

DATE:

~~March 27th~~

TIME:

9:00am to 12:30pm

LOCATION & ROOM 1A

Riverside-America's Job Center of CA (AICC)

1325 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/9nhgApkaoPr>

FUTURE DATES:

~~March 27th, April 24th, May 29th, June 26th, July 31st, August 28th, September 25th, & Oct 30th~~

Please contact [Lance Sayavong@edd.ca.gov](mailto:Lance.Sayavong@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

NOTE: The Riverside AICC'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: DOR, EDA, EDU, Goodwill, Job Corps, Learn4Life, and YELP. 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@rivco.org at least 5 to 7 days in advance

OPPORTUNITIES:

1. CalTRANS HR*
2. City of Riverside HR**
3. Complete Coach Works HR**
4. County of Riverside HR**
5. County of Riverside Registrar of Voters HR**
6. County of San Bernardino HR**
7. EDD-Unemployment Insurance (UI)**
8. FFF Enterprise, Inc.**
9. FenceWorks**
10. To Be Announce (TBA)
11. TBA
12. TBA

* Asterisk or NOT, currently, none of these employers have confirmed their participation, as HR staff may still be off, on vacation, or 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, illness, or traffic delays. These factors could lead to late arrivals, reduced participation, or, in some cases, an inability to attend the event. Also, we reserved the right to update the flyer anytime.

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



A CHARITY EVENT FOR:
QUEEN OF HEARTS
THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER, INC.



**MEDIEVAL
RODEO**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH / 4:00PM - 900PM

MEDIEVAL LAND 634 RIVER DR. NORCO

A "KNIGHT" OF JOUSTING ENTERTAINMENT!

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY



★ SCAN ME ★

DINNER, DRINKS AND A SHOW INCLUDED

*We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity serving
adults & children with special needs. EIN 33-0907556*

Telephone: 951-734-6300

Email: info@queenofheartsranch.com



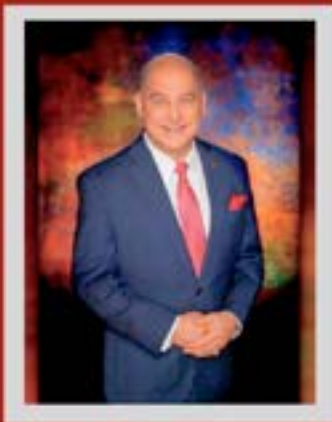
CATHEDRAL CITY CORPS

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

ONLY
INDIVIDUAL

TICKETS

STILL AVAILABLE

Individual Tickets \$150

Sponsorships Available

Contact Major Rubina Navarro at
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

MARCH AIR FORCE RESERVE BASE & AIR MUSEUM TOUR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026



**You're invited to join the Coachella Valley Chapter of the
Military Officers Association of America for a bus tour of fun!**

- \$95/person, ride from Palm Desert Sams Club to March Air Force Reserve Base and back.
- Tour includes luxury Cardiff bus transportation. Tour of the March Air Force Reserve Base to include: UAF's, C-135, C-17 and EOD presentation. Also tour of March Field Air Museum and lunch with speaker.
- Bus leaves Palm Desert Sams Club at 8:00 AM and returns by 6:00 PM.
There are **only 56 seats available**, send your application and check today to:
82770 Odium Drive, Indio, CA 92201.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

STATE ID/DL #: _____ US CITIZEN?: YES NO

For further information call, Terrie at 503-347-7614

Save the Date



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT★2026

November 3-6, 2026 | San Diego, CA

SAVE THE NEW DATES!



**THE 2026 CALVET LEADERSHIP SUMMIT RETURNS TO
SAN DIEGO!**

*** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026 - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026**

*** AT THE WESTIN SAN DIEGO GASLAMP QUARTER
WHERE LEADERS FROM ACROSS CALIFORNIA'S VETERAN
COMMUNITY
CONNECT, COLLABORATE, AND MOVE OUR MISSION FORWARD.**

**OFFICIAL INVITATIONS AND REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING
SOON.**

Questions?

For additional information and questions,
please contact the Leadership Summit committee

Email: summit@calvet.ca.gov

BLEED 0.125"

TRIM 8.5" X 11"

300 DPI PRINT PROOF — GUIDES OUTSIDE ARTWORK



**Cathedral City
Evening Rotary Club**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
BE PART OF THIS MEANINGFUL
TRIBUTE TO OUR HEROES.
CALL 760-799-0916

★ 21ST ANNUAL ★ **FIELDS OF VALOR**

**A LIVING TRIBUTE TO THE HEROES
WHO DEFENDED OUR FREEDOM**



HONORING OUR VETERANS ★ CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY



INSTALLING OVER 3,000 FLAGS
A SEA OF GRATITUDE



MORNING & AFTERNOON CEREMONY
HONOR. REMEMBER. NEVER FORGET.



LIVE MILITARY BAND
PATRIOT MUSIC AND LIVE BANDS



21 GUN SALUTE
MILITARY FLYOVER



FAMILY ACTIVITIES
FUN FOR ALL AGES



COMMUNITY INFO BOOTHS
CONNECT. LEARN. SUPPORT.



MILITARY VEHICLES
SEE OUR HEROES UP CLOSE

★ **FREE ADMISSION** • *Fun for the Whole Family*



★ **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026** ★
9 AM – 4 PM **FREE ADMISSION!**

★ MORNING CEREMONY 9 AM ★ AFTERNOON PROGRAM • 12-4 PM ★



DOWNTOWN CITY HALL

**68700 AVENIDA LALO GUERRERO
CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92234**

SPONSORED BY



BURTEC
WASTE INDUSTRIES, INC.



Cathedral City



PNC



ONE NATION. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE PURPOSE.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVE.



McCALLUM THEATRE
PRESENTS

VETERANS ROCK

A VETERANS DAY EVE CELEBRATION

Featuring **THE HIT MEN** CLASSIC ROCK
SUPERGROUP

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026
5:00PM Pre-Show Festivities | 7:00PM Show

 In partnership with
PALM DESERT

A patriotic poster for Veterans Day. The background is a dramatic sky with clouds. In the upper left, a large American flag waves. In the upper right, two fighter jets fly. In the lower half, a tank and a jeep are shown on a battlefield. A banner across the middle features a bowl of chili and the text 'CHILI COOK-OFF!'.

★ **VETERANS DAY** ★

★ ★ ★ ★

**A SALUTE TO
SERVICE**

★ ★ ★ ★ PRESENTATION OF ★ ★ ★ ★

**THE GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM AWARD &
THE FOUNDERS AWARD**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ PLUS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CHILI COOK-OFF!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **NOVEMBER 11, 2026** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ALL DAY EVENT • PROGRAM BEGINS AT 11 AM

GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM

— CHIRIACO SUMMIT, CA —

— **FREE EVENT** —

CONTACT: 760-507-4143 • INFO@GENERALPATTONMUSEUM.COM



PALM SPRINGS

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS

DUTY ★ HONOR ★ COUNTRY

29th Annual Palm Springs Parade & Concert: "Honoring All Who Served"

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 | Starting at 3:30 PM
Downtown Palm Springs

VillageFest: Letters to All Who Served

Thursday, November 12, 2026 | 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Downtown Palm Springs

Dinner & Patriotic Concert For All Who Served & Their Families

Friday, November 13, 2026 | Dinner 5:00 PM | Concert 6:00 PM
Downtown Park: 230 Museum Way

INTEGRITY ★ LIBERTY ★ UNITY



CITY OF PALM SPRINGS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
760.323.8272 | WWW.PSVETERANSDAY.COM

