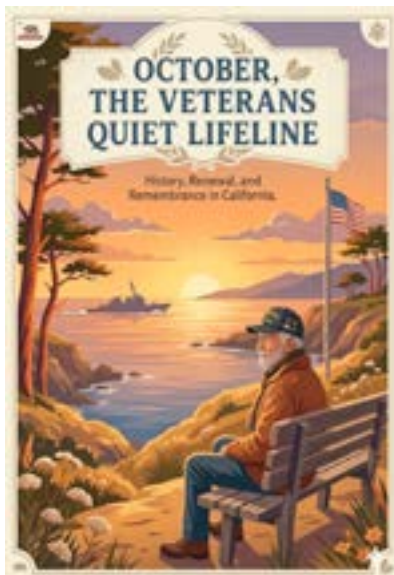




When we think about honoring our military veterans, our minds naturally drift to November's parades and solemn tributes. But for the nearly 1.3 million veterans living across California, the month right before it holds a significance that is just as deep, even if it rarely makes the front page. While November is the time for the nation to look back and remember, October is the month where the actual, heavy lifting happens to keep veterans moving forward. In fact, there was a time when October actually held the holiday itself.

Back in the 1970s, the government tried a brief experiment where they moved Veterans Day to the end of October just to give federal workers a three-day weekend. The public hated it. Veterans and military families felt it stripped away the sacred weight of the original date, which was chosen to mark the exact moment the guns fell silent in World War I. The backlash was so fierce that President Gerald Ford eventually changed it back, but that strange calendar shift left a lasting imprint on how we view the autumn season.

Today, October functions as a massive, practical lifeline for the military community because it marks the start of the government's new fiscal year on October 1st. Right as the month begins, a fresh wave of state and federal funding unlocks all at once.

In California, state agencies like CalVet immediately launch massive outreach campaigns, distributing newly replenished grants for housing, tuition waivers, and career training. It is also a critical month for healthcare, where VA hospitals across the Golden State shift their focus to holistic wellness, ramping up specialized mental health support, suicide prevention programs, and critical counseling for military families navigating trauma. But beyond the administrative side, October is deeply personal to veterans because it is a month defined by some of the most intense, defining battles in American history.

For a Navy veteran who fought in the Pacific during World War II, late October marks the anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf—the largest naval battle in human history. For an old Marine, October 23rd is a sacred and heartbreaking day of mourning for the 241 service members lost in the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing. Even younger special operations veterans look to early October to remember the brutal urban firefight in Mogadishu, Somalia, famously known as Black Hawk Down.

When you connect all these pieces, October takes on a beautiful, distinct identity. It isn't just a prelude to November's public tributes. Instead, it serves as a month of survival, renewal, and quiet remembrance—the moment where veterans get the tangible tools and healthcare they need to thrive, while privately holding close the anniversaries of the moments that shaped their lives.

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A 13th VETERANS EXPO?

WATCH FOR IT...



I know you have all asked when we can have another Veterans Expo and when can we return to the Fairgrounds. For all of you readers who have been following the plans for a proposed 13th Annual Veterans Expo in 2027, be assured that we are still headed in that direction.

On September 25th a planning meeting was held to review progress, establish committees and set a schedule for the next 30 days to get us moving toward the new **"Mission EXPO"**. A date of Saturday March 13th has been reserved at the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio and the plan is for the revised event to consist of some 80 exhibitors, 1500 attendees and a program honoring two local veterans and two active duty Marines from Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Base. With just five and a half months to pull it all together, we need the support of the entire community to make this a reality. This is our opportunity, but only if we can get the support needed to pull it off.

Ed Robles and his non-profit Mission Veteran will be taking the lead this time and the Veterans Easy Access Program (VEAP), which oversaw the past twelve Expos, will be in a supportive role. Our local legislators are all on board and several other key organizations will be critical to its success. We have already established an early contact with Social Security to man a booth as well as a number of other organizations ready and excited to have the opportunity to be there.

What we need now is for individuals and organizations to not only say we support the mission, but to come on board and take an active role in making it a reality. We need your skills by having you volunteer for a committee and spending some of your precious time over the next few months working directly with us. Some of the committees that will need help are: infrastructure, decorations, food, event program, fund raising, publicity, liaison with 29 Palms Marine Base, VIPs, opening ceremony (flag raising) and exhibitors. If one of these connects with an area where you can help, let Ed know at edward@missionveteran.org.

Much work needs to be accomplished in the months leading up to the event in order for it to be successful. Only so much can be done in the final 30-45 days.

One final thought. Much has been said about a Coachella Valley Veterans Coalition over the past year. The idea is being tossed around to combine the concept with Mission Veteran and use the combined force to do future Veterans Expos as well as other activities for veterans. Right now, it's just an idea. Will keep you all updated in future ReadBacks.

For further information or to participate, contact Ed Robles at the email above or call at 760/883-0266. Committees are forming now for **MISSION EXPO**.

The VA: Looking at Both Sides



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Most veterans have a VA story. Some are very good. Some are frustrating. And some probably shouldn't be repeated in polite company.

But every so often, it's worth stepping back from our individual experiences and looking at the larger picture.

There is some good news.

In fiscal year 2025, the VA completed more than 82 million direct-care appointments and nearly 60 million community-care appointments. Since January 2025, it has opened dozens of new health-care facilities and substantially reduced the backlog of veterans waiting for benefits. More than two million appointments have also been offered outside normal business hours—early mornings, evenings and weekends—giving veterans more flexibility in obtaining care.

There has been progress beyond the examining room as well. In fiscal year 2025, the VA helped more than 51,000 homeless veterans obtain permanent housing.

And some long-overdue attention is being paid to the buildings themselves. For fiscal year 2026, the VA committed a record \$4.8 billion to repair and modernize health-care facilities nationwide. That includes aging infrastructure, electronic health-record preparation, elevators, electrical systems, boiler plants and other improvements that aren't particularly glamorous—but are certainly necessary.

Does that mean everything is working as it should?

Hardly.

Many veterans still encounter long waits, staffing shortages, complicated paperwork and a claims process that can seem painfully slow when you're the veteran waiting for an answer. Recruiting and retaining enough doctors, nurses, technicians and other qualified personnel remains a serious challenge in many locations. Those problems deserve attention, and veterans should continue speaking up when the system isn't working.

But there is another side worth remembering.

Behind the enormous organization we simply call "the VA" are thousands of people caring for a very particular population with needs that aren't always found in the civilian health-care system. They care for aging World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans while also serving younger generations carrying the physical and psychological consequences of more recent conflicts.

The VA needs improvement. It probably always will. An organization this large should never be beyond criticism, particularly when the people depending upon it earned those benefits through military service.

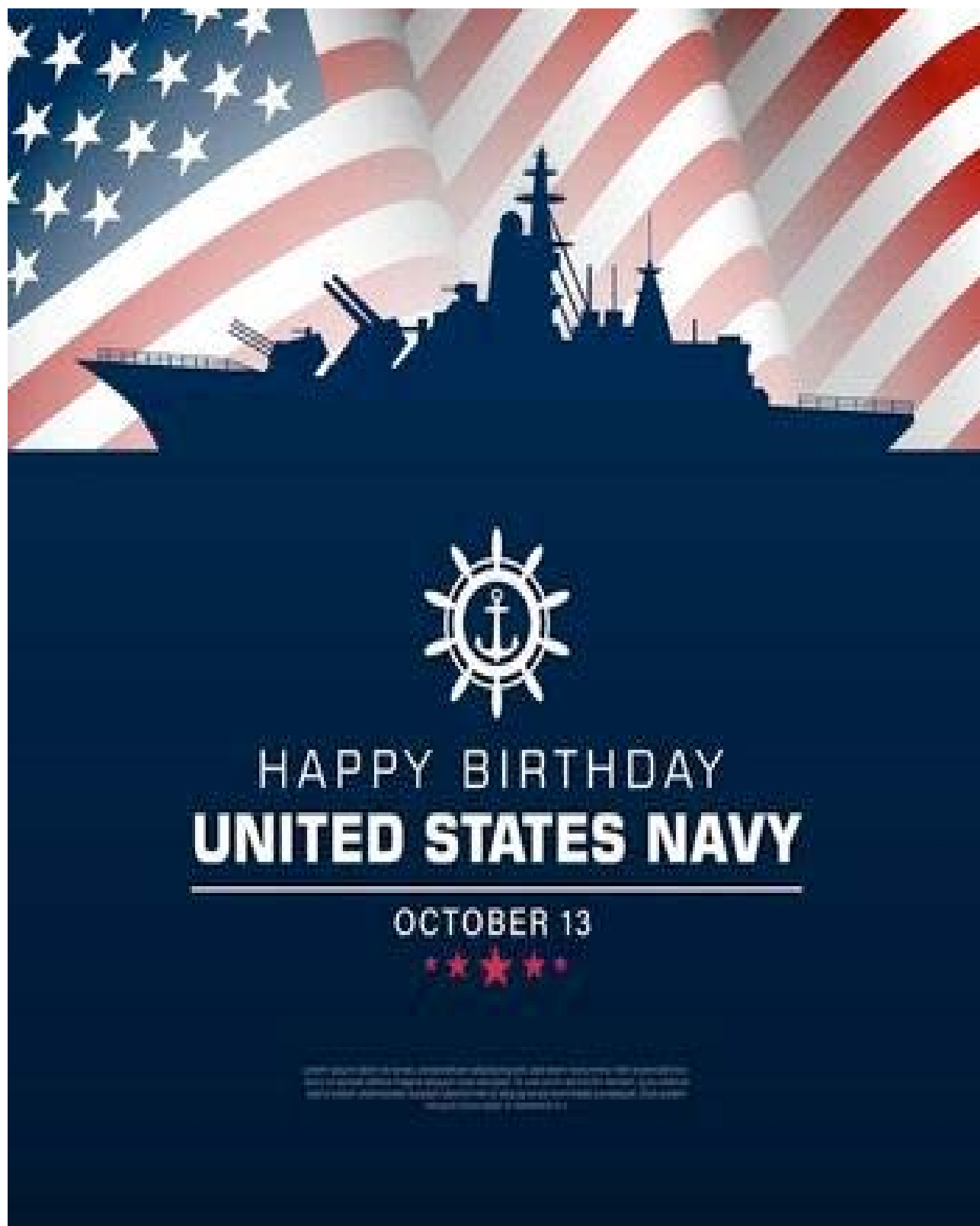
But imagine for a moment what would happen if the VA weren't there at all.

So the next time you have a good experience at the VA, tell somebody. Thank the nurse, technician, physician, receptionist or volunteer who made it happen. And when the experience isn't good, keep pushing for something better.

We can appreciate what works and still insist that what doesn't work gets fixed.

Veterans deserve both.







The Aztec Eagles

As one of more than 40 nations to join the Allied cause during World War II, Mexico played a little-known but meaningful role in the conflict. In 1945, a squadron of Mexican fighter pilots trained and equipped by the U.S. Army Air Forces entered the fight against Japan. Known as the Aztec Eagles, they would become the first Mexican military force ever sent overseas for combat. Mexico declared war on the Axis powers in 1942 after German submarines sank Mexican oil tankers. By 1944, the Mexican Expeditionary Air Force had been organized for overseas service. At its heart was Escuadrón 201, composed of 36 volunteer pilots and more than 260 ground personnel.

The Aztec Eagles trained at U.S. air bases before deploying to the Philippines in 1945, where they joined the U.S. Army Air Forces' 58th Fighter Group. Flying Republic P-47D Thunderbolts—the "Jug" to American pilots and "El Jarro" to the Mexicans—they became part of an American combat organization while retaining their Mexican identity. Their aircraft carried both nations' insignia.

Beginning combat operations in June, they flew close-air-support missions against Japanese positions on Luzon and long-range strikes against targets on Formosa, now Taiwan. When the 58th Fighter Group moved to Okinawa, the now fully operational Mexican squadron assumed responsibility for air operations in its area, supporting the U.S. 25th Infantry Division and Philippine Army units.

By war's end, the Aztec Eagles had flown 795 combat sorties and nearly 2,000 combat hours. Seven pilots were lost. The squadron received the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, American decorations and Mexico's Far East Service Medal.

But their importance went beyond the missions they flew. At a time when relations between Mexico and the United States carried the weight of a difficult history, Mexican and American airmen trained and fought side by side against a common enemy.

Wartime cooperation between the two countries helped strengthen their military and diplomatic relationship.

For the men themselves, it meant leaving Mexico, mastering another country's aircraft and military procedures, and traveling halfway around the world to fight alongside American and Filipino forces. Five of those young pilots would later rise to the rank of general in the Mexican Air Force.

When they returned home in November 1945, they received a hero's welcome and a military parade in Mexico City. Their distinction remains remarkable more than 80 years later: Escuadrón 201 is still the only Mexican military unit ever to have fought outside Mexico's national borders.

Adapted from an article by Lt. Col. Patrick J. Chaisson, USA (Ret.), published in the September 2026 issue of Military Officer Magazine.



The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced \$1.17 billion in grants to 680 organizations nationwide to help Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Nearly \$210 million of that funding is being awarded to community organizations serving Veterans throughout California.

ONE OF THOSE AWARDS DIRECTLY SERVES THE COACHELLA VALLEY.

Help For Future Leaders, Inc., in Desert Hot Springs, has received a Fiscal Year 2027 VA Grant and Per Diem award supporting 15 transitional housing beds for Veterans. The organization operates within the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System's network of community-based programs for homeless Veterans and is identified by VA as a men's program.

The FY 2027 award continues an existing program rather than adding 15 new beds. VA records show that Help For Future Leaders was already authorized for 15 Veteran beds under the preceding Grant and Per Diem funding period.

The Desert Hot Springs program is part of VA's Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, which works with community organizations to provide temporary supportive housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness. In addition to housing, GPD programs may provide case management, clinical support, employment assistance and help developing the skills needed for

independent living.

The 15 beds represent a small part of the funding being distributed throughout California, but their location is significant. They provide federally supported transitional housing for homeless Veterans here in the Coachella Valley, giving local Veterans another pathway toward permanent housing and greater stability without having to depend entirely upon services located in the state's larger metropolitan areas.

Nationally, \$855 million of the newly announced funding is being distributed through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, which focuses on preventing homelessness and rapidly rehousing Veterans and their families. Another \$318 million supports the Grant and Per Diem program, including transitional housing programs such as the one in Desert Hot Springs.

For a Veteran without a safe place to sleep, however, the most important number may not be \$1.17 billion.

It may simply be 15 — fifteen beds, right here at home.

NEED HELP OR KNOW A VETERAN WHO DOES?

Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless — as well as family members, friends or others calling on their behalf — can contact the VA National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-424-3838 (1-877-4AID-VET). The service is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The call center can connect a Veteran with the appropriate local VA homeless-services staff and provide information about housing assistance, health care and other available programs.

For assistance through the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, which serves our area, call 800-741-8387 or 909-825-7084 and ask for Homeless Veteran Care.

VA Loma Linda also identifies Help For Future Leaders in Desert Hot Springs as one of its Grant and Per Diem transitional housing programs for men.

A New Look for ReadBack in 2027

Every so often, even something familiar can benefit from a fresh look. ReadBack has been reaching our veteran and military community for almost 16 years, and before 2026 gets too far behind us, I wanted to give you a heads up at a change that will be coming in the new year.

Technology has caught up with ReadBack...Beginning with our first issue of 2027, ReadBack will have a new look. We'll be introducing a redesigned masthead and refreshed format intended to make the newsletter easier to read, more inviting, and even better suited to bringing you timely news, information, resources, and stories of interest to our veteran and military community.

To all of you who read ReadBack, contribute information, and pass it along to others, thank you. Your continued interest and support are what have kept this newsletter going.

As we prepare for the new format, we'd like to hear from you. Is there something you would like to see added or changed? Are there subjects you think deserve more attention? Your comments and suggestions are always welcome and can help us make ReadBack more useful to the people it was created to serve.

A reminder to our contributors: The deadline for submitting articles, news, announcements, information, and other material is the 25th of the month preceding publication. Meeting that deadline helps us get information to our readers in time for them to participate in upcoming events, programs, and opportunities.

And please remember—there is never a charge to subscribe to ReadBack. If you know a veteran, family member, organization, or friend who would enjoy receiving it, we invite you to spread the word. READBACK.VEAP@GMAIL.COM

New year. New look. Same commitment to our veteran and military community.



BENEFITS PROGRESS REPORT

SEPT 2: WASHINGTON DC

“Accelerating Access to Veterans’ Benefits and Employment Opportunities,” calls on VA and the Department of War to work together to ensure that service members’ Military Personnel Files and Service Treatment Records are shared with VA from the day they join the military.

Immediate VA access to these records is critical to enabling Veterans to quickly access the VA benefits they’ve earned when they leave military service, such as healthcare, disability compensation, GI Bill and home loan benefits.

During the second Trump Administration, VA has already reduced the average time it takes to process disability benefits claims by 46%, from 141.5 days to 76.1 days. Sharing of military records between DoW and VA could reduce processing times for recently separated service members by another 20 to 30 days on average.

President Trump’s order calls on VA and DoW to update all related information technology systems to allow this information sharing to take place, leverage artificial intelligence to make the benefits process more convenient for Veterans, and adjust all related technology contracts to ensure the goals of the order are met.

Additionally, it calls on VA and the Department of Labor to work with DoW as it updates the Transition Assistance Program and other programs aimed at helping Veterans quickly find jobs after they leave the military.

“President Trump understands the importance of putting Veterans First like no other commander in chief, and this executive order will make it faster and more convenient for Veterans to get the benefits they’ve earned,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins. “Giving VA continuous access to warfighters’ military records will eliminate weeks of waiting for Veterans applying for VA healthcare and financial benefits. We want to make the transition from military to Veteran status as seamless as possible, and we look forward to working with President Trump and Department of War Secretary Pete Hegseth to do just that.”

President Trump’s executive order is the latest in a long list of landmark progress his administration has made for Veterans. During his second administration, VA has:

Enrolled more than 250,000 new Veterans in VA healthcare in 2026.

Opened 41 new VA healthcare facilities, expanding healthcare access for Veterans around the country.

Reduced the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by more than 70%, after it increased 24% during previous Administrations.

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

Committed nearly \$5 billion in the current fiscal year to repair and improve VA healthcare facilities across the country – the largest non-recurring maintenance investment in VA’s history.

Permanently housed 51,936 homeless Veterans across the country in FY25, the highest total in seven years.

OCTOBER: MORE THAN JUST A MONTH ON THE CALENDAR

October may not have the marquee military observances of Memorial Day or Veterans Day, but take a closer look. The month is filled with reminders of service—past, present, and continuing long after the uniform has been put away.

251 YEARS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

October 13

On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the beginnings of what would become the United States Navy.

Today, the Navy Birthday is celebrated throughout the service and veteran community with traditional balls, ceremonies and, of course, the ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake.

For sailors past and present, October 13 is more than an anniversary. It is a celebration of 251 years of Navy history, tradition and service.

THE WOMAN BEYOND THE UNIFORM

Mid-October

The Ms. Veteran America competition turns the spotlight on a part of the veteran community that has not always received it—America's women veterans.

Built around the theme “The Woman Beyond the Uniform,” the event celebrates the service, strength and accomplishments of women veterans after military service.

There is another purpose behind the pageantry. The event benefits Final Salute Inc., an organization working to provide housing and assistance to homeless women veterans and their children.

WHERE THE ARMY MEETS

Thousands of soldiers, veterans, military leaders and defense professionals gather in Washington, D.C., for the Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting & Exposition.

Part professional forum, part reunion and part look toward the Army of tomorrow, the three-day gathering brings together generations of the Army community under one roof.

VETERANS IN BUSINESS

Early October

Military service may end. Leadership doesn't.

The National Veteran Business Development Council's national conference brings veteran-owned businesses together with corporations, government agencies and supplier-diversity programs.

Its purpose is decidedly practical: opening doors and creating greater economic opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE DEPLOYED

October 26

This one deserves a moment of its own.

The National Day of the Deployed honors the men and women who are serving away from home—and those who have deployed before them.

Veterans understand perhaps better than anyone that a deployment is rarely borne by the service member alone. Behind each person deployed are spouses, children, parents and friends who wait, worry and keep life moving at home.

October 26 remembers them, too.

AND THEN THERE'S NAVY DAY...

October 27

Didn't we just celebrate the Navy?

Yes—but this is different.

Navy Day was established in 1922 by the Navy League of the United States and was traditionally observed on October 27. Although the Navy's official birthday celebration is now October 13, Navy Day remains part of the service's historical calendar and is still recognized by many Navy veterans.

So, in October, sailors can legitimately claim two days.

Considering 251 years of service, perhaps they've earned them.

OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

Early October — National Veteran Business

Development Council Conference

October 13 — U.S. Navy Birthday

Mid-October — Ms. Veteran America

Mid-October — AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition

October 26 — National Day of the Deployed

October 27 — Navy Day

October reminds us that America's military story isn't confined to battlefields or history books. Some are serving today. Some are building businesses. Some are advocating, leading and serving their communities. And some are simply carrying forward traditions that began generations ago.

Different dates. Different missions. One veterans and military community.

CHANGING CHANNELS IN HOLLYWOOD & THE REST OF THE STORY



Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler arrived in Hollywood in the late 1930s with the same ambition shared by countless young actresses—to become a Hollywood star.

But Hedwig was not quite the typical Hollywood hopeful.

Born in Vienna in 1914, Hedwig began acting at about 16 and had already attracted considerable attention in European films. She had also lived a life that would later have an unexpected influence on the war effort.

At 18, Hedwig married Friedrich Mandl, one of Austria's wealthiest arms manufacturers. The marriage was restrictive and unhappy, and it placed the young actress in a world far removed from motion pictures. Mandl dealt in armaments and entertained military and political figures at gatherings where weapons and military technology were discussed.

Hedwig listened.

And remembered.

In 1937, she left Mandl but was married 5 more times. She made her way to London, where she met MGM studio chief Louis B. Mayer. She sailed for America aboard the same ship as Mayer and arrived with an MGM contract.

Hollywood made her a star.

Before long, she was appearing opposite Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy and James Stewart and was being hailed as one of the most beautiful women in the world.

Her beauty had helped make her famous.

Before long, it would also help her country.

But Europe was moving toward war.

And for Hedwig, it was personal.

Austria had been absorbed into Nazi Germany. Her family had Jewish roots. And from her years with Mandl, she knew something about the weapons being used in the growing conflict.

By 1940, Hedwig was increasingly uncomfortable sitting safely in Hollywood while Europe was at war.

Then, in September, a German U-boat torpedoed

the British passenger ship City of Benares. Among its passengers were children being evacuated from Britain to Canada. Most of those children died.

For Hedwig, watching from a distance was no longer enough.

She wanted to help.

And she had more than celebrity to offer.

In the wake of that tragedy, she began thinking about torpedoes.

From what she had learned, radio control could be used to guide a torpedo toward its target. But there was a weakness: if the enemy discovered the radio frequency being used, the guidance signal could be jammed.

Hedwig had an idea.

What if the signal didn't remain on one frequency?

What if it kept changing?

If the transmitter and receiver could change frequencies together, an enemy trying to jam the signal would constantly be chasing it.

Find one frequency...

and the signal had already moved to another.

The idea was simple.

Making it work would be another matter.

Hedwig shared the idea with her friend George Antheil, an avant-garde composer who understood synchronization from his work with player pianos.

Together they devised a system that would keep the transmitter and receiver changing frequencies in unison.

A piano had 88 keys.

Their system used 88 frequencies.

They called it a "Secret Communication System."

In 1941, they applied for a United States patent and offered their idea to the Navy.

The Navy wasn't convinced.

The idea was intriguing. The proposed mechanism was not.

Using synchronized player-piano rolls to control the changing frequencies seemed too cumbersome

SCAM ALERT



Office of the Inspector General
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2026



Beware of Fake “Call Transfers” to Social Security or OIG



Scammers are impersonating well-known retailers, other government agencies, and even law enforcement — then falsely claiming to transfer your call directly to the Social Security Administration (SSA) or the SSA Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Recent reporting described a call that began with someone claiming to be from a major retailer, asking about a purchase the consumer didn't make. The call was then transferred to a person claiming to represent Social Security, who said the consumer's identity had been stolen and used for opening bank accounts and other crimes. The caller sent a lengthy document to sign, instructed the consumer not to discuss it with anyone, and promised a new Social Security number. Fortunately, the consumer recognized the scam warning signs and contacted SSA directly before any money was lost.

Legitimate companies and other agencies CANNOT transfer your phone call directly to SSA or OIG. If a call connects you to someone claiming to be from SSA or OIG, it is a scam, without exception, every time.

How the Scam Works

1. You get a call from someone claiming to represent a retailer, bank, or another agency, often asking about a suspicious purchase or fraudulent activity.
2. When you say you didn't make the purchase, the caller transfers you to a supposed SSA or OIG representative.
3. The fake representative claims your Social Security number has been compromised, linked to identity theft, or used in criminal activity.
4. You may be pressured to:
 - Keep the call confidential (*Note: SSA and OIG will not pressure or coerce you to keep information secret or confidential*);
 - Provide your Social Security number, financial information, or grant access to your device;
 - Pay for a new Social Security number; or
 - Move money to “protect” your funds.



Members of the press may make inquiries to Social Security OIG at oig.press@ssa.gov

Connect with us on social media:



COLA NEWS

The 2027 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) projection is currently tracking at 3.6%.

Because federal veteran disability compensation, pension tiers, and military retired pay track directly with the Social Security Administration's annual inflation model, this upcoming increase will apply universally across both retirement and VA benefit categories. [1] (<https://www.investopedia.com/2027-social-security-cola-expected-to-be-higher-than-this-year-12067478>), [2] (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ULpNhYRhwcw>)

The latest data and current outlook for the 2027 cycle provide a clear picture of what to expect: □ Current 2027 Projections & TrackerExpert Consensus Forecasts: Leading nonpartisan advocacy groups have slightly dialed back mid-summer peaks due to cooling energy markers. As of early September, The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) projects a final 3.6% increase.

Other independent forecasters and groups like AARP place their estimates tightly within the 3.4% to 3.5% range. [1] (<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/2026/09/08/social-security-2027-cola-forecast-benefit-changes-cost-of-living-adjustment-update/91655386007/>), [2] (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ULpNhYRhwcw>), [3] (<https://247wallst.com/investing/2026/09/08/social-security-cola-will-be-highest-since-2023-5-blue-chips-pay-higher-dividends-and-can-grow/>), [4] (<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/markets/stocks/NVDA/pressreleases/4466343/the-2027-social-security-cola-is-coming-into-focus-how-inflationary-trump-era-policies-could-push-social-security-benefits-higher-next-year/>)

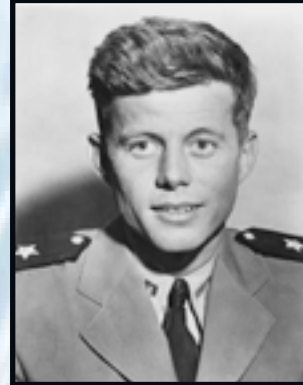
The Baseline Mechanism: Social Security compares the average CPI-W for July, August, and September of 2026 with the average for those same 3 months in 2025. If the new average is higher, that percentage increase rounded to the nearest tenth becomes the COLA. -- [YouTube]. Historical Context: If the final adjustment closes at 3.6%, it will be the largest annual benefit boost since the peak inflationary post-pandemic spike of 2023, outpacing the 2.8% and 2.5% increases passed in 2026 and 2025 respectively.



"Hi" Notes

"Honor is not a status achieved; it is a way of living." – Anonymous

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." – John F. Kennedy



Dear Awake,

Do not fight the 0430 wake-up; weaponize it. You are currently maintaining a tactical advantage over everyone in a five-mile radius. While your neighbors are asleep, you have full custody of the high-speed internet. This is the optimal time to secure the perimeter (check the porch for Amazon packages), conduct a reconnaissance sweep of the refrigerator, and drink the good coffee before anyone else ruins the pot. If your spouse complains, simply state that you are on the first watch. They will appreciate your vigilance. Or, they will throw a pillow at you. Either way, mission accomplished.

TRUE STRENGTH
isn't carrying the weight of the world by yourself;
it's having the courage to reach out to the
BATTLE BUDDY NEXT TO YOU.
*Check in on each other, lift each other up,
and remember that our greatest material asset is—*
AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN—EACH OTHER.

"You are not a 'has-been' warrior. You are a veteran. That means your wisdom, your scars, and your perspective are vital assets to a world that desperately needs grounding."

"The closest thing to military structure in civilian life is a homeowner's association, except the uniform is polo shirts and nobody knows how to march."

BITS AND PIECES



CPI-W figures from the end of the fiscal year (July, August, and September 2026) will be compared with the COLA baseline to calculate the 2027 COLA. September 2026 figures are scheduled to be released Oct. 14.



Honor Our Veterans supports Governor Bill Lee's efforts to designate Nashville International Airport "Dolly Parton International Airport".

"Dolly Parton has long supported our fellow veterans and our troops in harms way. She's entertained troops in combat zones and here at home. The Tennessee Military Department authorized her likeness to be featured as "nose art" on one of its KC 135 refueling aircraft as a "salute" to Dolly and her love of the state and its soldiers and airmen.

-Tom Freeman & Don Belton,

Palm Desert Golf Cart Parade.

On October 25th Palm Desert presents the 62nd Golf Cart Parade. 8AM Palm Desert Rotary Pancake breakfast 9AM entertainment, food and drinks. Parade starts at Noon on El Paseo Free Parking is available at The Gardens and a number of other local parking lots. For veterans there is some free shaded seating available on a first come basis. Seating is available for active duty and veterans and a plus one. Go to <https://alisawilliams.wufoo.com/forms/za8trjw1824v3o> . Questions? 760-346-6111. Seating is limited.



The Hershel "Woody" Williams National Medal of Honor Monument

A permanent national monument honoring Medal of Honor recipients is headed to the President's desk after clearing Congress

"Woody Williams, who was a constituent of the second district, is an American hero and legendary West Virginian. It is fitting that the bill creating the National Medal of Honor Monument bears his name,"

Need a personal record from VA?

Finding the right VA office for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) records request just got easier. Whether you're requesting a DD214, medical record or benefits letter, the new VA page helps you get started. It replaces a maze of legal terms and links with clearly labeled boxes that match you to the form you need.

You don't need to know the difference between a FOIA request and a Privacy Act request. You don't need to know which VA administration handles what. You simply choose the box that matches what you're looking for.

That's more than a design change. It means less time searching and more time getting the records you need. <https://department.va.gov/foia/>

CHANGING CHANNELS IN HOLLYWOOD & THE REST OF THE STORY

and impractical for a torpedo.

Perhaps the idea had simply arrived before the technology needed to make it practical.

Whatever the reason, the Navy passed.

Their patent, however, was granted the following year.

The invention would not be used during the war.

But Hedwig was determined to be useful.

If her idea couldn't contribute to the war effort, perhaps that famous face could.

She put her Hollywood celebrity to work selling war bonds.

And she did it spectacularly well.

In just 10 days, touring 16 cities, she helped sell some \$25 million in war bonds.

So the beauty that had helped make her a Hollywood star became a contribution to the war effort in its own right.

Her patented invention, meanwhile, went unused.

And eventually, almost forgotten.

Almost.

Technology eventually caught up with Hedwig's idea.

By the mid-1950s, advances in electronics had made frequency hopping far more practical.

The mechanics and methods had changed.

The idea hadn't.

By 1962, frequency-hopping technology was being used aboard U.S. warships.

The idea the Navy had passed on during World War II had found its way back to the military.

But its story didn't end there.

As communications technology advanced, the principle of moving information among frequencies became increasingly important.

Today, Kiesler and Antheil's work is recognized as an important development in the history of wireless communication—a technological path that would eventually lead to systems such as Bluetooth and Wi-Fi.

And remember the young woman whose idea started all of this?

The Austrian girl who listened while arms

manufacturers and military men talked at dinner.

The actress who escaped an unhappy marriage.

The Hollywood beauty who wanted to do more for her adopted country than appear on a movie screen.

Hollywood knew Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler by another name.

Hedy Lamarr.

And now you know...

...THE REST OF THE STORY.H



Hedy LaMarr

November 9, 1914-January 19, 2000



(aged 85)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



4 - A Veterans Luncheon. "Honor Their Service, Preserve Their Story" March Field Air Museum. . 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. 360-820-5992.

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

7 - Breakfast with the Seniors and Veterans. 10AM. Dick and Beverly Davis Corps of The Salvation Army. 30-400 Landau Blvd, Cathedral City (next to Veterans Village). Bill Young at majorbill1@aol.com

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

12 - Columbus Day

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

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

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 BusTour. 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 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!

25 - Palm Desert Golf Cart Parade. 8AM Pancake Breakfast. 9AM Entertainment and food/drinks. Noon Parade starts from El Paseo/ Hwy 111 to Ocotillo/Sage Lane. Free parking at The Gardens. Free shaded Veterans seating available on a very limited first come basis for Active Duty and Veterans (+1). <https://alisawilliams.wufoo.com/forms/za8trjw1824v3o> Questions? 760-346-6111.

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

1 - Daylight Savings Time ends. Time to Fall back one hour.

3 - Election Day. Fly your flag and get out and vote.

3 - Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). 5PM. Denny's at 42445 Washington, Palm Desert. 360-820-5992.

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.

7 - 21st Annual Fields of Valor. City Hall, Cathedral City. 68700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero. 9AM to 4PM. Morning program at 9AM. Afternoon program 12 to 4PM. Lots to see and do. Free Admission. Volunteers needed to be a part of this tribute to Heroes! 760-799-0916. See attached flyer.

7 - 30th Anniversary Air Fair. Dedication of America's First Publicly Displayed F/A-18 Super Hornet and Veterans Day Celebration. Palm Springs Air Museum. 1PM. Special Evening Program at 6PM. PalmSpringsairmuseum.org or 760-482-1836.

10 - U.S. Marine Corps (1775) Birthday. Fly your flag.

10 - McCallum Theatre presents "Veterans Rock". Special Veteran's Day Eve event. 5PM Pre-show Festivities and 7PM Show. Free for veterans with a valid military ID (must get tickets in advance of show ... number of seats limited). Extra tickets \$15. Get your tickets at the box office (M-F Noon to 5PM). Box Office 760-340-2787. McCallum Theatre, Palm Desert. See attached flyer.

11 - Veteran's Day. Lots of great activities/events throughout the area. Go on-line and check for those in your area. Free meals at a variety of local eateries. Fly your flag and get out and celebrate.

11 - Veterans Day celebration at the Patton Day Memorial Museum. Chiriaco Summit. 10-2. See attached flyer.

11 - 29th Annual Palm Springs Parade and Concert: Honoring all who served. Starting at 3:30PM in Downtown Palm Springs. 760-323-8272 or www.psveteransday.com See attached flyer.

11 - MOAA Veterans Day Dinner, Auction and Dance. Trilogy HOA Clubhouse. 5PM. Terri Heer at heercom@aol.com for additional details.

12 - MOAA General Membership Meeting/lunch. Oaisis Country Club, Palm Desert. 11:30AM. Terrie Heer at heercom@aol.com

12 - VillageFest: Letters to all who served. 6PM to 10PM. Downtown Palm Springs. 760-323-8272 or www.psveteransday.com See attached flyer.

13 - Dinner and Patriotic Concert for all who served and their families. Dinner: 5PM and Concert: 6PM. Palm Springs Downtown Park at 230 Museum Way. 760-323-8272 or psveteransday.com See attached flyer.

14 - Mission 91 - The Bombing Raid on Stuttgart, Germany. Ken Tuvman. Palm Springs Air Museum. 1PM. 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



VOLUNTEER NOW

The USO at the Palm Springs Airport need volunteers at the front desk to check-in guests or canteen to serve simple sandwiches & restock the shelves. The 4 (day) or 3 (evening) hour shifts are from 6 am until 9 pm daily including all holidays. Volunteer for one or two shifts a week and seasonal residents are encouraged to apply. To learn more or apply, please visit <https://volunteers.uso.org>



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

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.



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

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.

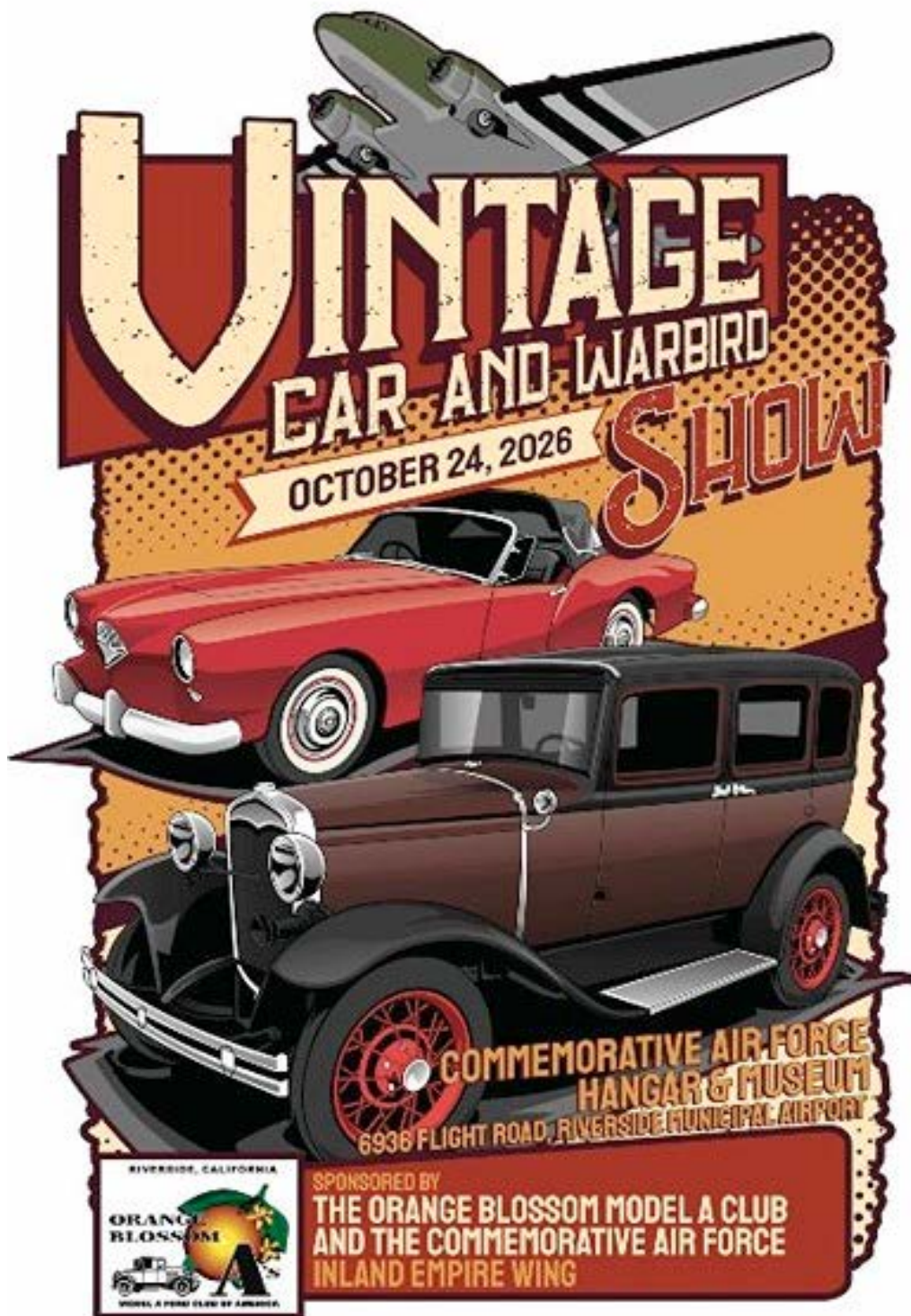
NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

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

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



Date: Saturday, October 24th, 2026

Location: Commemorative Air Force Inland Empire Wing,
6936 Flight Rd, Riverside, CA 92504

Starts: 9:00 AM

Ends: 1:00 PM

Admission: FREE to Spectators

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**

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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 a Veterans Day event. The background is a dramatic sky with clouds, featuring a large American flag in the upper left and two fighter jets in the upper right. 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





SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 4TH FROM 4 TO 6:30 PM

**HELP US GET SOLDIERS HOME FOR THE
HOLIDAYS AND SAVE THEM UP TO \$500 IN
GROUND TRANSPORTATION COSTS. OUR
FALL FUNDRAISER WILL BE HOSTED IN PALM
SPRING. JOIN US FOR FOOD, BEVERAGES
AND TO MEET OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM.**

SUGGESTED \$50 DONATION.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.29-PSP.ORG/EVENTS