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## This Month's Featured County

Because, Shasta County, sent in the write up and photos to be the featured county, I thought I would make them front page! Thank you Shasta County.

Shasta County, with a total of 9,964.72 sq. km of land and water area, is the 133rd largest county equivalent area in the United States. Shasta County is currently home to an estimated 178,359 people. Easily one of the most picturesque counties in all of California, Shasta County attracts people from larger urban areas with its natural beauty, reasonable housing, low crime rates and friendly communities. Shasta County offers all of the amenities of the big city while retaining a comfortable small town atmosphere. Redding received 88% more sunny days than any other metropolitan city in the nation, outshone only by Yuma, Arizona. This exceptional weather gives its residents plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation. Shasta County has evergreen forests, beautiful lakes and rivers, mountains surrounding our valley, 17 waterfalls in the surrounding areas and a multitude of hiking trails. Shasta County is also home to 200 million year old caverns-accessible by a scenic catamaran cruise across Shasta Lake, a fun bus ride to the cave entrance, and an information-filled tour of what some geologists consider one of the most beautiful limestone caves in the USA! Shasta County is the home of the clear blue waters of legendary Shasta Lake and the lovely marinas and beaches of Whiskeytown Lake. Here residents enjoy the remains of a thriving mining town located just moments from activities such as sailing, water skiing, kayaking, sailing, boating, camping, horseback riding, windsurfing, gold panning and fishing. In fact, the north state is known for being a top fishing spot for a range of species, from salmon and sturgeon to trout and bass. If you're the more adventurous type, you could try rock climbing, white water rafting, kayaking, or hand gliding. Families also take advantage of our many community parks and playgrounds. Winter in Shasta County offers even more recreational opportunities, with plenty of locations for skiing, snowboarding, ice-skating, and sledding to keep the entire family busy all season long.



# NOT THE NORM

When a veteran is rated as totally disabled due to unemployability (TDIU) and receives an inheritance from deceased parent estate #1 And #2 if veteran chooses to invest the monies from inheritance and possibly received a monthly \$ for that investment does it count as income? And #3 will any of the above effect the veteran having continuing eligibility for IU?

#1 Does the inheritance get counted as income?

#2 If veteran chooses to invest the monies from inheritance receives a monthly payment for from that investment does it count as income?

#3 Will either of the above affect the veteran having continuing eligibility for IU?

Even though this really doesn't require a look at the regulations, let's take a look at them anyway. 38 C.F.R. says:

**§4.16 Total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of the individual.**

*(a) Total disability ratings for compensation may be assigned, where the schedular rating is less than total, when the disabled person is, in the judgment of the rating agency, unable to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation as a result of service-connected disabilities... Marginal employment shall not be considered substantially gainful employment.*

*(b) It is the established policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs that all veterans who are unable to secure and follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of service-*

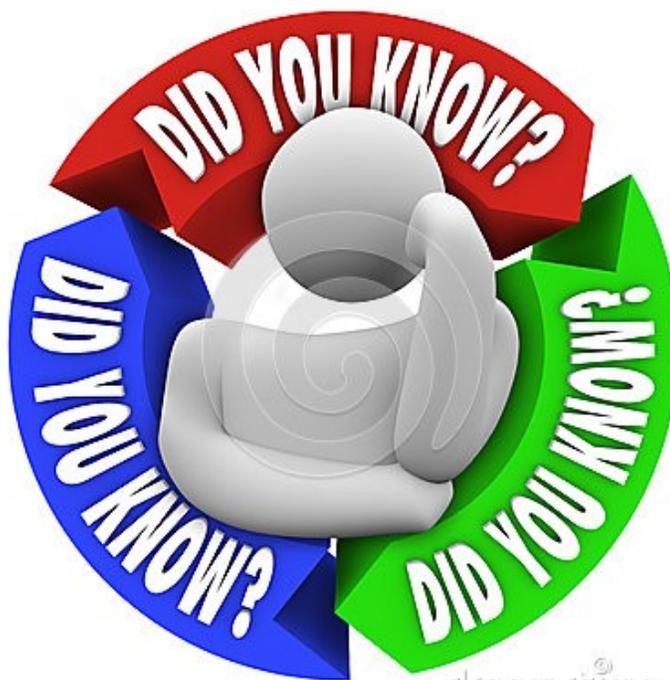
*connected disabilities shall be rated totally disabled.*

So, it is not a matter of income, it is a matter of earnings from employment. There is no means test. There is no income limit, as long as the income is not a result of employment.

The back in the early days of the

sultant whose income sometimes reached six figures, I argued that while the employment was certainly gainful, because the veteran only worked two or three weeks a year (when he worked at all), it should not be considered as substantial. The Board of Veterans Appeals agreed and directed the office of jurisdiction to consider the veteran as unemployable.

My reason for choosing to discuss this question this month was to illustrate that sometimes we tend to over think things. In this profession that is not always a bad thing. As advocates whose "product" is expertise, careful consideration of an infrequently encountered set of circumstances is essential. Sometimes though, the answer is right in front of us without our really being aware of it. In this case, the benefit is predicated on unemployability, not income. The only relevant issue is: is the veteran TDIU? Only earned income matters and, even then, they may not be the determining factor.



Court, it set the standard as the ability of the veteran to "obtain and retain substantial gainful employment." The regulation defines does not clearly define either of these terms. It uses the standard of "marginal employment," which it defines as "...when a veteran's earned annual income does not exceed the amount established by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, as the poverty threshold for one person. Marginal employment may also be held to exist, on a facts found basis (includes but is not limited to employment in a protected environment such as a family business or sheltered workshop), when earned annual income exceeds the poverty threshold." In one case, a con-

While having to research regulations to answer some of the questions I receive is fun, this kind of question is my favorite. Not because it is easy, but because it helps illustrate that there are no dumb questions. Your minds are full of facts about eligibility limitations and evidence and all that stuff that goes into a successfully prosecuted claim. Most, if not all, of you are overwhelmed with the volume and the complexity of what you do. Part of my role is to try to be your safety net. If something that may seem simple or routine, just gives you pause, let me know. It isn't my role to judge. As I see it, it is simply to help you do the best possible job for your clients.

# Humorous Perspective

By Jessica Allmon

With the start of the school year, I began to think about my most inspirational teachers Mr. Beach, Mr. Rowbottom, and Ms. Ladening. They definitely had very different teaching styles, but to this day I still use the note and test taking techniques taught by Mr. Beach. I remember to read all of my written material out loud, because I am a better speaker than writer as taught by Ms. Ladening. Mr. Rowbottom taught me the art of perseverance and the joy of success at working a two to four page equation until all the proofs make sense, and if you make a mistake just erase it and start over.

Why did these teachers stand out, where others didn't? Well, for me, they cared. Yep, they cared about all their students! Pointing out and embracing the beautiful differences between us. They took time to explain things in different ways so everyone was included and could be successful. I remember the whole class getting excited in Mr. Rowbottom's when a girl finally understood a theorem in calculus; we gave her a standing ovation. But that was the atmosphere of the class room. No one was frustrated, we all took turns to help, so that she could experience that amazing feeling when the light bulb goes off and you finally "get it"!! Just the act of caring is inspirational! Care about yourself, clients, coworkers, friends, family, and strangers!

"That's great Jessica, but how do I show that I care?" Don't worry I'm going to tell you!!

Walk confidently so that you can make eye contact and smile at everyone you pass and offer a greeting, and listen actively. Find your friendly swagger walk; you may never know when your smile could make someone's day. For swagger I direct you to Christopher Lopez and his bow ties. Maybe he should give us a class on the friendly swagger walk? Smiles are, fantastically, like the plague; highly contagious!! Just walk around like smiling's your favorite; it works for Buddy the Elf and Pat Jolly!

Smiling and confidence lead to enthusiasm, which we all can use in work, home or at play. Ever meet someone and want to start saying "Buller.....Buller.....Buller" NOT inspiring! Ever see Rhonda Murphy and Yvette Mason sell raffle tickets, now that's enthusiasm. Be excited for your co-worker when they have that "light bulb" moment, or when they have success with that particularly grouchy veteran. When you have to do something mundane, rock some upbeat 80's music and start singing along, pay attention, people will join you! Virginia Wimmer, will rock out any time.

Stay positive, in thoughts and actions. We learned this in kindergarten folks, "if you don't have nothing nice to say, don't say nothing at all." Give compliments freely. You see that co-worker come in with a new bag, say something nice. Harry guy finally shaves his beard to reveal jaw of Poseidon, throw him a compliment. When Sean Stephens rocks his sequined romper in Napa tell him his head matches beautifully.

Acknowledge the contributions of others. No matter how wonderful you are, you're just one person, so I'm sure others have contributed to your greatest successes in life and in everyday wins. I know that my successes, small and large, all involved at least one other person, except weapons qualification, that is all on me LOL. Hey, either you can shoot or you can't. Acknowledge contributions publicly if at all possible to show people you're humble and thoughtful and care enough to give credit where it's due. Couldn't do it without you Terry Sanders and Marion Moses!!

"OK Jessica sounds good but this all sounds expensive, and I'm not sure it's in my budget." Not to fear my dedicated readers. Yeah, if you made it this far, your DEDICATED, I love ya!! All of these things are free and already inside all of you!! Mind blown! It costs nothing to inspire those around you and I will totally buy you a drink, most likely join you, if you are not inspired by yourself as well. So, throw compliments around like glitter; rock your friendly swagger; acknowledge those that contribute; smile; and do it all with enthusiasm!!

You all are my inspiration, with your candor, teamwork, resourcefulness, humor, smiles and swagger!!

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations

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## **VA updates the disability rating schedule for infectious diseases, immune disorders and nutritional deficiencies**

As of Aug. 11, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) updated portions of the [VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities](#) (VASRD, or Rating Schedule) that evaluate infectious diseases, immune disorders and nutritional deficiencies.

The collection of federal regulations used by the Veterans Benefits Administration helps claims processors evaluate the severity of disabilities and assign disability ratings.

“VA is in the process of updating all 15 body systems of the VASRD to more accurately reflect modern medicine and provide Veterans with clearer rating decisions,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “By updating the rating schedule, Veterans receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge of their condition.”

The complete list of updates to the rating schedule is available [online](#). Claims pending prior to Aug. 11, will be considered under both the old and new rating criteria, and whichever criteria is more favorable to a Veteran will be applied. Claims filed on or after Aug. 11, will be rated under the new rating schedule.

Updating the rating schedule for conditions related to infectious diseases, immune disorders and nutritional deficiencies, enables VA claims processors to make more consistent decisions with greater ease and ensure Veterans understand these decisions. VA remains committed to improving its service to Veterans continuously and staying at the forefront of modern medicine as it has for decades.

Since Sept. 2017, VA has updated the schedules for [dental and oral conditions](#), [conditions related to the endocrine system](#), [gynecological conditions and disorders of the breast](#), [the general rating formula for diseases of the eye](#), [skin conditions](#) and [the hematologic and lymphatic systems](#).

August 8, 2019

## **VA awards contract for Region 4 of Community Care Network to increase Veteran access to health care**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded a contract Aug. 6 to TriWest Healthcare Alliance to serve as Third Party Administrator in managing Region 4 of VA’s new Community Care Network (CCN).

The Community Care Network is the department’s direct link with community providers that will ensure VA provides the right care at the right time to Veterans.

Region 4 includes VA medical centers in Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

“This contract award reflects our ongoing commitment to increasing Veterans’ access to care,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “As part of VA’s modernization efforts, we designed the new network based on feedback from Veterans and other stakeholders, along with lessons learned from the Veterans Choice Program. We are confident that CCN will greatly improve customer service for Veterans and timeliness of payments to community providers.”

CCN will be the standard contract vehicle that allows VA to provide access to care for Veterans from community health care providers using industry-standard approaches and guidelines. Until CCN is fully-implemented nationwide, TriWest Healthcare Alliance will continue to support Veteran community care through its community provider network.

Regions 1, 2 and 3 of VA’s new Community Care Network (CCN) were previously awarded Dec. 28, 2018 to OPTUM Public Sector Solutions, Inc. Contract award for Regions 5 and 6 are expected by end of calendar year 2019.

VA is committed to delivering efficient, safe, timely and quality health care to Veterans across the nation.

For more information visit [https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/Community\\_Care\\_Network.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/Community_Care_Network.asp)

# How to stop 'robocall' scams, disruptions

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Federal Communications Commission are continuing to team up to combat illegal "robocalls" targeting veterans and their families.

Each year, the FCC receives more than 200,000 complaints about unwanted calls. While this may seem like a big number, it pales in comparison to the millions of robocalls being made each day. The calls interrupt dinners and family time; they flood landline and mobile phones. Scam calls frequently solicit money for fake charities, including ones claiming to support America's veterans -- some even claiming to be VA representatives.

VA officials offer the following tips to help avoid unwanted calls and scams:

Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Scammers may spoof their caller ID to display a fake number that appears to be local. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.

Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, or passwords in response to unexpected or suspicious calls.

Be sure to set a password for all voice mail accounts to avoid being hacked.

Register your number on the Do Not Call List at <https://www.donotcall.gov/>, or call 888-382-1222 from the phone you want to register, to block calls from legitimate telemarketers.

Ask your phone company about call-blocking tools and services for your landline phone, and check for helpful apps that you can download to your mobile phone.

For more information, visit [fcc.gov/robocalls](https://fcc.gov/robocalls). (Courtesy of the VA)



cious calls.



## Final Month of the 2019 Legislative Session

The Legislature returned from its 1-month Summer Recess on August 12. Committee hearings have resumed and will continue until August 30. Bills that survive that process will then go to the Senate and/or Assembly Floors for votes by the entire body. September 13, 2019, is the deadline for the Legislature to pass and present bills to the Governor. The last day for the Governor to sign or veto legislation is October 13. If the Governor does not sign or veto legislation by October 13, it automatically becomes law.

When the Governor signs a bill, it is transmitted to the Secretary of State, who then assigns a sequential chapter number to the bill. Around the Capitol, when someone says a bill has been “chaptered”, it means the bill has been signed by the Governor and is on its way to becoming law. Usually, most bills go into effect on January 1 of the next year unless there is a provision in the bill for it to go into effect immediately or at a later date.

### **AB 160 (Voepel R) Employment policy: voluntary veterans’ preference.**

**Status:** 7/10/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 7/10/2019-S. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Would enact the Voluntary Veterans’ Preference Employment Policy Act to authorize a private employer to establish and maintain a written veterans’ preference employment policy, to be applied uniformly to hiring decisions, to give a voluntary preference for hiring or retaining a veteran over another qualified applicant or employee. The bill would provide that the granting of a veterans’ preference pursuant to the bill, in and of itself, shall be deemed not to violate any local or state equal employment opportunity law or regulation, including, but not limited to, the antidiscrimination provisions of California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

**Position:** Support

### **AB 169 (Lackey R) Guide, signal, and service dogs: injury or death.**

**Status:** 6/24/2019-In committee: Referred to APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 6/24/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Under current law, it is an infraction or a misdemeanor for a person to permit a dog that is owned, harbored, or controlled by the person to cause injury to, or the death of, a guide, signal, or service dog, as defined, while the guide, signal, or service dog is in discharge of its duties. Current law makes a person who intentionally causes injury to, or the death of, a guide, signal, or service dog, while the dog is in discharge of its duties, guilty of a misdemeanor. This bill would delete, from both crimes, the requirement that the guide, signal, or service dog be in discharge of its duties when the injury or death occurs and would make these crimes applicable to the injury or death of dogs that are enrolled in a training school or program for guide, signal, or service dogs, as specified.

**Position:** Support

### **AB 230 (Brough R) Disabled veteran business enterprises.**

**Status:** 8/12/2019-In committee: Referred to APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 8/12/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Current law states the intent of the Legislature that every state procurement authority meet or exceed a DVBE participation goal of a minimum of 3% of total contract value. Current law requires a department awarding a contract to, upon completion of that contract, require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a DVBE to certify specified information to the awarding department, including, among other things, the amount each DVBE received from the prime contractor. This bill would require that information to include proof of payment for work done by the DVBE and the amount and percentage of work the prime contractor committed to provide to one or more DVBEs under the contract.

**Position:** Support

### **AB 232 (Cervantes D) Veteran suicides: report and recommendations.**

**Status:** 7/10/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 7/10/2019-S. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Current law requires the State Department of Public Health to implement an electronic death registration system and to access data within the system to compile a report on veteran suicide in California that includes information on the veterans’ ages, sexes, races or ethnicities, and methods of suicide. Current law requires the department to provide that report annually to the Legislature and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would additionally require the report described above to include information on the veterans’ locations of residency and death, length and locations of service, branches of service, and occupations and industries or businesses.

**Position:** Support

Continued on Page 8



**AB 290 (Wood D) Health care service plans and health insurance: third-party payments.**

**Status:** 8/12/2019-In committee: Referred to APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 8/12/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Would require a health care service plan or an insurer that provides a policy of health insurance to accept payments from specified third-party entities, including an Indian tribe or a local, state, or federal government program. The bill would also require a financially interested entity, as defined, other than those entities, that is making a third-party premium payment to provide that assistance in a specified manner and to perform other related duties, including disclosing to the plan or the insurer the name of the enrollee or insured, as applicable, for each plan or policy on whose behalf a third-party premium payment will be made.

**Position:** Oppose

**AB 408 (Frazier D) Vehicles: disabled veterans.**

**Status:** 5/17/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 5/17/2019-A. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to accept a certificate from a county veterans service officer or the Department of Veterans Affairs that certifies that the applicant for a special license plate or placard is a disabled veteran. The bill would change the definition of "disabled veteran" to instead refer to a veteran who has a combined service-connected disability rating of 100% or is rated permanently and totally disabled based on individual unemployability by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosis or diagnoses that substantially impair or interfere with mobility.

**Position:** Support

**AB 550 (Flora R) Veterans: Medical Foster Home Pilot Program.**

**Status:** 8/12/2019-In committee: Referred to APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 8/12/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Would establish the Medical Foster Home Pilot Program until January 1, 2023, under which a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) facility may establish a medical foster home that is not subject to licensure or regulation as a residential care facility for the elderly, a community care facility, or a residential care facility for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness, pursuant to specified federal requirements.

**Position:** Support

**AB 558 (Petrie-Norris D) State Bar of California: service members: legal services.**

**Status:** 7/10/2019-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 7/10/2019-S. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Would require the State Bar to engage with military service providers, along with the other legal aid organizations, veteran service providers, and volunteer attorneys as specified, to provide legal services to veterans and service members and their families who otherwise cannot afford legal services, and collaborate to improve access to and delivery of these services throughout the state. The bill would revise these provisions to include legislative findings on, among other things, the difficulty of veterans, service members, and their families in securing civil legal assistance.

**Position:** Support

**AB 581 (Levine D) Sentencing: members of military: trauma.**

**Status:** 7/8/2019-In committee: Referred to APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 7/8/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Current law requires a court, if it concludes that a defendant convicted of a felony offense is or was a member of the United States military who may be suffering from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems as a result of the defendant's military service, to consider that circumstance as a factor in mitigation when imposing a sentence. Current law allows a defendant who is currently serving a felony sentence and meets these criteria to petition for resentencing if those criteria were not considered at the time of sentencing and the person was sentenced prior to January 1, 2015. This bill would allow a defendant meeting these criteria to petition for recall of sentence and resentencing without regard to whether the defendant was sentenced prior to January 1, 2015.

**Position:** Support

**AB 634 (Salas D) Traffic control devices: roundabouts: memorial and dedication signs.**

**Status:** 7/12/2019-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 95, Statutes of 2019.

**Location:** 7/12/2019-A. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** Current law provides that the Department of Transportation has full possession and control of all state highways and associated property. The California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices provides for 5 types of highway facilities that may be used for memorial or dedication signing, including, among other things, freeways and highways. This bill would require that roundabouts be added as a type of highway facility that may be used for memorial or dedication signing.

**Position:** Support

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**AB 1257 (Salas D) Sales and use taxes: exemption: vehicle modifications: physically handicapped persons: veterans.**

**Status:** 7/8/2019-In committee: Referred to APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 7/8/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Current law exempts from sales and use taxes, in the case of a sale of a modified vehicle for physically handicapped persons to a disabled person who is eligible to be issued a distinguishing license plate or placard for parking purposes, the gross receipts attributable to that portion of the vehicle that has been so modified. Current regulations implementing those provisions provide that physically handicapped persons include disabled persons, as specified, which existing law defines as, among others, persons with a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility. Current federal law provides various benefits to disabled veterans, including assistance with the purchase of an automobile and adaptive equipment. This bill, on and after July 1, 2020, and before July 1, 2030, would specify that, for purposes of the exemptions described above, physically handicapped persons include eligible persons with a severe burn injury, as those terms are defined in existing federal law.

**Position:** Support

**AB 1343 (Eggman D) Private postsecondary education: California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009.**

**Status:** 7/10/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 7/10/2019-S. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Would, beginning January 1, 2023, prohibit a private postsecondary educational institution from enrolling residents of California not already enrolled as of that date, unless the institution meets either the requirement that no more than 85% of the institution's tuition revenue, determined as specified, is derived from student financial aid provided by a federal agency, or not less than 50% of the institution's tuition revenue is dedicated to a combination of student instruction and student support, as defined in regulations adopted by the bureau no later than July 1, 2022, as specified.

**Position:** Support

**AB 1376 (Ramos D) Civil service: veterans' preference: background checks.**

**Status:** 8/12/2019-In committee: Referred to APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 8/12/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Would amend veterans' preference provisions to require the Department of Human Resources to collaborate with specified state entities to establish a veterans' preference to be applied to employment opportunities within the field of cybersecurity that require a background check. The bill would require a state agency, as defined, that hires for a position in cybersecurity that requires a background check to apply the veterans' preference and to establish a uniform hiring policy for veterans who have held a security clearance in the last year and have left the military in good standing or were honorably discharged. The bill would request the Regents of the University of California to enact for the University of California veterans' preference provisions that are equivalent to the veterans' preference provisions added by the bill.

**Position:** Support

**AB 1588 (Gloria D) Drinking water and wastewater operator certification programs.**

**Status:** 8/15/2019-From Consent Calendar. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 8/15/2019-S. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Current law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to issue a water treatment operator certificate and water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity to any person holding a valid, unexpired, comparable certification issued by another state, the United States, prescribed territories or tribal governments, or a unit of any of these. Current law requires the board to classify types of wastewater treatment plants for the purpose of determining the levels of competence necessary to operate them. This bill would require the board to evaluate opportunities to issue a water treatment operator certificate or water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity, or a wastewater certificate by examination waiver, to persons who performed duties comparable to those duties while serving in the United States military, as specified.

**Position:** Support

**AB 1808 (Cervantes D) Public contracts: goods and services: installation of carpet, resilient flooring, and synthetic turf.**

**Status:** 7/10/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 7/10/2019-S. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Current law establishes procedures for state agencies to enter into contracts for goods and services, including generally requiring that certain contracts by a state agency be approved by the Department of General Services. Current law authorizes the department to consolidate the needs of multiple state agencies for goods, information technology, and services and establish agreements that leverage the state's buying power, as specified, for certain acquisitions. Current law authorizes state and local agencies to contract with suppliers awarded those contracts without further competitive bidding. This bill, notwithstanding any other law requiring bidding on public works contracts, would authorize a state or local agency to use the above-described procedures for the purchase, or purchase and installation, of carpet, resilient flooring, or synthetic turf if the installation work is not performed in connection with new construction and the contractor complies with specified requirements relating to wages and labor.

**Position:** Watch

**Notes 1:** Bill was amended to no longer deal with veterans issues.

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**AB 1809 (Cervantes D) Disabled veteran business enterprises.**

**Status:** 8/12/2019-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee.

**Location:** 7/9/2019-S. APPR.

**Summary:** Commencing March 1, 2020, and until March 1, 2024, would authorize a state agency to award a contract for services or information technology that has an estimated value of between \$5,000 and \$500,000 to a certified small business, including a microbusiness, or to a DVBE, as long as the agency obtains price quotations from 2 or more certified small businesses or 2 or more DVBEs. The bill would specify that a certified small business or DVBE that utilizes this process as an alternative to the competitive bidding requirements may not also receive the small business preference or the DVBE participation incentive, as specified.

**Position:** Support

**ACR 37 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Marine Corporal Erik H. Silva Memorial Bridge.**

**Status:** 7/11/2019-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 121, Statutes of 2019

**Location:** 7/11/2019-A. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** This measure would designate the Alamo River Bridge on the Evan Hewes Highway (State Route 115) at the entry to the City of Holtville, California, as the Marine Corporal Erik H. Silva Memorial Bridge. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

**Position:** Support

**SB 222 (Hill D) Discrimination: veteran or military status.**

**Status:** 8/15/2019-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 8/15/2019-A. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Would state findings and declarations of the Legislature regarding the importance of housing for veterans and its priority, and declare that housing discrimination on the basis of veteran or military status is against public policy.

**Position:** Support

**SB 245 (Chang R) Public animal shelters: adoptions: veterans.**

**Status:** 8/15/2019- Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.

**Location:** 8/15/2019-S. ENROLLMENT

**Summary:** Would prohibit a public animal shelter from charging an adoption fee for a dog or cat if the person adopting the dog or cat presents to the public animal shelter a current and valid driver's license or identification card with the word "VETERAN" printed on its face pursuant to the above-described provision. The bill also would authorize a public animal shelter to limit the number of dogs and cats adopted from that public animal shelter by an eligible veteran to one dog and cat each 6-month period.

**Position:** Support

**SB 289 (Archuleta D) Medi-Cal: home- and community-based services: military.**

**Status:** 8/14/2019-August 14 set for first hearing. Placed on APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 8/14/2019-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Current federal law provides for various home- and community-based services (HCBS), as part of a waiver or a state plan amendment under the Medicaid program, to promote coverage and services that enable an individual who would otherwise be institutionalized to live at home or in the community. This bill would require the retention of eligibility for, reenrollment in, or restoration of existing status on the waiting list of, specified HCBS waiver programs for an individual who is a dependent child or spouse of an active duty military service member and who transfers to another state with the military service member on official military orders, if the individual subsequently returns to and establishes residence in this state, continues to be otherwise eligible for the waiver program, and submits a certain request, as applicable.

**Position:** Support

**SB 312 (Leyva D) Veterans: service dog assistance.**

**Status:** 7/10/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 7/10/2019-A. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Would require the Department of Veterans Affairs, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance for the cost of service dogs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. The bill would award grants to certified veteran service dog providers, as defined, that provide services including, among other things, the purchase of the dog, training of the dog, and equipment for the dog. The bill would additionally require the Department of Veterans Affairs to publicize the program, as specified. The bill would require the department to, on and after December 1, 2021, accept and either approve or reject applications to certify veteran service dog providers.

**Position:** Support

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**SB 500 (Morrell R) Veterans: education.**

**Status:** 6/20/2019-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

**Location:** 6/20/2019-A. APPR.

**Summary:** This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish an education assistance program to provide housing and tuition assistance to disabled veterans attending graduate school in the State of California if their eligibility for federal education assistance has expired. The bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the department to provide tuition assistance and a housing allowance to disabled veterans while they attend specified graduate schools in the State of California, as specified.

**Position:** Support

**SB 534 (Bradford D) Insurers: minority, women, LGBT, veteran, and disabled veteran business enterprises.**

**Status:** 8/15/2019-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

**Location:** 8/15/2019-A. THIRD READING

**Summary:** Current law requires each admitted insurer with premiums written equal to or in excess of \$100,000,000 to provide information to the Insurance Commissioner on all of its community development investments and community development infrastructure investments in California. This bill would require those insurers to also report to the commissioner on their minority, women, LGBT, veteran, and disabled veteran-owned business procurement efforts, as specified. Under the bill, a failure to report the information by the reporting deadline would subject the admitted insurer to civil penalties to be fixed and enforced by the commissioner, as provided.

**Position:** Support

**SB 562 (Morrell R) Property taxation: exemption: principal residence: veterans and their unmarried surviving spouses.**

**Status:** 6/19/2019- Re-referred to Com. on REV. & TAX.

**Location:** 6/6/2019-A. REV. & TAX

**Summary:** Current property tax law, pursuant to the authorization of the California Constitution, provides a disabled veteran's property tax exemption for the principal place of residence of a veteran, the veteran's spouse, or the veteran and veteran's spouse jointly, and the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran, as provided, if the veteran is blind in both eyes, has lost the use of 2 or more limbs, or is totally disabled as a result of injury or disease incurred in military service, or if the veteran has, as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, died while on active duty in military service. This bill, for the 2020–21 fiscal year to the 2029–30 fiscal year, inclusive, would increase these exemption amounts to \$200,000, or \$250,000 if the household income of the claimant does not exceed \$65,000, as adjusted for inflation.

**Position:** Support

**SB 588 (Archuleta D) Public contracts: Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program.**

**Status:** 8/12/2019-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

**Location:** 7/9/2019-A. APPR.

**Summary:** Would require the uniform process for state contracting under the DVBE program developed by the Director of General Services to require that a DVBE incentive is provided for all state agency contracts, even when the DVBE participation goal has been waived. The bill would additionally, until January 1, 2025, require an awarding department to give a prime contractor that fails to comply with the certification requirements, as specified, reasonable opportunity, from 15 to 30 days, to cure the failure. The bill would, until January 1, 2025, require the awarding department to provide notice of the failure to the Department of General Services, if, after being provided with a reasonable opportunity, the prime contractor continues to fail to comply with the certification requirements.

**Position:** Support

**SB 663 (Jones R) Property taxation: exemptions: veterans' organizations.**

**Status:** 8/14/2019-August 14 set for first hearing. Placed on APPR. suspense file.

**Location:** 8/14/2019-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Current property tax law establishes a veterans' organization exemption under which property is exempt from taxation if, among other things, that property is used exclusively for charitable purposes and is owned by a veterans' organization. This bill would provide that the veterans' organization exemption shall not be denied to a property on the basis that the property is used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes, and would make specific findings and declarations in that regard. The bill would also provide that the exemption shall not apply to any portion of a property that consists of a bar where alcoholic beverages are served.

**Position:** Support

**SB 725 (Rubio D) Veterans rental housing.**

**Status:** 6/18/2019-June 18 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Location:** 6/6/2019-A. V. A.

**Summary:** Current law creates the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014, to provide for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable multifamily supportive housing, affordable transitional housing, affordable

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affordable rental housing, or related facilities for veterans and their families to allow veterans to access and maintain housing stability. This bill would require the department to establish a rental housing assistance program to provide financial assistance to veterans seeking rental housing, based on the needs of the veterans.

**Position:** Support

**SJR 7 (Glazer D) Military and veterans.**

**Status:** 6/24/2019-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 102, Statutes of 2019

**Location:** 6/24/2019-S. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** This measure would urge the United States Congress to act favorably in regard to legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Merrill's Marauders.

**Position:** Support

**SR 50 (McGuire D) Relative to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day.**

**Status:** 6/27/2019-Read. Adopted. (Ayes 37. Noes 0.)

**Location:** 6/27/2019-S. ADOPTED

**Summary:** This measure would resolve that the Senate pause in its deliberations to proclaim June 27, 2019, as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day in the state, fully confident that such procedure mirrors our shared commitment to preserve, to ensure, and to yet effect that patrimony of freedom which is our American heritage.

**Position:** Support

By Seth Reeb, Legislative Advocate



**Executive Director Musings:**

I want to bring up the NACVSO CEU's and Membership applications in this column. Once a year Continuing Education Units have to be submitted to NACVSO to maintain the accreditation of NACVSO. Sixteen (16) units are needed to maintain. This can be gained at our conferences, the NACVSO Annual Conference, special training at the regional Offices or group training at sites(regional) throughout the state. The CVSO signs off for each one of their staff who have attained the units.

Membership applications can be found on the NACVSO website. [www.NACVSO.org](http://www.NACVSO.org). Go to membership and sign in or create an account. All of the accreditation requirements are there. The forms are fillable and can be printed out. Or you can email them directly to NACVSO. I would recommend printing them out so that you have a copy. Membership applications or renewals are due by April 1 or a \$10 additional charge will be added.

Memberships for the CVSO's should be filled out and forwarded to me and I will forward to the treasurer for payment and are due to me by 1 Mar.

The NACVSO accreditation is very important for you to do your very best as a veterans representative. It gives you more Power of Attorney's so you can look up the veterans claim activities directly with the VA.

If you have any questions or need some help receiving help from NACVSO don't hesitate to ask me. Thank you much and it is an absolute pleasure being your Executive Director.

Tom Splitgerber  
tsplitgerber@san.rr.com



# Upcoming Events

## **2019 Fall Conference**

**Napa, CA**

**Monday, October 28, 2019– Friday, November 1, 2019**

## **2020 Winter Conference**

**Sacramento**

**Monday, February 24—Friday February 28, 2020**

## **2020 Summer Conference**

**Crescent City, CA**

**Monday, June 22, 2020—Friday, June 26, 2020**

<https://thelighthouseinn Crescent City.com/>

<https://www.fly Crescent City.com/>

# DATES OF INTEREST

## September 2019

- 2 Labor Day
- 5 Be Late for Something Day
- 8 Pet Rock Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 13 Friday the 13th
- 18 Air Force Birthday
- 19 Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 23 First Day of Fall
- 29 Gold Star Mothers Day



## Awareness Weeks

- 1-5 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
- 15-21 Security Officer Appreciation Week
- 22-28 Remember to Register to Vote Week

## Monthly Observances

- AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Month
- National Suicide Prevention Month
- International Strategic Thinking Month

