

**Kings County
Military and Veterans Coalition
September 8, 2015
Meeting Agenda**

- Introductions

- Previous Issues

- **Veterans Service Office Status** –*Walk-ins are now Monday through Thursday for claims from 8:30 to 5:00 (no new claims processing after 3:30). Appointments are also available. The office is open for business on Friday too! Support staff can answer many questions without seeing a VSR. Feel free to stop by anytime to ask for assistance. The office issues I.D. Cards to Honorably Discharged Veterans!*
- **NAS Lemoore Retired Military Appreciation Day – Sept 12** – (See attached)
- **Women Veteran Stand Up – Sept 14** - (See attached)
- **Central Valley Veterans Stand Down –Sept 15-17** – (See attached)
- **Patriot Day Golf Tournament – Sept 11** – (See attached)

- New Issues

- **Guest Speaker – Susan Jaramillo – VA Field Examiner**
- **Valadao Military Academy Info Night – Sept 15** – (See attached)
- **SJVV Open House – Sept 24** – (See attached)
- **Disabled Veteran Property Tax Refunds** – (See attached)
- **Traffic Ticket Amnesty Program** - (See attached)
- **New Service Animal Rules** – (See attached)
- **Veteran Driver's License** – (See attached)

- Round Table –

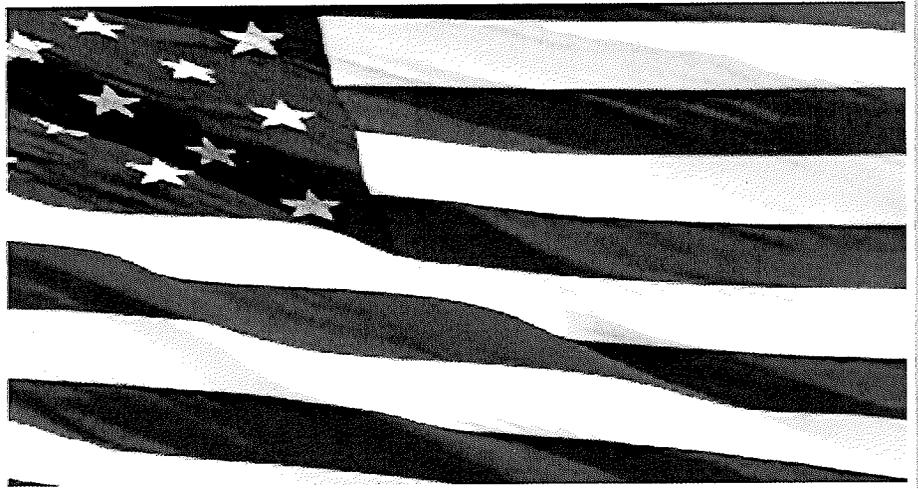
- Next Meeting – October 13 at the Kings County Government Center, Multi-Purpose Room.

Naval Air Station Lemoore Fleet & Family Support Center

Presents an Open-House Style Retiree Seminar
All retired military, their spouses, and families
are invited to attend

Saturday, September 12, 2015

**Retired
Military
Appreciation
Day!**



Keynote Speaker:



Joe Wright is a retired Navy Command Master Chief with over 30 years of service. While in the Navy, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Administration and Management Studies. He is currently the Kings County Public Guardian and Veterans Service Officer, having served in this capacity for over 9 years. He is also a current member of the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council. Joe is accredited with both Federal and State Departments of Veteran Affairs and is well versed on both federal and state veteran's benefits for veterans, their families and survivors. Joe also serves as the Legislative Chairman for the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

9:00 am-1:00 pm

**Starting at the base theater
NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**



Other providers include:

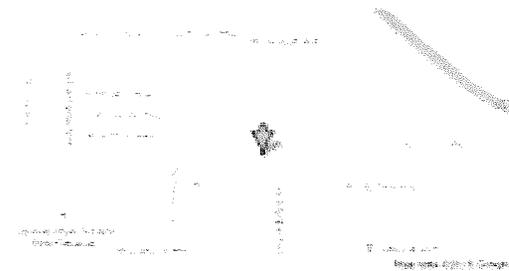
VA Benefits Advisors, Cal-Vet, County VSO's, EDD, Social Security, Naval Hospital Lemoore and many others!

Call FFSC at 559-998-4042 for more information

2nd Annual
Women Veteran Stand Up

Celebrating the resiliency, grace, & leadership of all our women who have served.

14 September 2015
3585 N. Blythe Ave, Fresno CA 93722
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8900



Reveille: 0900 - Retreat: 1600

Events:

Join us for lunch, guest speakers, and a fashion show

Proudly Presented By:
Central Valley Veterans
American Legion Post 509
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8900
Central California Womens Conference

Central Valley Veterans Stand Down 2015



LOCATION

VFW Post 8900
3585 N. Blythe Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722



Overnight Resident Registration
Tuesday, September 15th, 1200 to 1700

ALL SERVICES AVAILABLE

Wednesday, September 16th, 0800 to 1700
Thursday, September 17th, 0800 to 1700



California ID Card
Applications

NOTE: Pre-registration is required ONLY for
Veterans Court Applications

Social Security Card
Applications

VA Claims

Mental & Medical
Health Referrals

Community Resources



Haircuts

Hot Meals

Clothing

Personal Hygiene
Supplies

Educational &
Employment
Opportunities

Veterans Court

You must pre-register by
Friday, August 28th
to be heard by the court on
premises at the Stand Down

Registration locations:

Veterans Service Office
3845 N. Clark Ave., Suite 103
Fresno, CA 93726
Bus Route Number: 28

VA Hospital
2615 E. Clinton Ave.
Building 25, Room 1A05
Fresno, CA 93703
Bus Route Number 32 & 39

**SUPPORT OUR LOCAL
HEROS with a HAND UP
Not a handout**

Financial support NEEDED
Please send your tax deductible
monetary donations to:

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call Central Valley
Veterans
559-977-3697

Central Valley Veterans
7775 N. Palm Ave., Suite 102-46
Fresno, CA 93711

For in-kind donations please contact:
John Schuler 559-977-3697





RIVER ISLAND
COUNTRY CLUB

IS HONORED TO HOST

PATRIOT DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

TO BENEFIT LOCAL WOUNDED VETERANS

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

11:00 SHOTGUN

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR HEROES' DREAMS

EACH TEAM OF THREE WILL BE PAIRED WITH A WARRIOR FOR THE SCRATCH SCRAMBLE. FIELD IS LIMITED TO 36 TEAMS.

ENTRY FEE: \$150 PER PLAYER INCLUDES: GOLF FEES, RANGE BALLS, BBQ LUNCH, BUFFET DINNER, GIFTS, PRIZES, & ENTERTAINMENT.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WARRIOR SPONSOR: \$150

TEAM SPONSOR(ONE WARRIOR & THREE GOLFERS): \$600

ONE STAR SPONSOR: \$1,000

TWO STAR SPONSOR: \$2,000

THREE STAR SPONSOR: \$3,000

FOUR STAR SPONSOR: \$4,000

ALL SPONSORS WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN THE EVENT PROGRAM AND WITH TEE SIGNS.

STAR SPONSORS WILL RECEIVE (PER STAR):

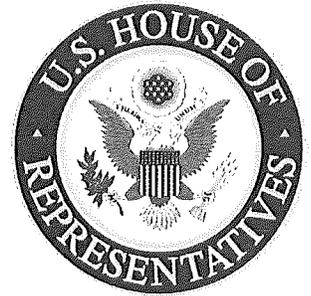
TEAM ENTRY, TEE SIGN, AND ADDITIONAL DINNER TICKET

ENTRY/SPONSOR DEADLINE: 1 SEPTEMBER

**INFORMATION/ DETAILS: TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR COREY GILL, PGA
559-784-9425 OR COREY@RIVERISLANDCC.NET**

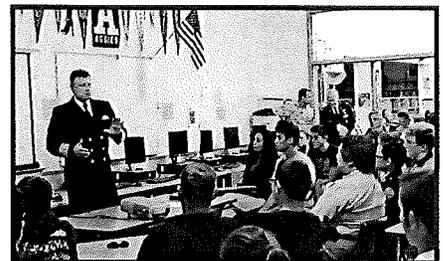
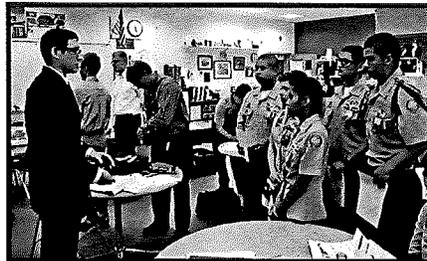
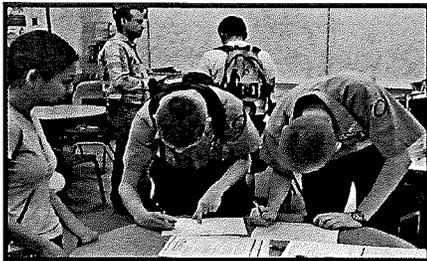
CONGRESSMAN
DAVID G. VALADAO

California's 21st Congressional District



U.S. Military Academy
Information Night

Join us to learn more about the U.S. Military Academies



Tuesday, September 15, 2015
6:30 PM -7:30 PM

Hanford West High School
1150 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230

Open to all high school and middle school students in CA-21

For more information, or to RSVP,
email Alicia.Wolfe@mail.house.gov or call (559) 582-5526.

www.Valadao.house.gov



SEPTEMBER 24th, 2015

VETERANS' SERVICES

OPEN HOUSE

WITH



San Joaquin Valley Veterans

A PROJECT OF

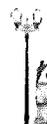


4PM-6PM
410 E 7TH STREET
HANFORD, CA 93230

ENDORSED BY



VISALIA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



City of Hanford
Chamber of Commerce



STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
 PROPERTY TAX DEPARTMENT
 450 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
 PO BOX 942879, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 94279-0064
 1-916-274-3350 • FAX 1-916-285-0134
 www.boe.ca.gov

SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)
 First District, Lancaster

FIONA MA, CPA
 Second District, San Francisco

JEROME E. HORTON
 Third District, Los Angeles County

DIANE L. HARKEY
 Fourth District, Orange County

BETTY T. YEE
 State Controller

CYNTHIA BRIDGES
 Executive Director

No. 2015/020

April 8, 2015

TO COUNTY ASSESSORS AND CLERKS OF THE BOARD:

DISABLED VETERANS' EXEMPTION REFUNDS

Recently, we have received numerous inquiries regarding Senate Bill 1113¹ which amended section 5097 of the Revenue and Taxation Code² to extend the statute of limitations period from four years to eight years on property tax refunds related to the Disabled Veterans' Exemption.

The refund provisions of section 5097 were amended to account for the fact that in some cases it can take many years for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to make a decision regarding a 100 percent disability rating, and even more time when such a decision is appealed. In the past, the limitations on refunds of property taxes paid precluded some veterans from receiving the benefit as of their effective disability date because of a delay with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

There may be other reasons why an eligible claimant may not have filed for the exemption when first becoming eligible. For example, the veteran may not have known that such an exemption was available and did not become aware of it until many years after receiving a 100 percent disability rating. Furthermore, the amended refund provisions allow a benefit for claimants already receiving the exemption. For example, if a veteran who qualified for the exemption for six prior years but was allowed the exemption for only four years under the previous statute of limitation provisions, a claim for refund may now be filed with the county board of supervisors (BOS) for the additional two years. Accordingly, under the new legislation any qualified disabled veteran claimant may receive the refund up to eight years from the date the taxes were paid, regardless of the reason the claim was not timely filed.

Generally, when a retroactive exemption is granted, as in the case of many Disabled Veterans' Exemption claims, the assessor makes roll corrections to the prior rolls and transmits the information to the county auditor or other applicable department to process. This results in an automatic refund payment, and the claimant need not file a separate claim for refund with the BOS. However, section 4831 pertaining to roll corrections allows the assessor to correct the roll *only* if the correction is made within four years after the making of the assessment.

Thus, a difference in the refund process now exists between claimants for the Disabled Veterans' Exemption seeking refunds for four years (or less) and those seeking refunds for more than four years. For any years beyond the four years for which the assessor has authority to correct the

¹ Stats. 2014, ch. 656, effective January 1, 2015.

² All further statutory references are to the California Revenue and Taxation Code, unless otherwise specified.

April 8, 2015

roll, the claimant must also file a claim for refund with the BOS, or other agency to which the BOS has designated such duties.

Although the claimant may be required to file a refund claim with the BOS for certain years, the assessor continues to have a role in the process as he or she will determine the amount of eligible exemption which ultimately determines the amount of taxes paid and the amount eligible for refund. In many cases, only a portion of the taxes paid are subject to a refund based on facts such as ownership interest, eligibility date, and the property's assessed value. The assessor must determine and communicate to the BOS the amount of exemption available so that a new net assessed value and the corresponding property taxes can be determined.

It can be confusing and laborious for a claimant to determine how to file a claim for a refund. The county refund claim form is not easily found on most county websites, if available at all, and may not be consistently available from the BOS as some counties delegate the refund function to the auditor-controller, treasurer-tax collector, or another department. Furthermore, the information requested on a number of counties' current refund claim forms and their formats may not be helpful to the claimant in filing a refund claim for the Disabled Veterans' Exemption. For example, most claim forms ask for the dollar amount of taxes to be refunded, and the disabled veteran claimant often will not have that information. Additionally, some counties require any claim for refunds over \$500 to be notarized, which can place an undue burden on disabled veteran claimants. We recommend this requirement be waived for Disabled Veterans' Exemption claimants.

The administrative process for claiming refunds differs from county to county. Thus, assessors and clerks of the BOS, or other participating agencies, should develop procedures and an appropriate claim form to make the refund process easier for the Disabled Veterans' Exemption claimants and for county staff. Enclosed is a sample worksheet that assessors may want to incorporate into their procedures to assist claimants with relevant information required on a claim for a refund for the Disabled Veterans' Exemption. The claimant would attach the worksheet when submitting the claim for a refund to the BOS.

If you have questions regarding the above, please contact the County-Assessed Properties Division at 1-916-274-3350.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dean R. Kinnee

Dean R. Kinnee
Deputy Director
Property Tax Department

DRK:mw
Enclosure

[close this page](#)

CALIFORNIA COURTS

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA

Traffic Tickets / Infractions Amnesty Program

On June 24, 2015, the Governor signed into law a one-time amnesty program for unpaid traffic and non-traffic infraction tickets. Here is what you should know:

When will the amnesty program run?

Start: October 1, 2015

End: March 31, 2017

Who can participate in the amnesty program?

There are two groups of people who can participate in the amnesty program:

Persons with unpaid tickets that were originally due to be paid on or before January 1, 2013, are eligible to have their debt reduced by 50 or 80 percent depending on income AND have their driver's license reinstated.

Persons who are currently making payments for unpaid tickets are eligible to have their driver's license reinstated but are NOT eligible for a reduction in the amount they owe on their payment plan(s).

Any persons eligible to have a driver's license, including individuals who are eligible for a driver's license under AB 60, are entitled to participate in the traffic amnesty program if they meet the eligibility requirements. However, otherwise eligible persons may be excluded from the amnesty program if they owe victim restitution on any case within the county or have certain outstanding misdemeanor or felony warrants.

What tickets will be eligible for amnesty?

Unpaid tickets and related failure to appear violations with an initial payment due on or before January 1, 2013, are eligible. Individual superior courts and counties may extend this program to include some misdemeanors. This amnesty program does not apply to parking tickets, reckless driving, and DUI offenses.

What will the amnesty discount be?

Under the amnesty program, eligible participants will not have to pay any civil assessments. Once the civil assessments are deducted, the remaining balance owed will be reduced by 50 to 80 percent depending on income level.

The discount will be 80 percent for those who certify that they make less than 125 percent of the federal poverty level — \$14,712 for an individual, or \$30,312 for a family of four — or who receive public assistance.

The discount will be 50 percent for all other eligible participants.

How do I participate in the amnesty program?

Beginning on October 1, 2015, contact the superior court in the jurisdiction(s) where you received the traffic ticket(s) to determine your eligibility to participate in the traffic amnesty program.

Will there be a fee to participate?

Courts or counties are permitted to collect an amnesty program fee of \$50 payable to the superior court or county. The Department of Motor Vehicles will also charge a \$55 driver's license reinstatement fee.

Will there be an installment payment option?

Yes, a payment plan option will be available through the superior court or the county.

More information will be posted here as it becomes available.

VETERANS AFFAIRS



VA News Release

VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals in VA Facilities

08/17/2015 12:50 PM EDT

VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals in VA Facilities

WASHINGTON – Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has revised its regulation regarding the presence of animals on VA property. The updated regulation will ensure VA practices remain consistent with applicable federal law. It will also assist individuals entering VA facilities in developing a clear and consistent understanding of the criteria governing facility access for service animals.

“As I have traveled to VA facilities throughout the country, I have heard from many Veterans about what a vital role their service animals play in their lives,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “The revised regulation will ensure Veterans and employees have clear guidance regarding the presence of service animals in our facilities. VA remains committed to ensuring America’s Veterans have access to the health care benefits for which they are eligible.”

Under the revised regulation, only dogs that are individually trained to perform work or tasks on behalf of an individual with a disability will be considered service animals. Other animals will not be permitted in VA facilities, unless expressly allowed as an exception under the regulation for activities such as animal-assisted therapy or for other reasons such as law enforcement purposes. The regulation further confirms that service animals may access VA property subject to the same terms that govern the admission of the public to VA property, and may be restricted from certain areas on VA properties to ensure that

patient care, patient safety, and infection control standards are not compromised.

In accordance with required practices, the revised regulation was published in the Federal Register in November 2014, to obtain feedback from Veterans, advocacy organizations and other stakeholders.

Over the next thirty days, VA will provide training to frontline employees and ensure policies at all facilities are consistent with the new regulation.

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Veterans Corner

Veteran Driver's License

Earlier this year, Governor Brown signed legislation that will require the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to offer special driver's licenses to veterans. The license will have a "veteran" marking indicating service in the United States Armed Forces. This new program is set to go into effect on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015.

In order to receive your veteran driver's license, you'll need to visit your local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) and complete the DMV application. You'll need a certified copy of your discharge papers (DD-214) showing you received an other than dishonorable discharge, or that you served in a Guard or Reserve component and were mobilized for federal active duty. The CSVO will verify the documents presented and approve/stamp the application. You can then take it to the DMV.

If you don't have a copy of your discharge papers, the CVSO can order a copy. You'll also have an opportunity to discuss the many federal, state, and local benefits you may be eligible for. The CVSO can also file an application for any benefits you or your family are eligible for.

Applications for the new veteran driver's license will be available in the CVSO office around November 1, 2015. This new driver's license will mean that veterans will no longer need to carry their discharge papers to show proof of military service.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran I.D. cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 582-3211, ext. 2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.