

**Kings County
Military and Veterans Coalition
October 13, 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!*
- **Veteran Driver's License** – (See attached)

- New Issues

- **Special Guest** – *Capt. Mary Mahony* – **Commanding Officer NAS Lemoore Hospital**
- **Veteran's Day Events – Nov 11** – (See attached)
 - Hanford Veterans Festival**
 - Lemoore Veteran's Day Parade**
 - Visalia Veterans Parade**
- **CALVET Veterans Day Online Calendar** – (See attached)
- **TRICARE Pharmacy Rules Change** – (See attached)
- **CAMP Lejeune Water Update** - (See attached)
- **Criminal Record Clearance Clinic – Nov 7** – (See attached)

- Round Table –

- Next Meeting – November 10 at the Kings County Government Center, Multi-Purpose Room.

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.

“When you returned home, you brought solace to the loved ones of those who fell, but little solace was given to you... The men and women of Vietnam fought for freedom in a place where liberty was in danger. They put their lives in danger to help a people in a land far away from their own. Many sacrificed their lives in the name of duty, honor, and country. **All were patriots who lit the world with their fidelity and courage.**”

-President Ronald Reagan, November 11, 1984

4th Annual
HANFORD VETERAN'S DAY
Festival

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

10:30^{am} - 4^{pm} Kings Fairground

Veteran Stand Down (8^{am} - 10^{am}) - Breakfast & Lunch for Veterans

FREE Haircuts - Drawings throughout the Day

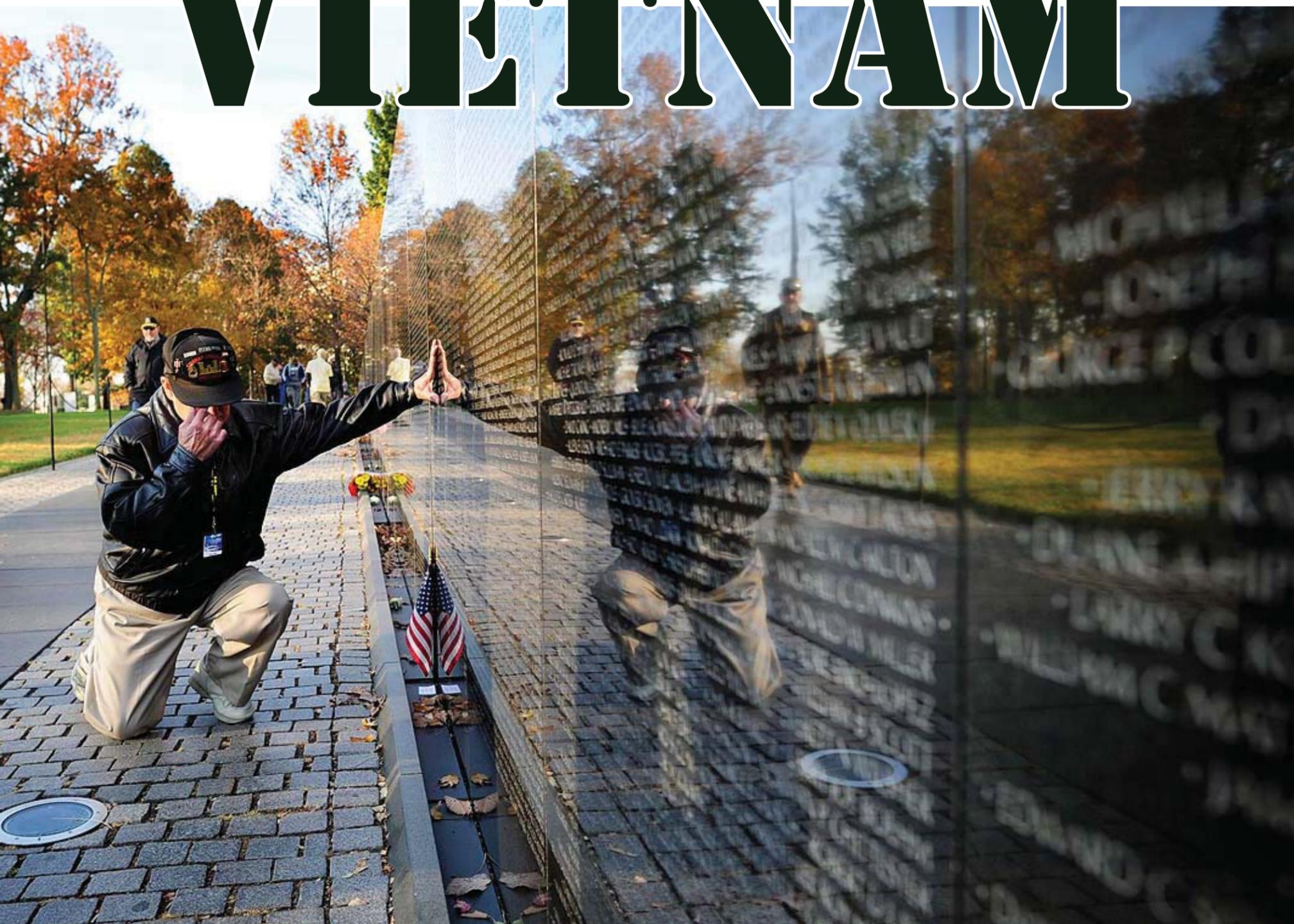
Car & Motorcycle Show - Drill Team Competition

Bounce Houses - Petting Zoo - Pony Rides

Food & Novelty Vendors - FREE Parking & Admission

Live Music Featuring: Roadhouse

Honoring Veterans of
VIETNAM



SAVE THIS DATE

4th Annual Veterans Festival
Kings Fairgrounds - 10th Ave.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015
10:30am to 4pm

Sponsored by:

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Nisei Liberty Post 5869

PO Box 705

Hanford, CA 93232

***Come out and join us in
supporting your local Veterans***

If you are interested in participating in this year's event
please submit your request and payment to:

VFW Post 5869

Attn.: Quartermaster

PO Box 705

Hanford, CA 93232

Spaces are limited - First Come, First Served

Non-Profit Organizations

VFW Nisei Liberty Post 5869
PO Box 705
Hanford, CA 93232



Nisei Liberty Post #5869
Hanford, CA 93230
Founded: October 1949

Dear Sponsors & Vendors,

Thank you very much for your support of the 2015 Veterans Festival.

Veterans Festival Guidelines and Important Information:

- Please arrive for set-up **NO Later Than** 9:30am for set-up of your booth and equipment. Electricity is not available, you may bring a generator or make whatever other arrangements are necessary for your set-up.
- The Veterans Festival starts at 10:30am and will run until about 4pm
- Food Vendors – Please make sure you have submitted all required paper work (Insurance, food handling permits, etc) to the VFW prior to the day of the event.
- Sponsors & Non-Profits: Please make sure that all literature and documents are secured in case of breezy or windy weather.

Contact Telephone numbers:

- Melinda Young: (850) 221-2022 or Mark Hendrickson: (559) 309-1841

Again, on behalf of our Hanford VFW Post 5869, thank you for supporting and helping to make our event a success.

Sincerely,

Norman Boyles

Post Commander
VFW Post 5869

Non-Profit Booth Application

Date: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of Contact: _____ Signature: _____
(Person Responsible for decisions)

Tax ID #: _____

Please provide a certificate of insurance, naming the VFW Post 5869
and Kings Fairgrounds as additional insured.

Please provide proof of Non-Profit status - there is no fee for Non-Profit Organizations

Telephone #: _____

Please indicate the type Services/Products to be distributed: _____

The Non-Profit Organization will supply all material and insurance necessary for the set-up and display their products at the event. The space provided will be 15' X 15'. Spaces will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

Please initial that you have read and understand the above - _____

All donations to the VFW will be appreciated and accepted.
Please make all checks or money orders payable to: **VFW Post 5869**

Return application to:

**VFW Post 5869
Attn.: Quartermaster
PO Box 705
Hanford, CA 93232**

3rd Annual Veteran's Day Parade

Wednesday, November 11th

6:00 pm

Sponsored by the American Legion Post 100

No Entry Fee

All entries must have patriot theme

Register at:

Lemoore Recreation

721 W. Cinnamon

(559) 924-6767



VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

If you have any questions, Contact

Bill Brown 909-5299

Bill Overby 639-3934

Tim Blackburn 941-276-1065

Visalia Veterans

Parade 2015

Saturday, November 14th

10:00 am

For inquiries and/or applications contact:

Janice Pineda
(559) 303-8686

Bob McNabb
(559) 901-0734

Kevin Gerke
(559) 372-7865



Parade line up at Main and Church Streets, beginning at 8:00am.

Parade Route: West on Main Street, Church Street to Willis Street.

***After-Parade Activity information to be announced.**

News Release

CONTACT: Paul Sullivan
916-651-2147

September 21, 2015

CalVet 15-096

CalVet Seeks Events for Our Veterans Day Online Calendar

Sacramento – In keeping with our mission of serving our California Veterans and their families, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) is compiling a list of Veterans Day events taking place throughout our State this year.

“We at CalVet believe strongly in advocating for and serving our Veterans and their families,” said Todd Irby, CalVet’s Acting Secretary. “We also believe in acknowledging and celebrating our Veterans’ patriotic and selfless service. CalVet is proud to compile this list of Veterans Day events so the news media and the public are aware of local events where our community can honor its Veterans.”

Please submit your Veterans Day 2015 events for inclusion in CalVet’s online Veterans Day 2015 Events Calendar by Wednesday, October 28, 2015. Please include the following in your submission:

1. Event
2. Time
3. Location
4. Contact name and email and/or telephone number

Submit your events to Kathleen.Towne@calvet.ca.gov. The online CalVet Veterans Day 2015 Events Calendar will be available for viewing beginning November 2, 2015.

TRICARE Pharmacy Rules Changing for Maintenance, Brand-name Drugs

By Terri Moon Cronk DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON August 21, 2015 —

TRICARE beneficiaries who take certain brand-name medications on a regular basis will be required to fill prescriptions at a military treatment facility or through a mail-in program beginning Oct. 1, a Defense Health Agency official said yesterday.

George Jones, DHA's pharmacy operations division chief, said the new policy does not apply to active-duty troops, overseas beneficiaries, nursing-home residents and those with other health insurance that has a prescription-drug program. In certain circumstances, he added, some beneficiaries might be waived from the program on an individual basis.

The brand-name, regularly used, or "maintenance" medications could include those to treat chronic conditions such as blood pressure or cholesterol issues, Jones explained.

Generic medications are not affected by the new policy, he said.

Beneficiaries to Be Notified

TRICARE pharmacy beneficiaries who will be affected will receive a letter from TRICARE in early to mid-September, with instructions on make the transition from retail pharmacies to a military pharmacy or the Express Scripts mail-in program, he said.

Those with questions about medications in the brand-name maintenance category can call Express Scripts customer service at 1-877-363-1303 or look up the drug online at TRICARE's website.

Beneficiaries can track their medication status and expected delivery date by calling or going online to Express Scripts.

The new TRICARE policy stems from the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act and is designed to save beneficiaries and taxpayers money, Jones explained.

Program Expected to Save Money

"Based on estimates, the program is expected to save beneficiaries \$16.5 million in reduced copays, and projected Defense Department savings is \$88 million during the first year," he said.

That translates into a savings of about \$176 per medication per year, he added.

A pilot program on the new pharmacy initiative was conducted in 2014, and it was "very successful," he added.

"It was very well received by beneficiaries and met reductions in beneficiary-put-of-pocket costs and reduced costs to the government," he said.

VETERANS AFFAIRS



VA News Release

VA Expands Review of Chemical Exposure in Drinking Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

08/03/2015 06:40 PM EDT

VA Expands Review of Chemical Exposure in Drinking Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

WASHINGTON – As part of VA’s ongoing commitment to provide care to Veterans and their families, the Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that it will start the process of amending its regulations to establish presumptions of service connection for certain conditions resulting from exposure to contaminated drinking water at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

This process is in addition to the healthcare VA already provides for 15 conditions to eligible Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 as a result of the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. VA also provides reimbursement of healthcare expenses for those 15 conditions to eligible family members who resided at Camp Lejeune during that time period.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently met with Senators Isakson, Burr and Tillis and the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to discuss the creation of presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. The diseases that are currently being reviewed for potential presumptive service connection include kidney cancer, angiosarcoma of the liver, and acute myelogenous leukemia, which are known to be related to long-term exposure to

the chemicals that were in the water at Lejeune from the 1950s through 1987. The chemicals are Benzene, Vinyl Chloride, Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene, which are known as volatile organic compounds, used in industrial solvents and components of fuels. ATSDR and VA representatives will meet at ATSDR offices on August 19 to begin discussions on establishing these presumptions.

VA will also work with ATSDR and potentially the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the body of scientific knowledge and research related to exposure to these chemicals and the subsequent development of other diseases. VA will carefully consider all public comments received when determining the final scope of any presumptions.

Veterans with health problems they believe are related to exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune may file a claim for disability compensation online at www.ebenefits.va.gov, or call 1-800-827-1000 for assistance.

For more information, Veterans and family members should contact the nearest VA healthcare facility by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune. For further information on Camp Lejeune: VHA Office of Public Health has a Website on Camp Lejeune historical water contamination at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.

The U.S. Marine Corps encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register for notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water at <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>.



FREE Criminal Record Clearance & Prop. 47 Reduction Clinic

OneJustice's Justice Bus® Project will be at the Fresno Veterans Center to provide a free legal clinic for individuals in need of assistance with Prop. 47 reductions and criminal record expungements. During the clinic, clients will meet one-on-one with volunteer law students and expert attorneys to complete their paperwork one-hundred percent free of charge.

SPACE IS LIMITED - MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

Saturday, November 7, 2015

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Fresno Vet Center
1320 East Shaw Ave, Suite 125
Fresno, California**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE AN
APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL:**

415-834-0100 ext. 318