



County of Monterey

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

Jack Murphy, Director

2620 First Avenue
Marina, CA 93933
O: 831 647 7613
F: 831 647 7618

MVAO Community Efforts, as of 08 Apr, 2026

Federal Efforts

- **0% = No Veterans Health ID Card**
 - Currently, Veterans with 0% service-connected disability are not eligible for a VA Health Identification Card. These cards are used for proof of healthcare, veteran status and access to military installation amenities. MVAO seeks to collaborate with our Federal Representatives to present legislative policy to the Veterans Health Administration.
- **Proposal to extend SSVF RRH support period**
 - Currently, SSVF RRH support is limited to a maximum of 9 months. Typical residential leases are 12 months, so landlords are reluctant to lease to a veteran who is only getting partial support. Extending RRH to 12 months to align with the standard lease periods would make renting to a veteran more palatable.

State Efforts

- **CalVet/CJC Legal Clinic**
 - MVAO wants to have CalVet and the California Judicial Council (CJC) put on routine legal clinics for justice involved Veterans throughout the State. MVAO utilize its position in the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers to open the dialogue with CalVet and CJC.
- **Justice-Involved Notification**
 - Initiate a notification process for the California Superior Court to notify Veteran Service Offices of Justice Involved Veterans in the Court system. This would allow for swift benefits referrals and support.
- **Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) for Fallen Vet**
 - Work with Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and State Elected Officials to place a memorial highway sign on Highway 1 North and South to honor U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Victor Gonzalez.
- **Cemetery Endowment**
 - The Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation gave CalVet \$90,000 of the Foundation's money for administration costs and upkeep of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. This \$90,000 has been and is currently in the Governor's Budget. MVAO seeks to have CAL VET release those funds for use at the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. **As of 4/8/26, proposed amendment to [SB-1040](#) (Choi (D-37)) and MoCo BoS will provide support letter**

County Efforts

- **Onboarding New Employee Orientations**
 - MVAO desires to present at a time slot at all New Employee Orientations to brief new Veteran employees on the benefits available to them County, State and Federal levels.
- **DoD Skillbridge, Military Spouse Hiring Policy**
 - Continue to work with County HR on implementing a Military Spouse Hiring Policy to direct hire eligible Military Spouses to County Employment. Work with County HR to make the County of Monterey a DoD Skillbridge worksite which would allow separating servicemembers to have a 6-month internship with the County prior to exiting service.
- **Indigent Internments**

- Internment Ceremony for 7-8 indigent / Unclaimed Veteran cremains, **11:00am, 14 May 26** at the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.
- **Staffing**
 - Adam Errahebi on PTO until June
 - Recruitment of Management Analyst I completed- Offer extended on 4/7/26.
- **Budget**
 - FY26-27 GFC proposal is \$1,219,021
 - CalVet BHSA grant for FY27-28 awarded at \$150,000 (\$75k per yr)
 - BH PEI grant for FY27 awarded at \$30k
 - San Benito Co contracted VSO services proposed for FY27-29 at \$480,000

Legislative Concerns

Federal-

- **Opposition to Department of Veterans Affairs' interim final rule amending 38 CFR § 4.10** as published on 17 Feb 2026. "If medication or other treatment lowers the level of disability, the rating will be based on that lowered disability level." ***Interim Final Rule formally rescinded 27 Feb.**
- **Ingram v. Collins dismissed on 30 Mar** by U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit following the DOJ and VA decision to abandon the appeal. This dismissal concludes a long and hard-fought legal battle over whether the VA can use the ameliorative effects of medication to award veterans a lower disability rating for musculoskeletal disabilities.
- **Oppose**
 - Any legislation/policy that would seek to means test or offset Veterans' disability benefits, to include means testing.
 - Any legislation or program to reduce veteran benefits or entitlements.
- **Support**
 - [S.410 Love Lives On Act \(Moran, R-KS\)](#) to Increase/improve Dependency Indemnity Compensation benefits.
 - [HR 1732 GUARD VA Benefits Act \(Pappas, D-NH\)](#) to protect veterans from unaccredited claim agents.
 - [HR 4114 EVEST Act \(Takano, D-CA\)](#) to automatically enroll eligible veterans into VA healthcare.
 - [HR 7821 Warrior Infertility Act \(Morrison, D-MN\)](#) to include infertility as a presumptive to toxic exposure.
 - [HR 8044 Justice-Involved Veterans Back Home Act \(Canaway, D-NJ\)](#) to provide mental health treatment for incarcerated veterans and automatic resumption of compensation upon release.

Recertify or codify in law VHA Direct 1134.

State-

- [AB 1638](#) **(Ta D) County veterans service officers: additional resources.**
Introduced: 1/26/2026
Status: 2/9/2026-Referred to Com. on M. & V.A.
Location: 3/25/26 referred to Appropriations
Summary: This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, provide a stipend to counties that host an active United States military base for the purposes of maintaining a county veterans service officer, at least part time, at each active United States military base in the county.
- [AB 2219](#) **(Schiavo D) To amend the CA Military and Veterans Code**
Introduced: 2/19/2026
Status: 2/9/2026-Referred to Com. on M. & V.A.



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Location: 3/17/26 Re-referred to M&VA

Summary: To amend CA MVC sections to address standardizing CVSO services and CalVet Subvention program

SB 1040

(Choi D) Veterans Cemetery Maintenance-Endowment Match

Introduced: 2/11/2025

Status: 2/12/26 From Printer

Location: Referred to M&VA

Summary: Establish and administer a state and local matching funds program for veterans cemetery maintenance funds

AB 2022

(Gonzalez, Jeff R) Property taxation: exemption: disabled veteran homeowners.

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Status: 2/18/2026-From printer. May be heard in committee March 20.

Location: 4/6/26- Referred to Rev and Tax

Summary: The bill would provide an unmarried surviving spouse a property exemption in the same amount that they would have been entitled to if the veteran was alive.

SB 623

(Archuleta D) Property taxation: disabled veteran homeowners

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Status: 1/29/2026-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Location: 1/29/2026-A. DESK

Summary: This bill would provide that if Senate Constitutional Amendment ___ is approved by the voters at the statewide general election scheduled for November 3, 2026, to provide the homeowners' exemption to property on which an owner receives the veterans' exemption or the disabled veterans' exemption.

SB 888

(Seyarto R) Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: household income.

Introduced: 1/14/2026

Status: 2/11/2026-Referred to Coms. on REV. & TAX. and M. & V.A.

Location: 3/26/26 Referred back to M&VA

Summary: This bill would, until January 1, 2037, exclude service-connected disability payments from the definition of "household income" for purposes of the disabled veterans' property tax exemption.

SB 1407

(Archuleta D) Personal Income Tax Law: exclusions: military retirement pay: survivor benefit pay.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Status: 3/4/26- Referred to Rev& Tax and M&VA

Location: Set for **Hearing on 4/8/26**

Summary: Expands the Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act by eliminating the adjusted gross income limits and the \$20,000 maximum exclusion cap and extending the exclusion to tax year 2036.

SCA 4

(Archuleta D) Constitutional Change

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Status: 1/14/26

Location: Set for **Hearing on 4/8/26**

Summary: Amends the California Constitution to allow additional property tax benefits for taxpayers eligible for the disabled veterans' or veterans' exemptions from property tax but don't otherwise meet the disabled veteran exemption.

ACA 5

(Schiavo D) Constitutional Change

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Status: 1/14/26

Location: Set for **Hearing on 4/8/26**

Summary: Amends the California Constitution to allow additional property tax benefits for taxpayers eligible for the disabled veterans' or veterans' exemptions from property tax but don't otherwise meet the disabled veteran exemption.