



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Tom Christensen (619) 515-6535

## **SPLITGERBER NAMED PRESIDENT OF CA VETERANS SERVICE ASSOC. *San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency's Veterans Service Officer Honored***

Dr. Tom Splitgerber, the San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency Veterans Service Officer, has been named the President of the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

Splitgerber will now preside over meetings of the association and will work closely with the California Department of Veterans Affairs. He will also most likely be called upon to testify before legislative committees in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

"The association had the confidence in me," said Splitgerber. "So far, I'm enjoying it very much. There is a little increased workload and sometimes it can be a wild ride, depending on what's going on in the community, the state and even the national level. We're especially busy now with young veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan."

There are 253,000 veterans in San Diego County with up to 600,000 dependents, according to Splitgerber. That keeps his office busy. "We do a little bit of everything," he said. "My main job is to be the spokesman and get the word out (about our services.)"

Splitgerber is proud of the San Diego County Veterans Service Office. The staff of eight is the "highest producing office in the state of California," according to Splitgerber. "We just have good people. It's like a family. We just work well together."

The staff makes house calls to veterans around the County, helping with a variety of issues. "We make house calls with laptops that have a portable printer and internet access so we can print out forms at veterans' houses – that's especially helpful for people that can't get into our office."

They work with local health care facilities, and Splitgerber said the staff is very skilled in helping with medical issues and stays on top of laws affecting veterans' medical care and the issues that arise.

Another big area that the office assists with is education. The office handled 5,400 claims last year for college tuition waivers. "We work on college tuition waivers for veterans' dependents for California system schools," said Splitgerber. "We handled over one-third the total waiver requests for the state."

Please call 619-531-4545 for information on federal, state and local benefits that may be available for veterans and their families.

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