

Dusso, Hilda

From: tony@us4warriors.org
Sent: Saturday, September 09, 2017 12:43 AM
To: Dusso, Hilda; Ben Dillingham; Horvath; John Weaver; Martell, Laurie J.; Nancy Owen; Ted Kagan
Cc: Quintong, Wilfred
Subject: RE: VAC Meeting Saturday September 9 Reminder
Attachments: PassedLegislation2017.pdf; StateLegislationUpdate.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Fellow Commissioners,

I apologize for the short notice, but I will be unable to attend the meeting this weekend. I apologize for any inconvenience my absence may cause.

In support of the SDVAC Legislative POC calling, I have been working on a legislative approach to support our board with goals to achieve the following:

1. *Educate about the Legislative Process(es)*
2. *Inform of New and Existing Legislation (more specifically, a. Newly Enacted, b. Newly Introduced, and c. Top Bills Being Tracked on Federal & State levels)*
3. *Provide "access" to information for independent review from reliable sources*
4. *Produce a product that is able to be maintained, but with enough information to be a reliable source for others we serve*

I have a longstanding connection with those who have been some of the key legislative trackers for most of the Veterans Service Organizations in the state and area, etc. and am forging ahead with a consolidated focus from most of those while conducting my own research. Sometimes, the info received from various agencies is cookie cutter from the same source (a firm, like Pete Conaty & Associates) and designed to serve as a compass for supporting or opposing based on the originator's agenda. There are many more bills in legislation than the public generally realizes. Not all become fruitful nor gain attention. Most of us, know the saga. What to track is the key. To bring us up to speed and provide a clean slate for my upcoming first report next month, I have consolidated what has been enacted (passed) during this year related to veterans on the federal and state levels. Also, I am providing a recent update of status regarding the State legislative bills that we were provided at the previous meeting. *Please see attached.* Next month, I will have a new template for a report and will include Federal legislation as well, in a more consolidated, month-to-month reporting cycle.

That said, here are some additional facts to digest regarding legislation in order for us to move forward:

On the Federal level - this year -

- A. There has been 596 bills introduced during the recent 115th Congressional Session specifically impacting or supporting veterans, either in whole or in part. Not all bills that effect veterans are singular purpose bills.
- B. Among the 596 introduced, only 42 have made it to committees to be addressed and/or have been passed at a Senate or House level to move forward in their respective steps of the process.
- C. Only 12 of those 42 have been enacted into law (signed by the President).

On the State level - this year -

- A. There has been 198 bills introduced or under review during the recent 2017-2018 Session specifically impacting or supporting veterans, either in whole or in part. Not all bills that effect veterans are singular purpose bills.

B. Among the 198 introduced, only 18 have been enacted into law (signed by the Governor).

On the County level - this year -

A. Our County as a jurisdiction, is that which we serve. At present, I am uncertain (but researching) any recent legislation to enhance codes, policies or rules that benefit veterans. Further discussion with County staff is in order to support the process.

B. Within our County is 18 municipalities, of which have their own legislation. I am, at present, uncertain as to any recent legislation to enhance codes, policies or rules that benefit veterans.

C. Those who should be on the pulse of these 18 municipalities would be fellow commissioners who serve those areas. We can introduce these items as presented by commissioners for their respective areas.

For the next meeting, I will have a brief presentation, further information regarding the 4 Points Forward approach above and a new, condensed, snapshot report. I apologize for falling short for this meeting. Thank you for your patience.

Salute!

Anthony "Tony" Stewart

CEO/Co-Founder, Us for Warriors Foundation (Us4Warriors)

888-444-1415 | Tony@Us4Warriors.org

San Diego County Veteran Non-Profit of the Year for 2016

"Veterans Helping Warriors Live Stronger Lives"

----- Original Message -----

Subject: VAC Meeting Saturday September 9 Reminder

From: "Dusso, Hilda" <Hilda.Dusso@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Date: Thu, September 07, 2017 10:54 am

To: Anthony Stewart <'Anthony.stewart@navsoc.socom.mil'>, Ben Dillingham <bfdIII@msn.com>, Horvath <ilkatechnologies@gmail.com>, John Weaver <j.weaver@cox.net>, "Martell, Laurie J." <Laurie.Martell@va.gov>, Nancy Owen <nancyowen@san.rr.com>, Ted Kagan <tkagan@cox.net>, Tony Stewart <Tony@US4Warriors.org>

Cc: "Quintong, Wilfred" <Wilfred.Quintong@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Good morning,

Please see attached Meeting Minutes for the VAC August meeting and Agenda for the September 9, VAC meeting this Saturday at 9:30 AM.

Thank you and we will see you all there.

Hilda S. Dusso, Executive Secretary

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

O: 858-694-3211



FEDERAL LEGISLATION ENACTED DURING 115TH CONGRESS (EXHIBIT D)

[H.R. 3218: Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr3218/summary>)

Summary: *Updates GI Bill legislation for modern era, expanding provisions and changing rules, such as eliminating expiration dates, expanded Yellow Ribbon Program to surviving dependents and active duty, Purple heart recipients receive full benefits regardless of time in service, remaining benefits transfer to child or dependent upon veteran's death.*

Sponsor: Rep. David "Phil" Roe [R-TN1]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Jul 13, 2017 Aug 16, 2017

[S. 1094: Dept of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s1094>)

Summary: *After scandals stemming from Dept of VA neglect and coverup, act improves authorities and strengthens accountabilities, improves training and hiring practices, implements stronger assessment of performance and effective disciplinary processes.*

Sponsor: Sen. Marco Rubio [R-FL]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
May 11, 2017 Jun 23, 2017

[H.R. 2288: Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2288/summary>)

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Bost [R-IL12]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
May 2, 2017 Aug 23, 2017

[H.R. 2210: To designate the community living center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butler Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Joseph George Kusick VA Community Living Center".](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2210>)

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Kelly [R-PA3]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Apr 27, 2017 Aug 16, 2017

[S. 583: American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s583>)

Summary: *A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.*

Sponsor: Sen. John Cornyn [R-TX]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Mar 8, 2017 Jun 2, 2017

[S. 544: A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program, and for other purposes.](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s544/summary>)

Summary: *Amended said named act to eliminate sunset date of August 7, 2017 allowing program to operate until all money in Veterans Choice Fund is expended; designates Dept of VA as primary payer for medical care relating to non-service connected disabilities and recovery of costs from third parties for certain care and allows VA to share medical information with non-VA entities that provide veterans with authorize care.*

Sponsor: Sen. Jon Tester [D-MT]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Mar 7, 2017 Apr 19, 2017

[H.R. 1362: To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Pago Pago, American Samoa, the Faleomavaega Eni Fa'aua'a Hunkin VA Clinic.](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1362/summary>)

Summary: *Actions as titled.*

Sponsor: Rep. Aumua Amata [R-AS0]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Mar 6, 2017 Mar 31, 2017

[S. 305: Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s305/summary>)

Summary: *Amended Title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on National Vietnam War Veterans Day.*

Sponsor: Sen. Patrick "Pat" Toomey [R-PA]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Feb 3, 2017 Mar 28, 2017

[H.R. 609: To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs health care center in Center Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the "Abie Abraham VA Clinic".](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr609/summary>)

Summary: *Actions as titled.*

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Kelly [R-PA3]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Jan 23, 2017 Mar 13, 2017

[S. 114: To authorize appropriations and to appropriate amounts for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve hiring authorities of the Department, to authorize major medical facility leases, and fo](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s114/summary>)

Summary: *Actions as titled.*

Sponsor: Sen. Dean Heller [R-NV]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Jan 12, 2017 Aug 12, 2017

[H.R. 244: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr244/summary>)

Summary: *Funded government, incorporated Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2017 to establish HIRE Vets Medallion Program to recognize employers who recruit, employ and retain veterans.*

Sponsor: Rep. Paul Cook [R-CA8]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Jan 4, 2017 May 5, 2017

[H.R. 39: TALENT Act of 2017](#)

(Full Summary: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr39/summary>)

Summary: *Launched the Tested Ability to Leverage Exceptional National Talent Act, or the TALENT Act intended to boost veterans and service members in private sector job searches.*

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin McCarthy [R-CA23]

Introduced Enacted — Signed by the President
Jan 3, 2017 Jan 20, 2017

STATE LEGISLATION PASSED DURING 2017-2018 SESSION (EXHIBIT E)

Source:

<https://legiscan.com/gaits/search?state=CA&keyword=veteran+AND+status%3Apassed>

AB 376 – Veterans benefits: veteran farmers or ranchers.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB376)

Summary: *An act to add Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 1008) to Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans benefits.*

Passed September 1, 2017

AB 671 – Veterans: services.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB671)

Summary: *An act to amend Section 1191 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.*

Passed September 1, 2017

ACR 70 – Staff Sergeant Ricardo “Ricky” Barraza Memorial Highway

(Full Summary: http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180ACR70)

Summary: *Pays tribute to the memory of Staff Sergeant Ricardo “Ricky” Barraza, a distinguished and courageous American who gave his life for his country, by designating the portion of State Route 43 from Fresno Avenue to East Los Angeles Street in the City of Shafter in the County of Kern as the Staff Sergeant Ricardo “Ricky” Barraza Memorial Highway*

Passed August 30, 2017

SB 725 – Veterans: pretrial diversion: driving privileges.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB725)

Summary: *An act to amend Section 1001.80 of the Penal Code, relating to veterans, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

Passed August 7, 2017

AB 1057 – Armories: sales: San Diego Armory.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1057)

Summary: *Related to Section 435 of Military and Veterans Code, act authorized sale of portion of Military Department’s San Diego Armory to San Diego Center for Children.*

Passed July 31, 2017

AB 94 – Corporation Tax Law: exemption: veteran’s organizations..

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB94)

Summary: *Added 501(c)19 Veteran Service Organizations to list of veteran’s organizations able to obtain exemption from state taxes with proof of IRS exemption.*

Passed July 24, 2017

AB 690 – Common interest developments: managers: conflicts of interest.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB690)

Summary: *An act to amend Section 11504 of the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Sections 4528, 4530, 5300, and 5375 of, and to add Sections 5375.5 and 5376 to, the Civil Code, relating to common interest developments. Bill includes concerning Dept of VA common interest development provisions.*

Passed July 24, 2017

AB 1711 – Committee on Veterans Affairs. State military reserve personnel: leave.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1711)

Summary: *Granted State Military Reserve leave for military service, rights and benefits accrued during that service on the same basis as members of the National Guard or other military reserve personnel.*

Passed July 21, 2017

SCR 61 – Relative to veterans.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SCR61)
Summary: *Proclaimed June 19, 2017, as Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day*
Passed July 5, 2017

AB 115 – Transportation.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB115)
Summary: *Among transportation provisions, included budgetary allowances to support “Veteran” identification and collaboration with Department of Veterans Affairs and California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.*
Passed June 27, 2017

SB 85 – Budget and Finance related to education.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB85)
Summary: *Among several educational budget provisions, included budgetary allowances to support “Veteran” student service centers and supported a one-time Veterans Resource Center Grant Program (\$5M).*
Passed June 27, 2017

ACR 79 – Blue Star Mothers of America Month.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180ACR79)
Summary: *Recognizes May 2017 as Blue Star Mothers of America Month*
Passed June 06, 2017

SCR 2 – Relative to Black April Memorial Month.

(Full Summary: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SCR2)
Summary: *In recognition of the great tragedy and suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War, the month of April 2017 shall be proclaimed Black April Memorial Month, a special time for Californians to remember the lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of Vietnam.*
Passed May 4, 2017

ACR 41 – Relative to Bataan Death March Veterans Commemoration Day.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180ACR41)
Summary: *Designated April 9, 2017, and every April 9th thereafter, as Bataan Death March Veterans Commemoration Day.*
Passed May 4, 2017

SCR 4 – Month of the Military Child.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SCR4)
Summary: *Declared the month of April 2017 as the Month of the Military Child, and urged all Californians, local and state leaders, private organizations, and businesses to observe the month by showing appreciation to the children and youth of military and veteran families, including children of the fallen, for standing by their parents and loved ones who are serving or have served as members of the Armed Forces of the United States.*
Passed April 25, 2017

SCR 11 – Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180ACR41)
Summary: *Declared February 19, 2017, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.*
Passed March 28, 2017

ACR 1 – Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

(Full Summary: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180ACR1)
Summary: *Declared February 19, 2017, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.*
Passed March 22, 2017

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION
Status Update to State Bills
Compiled 8 September

Updates from the California Association of County Veterans Service Officer report dated 28 July 2017

AB 153 – Military Fraud; Stolen Valor.

Current Status: 5 September - In the Senate, Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

AB 242 – Coroners Reports: Veterans: Suicide.

Current Status: 1 September - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 10 a.m.

AB 296 – Task Force: Health of Women Veterans.

Current Status: 7 September - In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. May be considered on or after September 9 pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.

AB 386 – Legal Services for Deprted Veterans.

Current Status: 1 September – In the Senate, Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

AB 665 – Military Personnel: Veterans: Resentencing.

Current Status: 1 September - In committee: Held under submission. *(Action taken by a committee when a bill is heard in committee and there is an indication that the author and the committee members want to work on or discuss the bill further, but there is no motion for the bill to progress out of committee. This does not preclude the bill from being set for another hearing.)*

AB 737 – California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Current Status: 25 April - In committee: Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

AB 1249 – Property Taxation: Exemptions: Veterans.

Current Status: 7 September - In Assembly. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling. *(During Engrossing & Enrolling, a nonpartisan unit in each House responsible for proofreading all forms of measures. The unit also prepares and delivers bills to the Governor for consideration.)*

SB 339 – Veterans Treatment Courts: Judicial Council Assessment

Current Status: 7 September – In the Assembly, Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate.

SB 725 – Community Colleges: Veteran Resource Centers.

Current Status: 7 August - Passed by Governor

SB 776 – Corrections: Veterans Benefits.

Current Status: 6 September - In Assembly. Read second time. Ordered to third reading.



California Association of County Veterans Service Officers

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION

JULY 28, 2017

- AB 153** **AUTHOR:** Chavez [R]
TITLE: Military Fraud; Stolen Valor
SUMMARY: Requires certain elected officers to forfeit their office upon the conviction of a crime pursuant to the federal Stolen Valor Act or the California Stolen Valor Act that involves a fraudulent claim, made with the intent to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit, that the person is a veteran or a member of the Armed Forces.
Position: Support
- AB 242** **AUTHOR:** Arambula [D]
TITLE: Coroners Reports: Veterans: Suicide
SUMMARY: Requires a final report of an autopsy to indicate if the deceased person was a member of specified branches of the military, either at the time or prior to death. Provides for such data to be made available to the State Department of Public Health and requires a report.
Position: Support
- AB 296** **AUTHOR:** Cervantes [D]
TITLE: Task Force: Health of Women Veterans
SUMMARY: Require the department to create a task force to study the health of California women veterans comprised of members with specified qualifications. Would require the task force to study the health care needs of women veterans in the state. Would require the task force to submit 2 reports to the Governor and the Legislature that includes the task force's findings and recommendations.
Position: Support if amended
- AB 386** **AUTHOR:** Gonzalez [D]
TITLE: Legal Services for Deported Veterans
SUMMARY: Subject to the availability of funding in the annual Budget Act, require the department to contract with a qualified nonprofit legal services organization to provide legal services to deported veterans. Would also authorize the department to include postconviction relief services to deported veterans in the contract. Would establish the Veteran Reentry Assistance Fund, a continuously appropriated fund, to accept donations from private foundations and other philanthropic entities.
Position: Support
- AB 665** **AUTHOR:** Levine [D]
TITLE: Military Personnel: Veterans: Resentencing
SUMMARY: This bill would prohibit resentencing under these provisions from resulting in the imposition of a term longer than the original sentence. The bill would also require a person who is resentenced pursuant to these provisions to be given credit for time served.
Position: Support

AB 737	AUTHOR: Baker [R]
	TITLE: California Vietnam Veterans Memorial
	SUMMARY: Extends provisions relating to the listing of names on the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the existence and operation of the a specified committee. Provides for the establishment of an In-Memory plaque to honor those veterans who died as a result of subsequent illness or injury, including physical or mental injury, that can reasonably be presumed to have resulted from military service during the Vietnam War.
	Position: Support
AB 1249	AUTHOR: Gray [D]
	TITLE: Property Taxation: Exemptions: Veterans
	SUMMARY: Provides 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 to any portion of a property that consists of a bar where alcoholic beverages are served.
	Position: Support
SB 339	AUTHOR: Roth [D]
	TITLE: Veterans Treatment Courts: Judicial Council Assessment
	SUMMARY: Requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature on a study of veterans and veterans treatment courts that includes a statewide assessment of veterans treatment courts currently in operation and a survey of counties that do not operate such courts. Creates the Veterans Court Assessment Fund.
	Position: Support
SB 694	AUTHOR: Newman [D]
	TITLE: Community Colleges: Veteran Resource Centers
	SUMMARY: Require the California Community Colleges to ensure that each of its campuses provides a dedicated on-campus Veteran Resource Center that offers services to help student veterans transition successfully from military life to educational success through the core components of academics, wellness, and camaraderie. Establishes hour, space, service, and staffing requirements for Veteran Resource Centers.
	Position: Support
SB 725	AUTHOR: Jackson [D]
	TITLE: Veterans: Pretrial Diversion
	SUMMARY: Specifies that a misdemeanor offense for which a defendant may be placed in a pretrial diversion program includes a misdemeanor violation of driving under the influence.
	Position: Support
SB 776	AUTHOR: Newman [D]
	TITLE: Corrections: Veterans Benefits
	SUMMARY: Requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide one employee, other than a correctional officer or other custodial employee, for every 5 state prisons who is trained and accredited by the California Department of Veterans Affairs to assist incarcerated veterans in applying for and receiving any federal veterans benefits for which they may be eligible.
	Position: Support

◇ TO ACCESS THE LEGISLATURE'S WEBSITE WHICH HAS THE LANGUAGE, STATUS, VOTES, AND ANALYSES OF ALL LEGISLATION FROM 1999 TO THE PRESENT, GO TO: <https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

◇ If you have any questions, please contact:

Scott Holwell, Chair, CACVSO Legislative Committee scott.holwell@co.kings.ca.us