

**Kings County  
Military and Veterans Coalition  
March 8, 2022, 2pm PST**

**Zoom Meeting Agenda**

**Meeting ID: 990 6902 3992 Pass Code: 430175**

**Join by Telephone**

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799

**Introductions**

**Previous Items**

- **Veterans Service Office Status – M-F, 8am – 5pm**
  - **Lobby Hours:**
  - **Monday & Wednesday - 8:30 am -11:30 am and Tuesday & Thursday - 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
  - *We are however, still serving clients via phone, email and internet conferencing applications. Certain questions may be answered by support staff, without having to speak with a VSR. Feel free to call anytime to ask for assistance. The Kings County Veterans Service Office can still complete the DMV Veteran Status Verification Form (VSD-001) for the Veteran Designation on your California driver's license/ID Card. We are once again issuing the locally-generated Veteran I.D. cards to honorably discharged Veterans.*
  
- **VA Covid Vaccine Update**
  - All Veteran, spouses and caregivers are eligible to be vaccinated and get boosters at the VAMC Fresno
  - <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/health-welfare/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information>
  
- **VA Covid-19 Vaccines– (See Attached)**
- **Resource and Info Webinar – (See Attached)**

**Guest Presenter:**

- **VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) Overview – Theresa Lopez, Outreach Specialist**

**New Items**

- **Tulare County Services Info – (See Attached)**
- **St. Patrick's Day Dinner – (See Attached)**
- **Rare Cancers to Presumptive List – (See Attached)**
- **Cal Vet Womens' History Message – (See Attached)**

**Round Table –**

**Next Meeting – April 12, 2022 – Location: Zoom Meeting**

## How to get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA

We encourage you to get your vaccine as soon as you can. It's the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community against COVID-19. This is especially important as new forms (or "variants") of the coronavirus spread more quickly in the U.S.

### How to get your first or second vaccine dose

- Find a VA health facility that offers walk-in hours at their COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Not all facilities offer walk-in hours. Be sure to check the facility's website for walk-in hours before you go. When you arrive, you may need to wait for the staff to prepare your vaccine.
- Or call a VA health facility that offers COVID-19 vaccines to schedule an appointment. Our staff will help you find a time that's convenient for you.

### Here's what to know before you arrive:

- You must receive the same vaccine for your initial vaccine series. Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require 2 doses to be effective. You must receive the same type of vaccine for both doses. Not all VA health facilities have both vaccines right now. And facilities may offer different vaccines at different times. Confirm that the facility has the vaccine you need before you come in to get your vaccine.
- If you don't receive care at VA, we encourage you to pre-register online at least 1 hour before you go to a walk-in clinic. This will save you time when you arrive.  
[Sign up to get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA](#)
- If you got your first vaccine dose outside of VA, you can still get your second dose at VA.
- Everyone who enters a VA facility must wear a mask and complete our COVID-19 symptom screening.

### [Find VA facilities near you that offer COVID-19 vaccines](#)

### How to get your booster shot or additional dose

We now offer COVID-19 booster shots to people who are eligible based on CDC recommendations. We offer additional vaccine doses only to certain groups of people with weakened immune systems.

### [Learn more about booster shots and additional doses](#)

## Latest updates on booster shots and additional doses

We encourage everyone who is eligible to come in for a COVID-19 booster or additional dose now. We follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on booster shots and additional doses:

- Everyone who is at least 18 years old should get a booster shot. If you're at least 18 years old, you can choose which vaccine to get for your booster dose. The CDC strongly recommends getting either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.
- Teens ages 16 and 17 can also now get a booster shot. These teens can only get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Not all VA health facilities may offer vaccines to teens under age 18.
- Certain groups of people with weakened immune systems who received either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get an additional dose of the vaccine. You must get the same vaccine for all 3 doses. You should get your third shot first. You should then also get your booster 6 months after your third shot.

Note: Not all VA health facilities have all types of vaccines right now. And facilities may offer different vaccines at different times. Confirm that the facility has the vaccine you want before you come in to get your vaccine.

[Learn more about booster shots and additional doses](#)

Who can get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA

We offer COVID-19 vaccines to these groups:

- All Veterans (including Veterans who live or travel outside of the U.S. and are eligible for the [VA Foreign Medical Program](#))
- Spouses and surviving spouses of Veterans
- Caregivers of Veterans (including family members or friends who provide care to a Veteran)
- Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) benefits

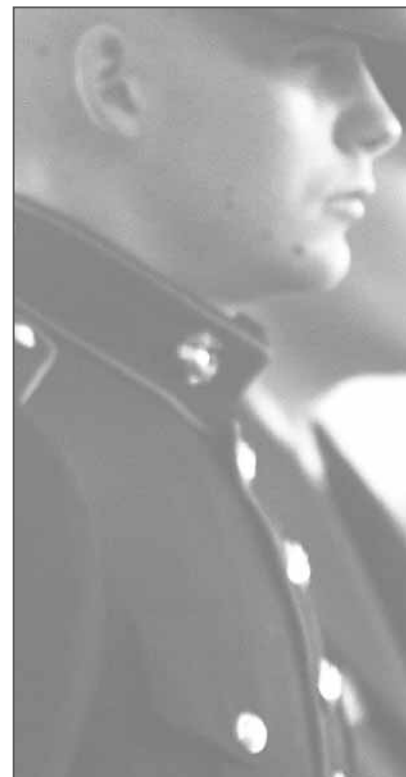
# Veterans



**Proven, Tested & True**



Department of Defense



Please join the EDD Veteran Service Team for the Veteran Resource Information Webinar.

Use the provided zoom link and associated information to attend this event held every Thursday at 0900 PDT:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87198294457?pwd=QUo4LzR3U25PTzNETnVuM0g4dkxHUT09>

Telephone:  
USA 8664345269 (US Toll Free)  
Conference code: 506817

Meeting ID: 871 9829 4457  
Password/ Passcode: 517546















# VETERANS SERVICES, Tulare County



Veterans Services

Cal V.I.N. (Citizens Assisting Local Veterans in Need) - A Tulare County Veterans Collaborative. Monthly meetings: 1st Wed of each month (1000-1200) - View <http://bit.ly/1uZNErf> for more information about additional services beyond handout.



Agency	POC & Address	Phone	Services Offered
 <b>AMVETS</b> Department of California	4969 E McKinley Ave, Suite 207 Fresno, CA 93727 <a href="http://amvetsca.org">amvetsca.org</a>	<b>(559) 688-3407</b> M-Th, 0800-1630 (877) 526-1339	<b>Services Offered:</b> AMVETS Services and Programs are FREE to Veterans and their families. <b>Programs include:</b> Service Officers, Scholarships, Suicide Prevention, Homeless Veteran Outreach, Legislative Advocacy, Women Veteran Programs and more. <b>Career Center offers</b> job assessment, career workshops, job search assistance, and interview clothes. <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> M-TH 0800-1630, <b>Closed Fridays.</b>
 <b>CAL VET</b> CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	<b>Annette Wholaver</b> <i>Local Interagency Network Coordinator</i> 1320 E Shaw Avenue #105 Fresno, CA 93710	<a href="mailto:Annette.wholaver@calvet.ca.gov">Annette.wholaver@calvet.ca.gov</a> <b>[C] 916-539-2431</b> <a href="http://www.calvet.ca.gov">www.calvet.ca.gov</a> (800) 952-5626 <i>Sacramento Site</i>	<b>Connecting California Veterans to all their earned benefits</b> to include VA claims for compensation and pension, CalVet Home loans to Veterans, Assisted Living for Veterans in one of eight Veterans Homes through the State and <b>College Fee Waiver for Veteran Dependents.</b> <a href="http://www.calvet.ca.gov">www.calvet.ca.gov</a> . <b>Headquarters:</b> 1227 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
 <b>College of the Sequoias, Veteran's Resource Center</b>	<b>Ashley Martinez</b> <i>Veteran Coordinator</i> <b>Jennie Garcia</b> <i>Veteran Counselor</i>	<b>(559) 730-3854</b> <i>Address:</i> 915 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277	<b>Disabled, education, employment training, and Veterans Services.</b> Contact Veterans Resource Center for information on Veterans Club meeting dates and times. <b>VRC: Sequoia 106, Veterans Resource Center: <a href="http://www.cos.edu">www.cos.edu</a></b> <b>Additional Phone:</b> (559) 358-4851 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:vets@cos.edu">vets@cos.edu</a>
 <b>Employment Connection</b> <small>A proud partner of America's Job Center of California™ network.</small>	<b>Herb Schneider</b> <b>Veteran Services Advisor</b> 4025 W. Noble Ave., Suite B Visalia, CA 93277	(559) 713-5000 <b>Visalia Office</b>	Provide Veterans with skills assessment, resume help, and job search assistance. On-The-Job Training. Occupational Skills Training. Assist Veterans in connecting with Veteran resources. <b>America's Job Center of California™</b> <a href="http://www.employmentconnect.org">www.employmentconnect.org</a>
 <b>Employment Development Department</b> <small>State of California</small> <b>Workforce Services, Veteran's Program</b>   <small>For JOB LEADS &amp; VETERANS INFO, view <a href="http://bit.ly/1uZNErf">http://bit.ly/1uZNErf</a></small>	<b>Scott Kilgore</b> Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, DVOP, Specialist <a href="mailto:Scott.kilgore@edd.ca.gov">Scott.kilgore@edd.ca.gov</a> 4025 W. Noble Ave., Suite B Visalia, CA 93277 <b>(Covering ALL Tulare County)</b> <small>(Due to COVID, contact before going to any location)</small>	(559) 713-5150 <b>SITE/ Ask for VSN</b> (559) 713-5152 <b>Scott</b> <a href="http://www.caljobs.ca.gov">www.caljobs.ca.gov</a>	The Employment Development Department (EDD) assists Veterans and their eligible spouses to maximize their employment and training opportunities. Veterans are entitled to many resources designed to help in their search for employment. The EDD Veterans' representatives specialize in assisting Veterans in their efforts to return to work and are in many local EDD offices. Services provided include a 24-hour Veteran priority hold on all job listings, customized job search assistance, job fairs, employer recruitments, and other events and resources. Veterans are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an EDD Veterans' representative for personalized services and assistance to achieve professional goals. <b>Function of DVOP &amp; LVER (VPL 03-14, Change 1, Change 2 and VPL 03-19. DOL, VETS: VPL Directory)</b>
<b>FRESNO VET CENTER</b> Readjustment Counseling Center <b>BAKERSFIELD VET CENTER</b>	1320 East Shaw Ave., Suite 125 <b>Fresno, CA 93710</b> 1110 Golden State Ave, <b>Bakersfield, CA 93301</b>	<b>Fresno:</b> (559) 487-5660 M-Thu = 8-2100 hrs. Fri = 8-1800 hrs. Sat = 8-1630 hrs.	 Offers <b>transitional counseling for Combat Veterans</b> for entire Central Valley (on site counselors). <b>FRESNO ORIENTATIONS:</b> Every 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of the Month (10-12 noon). Please bring your ID & DD 214. <b>BAKERSFIELD</b> services Southern Tulare County: (661) 323-8387 (M=8-1930, T-F=8-1900, S=8-1630 hrs.)
 <b>OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION</b>	801 R Street, Suite 201 Fresno, CA 93271	<b>(559) 487-5791,</b>	<b>Outreach services for Veterans wanting to open a small business.</b> Provides guidance on how to do so, also offers <b>low income loans.</b> <a href="http://www.sba.gov/cal/fresno">www.sba.gov/cal/fresno</a> .
 <b>TULARE-KINGS DENTAL SOCIETY</b>	<b>John Hamilton</b> <i>Executive Director</i> <a href="http://www.tularekingsds.com">www.tularekingsds.com</a>	<b>(559) 625-9333</b> P.O. Box 3728, Visalia, CA 93277	<b>Providing community outreach and referrals.</b> Dentists of the <i>Tulare-Kings Dental Society</i> (TKDS) belong to the American (ADA) and the California (CDA) Dental Associations. Two of every three (2 in 3) dentists belong and adhere to the CDA Code of Ethics and place the needs of patients before needs of the practice.
 <b>Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist Inc. (VRSI)</b>	255 N Fulton St #101, Fresno, CA <a href="http://www.vrspecialists.com">www.vrspecialists.com</a>	<b>Office:</b> (559) 231-9440 <a href="mailto:frinfo@employmentforvets.com">frinfo@employmentforvets.com</a> <a href="https://facebook.com/VRSIFresno">facebook.com/VRSIFresno</a>	Provide employment support and services to eligible VETERANS in <b>Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus counties.</b> Our services are <b>FREE</b> and include but not limited to: on-the-job training, basic computer skills, referrals to employees, work study, etc. We can assist with up to \$400 of support for employment needs, such as work clothing, boots, etc.
 <b>Veterans Upward Bound</b> , Educational Resource <small>Covering the Central Valley</small>	<b>Callie Branan</b> , VUB Coordinator <a href="mailto:calliebranan@whccd.edu">calliebranan@whccd.edu</a> <b>Candace Simmons</b> <a href="mailto:candacesimmons@whccd.edu">candacesimmons@whccd.edu</a>	<b>West Hills College Lemoore</b> 555 College Ave, Lemoore, CA 93245 Phone: 559-925-3345	<b>Services Offered:</b> Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is a free educational program for Veterans who meet the eligibility requirements. The program is sponsored by West Hills College Lemoore and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to assist Veterans in preparing for success in college and other post-secondary training institutions of their choice.



# VETERANS SERVICES, Tulare County



## Agency

## POC & Address

## Phone

## Services Offered

Veteran Services -- Healthcare: CBOC/VA Fresno Disability Filing: County VSO Employment: EDD/ATCC VA Questions: VA.gov  
Combat Veteran Help: Vet Center/ACVH Education: VA.gov (phone) or School FoodLink of TC: <http://foodlinktc.org/>

 <b>PC VETERANS SERVICES</b> PORTERVILLE COLLEGE PCVetCenter@portervillecollege.edu 559-791-2222	<b>Andrea Anaya</b> VA Certifying Official <b>Cody Ridenour</b> Program Technician <b>Katherine Figueroa</b> Veteran's Student Counselor 100 E. College Ave. Porterville, CA 93257	(559) 791-2402 <b>Andrea Anaya</b> (559) 791-2407 <b>Katherine Figueroa</b> Text: 559-791-8737 (559) 791-2222 CR & VRC	<b>Disabled, Educational, Employment training, and Veterans Services.</b> Contact VRC for time and date of the Veterans Club meetings. VRC located @ <b>AC116 Veterans Resource Center</b> , Student Veterans Organization (student club) <a href="https://www.portervillecollege.edu">https://www.portervillecollege.edu</a> <b>EMAIL: <a href="mailto:pcvetcenter@portervillecollege.edu">pcvetcenter@portervillecollege.edu</a></b>
 <b>San Joaquin Valley Veterans</b> A project of WestCare <b>410 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Hanford, CA 93230</b>	<b>Jasmine Wendels</b> , Program Coordinator <b>Reyna Bonilla &amp; Audrey Lara</b> , Veteran Advocate <b>Brittini Souza</b> , Data Specialist <b>Trishina Young</b> , Educator/ Housing <b>Michael Ortega</b> , Outreach Specialist <b>Ramiro Salas</b> , Admin Asst.	<b>(559) 584-8100</b> , press 2 for Veteran Services <a href="http://www.westcare.com">www.westcare.com</a> <b>Office provides support to Kings &amp; Tulare Counties</b>	<b>San Joaquin Valley Veterans, a project of WestCare (SJV)</b> San Joaquin Valley Veterans a project of WestCare's goal is to provide critical and quality services to assist Veterans and Veterans with families to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. With the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (or SSVF) we will make it our commitment to help with the ending of homelessness. Give us a call today if you are a Veteran and needs assistance with housing needs.
 <b>Tulare County Health &amp; Human Services: Veterans Division</b> <b>VSO, Veterans Service Office</b>	<b>Ken Cruickshank, VSO</b> <b>Juan Cruz, VSR</b> <b>Nichole Young, VSR</b> <b>Elke Smith, VST</b> 3348 W. Mineral King Visalia, CA 93291	(559) 713-2880 M-Th, 7:30-5 pm <b>F, CLOSED TO PUBLIC</b> <a href="http://www.tchhsa.org">www.tchhsa.org</a>	Provides outreach, counseling, and referrals to Veterans to <b>bring awareness to benefits for which they are eligible</b> . If you're applying for veterans benefit programs, we can: (1) Verify your eligibility and help you complete the necessary paperwork, (2) Prepare, submit, and monitor the progress of your claim, (3) Help you understand and respond to correspondence from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), (4) Get answers to questions about the laws and regulations that apply to veterans benefits, (5) Help you through the appeal process if you've been denied benefits, (6) Provide information and assistance on health care options, home loans, life insurance, and rehabilitation programs, and (7) Make home visits when veterans or their dependents or survivors cannot come to the office because of a disability. If you are a veteran, a veteran's spouse, or other family member, call the Veterans Services Office for assistance with applying for the benefits you deserve. <b>MORE INFO...</b>
 <b>US Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>	One Sansome Street, Suite 1200 San Francisco, CA 94104	(415) 489-6400 Mon - Fri 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.	<b>HUD offers, subsidized apartments for Veterans.</b> Administers <b>FHA loans at low interest.</b> <b>Jurisdiction:</b> Stanislaus, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties in California's Central Valley. <a href="http://www.hud.gov">www.hud.gov</a>
 <b>US Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service</b>	<a href="https://www.dol.gov/vets">https://www.dol.gov/vets</a>	 (916) 654-8771	<b>VETS</b> serve America's Veterans and separating service members by preparing them for meaningful careers, providing employment resources and expertise, and protecting their employment rights.
 <b>Department of Veterans Affairs</b>	<a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a>	<b>(800) 827-1000</b>	<b>Information on Veteran Benefits</b> (payments, education, home loans...)
 <b>VA South Valley Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)</b>	1050 N. Cherry Tulare, CA 93274	(559) 684-8703 M-F, 8-4:30 pm	<b>CBOC services:</b> Audiology, Dermatology, Mental Health Care, Specialty Care & Primary Care. <b>Walk-in Service available but expect to wait. Veterans should complete VA Form 10-10EZ</b> COVID-19 Testing Center (Call for Appointment, referral required)
 <b>VA HEALTH CARE</b> Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century <b>VA Central California Healthcare System</b> Office of Homeless Veterans Services Homeless Programs/Social Work Service Blinded Veterans Association	<b>VA Hospital</b> 2615 E. Clinton Ave. Fresno, CA 93703  <b>Fresno VR&amp;E (Voc Rehab)</b> 855 M Street, 1st Floor, Suite 150 Fresno, CA 93721 <b>(559) 443-1491/Fax (559) 443-1091</b>	<b>Main number:</b> (559) 225-6100 (Due to COVID, contact before going to any location) <b>Travel:</b> ext. 6345 Fax: (559) 228-6945  <b>Homeless Veterans Coordinator:</b> ext. 5764 STAFF	The <b>Veterans Affairs Central California Healthcare System</b> is a General Medicine & Surgery <b>teaching</b> hospital, <b>providing a full range of patient care services</b> , with state-of-the-art technology as well as education and research. <b>Special services offered are:</b> AIDS/HIV services, ambulatory surgery, audiology, speech, pathology, comprehensive cancer care, dementia care, electroconvulsive therapy, gastroenterology, geriatrics, <i>Persian Gulf War Syndrome Treatment Program</i> , Homeless Veterans Program, Home based primary care, Interventional radiology laparoscopic surgery, mental health, amputation care and treatment, pulmonary function, respite care sleep lab, smoking cessation, substance abuse treatment, visual impairment, & women's wellness. <a href="#">Interior Hospital Map.</a>
 <b>Veterans Counseling Clinic</b> <a href="http://www.visaliatherapist.com">www.visaliatherapist.com</a>	<b>Lance Zimmerman, Ph.D</b> Director, Clinical Psychologist 4126 S. Demaree Street, Suite B, Visalia, CA 93277	<b>(559) 372-0525</b> <b>Mon - Fri: 8 am - 6 pm</b> <b>Sat: By appointment</b> <b>Sun: Closed</b>	Psychologist focuses on the evaluation, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral health issues. A clinical psychologist uses psychotherapy and other counseling skills to improve emotional and mental health.
 <b>Tulare Public Library</b> <a href="http://Tularepubliclibrary.org">Tularepubliclibrary.org</a>	475 North M Street, Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 685-4500	<b>HOURS</b> Tuesday 10:00am - 5:45pm Wednesday 10:00am - 5:45pm Thursday 10:00am - 7:45pm Friday 10:00am - 5:45pm Saturday - 10:00am - 4:45pm	Tulare Public Library invites Veterans and their families to learn about state and federal benefits that may be available to them at our Veterans Resource Center. We are staffed by trained volunteers and a Veterans Work Study employee thanks to our partnership with California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), the Employment Development Department (EDD), and the California State Library. <a href="http://calibrariesforVeterans.org">http://calibrariesforVeterans.org</a>
 <b>A Combat Veteran's HOPE</b>	<b>A Combat Veteran's H.O.P.E.</b> 121 E Main St., Suite 108 Visalia, CA 93291	<b>(559) 799-2548</b>	<b>OUR MISSION:</b> To Empower Combat Veterans through engagement with each-other and their local community. <b>OUR VISION:</b> To ensure every generation of Combat Veteran successfully integrates back into their local community. <b>WHAT WE OFFER:</b> BATTLE BACK PROGRAM, CRISIS INTERVENTION, FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM, FORCE MULTIPLIER PROGRAM, H.O.P.E PROGRAM, and RESOURCE REFERRAL PROGRAM. <a href="http://www.acombatveteranshope.org">www.acombatveteranshope.org</a>
 <b>Tulare County Department of Child Support Services</b>	8040 W. Doe Ave. Visalia, CA 93291	<b>(866) 901-3212</b>	Parentage Orders/ Child Support Orders, Modification of Child Support Orders, COAP- Reduce past debt owed to the state. Employment and other Family Centered Referrals <b>Monday-Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm</b> <a href="http://tularecounty.ca.gov/dcss/">http://tularecounty.ca.gov/dcss/</a>

*American Legion Family of Hanford*

# St. Patrick's Dinner

Saturday, March 12, 2022



6 pm



(Take out available at 5 pm)

## Veterans Memorial Building

401 North Irwin, Hanford

\$12 for Adults \$7 Children (10 and under)

Corned Beef, Cabbage, Carrots, Roll and Dessert

Famous Green deviled eggs too!

Protocols will be in place to keep risk minimal for COVID-19

Reservation must be made by March 8th at

559-583-1169 or email [amlegionpost3@att.net](mailto:amlegionpost3@att.net)

Raffle will be held



**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 1, 2022

## VA will propose adding rare cancers to the presumed service-connected list as related to military environmental exposure

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of [presumed service-connected disabilities](#) in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans. The cancers under consideration include:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

"This is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to Veterans to provide more care, more benefits and more services to more Veterans than ever before."

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.

###



# CALOVET

## WOMEN VETERANS



### DEPUTY SECRETARY MARCH MESSAGE

Dear California Women Veterans, Advocates and Supporters,

This month is one of the most significant months of the year for the Women Veterans Division. Nationally, March is designated as Women's History Month. In California, we also recognize and honor women in the military during the third week of March. This year, Women's Military History Week is March 14-20.

CalVet celebrates the many incredible, courageous, and valiant women who sacrificed to protect and defend our nation. We are proud that California has so many women who are serving on active duty, in the Guard and Reserves; or who have already served, in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces—from U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General Stayce D. Harris, who is the first African American woman to command a flying squadron and to Violet Cowden, an aviator from the Women Airforce Service Pilots (known as the WASPs) of WWII. Of the approximately two million living women veterans in our nation today, over 163,000 reside in California. Women veterans make up 10% of the total veteran population in California.



Lt. General Stayce Harris, first African American woman to command a flying squadron

I invite each of you to join me during your break at work or at home for our virtual showing of Vanquishing the Invisible: Honoring Women's Military History Week, where I will read Governor Newsom's proclamation declaring the third week of March as Women's Military History Week. I will also welcome Trailblazer, entrepreneur, and founder of Women Veterans Alliance, Melissa Washington, to offer her remarks. Exhibit creators James and Mara Morrison will also be present to offer their interpretation of the exhibit. Please view the virtual event at this link: <https://conta.cc/3C77UiT>



WASP Aviator Violet Cowden

California women were true trailblazers in shaping and creating military history and this was never more evident than during World War II. Though not all served in the U.S. Armed Forces, an estimated 7 million women joined the labor force, and 10% of federal funding went to California to help the war effort. The famous Rosie the Riveter poster was modeled after Naomi Parker Fraley, who worked in a machine factory in Alameda, California. The "Riveters" left their homes across the nation to move west and work in ship- and airplane-building industries throughout California doing the jobs that were left by men who joined the military. Without the ingenuity and bravery of these women, American military history may have ended on a much more dire note.

Prior to 1941, an estimated 74,000 women served in the Army Nurse Corps and Navy Nurse Corps and 1,000 women were pilots who served as members of the WASPs. In 1941 a bill was introduced in Congress to establish the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps; the bill passed in January 1942. In May 1942 its name was changed to Women's Army Corps. Over 150,000 women enlisted to serve in noncombatant roles.



Rosie the Riveter Poster

Today, the roles of women in the military are vastly different and continue to evolve. Just last year in San Diego, a female sailor successfully completed the grueling training course to become a Naval Special Warfare combatant-craft crewman for the first time in history. Women are integrating to serve in combat designations, special forces, and on all platforms; a significant change from even 20 years ago. However, well before the official rescinding of the combat exclusionary policy in 2016, women fought and died on the frontlines of the battlefield, sacrificing life, limb, and mental health.



Harriet Tubman, spy and nurse for the Union Army.



Commander Billie J. Ferrell, first women commander of the USS Constitution, also known as *Old Ironsides*.

Cathay Williams was the first African American woman and Buffalo Soldier to officially enlist in the United States Army by disguising as a man. Harriet Tubman, a nurse, and spy to the Union Army, was an abolitionist and escaped slave. She was also the first woman to lead an armed military operation in the United States, known as the Combahee Ferry Raid.

In more recent history, Colonel Susan Pangelinan is a Chamorro-American member of the United States Air Force who oversaw California's response to the 2008 wildfires, was awarded the STEM Role Model Award by the Department of Defense in 2009, and *Business Insider* called her one of the Most Impressive Women in the U.S. Military in 2013. Nationwide, the U.S. Navy's oldest commissioned ship, the USS Constitution, is now for the first time, being commanded by a woman. For 224 years, Old Ironsides was commanded by men, until January 2022 when Commander Billie J. Farrell took the helm. We congratulate her and are excited to see more of these glass ceiling trailblazers!



Colonel Susan Pangelinan

There is so much to celebrate and share this month in honor of the amazing women who helped shape this nation.

Check out our social media on Facebook as we kick off Women's History Month with #CalVetWomenVoices and #LegendaryLadies at <https://www.facebook.com/CalVetWomenVeterans>.



Private Cathy Williams, first black woman to enlist in the U.S. Army and only women Buffalo soldier.

Ciao!



Virginia  
Wimmer