

**Kings County
Military and Veterans Coalition
November 8, 2022, 2pm PDT**

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:**
 - **M/W - 8:30 am -11:30 am and T/Th - 1:30 pm – 4:30 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 no longer issuing the locally-generated Veteran I.D. cards.*
 - **Kevin Renner, Senior VSR, has retired. Alex Nava is our new Senior VSR.**

- **Kings County Veterans Support Group– (See Attached)**
- **VA PACT Act – (See Attached)**

Guest Presenter:

**We Honor Veterans/No Veteran Dies Alone: – *Andrea Lott, MA, APCC*
Bereavement Coordinator/Counselor / Volunteer Coordinator
Adventist Health Home Care Services**

New Items

- **LGBTQ+ Survivor Benefits – (See Attached)**
- **AL Post 100 Veterans Day Parade – (See Attached)**
- **VFW Post 5869 Veterans Day Festival – (See Attached)**

Round Table –

Next Meeting – *December 13, 2022 – Location: Zoom Meeting*



Kings County Veteran's Support Group

It's our turn to serve those who serve on our behalf!



Veteran's Support Group

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday
of the month via Zoom & in person

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

For Zoom link/meeting info call (559) 852-2444

Seating is limited.so please call to reserve your seat.



Due to the nature of the group, we can only allow
adults to participate.



460 Kings County Drive Suite 101
Hanford, CA 93230

VA opens health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, post-9/11 Veterans under PACT Act

WASHINGTON — On October 1, The Department of Veterans Affairs will expand and extend eligibility for VA health care for certain Veterans of the Gulf Wars and post-9/11 era.

This expansion will increase health care eligibility for hundreds of thousands of toxic-exposed Veterans. Additionally, VA has already expanded health care eligibility for certain Veterans of the Vietnam War. More detailed information about this expansion can be found on [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).

President Biden signed the bipartisan [PACT Act](#) into law August 10, authorizing one of the largest expansions of VA health care and benefits in U.S. history. Veterans can go to [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to apply for health care or learn more about what this bill means for them and their families.

“This expansion will bring generations of new Veterans into VA health care, and increase the health care benefits of many more, which will result in the one outcome that matters most: better health outcomes for Veterans,” said **Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs**. “I highly encourage these Veterans to apply now for the health care they’ve earned and deserve.”

Beginning on Oct. 1, Post-9/11 Veterans who did not previously enroll in VA health care will have a 1-year window to enroll if they:

- Served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, **or**
- Served in a combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after Nov. 11, 1998, **and**
- Were discharged or released from active service between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013.

Also on Oct. 1, Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War will be eligible for care. This includes Veterans who, in connection with service during such period, received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Service Specific Expeditionary Medal, Combat Era Specific Expeditionary Medal, Campaign Specific Medal, or any other combat theater award established by federal statute or executive order.

Starting now, Vietnam-era Veterans who served in the following locations and time periods are eligible for care: The Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975; Thailand at any U.S. or Royal Thai base between Jan. 9, 1962, and June 30, 1976; Laos between Dec. 1, 1965, and Sept. 30, 1969; Certain provinces in Cambodia between April 16, 1969, and April 30, 1969; Guam or American Samoa (or their territorial waters) between Jan. 9, 1962, and July 31, 1980; Johnston Atoll (or on a ship that called there) between Jan. 1, 1972, and Sept. 30, 1977.

While the expansion of PACT Act-related health care eligibility is staggered over the coming years, VA has made all [conditions outlined in the PACT Act](#) presumptive for benefits as of August 10, the day President Biden signed the bill into law. Eligible Veterans and survivors are encouraged to apply for those benefits now at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).

More information about VA’s implementation of the PACT Act can be found in this [fact sheet](#).

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.govFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 13, 2022

VA closes gap in benefits for LGBTQ+ Veterans and their survivors

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is closing a gap in [survivor benefits](#) for certain survivors of LGBTQ+ Veterans — specifically, for those who were unable to wed until the [2015 Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court decision](#), and who, therefore, were not married to their now-deceased Veteran spouses for long enough to qualify for survivor benefits.

This extension of survivor benefits is effective immediately. Eligible survivors can apply for these benefits [here](#), and more information about this announcement can be found [here](#).

“VA is closing a gap in benefits for surviving spouses of LGBTQ+ Veterans, righting a wrong that is a legacy of the discriminatory federal ban on same-sex marriages,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “It is VA’s mission to serve all Veterans – including LGBTQ+ Veterans – as well as they’ve served our country, and this decision is a key part of that effort.”

Due to bans on same-sex marriages, many LGBTQ+ Veterans were unable to get married until [Obergefell v. Hodges \(6/26/2015\)](#) despite being in “marriage-type” relationships long before that. This wrongly precluded many survivors of those LGBTQ+ Veterans from becoming eligible for [survivor benefits](#) because their Veteran spouse died before the marriage met VA’s length-of-marriage requirements (one-year for [survivor benefits](#), eight-years for a higher rate of benefits). This decision addresses that problem by counting the duration of marriage from when the surviving spouse can establish a “marriage-type” relationship — such as a commitment ceremony, joint banking account, or joint purchase of a house. Importantly, these benefits are not retroactive.

VA is committed to delivering world-class care and benefits to LGBTQ+ Veterans. As a part of this effort, last year, [VA began providing benefits](#) to Veterans who were given “Other Than Honorable” discharges due to their sexual orientation.

LGBTQ+ Veterans can learn more about VA’s current health offerings on the [LGBTQ+ Health Program website](#).

###

LEMOURE VETERANS DAY PARADE

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED & BLUE STAR MOTHERS

11.11.2022
6 P.M.



**Please scan QR Code to take you to our FB Page for
more information & application**



**If you would like to
participate or have
questions contact Tanya**



Live Entertainment featuring:

Timothy Matos

Roadhouse

The Macey Blue Band



**NISEI LIBERTY
POST 5869**

10th ANNUAL

VETERANS DAY

FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER

11

2022

**10AM-4:30PM
CIVIC PARK,
DOWNTOWN
HANFORD**

*Live Music,
Car Show, JROTC Competition,
Visitors & More*

FUN FOR THE FAMILY & SUPPORT OUR SEVES
**Everyone welcome from our nearest Iraq, Afghanistan,
Kosovo & Persian Gulf Wars**

For more info: Rick Landis 559-207-7425

