

**Kings County
Military and Veterans Coalition
March 14, 2023 - 2pm PST**

Microsoft Teams Meeting Agenda

**Meeting ID: 266 004 589 548 Passcode: d3WSa9
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 323-433-2320,,839169384# United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 839 169 384#

Introductions

Previous Items

- **Veterans Service Office Status – M-F, 8am – 5pm**
 - **Lobby Hours:**
 - **M/W - 8:30 am -11:30 am and T/Th - 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm; All other times are for appointments**
 - 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.
- **Kings County Veterans Support Group– (See Attached)**

Guest Presenter: TBD

New Items

- **Vets in Suicidal Crisis – (See Attached)**
- **Corcoran Vets Memorial Save-the-Date – April 29, 2023 - (See Attached)**
- **Toll Roads Vets Program – (See Attached)**

Round Table –

Next Meeting – April 11, 2023 – 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



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 13, 2023

Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for free emergency health care

WASHINGTON – Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

Preventing Veteran suicide is VA’s top clinical priority and a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration. This effort is a key part of VA’s 10-year [National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide](#) and the Biden-Harris administration’s plan for [Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide](#). In September, VA released the [2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#), which showed that Veteran suicides decreased in 2020 for the second year in a row, and that fewer Veterans died by suicide in 2020 than in any year since 2006.

“Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve – no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they’re enrolled in VA care,” said **VA Secretary for Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough**. “This expansion of care will save Veterans’ lives, and there’s nothing more important than that.”

VA has submitted an [interim final rule](#) to the federal register to establish this authority [under section 201 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment \(COMPACT\) Act of 2020](#). The final policy, which takes effect on Jan. 17, will allow VA to:

- Provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible individuals’ emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at a VA or non-VA facility for up to 30 days of inpatient care and 90 days of outpatient care.
- Make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care.
- Determine eligibility for other VA services and benefits.
- Refer eligible individuals for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the period of emergency suicide care.

Eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:

- Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

Over the past year, VA has announced or continued several additional efforts to end Veteran suicide, including [establishing 988 \(then press 1\) as a way for Veterans to quickly connect with caring, qualified crisis support 24/7](#); proposing a new rule that would [reduce or eliminate copayments](#) for Veterans at risk of suicide; conducting an ongoing public outreach effort on [firearm suicide prevention and lethal means safety](#); and leveraging a [national Veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign, “Don’t Wait. Reach Out.”](#)

###

Reporters covering this issue can download [VA’s Safe Messaging Best Practices](#) fact sheet or visit ReportingOnSuicide.org for important guidance on how to communicate about suicide.

If you’re a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. You don’t have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

**SAVE
THE DATE**

**VETERANS MEMORIAL STATUE UNVEILING
CORCORAN, CA
Saturday, April 29, 2023**



Please join us for the unveiling of a New Veterans Memorial Statue that honors those who served in the five branches of our US Military. The statue will be located in the heart of Corcoran's new Gateway Park.

Individual Veterans and Veteran Organizations are invited to join us for this historic unveiling. We encourage veterans to contact their local veterans organization to organize and plan a group reservation. Individuals may contact us directly, but group reservations are encouraged to help us plan for the event.

To RSVP, please email Richard Valle at vallerf@yahoo.com.

Veterans Program

Vehicles registered to an active FasTrak® account and displaying a qualifying veteran license plate drive toll-free on The Toll Roads and certain other toll facilities in California on and after January 1, 2023.

The following license plate types qualify:

- Disabled veteran
- Pearl Harbor survivor
- Army Medal of Honor, Navy Medal of Honor, Air Force Medal of Honor, Army Distinguished
- Service Cross, Navy Cross or Air Force Cross
- Former American prisoner of war
- Congressional Medal of Honor
- Purple Heart

If you have an active FasTrak account with The Toll Roads and a qualifying license plate, please submit the following via email (CustomerService@thetollroads.com) or fax (949-727-4991) for review:

- Image of the license plate
- Copy of the vehicle's valid registration
- Number on the transponder mounted on the vehicle (preferably an image of the number)

The Toll Roads will review the information provided and send you an email or letter that either identifies that additional information is necessary, confirms that the vehicle is eligible for the veteran exemption and identifies next steps, or notifies you that the vehicle is not currently eligible for the veteran exemption.

To learn if another California toll facility offers discounts or waives tolls for veterans, please contact the appropriate agency.