

**Kings County  
Military and Veterans Coalition  
September 12, 2023 - 2pm PDT**

**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](tel:+13234332320),[839169384#](tel:+1839169384) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 839 169 384#

## Introductions

## Previous Items

- **Veterans Service Office Status – M/Th, 8:00am – 5:00pm and Friday, 8:00am – 12:00pm**
  - **Lobby Hours:**
    - **\*\*\* Update: M-Th 8:30 am – 4pm; Friday\*\*\***
    - 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.
- **Veterans Upward Bound - (See Attached)**

**Speaker Topic: *Preparedness for the Aging Population***

***Kings County Office of Emergency Services – Abraham Valencia***

## New Items –

- **Next PACT Act Deadline - (See Attached)**
- **PACT Act: One Year Later - (See Attached)**
- **DAV Volunteer Drivers - (See Attached)**

## Round Table –

**Next Meeting – *October 10, 2023 – Location: MS Teams Meeting***



# Veterans

# UPWARD

# BOUND

### What VUB has to offer:

- Individualized career assessment and planning
- College Application assistance
- Financial aid and GI Bill® information
- Help obtaining Military and other Transcripts
- Academic Counseling
- Access to other resources: study area, computer labs, student union

### Some Eligibility Criteria

- Meet military service requirements
- Received other than a dishonorable discharge
- Completed a minimum of 180 days of active service
- U.S. Citizen, resident or applying for residency
- Low-income and/or first-generation
- Was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces called to active duty for a period of more than 30 days; or was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation on or after September 11, 2001

**SCAN TO  
START AN  
APPLICATION**



## Next PACT Act deadline: Health care enrollment for Veterans who deployed to combat zones

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 22, 2023

8:00 am

**WASHINGTON** — Until 11:59 p.m. local time Sept. 30, 2023, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care, and left active duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and Oct. 1, 2013 are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. This special enrollment period gives Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones an opportunity to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.

VA encourages all of these Veterans to visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and sign up for VA health care before the deadline. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in [overall quality ratings](#) and [patient satisfaction ratings](#). Additionally, VA health care is often [more affordable](#) than non-VA health care for Veterans.

This special enrollment period is a part of the PACT Act, the largest expansion of VA health care and benefits in generations. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on Aug. 10, 2022, more than 344,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care and more than 4.2 million enrolled Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures.

“Are you a Veteran who deployed to a combat zone but never enrolled in VA health care? If you left active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013, you should sign up now,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “Even if you don’t need this care now, you may need it in the future – and once you’re in, you have access for life. But don’t wait – the deadline is Sept. 30 — so go to [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT) and apply today.”

Although this deadline is written into law for this specific group of Veterans, many other groups of Veterans are able to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits – including many Vietnam Veterans, Gulf War Veterans, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone and transitioned out of the service less than 10 years ago, and [more](#). Veterans who do not meet any of the above criteria can often still access VA health care by filing for VA benefits or based on income. If a Veteran is granted service connection for any health condition, they become eligible for VA care.

President Biden has made supporting Veterans a [core element of his Unity Agenda](#) for the nation. When the President signed the PACT Act into law, he [extended the standard eligibility window](#) for Veterans who deployed to combat zones to enroll in VA health care from 5 years to 10 years. The PACT Act also expanded VA benefits for millions of Veterans, making more than 300 health conditions “presumptive” for service connection. This means that if an [eligible](#) Veteran has one of these health conditions, VA automatically assumes that the condition was caused by the Veteran’s service and provides compensation and care accordingly. Since the PACT Act was signed into law, VA has delivered more than \$1.85 billion in PACT Act benefits to Veterans and their survivors. VA encourages Veterans and their survivors to apply for these benefits now at [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT).

More information on eligibility for the special enrollment period can be found at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT). The period applies to Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care, and left active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013 — specifically those who served in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after Nov. 11, 1998.

VA is executing a nationwide campaign to ensure that as many Veterans as possible enroll before Sept. 30. To date, VA's PACT Act outreach campaign has included more than 2,000 events nationwide, \$13 million in paid media, 60,000 earned media clips, more than 400 million emails and letters to Veterans, the creation of a [one-stop-shop PACT Act website](#), and more. This is the largest outreach campaign in VA history, which has one goal in mind: ensure that all Veterans – and their survivors – get the health care and benefits they deserve under the PACT Act.

For more information about how the PACT Act is helping Veterans and their survivors, visit VA's [PACT Act Dashboard](#). To apply for care or benefits today, visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MYVA411.

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## One year of the PACT Act: A historic expansion of benefits and health care for Veterans and their survivors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 10, 2023

5:00 am

**WASHINGTON** — Today, VA released a [PACT Act Year-In-Review Dashboard](#) showcasing the care and benefits that VA has delivered to Veterans and their survivors since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on Aug. 10, 2022. Partly due to this historic law, VA is delivering more care and more benefits to more Veterans than ever before. Key results to date include:

- **Delivering benefits to Veterans and their survivors:** VA has delivered more than \$1.85 billion in earned PACT Act benefits to Veterans and their survivors. VA is delivering these benefits to Veterans at the fastest rate in our nation’s history, processing 1.65 million total Veteran claims thus far in this fiscal year (including 458,659 PACT Act claims) — 16% more year-to-date than the previous all-time record.
- **Increasing Veteran access to health care:** Since August 10, 332,252 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care — which is nearly 50,000 more enrollees than during the previous year. This includes more than 113,719 enrollees from the PACT Act population (Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 Veterans).
- **Screening Veterans for toxic exposures:** More than 4.1 million Veterans have received free, 10-minute screenings for toxic exposures from VA under the PACT Act — a critical step to catching and treating potentially life-threatening health conditions as early as possible.
- **Spreading the word to Veterans and their survivors:** Thanks to the largest outreach campaign in VA history, Veterans and survivors are applying for their earned benefits at record rates. In this fiscal year, Veterans and survivors have submitted 1.95 million total claims (including 843,448 PACT Act-specific claims) — 37% more than last year and on pace to break an all-time record. Veterans have also submitted 1.65 million “[intents to file](#)” during this fiscal year — 44% more than last year and also on pace to break an all-time record.

The PACT Act is here to stay, and Veterans and survivors can apply anytime for the care and benefits they’ve earned. Veterans and survivors who apply (or submit their [intent to file](#)) for PACT Act benefits by 11:59 p.m., ET, Monday, Aug. 14, 2023 will be eligible to have their benefits backdated to Aug. 10, 2022 — the day that President Biden signed the PACT Act into law. This is an extension from the original deadline of Aug. 9, 2023. VA encourages all Veterans and survivors to visit [VA.gov/PACT](#) to apply — or submit their intent to file — today.

For more information about how one year of the PACT Act has helped Veterans, visit VA’s [PACT Year-in-Review Dashboard](#). This dashboard is a special highlight edition of VA’s [regular PACT Act dashboard](#), which VA publishes every other Friday to document the implementation of this legislation and showcase its impact on Veterans and survivors. The Year-in-Review Dashboard includes national and state-level data on PACT Act benefits and health care.

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## **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED**



**DAV IS LOOKING FOR MEN AND WOMEN TO VOLUNTEER, TO DRIVE OUR VETERANS TO THEIR DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS. OUR NATIONS HEROES TRAVEL AROUND THE GLOBE TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM. IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT WE RETURN THEIR DEDICATION. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN: FRESNO OAKHURST TULARE MERCED**

- 1. DRIVERS LICENSE. MUST BE 21.**
- 2. DMV PRINT OUT: CLEAN DRIVING RECORD.**
- 3. CELL PHONE: PASS BACKGROUND.**
- 4. PASS PHYSICAL/TB TEST.**

**EMAIL US: [V21FREServeVets@va.gov](mailto:V21FREServeVets@va.gov)**

**CALL US: 559 241-6424**

**Patricia Valdes**

**Transportation Coordinator**

**DAV**