CALIFORNIA VETERANS BENEFIT FUND
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WWW.CAVBF.ORG
Since the founding of the California Veterans Benefit Fund in 2006 the purpose has been to help fund the service officer program of the Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, education and assisting veteran programs in the state. The ability to fund these programs come from two main sources, telemarketing and our events.

The biggest event this last year was the Assembly Veterans Recognition Luncheon which we host to make it a project the Assembly Members can be proud of. We try to focus our assistance to local veteran groups to small organizations that have programs focusing on PTSD, Agent Orange, Toxic Exposure and assisting veterans in need. With our limited funds we can only make small contributions to most programs but showing that we want to help is a positive step.

We also sponsor programs for mental health, such as Mental Health Matters Day at the Capitol. With the changes in need we are also looking at how we can change with time to assist other veterans and other veteran groups to learn to advocate for their needs and benefits. We work with the state legislators and the California Department of Veteran Affairs to identify and exchange information on the changing needs of the veterans coming to California.
**ABOUT US**

The California Veterans Benefit Fund (CAVBF) was established in March 2006 and is a California nonprofit corporation that has earned tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS Code (Tax ID: 20-4536035).

The CAVBF's mission is to raise funds and manage projects that directly benefit California veterans and their families as well as provide grant funding to other groups engaged in this mission.

The CAVBF's policy is set by an all-volunteer, seven-member Board of Directors.

**PURPOSE**

The specific purpose of this Corporation is for public charitable purposes. This Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now in effect or hereafter amended. The purpose or purposes for which the Corporation is organized is to provide education, direction, and assistance to veterans and their families located throughout California. The Corporation shall provide education and assistance to veterans and their families through veteran service benefits officers located in California. The Corporation shall also fund certain programs provided by other tax-exempt veteran service organizations to provide direct benefits, education, and other assistance to California veterans.

**HISTORY**

2006
Recognizing the need for an entity which could solicit and receive donations from the public to support the activities of the California State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the California Veterans Benefit Fund was founded as a 501(c)(3) organization.

2006 – Present
Supported the Vietnam Veterans of America’s Veterans Service Officer Program. These highly trained Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) interview, advise, and otherwise assist, all veterans, and their families, in understanding and obtaining the benefits to which they are entitled. Specifically, the VSO guides veterans through the complex processes and forms needed to establish and/or validate their rights to veterans’ benefits. Such benefits include, but are not limited to, pensions, education, insurance, hospitalization, home loans, outpatient medical care and burial. VVAs VSOs are located in key California locations.

2006-2015
Funded the mailing of the Vietnam Veterans of America’s quarterly, statewide newsletter, the award-winning Zephyr.
2008
Served as fundraiser and organizer of the 20th Anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Capitol Park. This event consisted of a ceremony honoring the 1988 construction and dedication of the memorial as well as a banquet, parade, and a presentation of Vietnam films.

2009 – Present
The CAVBF is the organizer and planner of the California State Assembly Annual Veterans of the Year Luncheon which takes place each year at the Sacramento Convention Center. This premier veterans event hosts almost 400 people from the veterans community, State Legislature, California Department of Veterans Affairs, California National Guard, the business and non-profit sector, and the local community.

2009 - 2011
Funded programs at the California State Military Museum in Sacramento. Each year, the CAVBF granted $5,000 to the museum for the purposes of preserving California’s military history as well as assisting in the funding of the constructing the Global War on Terror memorial.

2009
Provided funding assistance to the Faces of Agent Orange program. The Faces of Agent Orange is a nationwide effort by the Vietnam Veterans of America’s national organization to bring awareness to the public about veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. After the government established that Agent Orange could be linked as the cause of many Vietnam veterans’ medical conditions, these veterans want the research to continue on how their children and grandchildren may have been affected. Committees have been formed to share stories and discuss possible health links to Agent Orange.

2010
Helped fund the construction of the California Purple Heart Memorial in Capitol Park.

2010
Granted $1,000 to the Missing in America Project (MIAP). The mission of the MIAP project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. These forgotten veterans have served our country and, as such, deserve to be buried with honor and respect.

2013
Served as fundraiser and organizer of the 25th Anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Capitol Park. This event consisted of a ceremony honoring the
1988 construction and dedication of the memorial as well as a reception, banquet, and veterans motorcycle rally.

2014
Provided funding for the exhibit of the Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance at the California State Capitol on November 7-11, 2014. The Wall of Remembrance was inspired a wish by active duty military for a memorial. It was originally built to be displayed once but due to public demand, the Wall’s founders traveled the country displaying the Wall.

2014 - Present
Donated to fundraising dinner/dances held by Chapter 223 in Santa Rosa and Chapter 982 in San Luis Obispo which help support projects in the Redwood Empire and the Central Coast.

2015 - Present
Provided multiple grants to the Incarcerated Veterans Program at the California Correctional Training Facility at Soledad, which is run by Ben Colodzin, PhD.

2013 - Present
Support the activities of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honor Committee. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honor Committee was created when Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed Assembly Bill 287 into law on September 6, 2013. The Committee is tasked with compiling a list of names of Vietnam Veterans from California to be added to the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Committee is also tasked with including the names of California Veterans who later died as a result of illness or injuries, including physical or mental injuries, documented by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or licensed medical professionals, that can reasonably be assumed to have resulted from military service in the Vietnam War. The CAVBF pays for the costs associated with engraving new names to the memorial as well as the travel costs of the board members to attend meetings.

2016 – Present
The CAVBF has covered the catering, printing, and signage costs of the annual All-Veterans Day at the Capitol events. These Capitol visits are attended by up to 60 veterans who travel to Sacramento to the State Capitol to engage in the public policy process by educating legislators on issues of importance to veterans and their families. Attendees are briefed by legislators, members of the Administration, and policy consultants.

2017
Participated at the sponsor level in the Veterans Mental Health Matters event in Capitol Park. This event sought to bring public awareness to the mental health challenges facing veterans, active duty military, and their families.
2017
Helped fund the efforts of the Deported Veterans Support House. The mission of the Deported Veterans Support House in Tijuana is to support deported veterans on their path to self-sufficiency by providing food, clothing, and shelter as they adjust to life in their new country of residence.

2017
Donated at the sponsor level to the CALVET Woman's Veterans Conference which was presented by the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

2017
Grant to the California Veterans Legal Taskforce (CVLTF). The CVLTF was founded to research military-related trauma and build support for mental health treatment for post-911 veterans in the court system. The CVLTF's mission is to assist California counties in establishing and sustaining veteran's treatment courts (VTCs). VTCs operate to encourage and provide treatment for veterans with diagnosed psychological conditions stemming from their military service. VTCs operate in California under Penal Code Section 1170.9, which provides state courts the power to defer jail sentences for qualifying veterans convicted of a crime. The CVLTF trains judges, attorneys and other stakeholders and connects them with assisting agencies such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs which has established formal veteran mental health diagnostic guidelines.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veteran Population (FY 2016)</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Veterans</td>
<td>1,735,213</td>
<td>20,392,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Adult Population that are Veterans</td>
<td>6.10%</td>
<td>6.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Women Veterans</td>
<td>143,159</td>
<td>1,860,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Women Veterans</td>
<td>8.25%</td>
<td>9.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Military Retirees</td>
<td>160,640</td>
<td>2,129,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Veterans that are Military Retirees</td>
<td>9.26%</td>
<td>10.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Veterans Age 65 and Over</td>
<td>849,750</td>
<td>9,560,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Veterans Age 65 and Over</td>
<td>48.97%</td>
<td>46.88%</td>
</tr>
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FY 2017-18

REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2018

ASSETS
Cash and cash equivalents (general fund): $36,532
Investments $10,136
Telemarketing account (pays for VSO program and grants for CSC): $68,837
TOTAL ASSETS $115,505

REVENUE
Contributions (telemarketing): $68,837
Investment income $20
Other revenue (10th Veterans Luncheon): $68,637
TOTAL REVENUE $137,494

NET ASSETS
Net assets: $46,668
TOTAL ASSETS $46,668

EXPENSES
Program services:
  Grants: $37,345
  CSC: $27,345
  CVLT $5,000
  Dr. Ben Colodzin PhD, PTSD Specialist $5,000

Management/general:
  Telemarketing fee: $46,097
  Pete Conaty and Associates: $14,000
  Toll free phone number: $960
  CPA and other tax assistance: $625
  Website: $410

Fundraising (10th Veterans Luncheon): $37,345
TOTAL EXPENSES $136,782
Dear California Veterans Benefit Fund,

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Deported Veterans’ Support House. Our profile continues to grow, which has brought more veterans through our doors this grant will help us support the majority of the living back together, shelter, resource center, VA benefits, as well as improve our efforts to continue raising awareness in Congress to bring our veterans home to their families and country. The $5,000 grant will help pay for our rent for 17 months. This grant will lighten our burden to keep our doors open & we can focus on the other bills. We are extremely grateful that you have decided to help our deported Veterans & continue to believe in the motto of “Leaving No Man or Women Behind.”

The mission of the Deported Veterans Support House in Tijuana is to support deported veterans staying in self-sufficiency by providing assistance in the realms of food, clothing, and shelter as they adjust to life in their new country of residence. Ultimately, we hope to see an end to the need of our services as we advocate for political legislation which would prohibit the deportation of United States Veterans, both former and current. We advocate for Veterans & their families.

Regard,
SPC Hector Arayas
82nd Airborne, Deported
Director & Founder

Banish ed Veteran@yahoo.com deportedveteransupporthouse.org (569-5491 USA 664-285-6561 MEX
July 17, 2018

Dana Nichol
California Veterans Benefit Fund
1107 9th St Ste 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dana,

Thank you and the California Veterans Benefit Fund for sponsoring Mental Health Matters Day 2018 held on May 23, 2018 in the amount of $1,500. It is generous and caring organizations like yours that make the event an incredible success.

All of us at Mental Health America of California truly appreciate your support and we are happy to have this opportunity to work with you. As always, if I can ever be of assistance please feel free to call me at 916-557-1167 ext. 110.

Sincerely,

Zima Creason
President & CEO

MHAC Federal Tax ID #: 94-1393424
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The CAVBF Board of Directors is composed of seven members. Four members who are Vietnam veterans, one member who is a veteran of other eras, and two members of the public.

The board holds elections every two years, in even numbered years.

Ken Holybee - President
Co-founder of the CAVBF in 2006 and joined as a board member in 2008. Currently serving as president. Served in the US Army in Vietnam from June 1969 till September 1971 and has been involved in veteran issues since 1988. Ken has worked as a truck driver, sheet metal worker, gas station manager and in a lumber yard. He is married with three children. He has served as a Vietnam Veterans of America national board member, Vietnam Veterans of America-California State Council President and board member, and as a Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter President and board member.

Dick Southern - Vice President
Dick has been married for 54 years to Carol and they have one daughter, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He served in in the US Army from 1966 to 1968 in the 5th Medical Battalion of the 5th Infantry Division. He has been a letter carrier for the US Post Office, a small business owner, and retail sales clerk. Dick has been a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America since 1996 and was elected Secretary of Chapter 391 in 1997 and still serves in that position. He has held numerous positions within the national, state, and local organizations of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He was President of the California State Council from 2002 to 2004. He is also an accredited Veteran Service Officer.

Sonja Holybee - Secretary/Treasurer
A non-veteran who was part of the organizing team of CAVBF. Sonja has served as Treasurer all but two years since organization formed. She is a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and has served as Chapter, State and Regional Associate Liaison. Sonja has been married to the Ken Holybee for 45 years.

Pete Conaty LTC, USA (Retired) - Director
Pete served a 21-year career in the U.S. Army, including two tours in Vietnam, then retiring from the Army in 1986 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After his military career, he went to work at the California State Assembly for ten years where he worked in a variety of positions. After working in the state Legislature from 1986 to 1996, Pete established his governmental advocacy firm, Pete Conaty & Associates. After 9/11, Pete concentrated on military and veterans’ issues, representing several military and veterans service organizations whose membership totals over 800,000 members and family members. He was involved
with over 1,000 pieces of legislation dealing with military and veteran’s issues. Pete retired from active lobbying in 2018 but continues to consult. He has been on The Board of the CAVBF since 2009.

Richard "Deek" Segovia – Director
Deek served in the U.S. Army from 1969-1971. He served in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971. He has held four officers’ positions in the Vietnam Veterans of America and is on the Board of Directors of VVA Chapter Chapter 982 in Guadalupe CA, of which Deek is a founding member. He has been on the CAVBF Board for two years. Deek is on the Incarcerated Veterans Committee at the California State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Brian McKeown – Director
Brian joined the Army Infantry directly out of high school in 2000. He became a Light Infantry team leader and instructor. During his time in service he deployed with such units as 10th Mountain, 5th Special Forces Group, Task Force 24, and CJSOTF (Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force). His deployments include 7-month tour in Kosovo, West Point cadet training mission, and the invasion of Iraq in 2003. In Iraq Brian had been attached to 5th SFG where he would go on to help capture many of the high-profile targets on the "deck of cards" list. In addition, he would return to train soldiers headed to Iraq in hand to hand combat as well as battlefield communications. Brian belonged to the first unit to spend a year in Iraq in 2003 and continues to help soldiers and veterans as part of our many local veteran organizations. He now serves as a VVA Associate Liaison in VVA Chapter 223.

Dana Nichol – Director
A non-veteran, Dana is a legislative advocate working for a governmental relations firm in Sacramento which represents veterans service organizations as well as other clients in the non-profit, small business, and water sectors. He is also currently a licensed California plumbing contractor and previously worked in the construction industry for 20 years as a laborer, apprentice framer, apprentice electrician, estimator, and journeyman commercial plumber.
GOING FORWARD
Grants policy:
In 2018, the CAVBF will develop new grant policies and seek to establish guidelines regarding:
- Long-term grants or grants that have multiple payments.
- One-time grants.
- Emergency grants for veteran assistance.

Transparency:
- Continue efforts to increase transparency of the CAVBF which will also lead to increased visibility among the public about what the Fund does.
- Improve the CAVBF Annual Report so that it may become a resource to prospective donors wishing to help veterans.

Mental Health:
Expand efforts to bring awareness to mental health issues which are unique to veterans; such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and Suicide.

Veterans Involved in the Justice System:
- Support efforts to expand the availability of Veterans Treatment Courts in the state.
- Support groups engaged in legal aid to veterans. Young veterans:
  - Support efforts to engage young veterans in becoming active in advocacy.
  - Seek ways to incubate and encourage this cohort of veterans in veterans service organizations.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS IN STATE GOVERNMENT
The CAVBF would like to thank the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) for their professionalism and their dedication to serving California’s 1.7 million veterans and their families. We look forward to continuing our relationship of coordination and cooperation in service to our veterans in the coming years.

THANK YOU TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY
We would like to thank California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, his staff, and the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs for their steadfast cooperation in presenting a successful and meaningful way to annual honor veterans from the community via the Assembly’s Annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon. 2018 will be the 11th such luncheon.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
We would like to thank our donors, large and small, for the 2017-18 fiscal-year. Without their valuable financial support, many veterans would not have benefited from services, ceremonies, memorials, or access to services. The majority of our funding comes from small donors across the state.

CONTACT US
Sonja Holybee, Secretary/Treasurer: saholybee@gmail.com (866) 934-2823

On the web: www.cavbf.org

HOW TO MAKE DONATIONS
Donations may be made through the CAVBF website using PAY PAL or checks may be mailed to:

California Veterans Benefit Fund
10311 Woodside Dr. Forestville, CA 95436

All donations are tax-deductible.

Tax ID Number: 20-4536035