



BIG VOICE

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Orange County Veterans Advisory Council (OCVAC) Meeting*

- **When:** January 14, 2026, at 2 p.m.
- **Where:** 1300 S Grand Ave., Bldg. B, Santa Ana, CA 92705
- **Please Note:** Meeting location is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the [OCVAC webpage](#), or check our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) before attending.



American Legion Be the One Training

- **About:** Learn how to recognize and support Veterans in crisis through suicide prevention training offered by the American Legion and Columbia Lighthouse Project.
- **When:** January 15, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Online via Zoom
- **Register:** [Saving Lives of Veterans, their Families, and Communities with the Columbia Protocol](#)



Services Provided

Hot Meals • Housing Assistance • Legal Services
Minor Medical & Wound Care • Dental Care • PEER
Resources • Haircuts & Manicures • Men's &
Women's Clothing

Stand Down Provided by Orange Coast District
Buena Park, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Mission Viejo-
Saddleback Valley, Newport Harbor, Orange, & Santa Ana

Free Transportation
services



Garden Grove Elks
11551 Trask Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92843

Register Your Organization's Participation
www.cognitoforms.com/NewportHarborElks/ELKSStandDownFeb2026

For More Information Contact Dan Breece 949-510-8820

Veterans Stand Down

- **About:** Veterans in need are invited to this welcoming event offering essentials such as meals, housing guidance, health care, grooming, and more.
- **When:** February 28, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Where:** Garden Grove Elks Lodge
11551 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843
- **More information:** Contact Dan Breece at (949) 510-8820

Event information is provided for informational purposes only. The County makes no guarantee as to the accuracy of the event content and assumes no responsibility or liability.

NEWS



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

VA Expands Access to Gynecology Care for Women Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs now allows women Veterans to schedule appointments directly with VA gynecology providers without a referral from a primary care provider.

This streamlined process eliminates the previous requirement for a PCP referral to access VA gynecology care and is designed to better serve the over one million women Veterans enrolled in VA health care.

Read the full press release here: [**VA makes it easier for women Veterans to access gynecology care**](#)

CalVet Survey Highlights Voices of Women Veterans Across California

Nearly 3,000 women Veterans from all 58 counties participated in The California Department of Veteran Affairs (CalVet) 2025 Women Veterans Survey.

The survey revealed key findings, including greater awareness and use of high-impact services such as VA Healthcare and County Veterans Service Offices for filing claims. It also identified challenges related to Military Sexual Trauma, housing stability, service-related disability claims, and mental and behavioral health. Additionally, the survey highlighted emerging priorities around caregiving and LGBTQIA+ Veterans' experiences.

Read the full press release here: [**CalVet Survey Highlights Voices of Nearly 3,000 Women Veterans Across California**](#)

DID YOU KNOW



If you received an Other Than Honorable discharge, you may be eligible for VA health care for certain conditions related to your military service. Available services can include outpatient and inpatient care, residential treatment, telehealth, and mental health support. You may also qualify for counseling through a VA Vet Center.

Learn more:

1. Visit the Orange County Veterans Service Office (VSO) at 1300 S Grand Ave., Bldg. B, Santa Ana, CA 92705, or
2. Visit choose.va.gov/health/oth-enrollment

BY THE NUMBERS MONTHLY

Numbers are based on November 2025 service data.

Veterans Served (includes emails, calls, and appointments):

1,585

Benefits Granted by Veterans Administration:

\$1,791,539

Claims Filed:

1,008

College Tuition Savings:

\$306,845

For more information, contact the VSO at (714) 480-6555 or ocvso@occr.ocgov.com.



veterans.ocgov.com



ocvso@occr.ocgov.com



(714) 480-6555



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