



## FEBRUARY 2026

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Orange County Veterans Advisory Council (OCVAC) Meeting

- **When:** March 11, 2026, at 2 p.m.
  - **Where:** Seal Beach City Council Chambers  
211 8th St., First Floor, Seal Beach, CA 90740
  - **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.
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#### Stress Solutions Workshop

- **About:** Learn practical ways to recognize stress, improve sleep, support others, and shift your mindset in this live, online workshop designed for service members, Veterans, their families, and all who support the military and Veteran community.
  - **When:** March 24, 2026, from 5-6:30 p.m.
  - **Where:** Online
  - **Register:** [Stress Solutions Workshop](#)
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*Presented by Office of Survivors Assistance*



Last Wednesday of every month  
1 pm – 2 pm ET

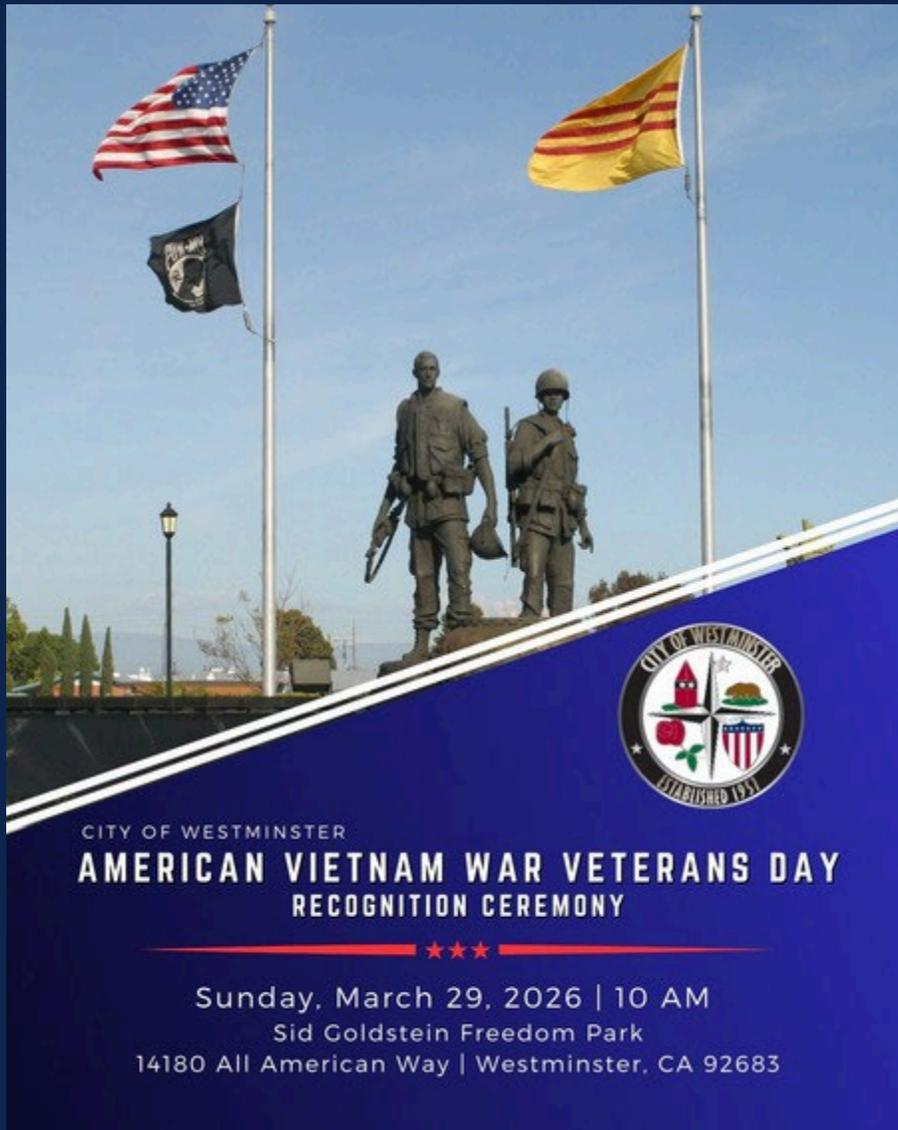
Visit [www.va.gov/SURVIVORS](http://www.va.gov/SURVIVORS)  
for more information, schedule, and topics



ONLINE EVENT

### **Survivor Series: Debt Management Center**

- **About:** This educational webinar series provides surviving spouses, children, parents, caregivers, and advocates with clear, accurate guidance on VA survivor benefits and available resources.
- **When:** March 25, 2026, from 10-11 a.m.
- **Where:** Online
- **Register:** [Survivor Series Webinar](#)



### **American Vietnam War Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony**

- **About:** All Veterans are welcome to attend the City of Westminster's American Vietnam War Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony. This event is free, and refreshments will be provided. Any Veteran who'd like to be recognized and receive a certificate may submit their information at the link below.
- **When:** March 29, 2026, at 10 a.m.
- **Where:** Sid Goldstein Freedom Park  
14180 All American Way, Westminster, CA 92683
- **Certificate submission form:** [City of Westminster American Vietnam War Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony](#)

*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



### Share Your Input on the County Budget

We value community input and would like your feedback regarding the County's budget and use of its limited discretionary funds. Providing feedback allows the County to incorporate your thoughts by ensuring budgeting priorities align with community values.

**Follow the link to access the survey in multiple languages by March 6, 2026:**  
[bit.ly/ocbudgetprioritiessurvey](https://bit.ly/ocbudgetprioritiessurvey)



### VA Streamlines Survivors' Claims Process

Previously, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) had to process Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Survivors Pension claims separately, meaning two formal decisions which could slow down the process. The VA announced a new rule to help survivors receive benefit decisions and payments faster. Starting February 23, 2026, the VA will now pay the higher of the two benefits

(typically DIC) without delaying payment to develop the lesser benefit. This change is expected to help survivors receive support more quickly.

**Read more:** [VA moves to speed delivery of survivors' benefits](#)

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## **VA Home Loan Funding Fees Now Tax-Deductible**

Veterans, service members, and surviving spouses who buy a home with a VA-guaranteed loan can now deduct their VA funding fee on their federal taxes. The funding fee is a one-time charge paid at closing or rolled into the loan. This change may help eligible borrowers keep more money in their pockets when tax season arrives. As always, seek professional tax advice about your specific situation before claiming a deduction.

**Read more:** [Home loan borrowers can now deduct funding fees](#)

# DID YOU KNOW

<p>National Consumer Protection Week • March 1-7 #NCPW2026</p> <p><b>Did you pay a scammer?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Contact the company you used to send the money</li><li>✓ Tell them it was a scam</li><li>✓ Ask if they can get your money back</li></ul> <p>Recover from scams: <a href="https://ftc.gov/scammed">ftc.gov/scammed</a></p> 	<p>National Consumer Protection Week • March 1-7 #NCPW2026</p> <p><b>Did you get an unexpected call or text asking for money or personal information?</b></p> <p><b>Stop.</b> It could be a scam. Talk to someone you trust.</p> <p>Spot and avoid scams: <a href="https://ftc.gov/ncpw">ftc.gov/ncpw</a></p> 
<p>National Consumer Protection Week • March 1-7 #NCPW2026</p> <p><b>Did you spot a scam?</b></p> <p>Tell the FTC what happened, get next steps, and help stop fraud.</p> <p>Report scams: <a href="https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov">ReportFraud.ftc.gov</a></p> 	<p>National Consumer Protection Week • March 1-7 #NCPW2026</p> <p><b>Did you share personal information with a scammer?</b></p> <p>Find out what to do next: <a href="https://IdentityTheft.gov">IdentityTheft.gov</a></p> 

## National Consumer Protection Week: March 1-7

National Consumer Protection Week highlights ways to understand your consumer rights and protect yourself from fraud and scams. During this week, trusted organizations share tips and resources to help Veterans and their families stay informed and avoid common schemes. Staying alert helps protect your money, benefits, and personal information.

Learn more: [How To Avoid a Scam](#)

## BY THE NUMBERS MONTHLY

Numbers are based on January 2026 service data.

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

1,505

**Benefits Granted by Veterans Administration:**

\$669,443

**Claims Filed:**

963

**College Tuition Savings:**

\$323,532

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



[veterans.ocgov.com](https://veterans.ocgov.com)

[ocvso@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:ocvso@occr.ocgov.com)



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