



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

September 2021 issue

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## Notes from the President's Desk

As August comes to a close and our war in Afghanistan comes to an end our nation was hard hit with the loss of the 13 servicemen and servicewomen killed assisting in the evacuation of our citizens, allies, refugees, and interpretations who assisted our forces in Operation Enduring Freedom. We have seen this pull our nation and our people many different ways. More so than ever we need to check on our wingman, wing woman, buddies, and shipmates who served in OEF, Desert Storm, and other operations these last 20 years. Ensure that they know they are not alone and that we are here for them. Provide them with resources and aid them in addition to helping return. We will need to look at if how to assist the Afghanistan refugee settle in our country and community. I realize everyone has their own personal opinion and experiences. Our nation assisted Vietnamese refugees settle in our country when the war in Vietnam ended. I see us repeating that process again. Please share any information on how we may assist them.

As we enter September California is faced with determining if the current governor should be recalled and if he is we need to select his replacement when you cast your vote this month. If you have not voted already. Please encourage your friends and neighbor to get out there and vote. Period!!

September and October is our opportunity to get our state Senators and Assemblymen, Assemblywomen to submit a bill to stop taxation. Please see "**Talking Points: Military Retirement Tax Exemption for California**", "**MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY, STATE TAX EXEMPTION PROPOSAL FACT SHEET**", and **Letter Template, Mil Ret Pay Tax Exemption, 090121**(see email attachments and below. Please get your members to start reaching out to their Assemblymen, Assemblywomen, and State Senators via email, their website, phone calls, and/or in person. Encourage other veterans to join us in this noble effort. Also keep an eye open for our letter campaign to send to them. We need your support, and we need everyone else support in this effort. Without active advocacy and support we will be lost.

I would like to congratulate the winners of MOAA's 2020 Level of Excellence Award and all who were submitted for the "Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award" and the "2021 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence.

E Fred Green, Jr.  
President CALMOAA



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CALMOAA new mailing address:  
5173 Waring Rd #355  
San Diego, CA 92120

## TALKING POINTS (see below)

### MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CALIFORNIA

California competes with other states to attract retirees. Military retirees have a steady income and bring stability to the community. For the most part, retirees spend their money in the local economy, which in turn aids job growth and consistent sales tax revenues. Servicemembers approaching retirement shop around for the most advantageous state to move to.

Servicemembers can retire after 20 years. Many military retirees are in their 40s, which leaves them 20 or more years to pursue a second career. By attracting military retirees, the state can reap the benefits of the income from their second career.

Thirty states understand this and do not tax military retirement income. Servicemembers approaching retirement often ask, "I am getting ready to retire, but the tax exemption laws will be a big factor in where I live."

According to a January 2020 article in Military.com, "for states seeking residents with above-average earnings, the 2.1 million military retirees are a prized group. Most are in their prime earning years and come with skills and earning potential. Military retirees are some of the best educated, youngest, and best trained retirees that states are seeking as future residents. Locales which can lure them into becoming residents stand to gain additional income from property taxes, sales taxes, and the taxable income these retirees will earn in their second careers".

#### Benefits to California of a military retirement pay tax exemption

- **Workforce Development** – The number one issue for employers in California is attracting a qualified workforce. Approximately 60,000 high-tech jobs are unfilled. Boeing, BMW, Volvo Lockheed, General Electric and Michelin have indicated that they need skilled workers. Military spouses will most likely also participate in the workforce, thereby adding another stable taxpayer to the tax rolls.
- **Retaining and attracting military retirees** – Currently, the California military retiree workforce is declining at a rate of 1.5% per year. Military retirees are highly skilled, often in areas requiring technical expertise and /or management.
- **Bringing new federal monies into the state** - Substantial federal funds are infused into the local economy. Military retirees may also qualify for federal veterans benefits. These federal cash benefits bring new monies into the state.
- **Stable influence of military retirees** - Highly qualified military retirees continue to be valuable assets to our schools, local charities and non-profits.
- **Major return on investment** – A retired Colonel, 53 years old, with 31 years of service who lives to the average life expectancy, brings \$2,413,504 federal dollars to the state.

U.S. DoD Retirement System, Office of the Actuary May 2019.

[https://media.defense.gov/2021/Feb/23/2002587190/-1/-1/0/MRF%20VALRPT%202019%20\[FEBRUARY%202021\],%20FINAL.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2021/Feb/23/2002587190/-1/-1/0/MRF%20VALRPT%202019%20[FEBRUARY%202021],%20FINAL.PDF)



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## MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY, STATE TAX EXEMPTION PROPOSAL FACT SHEET (see below)

### Overview of the military retirement system

The military retirement system applies to members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. However, most of the provisions also apply to retirement systems for members of the Coast Guard (administered by the Department of Homeland Security), officers of the Public Health Service (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services), and officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (administered by the Department of Commerce). Only those members in plans administered by the Department of Defense (DoD) are included in this report, except in cases where Coast Guard data is shown for informational purposes. The system is a funded, noncontributory defined benefit plan that includes non-disability retired pay, disability retired pay, retired pay for reserve service, survivor annuity programs, and special compensation programs for certain disabled retirees. The Service Secretaries may approve immediate non-disability retired pay at any age with credit of at least 20 years of active duty service. Reserve retirees generally must be at least 60 years old and have at least 20 qualified years of service before retired pay commences; in some cases, the age can be less than 60 if the reservist performed certain types of active duty service. There is no vesting of defined benefit entitlements before retirement; however, other military retirement system benefits may have lower vesting requirements.

See page 6: [https://media.defense.gov/2020/Aug/12/2002475697/-1/-1/0/MRS\\_STATRPT\\_2019\\_FINAL.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2020/Aug/12/2002475697/-1/-1/0/MRS_STATRPT_2019_FINAL.PDF)

### The importance of the veteran and military retiree population in CA in attracting federal expenditures

The veteran and military population of a state has a direct bearing on how much the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) expends in that state. After WWII, California was home to a large number of military bases and the veterans and military retirees who lived around them. As a result, the VA, which is responsible for many of the health benefits of veterans, established a considerable number of hospitals, clinics, and other facilities in the state. According to the VA Office of the Actuary, in FY 20 the VA expended a total of \$19.2 billion in California (<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp>). Therefore, if military retirees do not stay in California or choose not to move here in retirement, then the VA will reduce its footprint in the state accordingly. Less money will go into the local economies and the skilled employees that work for the VA will need to find new jobs or transfer to another state.

Expenditures in 000's

State	Veteran Population	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	General Operating Expenses	Medical Care	Unique Patients *
CA	1,659,401	\$ 19,163,866	\$ 8,969,514	\$ 219,979	\$ 1,777,555	\$ 227,202	\$ 7,851,926	459,981

\* Unique patients are patients who received treatment at a VA health care facility.

### Recent studies showing the economic importance of the military to California

- California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts 2020  
California Research Bureau  
<https://reports.library.ca.gov/2020/12/31/california-statewide-national-security-economic-impacts/>



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- San Diego Military Economic Report 2020  
San Diego Military Advisory Council  
<https://www.sdmac.org/media/uploads/meir-web.pdf>

## State by state report card on where to move for military retirees

State by state comparison from the Military Officers Association of America

<https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard/>

## California named least tax friendly state for military retirees

On August 31, 2021, Kiplingers magazine released an article titled “The 10 Least Tax-Friendly States for Military Retirees”. California was classified as the #1 least friendly state for military retirees. According to the article, “California offers retired military members no way to escape its high tax rates. The Golden State taxes 100% of a resident’s income from military pensions, along with private, local, state, and other federal pensions. This applies to all military pension income received while a retiree is a California resident, regardless of where he or she was stationed while on active duty.”

<https://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/retirement/t055-s003-least-tax-friendly-states-for-military-retirees/index.html>

Between 2000 and 2016, the country’s military retiree population has increased by 17%, however, California’s military retiree population has declined by 17% in this same timeframe.

## List of states that exempt retirement pay

From Military.Com: <https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/state-retirement-income-tax.html>

- States That Don't Tax Military Retirement Pay:

Alabama	Kansas	Mississippi	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Louisiana	Missouri	Utah
Connecticut	Maine	New Jersey	West Virginia
Hawaii	Massachusetts	New York	Wisconsin
Illinois	Michigan	North Dakota	
Iowa	Minnesota	Ohio	

New York, which has a relatively comparable veteran population to California, outlines the details of their tax exemption program in the following publication:

*Publication 361 New York State Income Tax Information for Military Personnel and Veterans*

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/income/pub361.pdf>

- States With Special Military Retirement Pay Exemptions:
  - Arizona: The first \$3,500 of military retirement pay is exempt.
  - Colorado: Military retirees ages 55 - 64 can exclude up to \$20,000 in any one tax year from their retirement pay, those 65 and over can exclude up to \$24,000.



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- Delaware: Up to \$2,000 of military retirement excluded for individuals under age 60; \$12,500 if 60 or older.
- Georgia: Taxpayers over 62 or permanently disabled may be eligible for a \$4,000 exclusion of retired pay.
- Idaho: Tax-free for retirees 65 and older, or disabled retirees 62 or older.
- Indiana: Up to \$6,250 plus 25% of retired pay over that amount is tax-free for 2019. That will increase to 50% in 2020, 75% in 2021 and 100% for taxable years beginning after 2021.
- Kentucky: Up to \$31,110 is tax-free, you may be able to exclude more in some situations.
- Maryland: The first \$5,000 is tax-free, that amount increases to \$15,000 at age 55.
- Nebraska: Retired pay is eligible for one of two exemptions. A 40% exclusion of military retirement income for seven consecutive tax years beginning with the year in which the election is made; OR a 15% exclusion of military retirement income for all tax years beginning at 67 years of age. All retirement income after the 40% election or before the 15% election is treated as fully taxable income.
- North Carolina: Only if you had at least 5 years active duty before August 12, 1989
- Oklahoma: The greater of 75% of your retirement pay or \$10,000.
- Oregon: If you had military service before October 1, 1991 you may be able to deduct a portion of your retirement pay. If you didn't have military or federal service prior to October 1, 1991, your military retirement is taxed normally.
- South Carolina: If you are under 65, up to \$14,000 is tax-free. That amount increases to \$27,000 at age 65.

## Department of Defense (DoD) statistical report on the military retirement system, FY19

[https://media.defense.gov/2020/Aug/12/2002475697/-1/-1/0/MRS\\_STATRPT\\_2019\\_FINAL.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2020/Aug/12/2002475697/-1/-1/0/MRS_STATRPT_2019_FINAL.PDF)

Florida, with 21.5 million people, and which does not tax military retirement pay (Florida has no state income tax), has 204,864 military retirees, who cumulatively receive \$483 million per month from the DoD. California, with 39.5 million people, has 151,880 military retirees, who cumulatively receive \$331 million per month from the DoD. (see page 23 of the link above)

## Graduate Research Project: Military Retirement Tax Exemption in the State of California

Graduate Research Project in Public Management, EMPA 396

By Jason I. Kuroiwa, Golden Gate University, June 30, 2020

An electronic copy of the research paper can be obtained by emailing: [danan@water-warrior.com](mailto:danan@water-warrior.com)

Excerpts:

- Studies have determined that states with a high cost of living and limited opportunity are experiencing a negative migration as observed in California. It is important to consider alternative solutions to pursue sustainable economic growth.
- In general, military retirees select locations to retire based on factors such as proximity to active duty installations, affordable home prices, share of military retiree pay taxed, average temperature, job opportunities, and unemployment rate.
- Literature reviews of academic research, government studies, and non-profit organization reports provided secondary data research support for the assumption that exemption of personal income tax for military retirees will benefit all residents in California.





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## Recent California legislation to provide a military retirement tax exemption

SB 1007-Hueso (2020). Shelved because of COVID.

SB 1071-Wilk (2020). Shelved because of COVID.

AB 427-Brough (2019). Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

### If you would like more information on this issue, please contact:

Jeff Breiten, Chair, CALMOAA Legislative Committee: [breitenj@msn.com](mailto:breitenj@msn.com)

Seth Reeb, Legislative Advocate, Reeb Government Relations: [sethreeb@comcast.net](mailto:sethreeb@comcast.net)

Dana Nichol, Legislative Advocate, Reeb Government Relations: [danan@water-warrior.com](mailto:danan@water-warrior.com)

## Letter Template, Mil Ret Pay Tax Exemption, 090121 (see below)

### DATE

The Honorable XXXX XXXXXX  
California State Senate / Assembly  
District office address

Re: Military retirement pay tax exemption for California

Dear Senator / Assemblymember XXX XXXX:

I am a veteran and a member of the Military Officers Association of America-California Council of Chapters, and I am writing to you regarding one of the top legislative issues of our statewide organization; an income tax exemption on military retirement pay. I am asking that you support our legislative efforts to implement this policy in the upcoming legislative session.

California is home to the nation's largest military community, housing one out of every four U.S. Marines and one out of every six Sailors. Southern California is home to the nation's premier training ranges where more than 75% of U.S. operational military forces prepare for overseas deployment.

Veterans and their surviving spouses who served their final tour of duty in California, but were not originally from this state, tend to move to their home state or another state upon retirement. A large part of California's post WWII boom was fueled by skilled servicemembers remaining in this state after the completion of their military service. Furthermore, military retirees in other states looking for a welcoming state to move to upon separation from the military, are not choosing California as their destination.

A significant number of native Californians that retire from a military posting in this state are choosing to relocate to other more tax friendly states because of the state income tax on their military pensions.

California would benefit economically if the state exempted all military pension benefits from the state income tax. Retaining and attracting military retirees would benefit the state's total income tax and sales tax receipts.



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While the proposed tax exemption would decrease the revenue to the state from the military retirement pay, overall, it would increase net revenue to the state because most military retirees take on secondary careers, usually at a higher wage.

Military retirement pay is given for 20 years of service. Since the average servicemember begins their military career at around 18-20 years old, they are about 40 when they retire from the service. This leaves them at least 20 more years in the civilian workforce, most likely in a technical and/or management position.

Local sales tax revenues would also benefit because cities and counties would be retaining and attracting this cohort of productive, stable professionals to their communities, thereby reaping their taxes from purchasing goods and services.

Cities, counties, and the state, benefit from attracting businesses and industries that provide good paying jobs and enhance the tax base. Aerospace, technology, and manufacturing will not relocate to a locality that does not have a pool of qualified and experienced people needed to fulfil the company’s labor needs. Military retirees used to provide the backbone of many industries in California, as well as the civilian, technical workforce of the state’s military bases.

A state income tax exemption for military retirees would not only retain and attract these highly skilled workers; it would also exhibit the public’s appreciation of the military professionals whose career was devoted to protection of our country’s freedoms in peace and in war. Some other states offer this benefit solely as a form of appreciation for longevity of service on the military. California is in a unique position in that it can both honor our military retirees while at the same time enhancing its skilled workforce and bolstering its tax base with higher earning military retirees.

For these reasons, we ask that you support our efforts to secure a state income tax exemption for military retirees.

If you would like more information on this issue, please contact:

Jeff Breiten, Chair, CALMOAA Legislative Committee: [breitenj@msn.com](mailto:breitenj@msn.com)

Seth Reeb, Legislative Advocate, Reeb Government Relations: [sethreeb@comcast.net](mailto:sethreeb@comcast.net)

Thank you,

*Signature*

*Your name*

*Your mailing address*

cc: Fred Green, President, CALMOAA, [fred.green@me.com](mailto:fred.green@me.com)

Altie Holcomb, Co-Chair, CALMOAA Legislative Committee, [holcomb5570@roadrunner.com](mailto:holcomb5570@roadrunner.com)

Enclosure: Military Retirement Pay, State Tax Exemption Proposal Fact sheet



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The CA State Commanders Veterans Council’s VoterVoice program needs a lot more vets to sign up for alerts from the program. CALMOAA members can sign up to be alerted when the next campaign is underway.

## CSCVC VoterVoice Tool

This year, the [California State Commanders Veterans Council](#) (CSCVC) launched its new advocacy program via VoterVoice. This online tool allows veterans and advocates to easily engage on priority legislation by sending pre-written letters to their state legislative reps in a few seconds.

To access the tool, visit the CSCVC website’s [‘Take Action’ page](#) where you can view active campaigns. When a campaign is clicked on, veterans will see background on the issue, as well as a pre-written letter. Submitting a letter is as simple as filling in your name, email and address for the tool to look up your local legislator. Click ‘Send Message’ and the letter is sent automatically to your representative.

If there are no actions, click [“Taking Action for Veterans”](#) on the Take Action page to sign up for alerts on future campaigns.

The VoterVoice tool is administered by the CSCVC, and key legislation is selected by the CSCVC Executive Committee for use with this tool. Because VoterVoice is a new tool for the CSCVC, it is being carefully implemented so as to have maximum impact with policy makers. Also, the more veterans that sign up for it and respond to calls for action, the more political credibility will accrue to veterans and their causes. Especially bills that get signed in to law that were well supported via the tool.

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**MOAA’s 2020 Level of Excellence Award**

Congratulations to all.

By now you should have received an email from MOAA Chapters letting you know if you won MOAA’s 2020 Level of Excellence Award. I am happy to announce the winners. Please join us in congratulating and thanking our awesome volunteers and affiliates for their great work on behalf of our association. Learn more about the awards [here](#).

Congratulations to the winners!

## Five-Star Affiliates

### California

California Council of Chapters (CA00) – President Fred Green (note I have asked Patty Werent (CALMOAA Chapter Affairs to represent me)

Alta Chapter (CA01) – President Dawn Wyllie

Hidden Valley Chapter (CA54) – President Dave Yorck

Miramar Chapter (CA20) – President Darryle Grimes

Mojave Desert Chapter (CA56) – President Michael Moticha

Monterey County Chapter (CA21) – President Richard Barratt

Orange Empire Chapter (CA27) – President Bill Mullooly

San Diego Chapter (CA34) – President Dean Mallires

Silver Strand Chapter (CA45) – President Robert Breglio

Ventura County Chapter (CA50) – President John Harper





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I have attached the agenda for MOAAs Annual Meeting. In addition to the agenda please remember to register for MOAA’s Annual Meeting before 15 September 2021. Also please remember to review MOAAs LOE Ceremony Travel Guidance.

Winning Levels of Excellence council and chapter presidents who attend [MOAA’s 2021 annual meeting](#) will need this information when submitting receipts on travel and meal reimbursement.

- [Memo on Travel, Lodging, and Meals \(PDF\)](#) - attached
- [Travel Claim Form \(Fillable PDF\)](#) - attached

In regard to the “Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award” and the “2021 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence” award. Dana Atkins is in the process of notifying both the winners and those who were not selected. MOAA said the competition was extremely close. None of our candidates were selected.

Please reach to your Legislative Chair/Liaison and your Surviving Spouse Liaison for their fine work.

## The purpose of MOAA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

MOAA conducted a survey on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The study is part of the development of MOAA 2022 – 2027 Strategic Plan. Part of the plan includes an understanding of DEI and as it affects our members (future and present). Since 2019, corporate boards, non-profit boards, and federal and state agencies have been reassessing their political and practices in light of increased public sensitivity to racial, ethnic, and other minorities. The Strategic Planning Committees recognize that currently serving officers and those who will be drawn to military service in the future are more radically and ethnically diverse than earlier generations of officers.

- What actions, if any should MOAA take to ensure MOAA can continue to attract current and future officers?
- Will the needs and priorities of future generations officers differ from the priorities and objectives of today?
- MOAA understood that DEI is an issue on which MOAA members have differing views and perspectives
  - o Some feel MOAA should not change in any way
  - o Some feel MOAA should demonstrate more leadership in addressing racial justice, citing the desegregation of the armed forces after WWII.
- The board also understood its obligation to represent all of MOAA’s membership, not just the loudest voices or message points pushed in media
  - o The survey was developed by company with expertise in drawing out thoughts and believes about controversial issues, such as race and ethnicity.

## Significant dates and MOAA deadlines

1. The 3rd Quarter All Hands is 18 September at 0900 (please be on the lookout for an email from me and [2021calmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:2021calmoaa@gmail.com) with the Zoom invite included). I will retransmit a reminder the week before the meeting.
2. Annual Meeting / LOE Award Ceremony 15 and 16 October 2021 in Arlington, VA.
1. Southwest Leaders’ Regional Workshop (Southern California) 19 – 20 Nov 2021
  - a. The location has not been determined as of yet.
  - b. If the board decides to piggyback off this meeting, we can look at:
    - i. starting before noon on the 19<sup>th</sup> Friday
    - ii. tentatively MOAA will be meeting from noon and finish around 3:00 on the 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

### September 2021

- Sept. 30: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: Recruiting (7 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.



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## October 2021

- Oct. 15: [Annual Meeting of the Membership](#)/Levels of Excellence Awards Ceremony
- Oct. 28: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: Retention and Succession Planning (7 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.

## November 2021

- Nov. 1: Scholarship Application Period Begins ([learn more](#))
- Nov. 3: Quarterly Council President/Independent Chapter President Meeting (2 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- Nov. 18: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: Community Outreach Grants and Sponsorships (7 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- Nov. 19-20: Southwest Leaders' Regional Workshop (Southern California)

## December 2021

- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Grant Application opens
- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Sponsorship Program begins
- Dec. 30: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: Incorporation, Tax Status, and Liability Insurance (7 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.

Remember CALMOAA is here to help to the best of its ability. Please reach out whenever. Please visit CALMOAA website [www.Californiamoaa.com](http://www.Californiamoaa.com) it has a wealth of info about VA and TRICARE benefits, job opportunities and much more.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Update

(source the Sept 2021 "AltaGram" with permission of RADM Wylie, MD, MPH, USPHS (Ret))

Daily national and local reports on pandemic-related developments have amplified, paralleling the fastest increase in coronavirus infections during the entire pandemic. We thought we'd turned the corner to the exit, nope, not yet, still in the maze.

It's clear the coronavirus will be around this fall/winter as we head into influenza season too. To summarize key points, since mid-June, rapid community spread of the more contagious Delta variant (the predominant strain now makes up about 99% of circulating virus in the U.S.) is driving a 4th wave of higher infection rates and serious illness. This situation again has prompted change - public health re-evaluation, some mask and vaccination mandates, cancellation of events and/or required proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test to enter.

Fortunately, currently 168+ million Americans and ~ 64% of Californians (< 41% in teens) are fully vaccinated. Existing vaccines continue to offer the best protection to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus. A preponderance of scientific and clinical evidence demonstrates vaccine benefits far exceed the extremely rare serious risk of their side-effects or of naturally acquired coronavirus infection, illness, and complications.

Although vaccines are very effective at preventing severe COVID illness and death, they do not stop a fully vaccinated person from being infected by the virus (breakthrough disease) and likely spreading it, especially to susceptible, vulnerable people. Masking helps. WHO predicts globally 100 million more COVID cases by early 2022.

To support our own immune system, it's important to eat healthy, get enough sleep, exercise regularly, manage stress, and seek help if needed. Treatment of COVID-19 relies heavily on supportive care at every stage. The FDA approved the



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antiviral drug, Veklury (remdesivir; blocks specific steps a virus uses to copy itself/replicate), and EAUs for monoclonal antibody treatments (laboratory-made molecules that act as substitute antibodies). Other therapies are being investigated in clinical research trials.

In the U.S., there are wide-spread reports of a substantial increase in infected children; that serious cases are on the rise in younger adults; escalating hospitalizations and deaths (90+% are unvaccinated), ICU beds and staffing shortages, emotionally exhausted health care personnel; an economy in recovery that needs a healthy workforce. In response to the situation, California hospitals are now requiring proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test for visitors to facilities. New requirements have been established this month for the health and safety of patients, employees, veterans, teachers, students, the public, etc.

Additional complicating factors are the prevalence of misinformation, fear, vaccine hesitancy and resistance, and now CA wildfire smoke. Wildfires produce high levels of fine particulate matter air pollution which recent studies have linked to negative health outcomes, contributing to premature death, asthma, COPD, and a rise in COVID-19 infection. Another reason to wear an N95 mask to filter the air we breathe and to get your Flu shot when available.

I have respect and faith in our scientists, researchers, and especially our health care teams. Everyone is encouraged to be informed by reputable sources and remain vigilant on prevention /protection measures despite pandemic fatigue which most of us are experiencing to varying degrees. Return to basics - 4 W's: (1) Wear a Mask (indoors public places; crowded spaces; poor ventilation), (2) Wash your Hands, (3) Watch your Distance and (4) Wait to Travel (avoid high endemic communities). Consider going above and beyond what's only required in any particular circumstance, to lead the way.

Ask, is it not our duty to do all we can to help keep ourselves and one another stay safe during this time?

~ RADM Dawn Wyllie, MD, MPH, USPHS (Ret)

USPHS: "In Officio Salutis" (In the Service of Health)

100 year WWII Paratrooper video parachutes into Coronado's Tom Rice Parachutes onto the Beach at age 100 on August 17, 2021 onto the beach at the Hotel del Coronado to celebrate his birthday

<https://youtu.be/k8x2RLq4Bz0>

One guy hung on outside the door to film his exit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X83L1ZSpbkg>

## Resources

- CDC Facts: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>
- FDA Coronavirus Treatment Options: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/know-your-treatment-options-covid-19>
- VA Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits>
- VA Benefits: <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>
- Military Service Records: After CY 2002, E-format, order at <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html> For more info, visit <https://www.va.gov/records/>

Mental Health Assistance Advocates are reminding veterans that help is available if the news about the U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan and the looming Sept. 11 anniversary are triggering anxiety and mental health issues. Extend support, reach out. Counselors are available through various organizations:



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- Veterans Crisis Line: 800-273-8255 (press 1); text 838255; <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>
- Wounded Warrior Project: 888-997-2586; <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America: "Quick Reaction Force" 855-91-RAPID (855-917-2743); <https://iava.org/quick-reaction-force/>

Stay safe and be well.

~ RADM Dawn Wyllie

USPHS: "In Officio Salutis" (In the Service of Health)

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National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/?0>



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## Ready Reference Contact Information

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502;  
[www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;  
[www.arlingtoncemetery.org](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org)

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988;  
[www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)

Army & Air Force Exchange Service: (214) 312-2011;  
[www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

Army Retired Services: (703) 571-7232;  
<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

## Burial

Burial at Sea Information: (866) 787-0081

- Pre-Need Burial Benefit before you call checklist – [Funeral Director's Before You Call Checklist \(va.gov\)](http://www.va.gov)
- Burial Benefits: [http://www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/)
- Burial Allowance: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>
- Headstone/Marker/Medallion: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/>
- Burial Flag: [http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial\\_benefits/burial\\_flags.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp)

Combat Related Special Compensation:  
[www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm](http://www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm)

DEERS: (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;  
[www.tricare.osd.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers)

Defense Commissary Agency: [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)

DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch: (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955; (For Reporting a Retiree's death, option #1)

Fleet Reserve Association: (703) 683-1400; [www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

Gulf War homepage: [www.gulflink.osd.mil](http://www.gulflink.osd.mil)

I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672;  
<http://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Pay-Pers-Support/ID-Cards/>

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

Marine Corps Retired Affairs: (800) 336-4649;  
[www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)  
(Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")

Medicare: (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048;  
[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622;  
[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

National Burial Services: (800) 697-6940

NPC Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9): (866) 827-5672;  
[www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Reserve-Personnel-Mgmt/](http://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Reserve-Personnel-Mgmt/)

Navy Casualty Assistance: (800) 368-3202

Navy Retired Activities Office: (866) U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672) MILL [RetiredActivities@navy.mil](mailto:RetiredActivities@navy.mil);  
[www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/21st-Century-Sailor/Retired-Activities/](http://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/21st-Century-Sailor/Retired-Activities/)

Navy Uniform Shop: (800) 368-4088; [www.navy-nex.com/uniform](http://www.navy-nex.com/uniform)

Reserve Component SBP: (866) 827-5672 ask for PERS-912

Retiree Dental — Delta Dental: (888) 838-8737;  
[www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)





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Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI): (800) 419-1473;

[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

Pay/SBP Questions: [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)

Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce, or remarriage:

Retiree:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retirement Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

(800) 321-1080 / Fax: (800) 469-6559.

SBP/RSFPP annuitant:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Annuitant Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

Records:

For replacement DD 214s, service records, medical records, award information:

Retired prior to 1995:

[www.archives.gov/veterans/militaryservice-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/militaryservice-records)

Retired after 1995:

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

Gray-area reservists: (866) 827-5672

Navy recreation: [www.mwr.navy.mil](http://www.mwr.navy.mil)

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites: <http://dodlodging.net>

ITT: <http://navymwr.org/mwrprgms/itt.html>

Sister service retiree publications:

Air Force Afterburner: [www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner](http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner)

Army Echoes:

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>

Coast Guard Evening Colors:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras>

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:

[www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/)

(800) 321-1080 / (800) 469-6559

VA: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Regional offices: (800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833

Insurance:

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

Burial information: (800) 827-1000; [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

[page/portal/M\\_RA\\_HOME/MM/SR/RET\\_ACT/Semper\\_Fidelis](http://page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/Semper_Fidelis)

TRICARE: [www.mytricare.com/mtc](http://www.mytricare.com/mtc)

TRICARE East: [www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary](http://www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary)

AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, FL, GA, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN (except 35 Western zips),

TX (except the extreme Western area) VT, VA, WI, and WV

TRICARE West: [www.tricare-west.com](http://www.tricare-west.com)

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 zips near Rock Island), KS, MO (except St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, DE, SW TX, UT, WA, WY some zips in IA, MO, TN

TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; [www.tricare-overseas.com](http://www.tricare-overseas.com)

TRICARE For Life: (866) 773-0404; [www.tricare.mil/tfl](http://www.tricare.mil/tfl)

TRICARE mail order pharmacy: (877) 363-1303;

[www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy)

[www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com)

Contact info:

[2021calmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:2021calmoaa@gmail.com)



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"USCG Retiree Services" (includes USPHS & NOAA)  
<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Retiree-Services-Program/>

Long Blue Line Retiree Bulletin (USCG, USPHS, NOAA) : <https://www.longblue.org/>

## Fact Sheets/Eligibility Requirements:

- Pre-Need Burial Benefit before you call checklist – [Funeral Director's Before You Call Checklist \(va.gov\)](#)
- Burial Benefits: [http://www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/)
- Burial Allowance: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>
- Headstone/Marker/Medallion: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/>
- Burial Flag: [http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial\\_benefits/burial\\_flags.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp)
- Survivor Pension: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spouse\\_pen.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spouse_pen.asp)
- Dependent Indemnity Compensation: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/survivors/dic.pdf>
- Aid and Attendance: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid\\_attendance\\_housebound.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp)
- Medical Expense Report: <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-8416-ARE.pdf>
- Presidential Memorial Certificate: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/pmc.asp>
- Accrued Benefits: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/general/Accrued.pdf>
- Military Funeral Honors: [How do I arrange for military funeral honors for a veteran? And what exactly are they? > U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE > FAQ](#)

## Burial Benefit Forms:

Burial

Allowance: <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-530-ARE.pdf>

- Headstone/Marker/Medallion: <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330.pdf>

Mail Headstone/Marker/Medallion form

to:

Memorial Programs Service (41B)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
5109 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

- Burial Flag: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-27-2008-ARE.pdf>

If working with Funeral/Mortuary Director, they should procure the flag for the family.

## Survivor Benefit Forms:

- Widows DIC/Pension Claim form: <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf>
- Income and Asset Statement: <https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-0969-ARE.pdf>
- Substitution of Claimant (if Veteran had open claim/appeal @ death): <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-0847-ARE.pdf>
- Accrued Benefits claim form <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-601-ARE.pdf>
- Aid & Attendance/Housebound: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf>
- Aid & Attendance Nursing Home (if in home and filing A&A): <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0779-ARE.pdf>
- Veterans Life Insurance Withdrawal: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-29-4125-ARE.pdf>



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Mail Life Insurance Withdrawal form  
to:  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Regional Office and Insurance Center  
P.O. Box 7208 Philadelphia, PA 19101

- Presidential Memorial Certificate: <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf>

Mail/FAX PMC Form to:  
Presidential Memorial Certificates (41B3)  
National Cemetery Administration  
5109 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-3903  
Fax (800) 455-7143

- Third Party Authorization: <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0845-ARE.pdf>
- Mail any completed forms (unless otherwise noted above) to appropriate office below:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Pension Intake Center  
PO Box 5365  
Janesville, WI 53547-5365

Toll Free Fax: 844-531-7818

U.S. Senate directory for 117th Congress.  
[https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

U.S. Senate: Contacting U.S. Senators  
<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

U.S. Senate: Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
[https://www.senate.gov/general/committee\\_membership/committee\\_memberships\\_SVA.htm](https://www.senate.gov/general/committee_membership/committee_memberships_SVA.htm)

U.S. Senate: Committee on Armed Services  
[https://www.senate.gov/general/committee\\_membership/committee\\_memberships\\_SSAS.htm](https://www.senate.gov/general/committee_membership/committee_memberships_SSAS.htm)

House Armed Services Committee members  
<https://armedservices.house.gov/meet-our-members>

MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends (Private Group) - Facebook link  
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/581427115240904/?multi\\_permaLinks=3829526447097605%2C3825063920877191%2C3824863560897227%2C3821842571199326%2C3815695241814059&notif\\_id=1609513928974893&notif\\_t=group\\_activity&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/groups/581427115240904/?multi_permaLinks=3829526447097605%2C3825063920877191%2C3824863560897227%2C3821842571199326%2C3815695241814059&notif_id=1609513928974893&notif_t=group_activity&ref=notif)

CALMOAA (Private Group) – Facebook  
Link: [www.facebook.com/groups/582556558468846/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/582556558468846/)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - Facebook link  
<https://www.facebook.com/28446275521/posts/10159082027055522/?d=n>

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Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez office is available to answer any questions you may have on these updates or other important state resources. To speak to someone over the phone, contact our District Office during regular business hours, Monday-Friday: (619) 338-8090. To reach someone by email, contact [Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov).  
Capitol Office: Sacramento, CA 95814 – Phone (916) 319-2080



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[www.vanguardemblematics.com](http://www.vanguardemblematics.com)