



BIG VOICE

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS



EXPERIENCE PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH'S

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE

A COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S WARRIORS

Portraits of Courage

- **About:** *Portraits of Courage*, an exhibit featuring paintings of post-9/11 Veterans and their stories, is on loan at the Nixon Library for the first time on the West Coast. Each portrait is accompanied by a personal story written by President Bush, offering a glimpse into the Veterans' courage, resilience, and ongoing contributions. The exhibit also provides resources to help communities better support these Veterans.
- **When:** March 14 through May 19, 2024
- **Where:** Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum
18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886
- **More information:** nixonfoundation.org/portraits

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento and Mayor Pro Tem Thai Viet Phan

Invite you to attend a Community Resource and Health Fair

Saturday, April 13, 2024
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Centennial Park

3000 W. Edinger Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92704
(Corner of Edinger & Fairview near the Skatepark)

Apply/Renew
CalFresh and Medi-Cal

Free Dental and
Vision Screenings

Food Distribution
* while supplies last

and more!



Community Resource and Health Fair

- **About:** The Community Resource and Health Fair will offer community members the opportunity to apply for or renew CalFresh and Medi-Cal benefits, free dental and vision screenings, food distribution (while supplies last), and more.
- **When:** April 13, 2024, at 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Centennial Park (Corner of Edinger and Fairview, near the Skatepark)
3000 W. Edinger Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92704



COASTLINE COLLEGE

VETERAN CAREERS RESOURCE SUMMIT

- Coastline alumni veteran panel
- Employer panel
 - We'll be inviting employers who have preferential hiring for veterans and those who serve in the military
- Breakfast and lunch are included
- Networking opportunities

FRIDAY APRIL 19
8:30 AM - 12 PM PDT

IN PERSON AT FOUNTAIN VALLEY STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING ROOM 109



REGISTER HERE

Veteran Careers Resource Summit

- **About:** The Veteran Careers Resource Summit will offer opportunities to learn, network, and engage with Coastline Veteran alumni and employers who have hiring preferences for Veterans. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for in-person attendees.
- **When:** April 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Where:** Coastline College (Fountain Valley Student Services Bldg., Rm. 109)
11460 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708
- **To register or join via Zoom:** bit.ly/VetSummitApril19

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

VEP Collaborates with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to Assist Veterans

On February 14, 2024, the County of Orange's Veterans Employment Program (VEP) collaborated with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Division of Adult Parole Operations, Parole and Community Team (PACT) meeting and provided a brief overview of VEP services to over 50 recently released parolees. Veterans among the attendees received personalized support and were connected to the Orange County Veterans Service Office (VSO) for additional benefits assistance, alongside VEP services.

For questions about VEP, contact (714) 480-6500 or vep@ocworkforcesolutions.com.

VA Expands Healthcare Benefits for Veterans with Cancer

On March 8, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced new steps to increase life-saving screenings and access to benefits for Veterans with cancer. Key takeaways include:

- 1. Urethral Cancer Presumption:** Within 90 days, urethral cancers will be presumptively linked to service for eligible Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans.
- 2. Urinary Bladder and Ureteral Cancers Evaluation:** VA will assess if these cancers are linked to toxic exposures for Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans, potentially adding them to presumptive conditions.
- 3. Expanded Screening:** By year-end, VA aims to offer genetic testing to all eligible Veterans, expand lung cancer screening, and provide over 1 million Veterans with convenient colorectal cancer screening.
- 4. Enhanced Smoking Cessation Support:** VA continues to boost smoking cessation services, adding more sites to the Quit VET eReferral program and including cessation services in lung cancer screening programs.

More information: [VA announces steps to increase life-saving screening, access to benefits for Veterans with cancer](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

The VSO has Veterans Claims Representatives who are VA-accredited. Veterans and their beneficiaries should beware of unaccredited individuals offering to help with benefits claims. These individuals are not allowed to do the following by law:

- Consult or give advice to Veterans about their VA claims.
- Collect evidence for a claim.
- Prepare and file initial or supplemental claims.
- Submit requests for higher level review.
- Submit an appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

For free benefits claims counseling, schedule an appointment at veterans.ocgov.com or walk into the VSO office at 1300 South Grand Avenue, Building B, Santa Ana, CA 92705. Operation hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about benefits claims and accredited representatives, contact the VSO at (714) 480-6555 or ocvso@occr.ocgov.com.

MONTHLY SERVICE DATA

Numbers are based on February 2024.

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

1,866

Benefits Granted by Veterans Administration:

\$828,418.61

Claims Filed:


850

College Tuition Savings:

\$179,745


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

 veterans.ocgov.com

 (714) 480-6555

 [/OCVeteransServiceOffice](https://www.facebook.com/OCVeteransServiceOffice)

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