



MAY 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

OC Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

- **When:** June 12, 2024, at 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Seal Beach City Hall
211 8th St., 1st Fl., Seal Beach, CA 90740



Veterans Pathway to Citizenship Webinar

- **About:** The CalVet Minority and Underrepresented Veterans Division has partnered with the TODEC Legal Center to provide free legal assistance to Veterans seeking naturalization services. Veterans will have the opportunity to learn about state and federal benefits they have earned. All Veterans and families are welcome!
- **When:** June 14, 2024, at 10–11:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Online (**Register [HERE](#)**)
- **More information:** [Veterans Pathway to Citizenship Webinar](#)

LGBTQ+ Veterans Virtual Outreach Symposium

- **About:** This US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) event will address specific eligibility requirements and allow you to discover benefits and services available to LGBTQ+ Veterans from topics including affirming health care, navigating discharge upgrades, building a supportive network, information on benefits, claims filing, seeking additional VA support, and how the PACT Act impacts Veterans. #VASymposium sessions are live and offered at no charge to Veterans, Transitioning Service Members, and their families!
- **When:** June 6, 2024, at 10-11:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Online (**Attend [HERE](#)**)
- **More information:** va.gov/outreach-and-events/events/67960/

Estate Planning for LGBTQ+ Community

- **About:** The VA is hosting estate planning sessions to provide tips for how LGBTQ+ individuals and couples can ensure assets are distributed to whomever they wish.
- **When:** June 12, 2024, at 9-10 a.m. or 12-1 p.m.
- **Where:** Online (**Register [HERE](#)**)

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

VA Granted 1 Millionth Benefit Claim for Veterans and their Survivors Under the PACT Act

The VA granted its 1 millionth PACT Act-related disability compensation claim to Veterans and survivors since President Biden signed the bill into law on August 10, 2022. The grant rate for these claims is 75% – a sharp increase from pre-PACT levels – and VA has delivered more than \$5.7 billion in earned benefits to these Veterans and survivors. Through the PACT Act, VA has been able to help millions of Veterans get the health care and benefits they deserve.

Read the full press release [here](#).

VA Celebrates Five Years of Appeal Modernization

This year marks five years of the VA's implementation of the Veterans Appeal Improvement and Modernization Act (AMA). Signed into law on February 19, 2019, it was among the most significant statutory changes in decades to benefit Veterans because it restructured how VA processes appeals of disability compensation claims. The AMA allows Veterans three decision review options to dispute a benefit decision, delivering timely resolutions and a streamlined process regardless of the chosen route.

Read more about AMA efforts [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



If you can't work due to a disability related to your military service, you may qualify for Individual Unemployability. This program allows VA to compensate certain Veterans at the 100% rate, even if VA has not rated their service-connected disabilities at that level.

More information: [Individual Unemployability if You Can't Work | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](#).



When the GI Bill became law in 1944, it included a home loan program for Veterans. Despite several updates to the law to reflect current market conditions, support for Veterans dependent on wheelchairs still needed to be addressed. The answer was the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program, and one of the earliest homes built with the grant money was designed by acclaimed builder Frank Lloyd Wright. In the first nine years of the SAH program, around 6,500 World War II and Korean War Veterans used the grant for wheelchair-accessible homes. Kenneth Laurent, a paralyzed World War II Navy Veteran, uniquely benefited by contracting Wright to build a house for him and his wife in Rockford, Illinois.

More information: [Object 66: Frank Lloyd Wright House for Disabled World War II Veteran - VA History](#)

OC VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE MONTHLY STATISTICS

Numbers are based on April 2024 service data.

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

2,416

Claims Filed:

920

**Benefits Granted by Veterans
Administration:**

\$2,671,421


College Tuition Savings:


\$117,225


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

 veterans.ocgov.com

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