



**JUNE 2024**

## EVENTS



### Independence Day Events

- **About:** The Fourth of July is a celebration of America's independence, honoring the courage, sacrifices, and service of our service members who have safeguarded our nation's freedom. Family and friends gather to celebrate with parades, barbecues, and fireworks!
- **When:** July 4, 2024
- **Find an Independence Day event near you:** [bit.ly/2024OCJuly4Events](https://bit.ly/2024OCJuly4Events)

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*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

### OC Veterans Service Office (VSO) Launches New Video on College Tuition Fee Waiver for Veteran Dependents



The College Tuition Fee Waiver for eligible Veteran Dependents waives mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University, or University of California institution. To help with the application process, the VSO created a short video that guides applicants through the process in under five minutes. The video covers eligibility, the required documentation, and what to expect after submitting an application.

**View the video and learn more about how to apply:** [bit.ly/CollegeTuitionWaiver](https://bit.ly/CollegeTuitionWaiver)

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### VSO Awarded Grant to Link Veterans to Mental Health Services

On June 25, 2024, the OC Board of Supervisors approved the VSO to receive a two-year Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) grant from the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to continue mental health outreach for California Veterans.

Through the MHSA grant, a Veterans Case Navigator (Navigator) will facilitate local coordination, provide case management, and establish connections to wraparound services, bridging gaps veterans may encounter when accessing mental health services. The Navigator will refer within the County's current mental health system of care and focus on building community partnerships to improve engagement outcomes for veterans, military members, and their families. Goals include enhancing access to care by linking veterans with existing mental health and case management services, while also fostering partnerships with service providers and higher education institutions.

**Read the full press release here:** [Orange County Veterans Service Office Awarded \\$300,000 Grant to Link Veterans to Mental Health Services](#)

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## VA Seeking Nominees for 2025 Women Veterans Trailblazers “Women Veterans Forging a Path” Initiative



VA's Center for Women Veterans (CWV) is on the lookout for outstanding nominees for its 2025 Women Veterans Trailblazers “Women Veterans Forging a Path” initiative. The program recognizes women who have separated from military service and have made significant impacts on the lives of Veterans, their families or caregivers.

A Trailblazer is a woman who embodies leadership and change through impactful actions or events, over time, in crucial areas such as Education, Employment Entrepreneurship, Homelessness, Legal Assistance, Mental Health and Wellness, Research, and Violence Against Women.

The deadline for nomination packages is Monday, September 30, 2024. If you or someone you know fits the above description, the Center for Women Veterans is eager to hear from you.

**Submit your nominations and learn more:** [Women Veteran Trailblazers Initiative](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

If you're a disabled Veteran with a qualifying disability, you may be eligible for a Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plate. DV License Plates exempt Veterans from paying vehicle registration and license fees.

To qualify in California, Veterans need to meet CalVet's definition of a Disabled Veteran. This includes any person who, as a result of injury or disease suffered while on active service with the U.S. Armed Forces, experiences any of the following:

1. A disability rated at 100% by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (or the military service from which the Veteran was discharged) due to a diagnosed disease or disorder that substantially impairs or interferes with mobility.
2. Severe disability requiring the use of an assistive device.
3. Loss, or loss of use, of one or more limbs.
4. Permanent blindness as defined in Section 19153 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code.

For more information on how to apply or eligibility, refer to the [OC Veterans Service Office guidance document](#) or [California DMV website](#).

## OC VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE MONTHLY STATISTICS

Numbers are based on May 2024 service data.

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

3,149

**Claims Filed:**

1,012

**Benefits Granted by Veterans Administration:**

\$2,543,209

**College Tuition Savings:**

\$1,226,955


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


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

 (714) 480-6555

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