

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

RECORDER CLERK - REGISTRAR OF VOTERS - VETERAN AFFAIRS

William E. Schultz



Recorder-Clerk
Commissioner of Civil Marriages
360 Fair Lane
Placerville CA 95667
www.edcgov.us/countyclerk/
Phone: 530.621.5490
Jane Kohlstedt
Assistant Recorder-Clerk

Registrar of Voters
2850 Fairlane Court
PO Box 678001
Placerville CA 95667
www.edcgov.us/elections/
Phone: 530.621.7480 Fax: 530.626.5514
Linda Webster
(Acting) Assistant Registrar of Voters

Veteran Affairs Office
130 Placerville Drive, Suite B
Placerville CA 95667
www.edcgov.us/veterans/
Phone: 530.621.5892 Fax 530.621.2218
William E. Schultz
Veterans Affairs Interim Dept. Head
Ed Swanson
Veterans Service Officer

February 2, 2013

Ron Briggs, District IV
Chairman
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Re: 2012 Annual Report – El Dorado County Department of Veteran Affairs

Dear Chairman and Board Members;

You will find the attached reports from your Veteran Affairs Interim Director a valuable resource for determining the value that has been provided to our county veterans. Since the data includes the annual report from the California Department of Veterans Affairs, it provides you an overall look at what the El Dorado County Veteran Affairs does for your local veterans.

The amount of daily services provided by the office to local veterans is impressive, as are the dollar amounts secured for those veterans. The attached walk-in and telephone data show the number and type of services this office provides on a daily/monthly basis. We secure benefits and entitlements, keep the public informed by local outreach, through press releases, flyers and personal visits to organizations that might need our help. The services we provide, the amount of monetary benefits we secure for veterans, their survivors and dependents for college, burial benefits, disability benefits, and pension entitlements may surprise you.

The Honorable Steven C. Bailey facilitated and supporter of Veterans Court aided this office and other agencies to establish Veterans Court in our county. Veterans Court focuses on treatment instead of punishment of certain crimes which brings federal and county agencies together to meet each veteran's individual needs; we are one of the thirteen counties in the state that provides this program.

Our local veteran service organizations and county departments utilize the Veterans Memorial Building through cooperative coordination with the Department of Transportation-Facilities Management. The Veterans Memorial Building property is a valuable asset for our veterans and citizens.

Ron Briggs, District IV
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I sincerely want to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued support in providing the budgetary means to keep the Veteran Affairs office at a level, though minimal, that provides adequate help for our county veterans. We are using extra help on a temporary basis this year to keep the needed services to help our veterans.

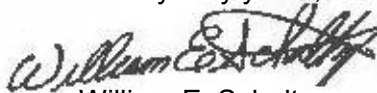
This department will need another permanent Veteran Services Representative for the 2013-2014 Budget. Just recently, the President announced that we can expect 35,000 troops to return from the war, and more will follow in the ensuing years. The CAO and her staff have been extremely helpful providing their support when we need it.

As discussed in 2012, please keep veterans in mind when considering TIM fees, a partial allocation of fees greatly augment this department to ensure adequate staffing by providing reliable services crucial to our veterans.

I would be remiss if I did not include a “job well done” to the staff members of Veteran Affairs. Their dedication, loyalty and professional approach to providing assistance to all of our county veterans is to be commended. A very small group of one (1) County Veterans Service Officer, one (1) Veterans Services Representative and one (1) Executive Assistant, they do an outstanding job and carry a large workload considering the over 15,000 veterans in our county. In addition, we have the help of one (1) extra help Veterans Service Representative and one (1) temporary part time Veterans Service Representative, so collectively we continue to provide the necessary services to our veterans. An important fact to know, each Veteran Services Representative must be certified by the California Department of Veteran Affairs through a rigorous exam process that takes many months to learn and prepare for; each of these persons has accomplished that goal.

We provide one day a week, all day long service to the veterans in the South Lake Tahoe basin, by doing this, we reduce, somewhat, our availability in providing service here in Placerville. Our staff does an exemplary job of maintaining a workable calendar that accommodates all who ask for assistance.

Very truly yours,



William E. Schultz
Interim Director