

American Legion Service Officer Report – 10/4/22

Purple and bronze.

Two inmates in a row.

Purple Heart, Bronze star.

What are the odds?

People can lie, but their paper work has now been submitted to our county Department of Veteran Services. It will either be verified or not.

There are some places where the Purple Heart can make a difference.

Purple Heart recipients do not have to report their income when applying for VA health care coverage. Purple Heart recipients can cut in line and go to the top of the waiting list for California Veterans homes.

Not aware of any particular breaks for Bronze Star recipients.

The Bronze Star is still a big deal.

My former running partner earned his in Vietnam. He had to go in sight of enemy lines, and call in artillery fire over his position at the enemy.

In retrospect, I can draw the connection with some aspects of his civilian life and his traumatizing experience in Vietnam.

As for the two inmates with Purple Hearts and Bronze Stars? They both were directed to ask inmate services for assistance making a free call to the Mather Veteran Justice Outreach worker, to get the Vet Court process started.

At least one of them thought his private insurance was fine, so why should he bother with VA healthcare?

Well, for one thing the Mather VJO will only serve VA healthcare eligible Veterans. And the judge will only consider Veterans for Vet Court if they have been assessed by the VJO.

Otherwise, he could be looking at state prison.

Moral of the story?

Everyone who can, should sign up for VA healthcare.

David Zelinsky

Service Officer

American Legion Post 119

SSgt. Sky Mote Detachment 697, Marine Corps League