



Suzanne Allen de
Sanchez/PV/EDC
12/08/2008 11:21 AM

To Cynthia C Johnson/PV/EDC@TCP
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Board of Supervisors - Veteran Services -
Budget/Position Cut

Suzanne Allen de Sanchez
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County
530.621.5394

----- Forwarded by Suzanne Allen de Sanchez/PV/EDC on 12/08/2008 11:21 AM -----



Lisa Marie Neau
<lisaneau@yahoo.com>
12/08/2008 11:13 AM

Please respond to
lisaneau@yahoo.com

To bosfive@co.el-dorado.ca.us, bosfour@co.el-dorado.ca.us,
bosthree@co.el-dorado.ca.us, bostwo@co.el-dorado.ca.us,
bosone@co.el-dorado.ca.us
cc suzanne.allendesanch@edcgov.us
Subject Board of Supervisors - Veteran Services - Budget/Position
Cut

Dear Board of Supervisors,

It has recently come to my attention that the Board has eliminated one of the three Veterans Services Representative positions at the County Veterans Affairs Office. I am very disappointed to hear about this action and would like to urge the Board to reconsider its position on this issue. I understand that budget cuts are happening across the board and that hard decisions are being made at every level of Federal, State, and County government, but hitting the El Dorado County VA Office this hard is simply unacceptable.

Not only are these tough economic times, they are ALSO very tough times for Veterans and their families as more and more soldiers are returning from ongoing, long-term actions in multiple areas overseas. I would think that the Board would understand this seeing how under the photo on the Board's website you state "***The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and residents wish to thank the men and women of our armed forces for their diligence and dedication. Our hearts are with you – we will not forget!***"

With multiple actions being run overseas and many soldiers returning home disabled or in need of assistance, how can the Board do this to our Veterans who are also our residents?? The EDC VA Office budget is one of the smallest line items in the much larger overall County Budget, yet this small department has had to take a 20% reduction whereas other offices have not been hit nearly as hard. I simply can not believe that this is what you meant when you tell the Veterans of El Dorado County that "***Our hearts are with you – we will not forget!***".

Of even more concern is that this group of affected residents are in many ways unable to voice their needs to the Board, to stand up and state how devastating this cut will be for hundreds of El Dorado County families. But while the Veterans themselves may not be in any condition to stand up and inform you of how this decision will affect not only their lives, but also the lives of their families, the FAMILIES of these Veterans can, and will, speak out against this decision which flies in the face of supporting our Veterans for their service and their sacrifice.

I am attaching an article written by El Dorado County Veterans Services Representative Philip Navarro. It lays out the issues that our Veterans have not only in returning home, but also in reaching out for help. I can not believe that eliminating this position will save the County a significant amount of money, but I do believe that the services we offer our Veterans **WILL** be **significantly** impacted by this staff reduction. El Dorado County is large in geography with Veterans across a wide area. The staff of 3 Veterans Services Representatives was already spread very thin in working with our Vets across this large area. Reducing the staff will only make delivering services to our Veterans even harder with fewer and fewer Veterans receiving the benefits they DESERVE.

I would attend the Board meeting tomorrow if I could, but I can not due to a conflict. So instead I am reaching out to you to respectfully ask that the Board reverse this decision and honor our Veterans in the spirit that the photo heading on your website implies. Please do not look to this small department to make this sacrifice that affects those who have already made more sacrifices than you, or I, can know or understand.

Respectfully,
Lisa Marie Neau
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"What strikes the oyster shell does not damage the pearl."

-Rumi



Vet Rep article.pdf

The BOSFOUR/PV/EDC
Sent by: Terry L
Gherardi/PV/EDC

12/08/2008 12:48 PM

To Cynthia C Johnson/PV/EDC@TCP

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Veterans Service Rep position cut at County

Terry Gherardi
Assistant, District IV
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Ron Briggs, Supervisor
530-621-6513

— Forwarded by Terry L Gherardi/PV/EDC on 12/08/2008 12:48 PM —



Robln Souza
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12/08/2008 10:33 AM

Please respond to
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cc

Subject Veterans Service Rep position cut at County

Good morning,

I understand your elected position can be very difficult at times. I as a community member appreciate the effort you make for the people of El Dorado County.

I have only contacted my District Representative once in over 20 years and that was to commend the County services.

Today I am hoping to reach all five members of the Board of Supervisors prior to tomorrows meeting. I am requesting that you reconsider the actions previously taken in regards to eliminating one of the Veterans Services Representatives at the County VA Office. This action cuts approximately 20% of the staff at this department whereas cuts made in other larger departments are minimal.

I realize these decisions are difficult to make. The VA Office is a very small percentage of the overall budget and yet this office serves our Veterans and Active Military and their families. The El Dorado County VA Office helped my son transition back into civilian life after returning home wounded from Iraq.

I read the caption directly under your picture on the Board of Supervisors website:

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and residents wish to thank the men and women of our armed forces for their diligence and dedication. Our hearts are with you -- we will not forget!

Maybe you have forgotten?
Robin Souza

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