

Veterans Services Ex-Officio Report

May. 2024

1. EDC Veteran Services Staffing Updates:

- Our office is currently fully staffed and there are currently no staffing updates.

2. VSO Summary:

- In the last week our office staff has referred multiple veterans to HUDVASH, and Victory Village for them to receive housing assistance. At a veterans request we assisted Victory Village obtain the proper military documents to better assist the veteran. Also, on a regular basis, we refer veterans to other county offices, non-profits, and veteran specific counseling services such as El Dorado County Veteran Resources (EDVR), HUDVASH, and Citrus Heights Vet Center.
- We are continuing work on the upcoming Cal-Vet audit covering the period of 01-01-2024 to 06-30-2024. We currently have posted over \$700,000 in benefits awarded to veterans in our community and have more awards coming in daily.

3. Monthly Contact Report April 2024:

- 429- Phone calls
- 64- Scheduled appointments
- 187-Walk-in visitors

4. I would like to bring attention to VoterVoice-specifically related to SB 1124 (Anti-Claim Shark) and AB 46 (Tax relief to military retirees/surviving veteran spouses). Tools like VoterVoice can be incredibly valuable for veterans and their supporters to engage in the legislative process. Here's how:

- **Accessibility:** Not all veterans or supporters may have the time or means to physically attend legislative hearings or meetings. Online tools like VoterVoice provide a convenient way for them to participate from anywhere with an internet connection.

- **Ease of Use:** Many veterans may not be familiar with the legislative process or how to effectively advocate for their interests. VoterVoice simplifies the process, providing clear instructions and templates for contacting legislators and expressing their views on specific bills or issues.
- **Amplifying Voices:** By organizing and mobilizing veterans and their supporters through a centralized platform like VoterVoice, their collective voices can have a greater impact on policymakers. This can help ensure that legislators are aware of veterans' concerns and priorities when making decisions that affect them.
- **Education and Awareness:** Participating in advocacy through tools like VoterVoice can also help educate veterans and their supporters about relevant legislation and policies that may impact them. This empowers them to stay informed and actively engage in shaping the laws that affect their lives.
- **Building Community:** Engaging in advocacy can also foster a sense of community among veterans and their supporters, as they come together to work towards common goals and support each other in advocating for their interests.
- **Overall, tools like VoterVoice can play a crucial role in empowering veterans to make their voices heard in the legislative process and ensuring that their concerns are considered by policymakers.**
- **Here is the web address for VoterVoice Please disseminate as widely as possible. Thank you.-** <https://calcommanders.org/take-action/>

5. South Lake Tahoe Updates:

- VSR Tisha Holy has been staffing the South Lake Tahoe Office providing high quality service to our veterans located up in Tahoe. No further updates currently.