

# **Veterans Services- Jan. 2026 Ex-officio Report**

## **Veteran Services information:**

Happy New year to everyone.

The VSO office is now accepting applications for bricks and stones to be placed at the Veterans Monument. You can print them off our website or you are able to come into the office and pick one up in person. I hope to provide additional locations where the applications are can be picked up in the future.

Deputy Director Lynette Stott and I sat down with Mr. Ted Gaines and his chief of staff Matt Cox. They asked general questions about El Dorado County's veteran community. He wanted to know about how many veterans are in the county and how many veteran owned businesses there are. They seemed interested in helping out our veterans. We will see what if anything comes from it.

VSR Tisha Holy and I will be attending the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers (CACVSO) winter training conference from Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> in Wheatland C A.

## **Veteran Services Updates:**

We are still working on getting a new office built in our current footprint that will be used for VSR staff to meet privately with veterans and/or their dependents. We are waiting for BOS to hear and then approve a donation my office received that will allow us to fund the project. It is scheduled to go Infront of the BOS either the end of this month or the beginning of next month. It is all looking good and we can't wait for it to be built.

## **Legislation:**

SB-694, let your representatives know how you feel. I have been CC'ed on a couple emails that was sent to the veteran's representative. I haven't asked anyone to cc me on their emails to their representatives, but please feel free to. I will keep all emails I receive so I have record of all the support that has been sent to the legislation.

This week, the opposition to SB-694 is paying for travel, per diem, and an extra \$2500 just for fun to have veterans speak on how terrible and ineffective the services they received from our county offices is. They are stating that they had to go to a for-profit (claim shark) company to receive adequate services. They opposition has changed their accusations from all VSOs to just how ineffective the CVSO system is.

I would like to see as many of you and your veteran/non-veteran friends travel to the Capital on January 20th to make sure your voice is heard on this very important matter. We all need to push and gain the momentum needed to get this signed into legislation. We need to be seen and heard in large numbers. If we do not show, our legislators will not believe that this bill is important to veterans and their families. I will provide more information as I get it, but please plan on being at the Capitol and bringing as many veterans with you as possible.

## **DEC. 2025 VSO Summary:**

164 Walk In clients

95 Scheduled Appointments

283 Phone calls

2025 NEW CLIENTS -1,514

**South Lake Tahoe Updates:** There are no changes in services provided in SLT.