

Veterans Services- Oct. 2025 Ex-officio Report

Veteran Services updates:

VSR Sharon Neu and I attended the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers (CACVSO) Fall training conference in Tuolumne County at the Chicken Ranch Casino from October 19th to the 24th. It was a lot of good training I hope to download the presentations from the conference to share with the office personnel that were not able to attend.

The veteran appreciation BBQ held on Halloween, October 31st, provided by EDVR at the Veterans Memorial Building had a great turn out. All veterans and their families were invited to enjoy free food and meet our office staff. About 100 veterans and their family members attended the festivities and enjoyed the food and comradery with other veterans. The feedback we received was all positive. I hope this is only the 1st of many veteran appreciation days to come. If anyone is wondering who won the costume contest, it was Thomas Jefferson and his lovely wife.

Legislation:

SB 694 is still alive, and in need of all veterans. It will be voted on when the California State Legislature reconvenes in Jan. 2026. I ask that between now and Jan. all veterans, family members, and friends call their representatives and let them know you support the senate bill and why. For those that don't know SB694 is an attempting to keep predatory companies out of CA. These companies are referred to as claim sharks. They hook the veteran by promising things they can't provide such as a guaranteed 100% disability

rating. Then they charge high prices to file the veterans claim with the VA. Sometime as much as 50% of the veteran's retro dollars that accumulate between the time the claim is filed and then finally awarded by the VA. My office and offices like mine throughout the state of CA provide the same service to veterans for free. We are required to attend training courses to become accredited with the state (CAL-VET) in order to be allowed to file claims with the VA. Claim sharks are not accredited and there is no oversight on what they do. Please contact your representatives, We want to protect our veterans and keep these companies from profiting off the benefits our veterans earned through service to their country.

Oct. 2025 VSO Summary:

100 Walk In clients

112 Scheduled Appointments

264 Phone calls

South Lake Tahoe Updates:

No update. VSR II Tisha Holy continues to provide services to the clients located in SLT.