

Veterans Services- Sept. 2025 Ex-officio Report

Veteran Services updates:

VSR Sharon Neu and I will be attending the California Association of County Veteran Service Officer (CACVSO) Fall training conference from Oct. 19th to the 24th in Tuolumne County. My office will be attending a veteran appreciation BBQ that will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building on Oct. 31st, Halloween. So, please get the word out. Tell all the veterans you know that there will be free food and a costume contest (providing costumed people show). It will be a lot of fun, and it will give the veterans in our community a chance to get to know the Veteran Services Office Staff.

Legislative Updates:

- This is the 3rd mention of SB 694 in my monthly reports to the Veteran Affairs commission. Unfortunately, the opposition has deep pockets and have been using them to receive votes for their side. As stated previously SB 694 is an attempt to protect the veterans of CA from predatory practices of un-accredited individuals and for-profit companies. The aforementioned entities charge veterans to provide services to them that offices like mine provide for free. Sometimes they charge as much as 5 times the veterans award amount. Also, these bad actors are not regulated or have any oversight of what they do or don't do. They can report any numbers or stats, and we just have to take their word for it. This is outrageous and we can't let this continue. There is still time to help pass SB694. All you need to do is go to the following link, click on "Help Stop "Claim Sharks" – Support SB 694 Today" that will take you to a pre-written letter to the Legislature in support of SB694. It also

provides space for you to add your own comments. The more people that we can get to send a letter in support the better chance we have to get it pushed through. I am adding in the 4 bullet points from my last report so everyone knows what it is we are trying to do with SB694.

- Protect veterans from financial exploitation
- Keep benefit dollars in local communities
- Reinforce long-standing federal protections
- Send a strong message that California defends its veterans

Aug 2025 VSO Summary:

127 Walk In clients

95 Scheduled Appointments

290 Phone calls

South Lake Tahoe Updates:

Tisha has been doing a great job at handling the clients up here in South Lake Tahoe. She continues to staff the office on the 2nd & 3rd Tue each month weather permitting. I have been told that the college has hired/appointed a veteran representative. I plan to go to the college and try to introduce myself and let them know we are here to assist with any veteran benefit questions. I will also have VSR II Tisha make time in here Tuesday schedule to do the same since she is the one they will most likely work closer with.