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*Dear Friend,*

This year, California lawmakers had many policy successes and took great strides in providing veterans with much-needed services and resources. This brochure provides a snapshot of several important recent veteran policy achievements.

It is a privilege to serve the constituents of the Assembly District and, over the past three years, recognize some spectacular local veterans for their continued service to the community.

2017 Veteran Honoree – Kimberly Vincent, El Centro

2016 Veteran Honoree – Ralph Duarte, Indio

2015 Veteran Honoree – Ramon Castro, Brawley

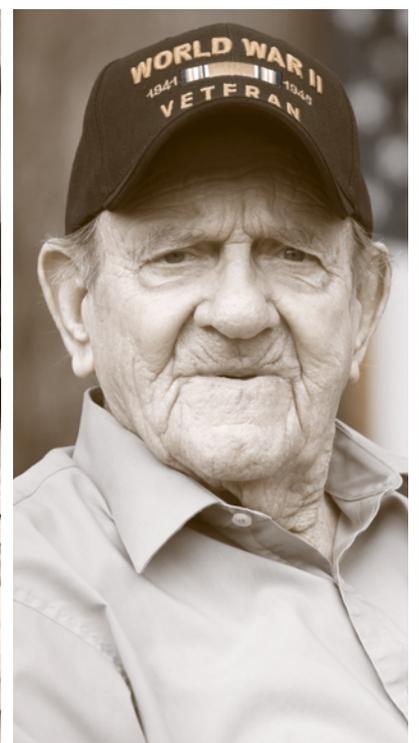
If you have any questions or comments regarding this or other legislation, please contact the District Office at (760) 347-2360 or visit [asmdc.org/gv](http://asmdc.org/gv).



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**2017 VETERAN LEGISLATION**



**LEGISLATION AIMED AT MEETING THE NEEDS OF CA VETERANS**

# 2017 VETERAN LEGISLATION

## Veteran Housing

**AB 1361 – Veteran Homes Services:** This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a survey to assess the ability of veterans' homes to assist veterans with complex mental and behavioral health needs, and develop a plan to accommodate that population. (*Chaptered, Budget 2017*)



### SB 330 – Building permits

**fees: waiver:** This bill permits a locality to waive or reduce all building permit fees for improvements to the home of a veteran with a qualifying disability that are made to accommodate that disability.

## Veteran Education

**AB 172 – Public postsecondary education: residency: dependents of armed forces members:** This bill expands the current eligibility for resident classification extended to enrolled dependents of an Armed Forces member who transfer or retire to include admitted dependents of the Armed Forces member, for purposes of determining postsecondary institution tuition and fees.



## Veteran Workforce and Development

**AB 1111 – Breaking Barriers to employment:** This bill establishes a competitive grant program for activities that address the needs of veterans who face multiple barriers to prepare for training, apprenticeship, or employment opportunities, which will lead to self-sufficiency and economic stability.



**AB 1618 – Veteran service providers:** This bill would create a certification for charitable entities that serve veterans, certifying that the entity meets certain minimum standards and the entity is thus a "Certified California Veteran Service Provider" (VSP). The bill would also create a competitive grant program under CalVet to provide grants to VSPs. The scope of the certification is limited to entities serving veterans with supportive services as specified: health and mental health services, small business assistance, employment services, and job training services. These entities must demonstrate knowledge, experience, and cultural competency to provide supportive services to veterans and their families.



## Veterans in Agriculture

**AB 376 – Veterans benefits: veteran farmers or ranchers:** Requires by July 1, 2018, the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to post information on their respective websites to assist, educate, train, and otherwise support California's military veterans to enter into farming or ranching careers in California.



## Veteran Services

**AB 671 – Veterans: services:** Authorizes a veterans memorial district (Memorial District) to provide services that improve the quality of life for veterans and their families, including, but not limited to, counseling, case management, and employment training and placement.



**SB 728 – State public employees: sick leave: veterans with service-related disabilities:** This bill permits state employees – who are members of the National Guard or federal military reserves – who return to state service from active military mobilization with service-connected disabilities, to receive 96 hours of additional, pre-banked sick leave dedicated to treatment of those conditions.



**AB 363 – Driver's licenses: veteran designation:** Prohibits the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from charging the one-time \$5 fee to a person applying for a driver's license or identification card with a veteran designation if the applicant is eligible to obtain an original or replacement card at a reduced fee or is homeless and can verify his or her status as such.



For more information about constituent services, state resources, or to share suggestions for new laws, or point out existing laws that need to be changed, please visit the [www.asmdc.org/gv](http://www.asmdc.org/gv) or contact the District Office at (760) 347-2360. As always, it's an honor to be of service.