

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
406 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Anna Caballero
12th Senate District
1021 O Street, Rm 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
17th Senate District
1021 O Street, Rm 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
30th Assembly District
1021 O Street, Rm 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mark Stone
29th Assembly District
1021 O Street, Rm 5740
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 22, 2022

Re: Support for a Veteran's Home in Monterey County

Dear Monterey Bay Region Federal and State Legislators:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, we are writing to support Monterey County's request for authorizing legislation allowing a Veteran's Home to be built in the region.

Currently, there are extended wait times to access the established Veterans Homes in the State for much needed services. If Veterans are unable to access Veteran Home services timely, they will have to seek other options, potentially out of the State of California or even risk becoming homeless. For Veterans in need of Skilled Nursing and Memory Care must wait years before they get admitted. The construction of a new Veterans Home in Monterey County would help to alleviate the long wait times and keep our Veterans in the State. Current wait times for these services are:

- Yountville: 5 years wait time for admittance.
- West Los Angeles: 2 years wait time for admittance.
- Fresno: 4 years wait time for admittance.
- Redding: 5 years wait time for admittance.

California is losing veterans at an alarming rate – much faster than the next 2 largest veteran population states (Texas and Florida). We owe all we have to the veterans of this Nation, and it is our joint obligation to do all we can to care for those who have selflessly served for the freedoms we have today. Currently California Veterans receive more than 8 Billion in Federal VA Compensation and Pension Payments. In addition, many receive Post 9/11 GI Bill, Chapter

33 Education Benefits and DoD Retirements. If Veterans leave the state so will the need for Veteran Serving organizations that create high paying jobs with the Federal VA, State, Counties, Private Sector and Non-Profits that serve our Veterans. Veterans positively impact the California Ecosystem.

The construction of a new Veteran's Home will lower or eliminate wait times for admittance into the CalVET Veterans Homes for services including combined skilled nursing & memory care services. Adding an additional Veterans Home will increase the number of homes to 9 in the state. Homes are available to Disabled and Aged Veterans as well as spouses. This home will provide much needed care to our states heroes and decrease the risk of these veterans becoming homelessness. In addition, the location in Monterey County, will provide an attractive geographical location with a rich Military History and current Military presence. Residents of the Veterans Home would have easy access to the Major General William H. Gourley VA-DoD Outpatient Clinic, Commissary's, Post Exchanges, Military Gyms and other Military / Veteran accessible facilities. There are a large variety of beaches, walking / bike trails and County / State / National parks that will promote outdoor activity.

Additionally, Monterey County is interested in contributing land for a new CalVET Veterans Home and Federal Grants are available for 65% of construction costs of the new Veteran Home.

For these reasons, we support the Monterey County's request for State authorization to build a Veteran's Home in the region. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Supervisor Warren Slocum, a proud Vietnam veteran, at wslocum@smcgov.org.

Sincerely,

Don Horsley
President
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors