



Department of California
District 28

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program Bulletin
January 14, 2024

Happy 2024 to all Members,

I hope your new year is off to an amazing start. There have been some challenges along the way. I have to say, District 28 has been off and running when it comes to the VA&R program.

We started off with the Project Hero dinner and sack lunch out of Carmel Post 512. There were 47 veteran riders along with the support staff. Thank you to all Units that either donated items or monetary funds toward the event. With donations, it was only necessary to use \$350.00 out of District funds.

Some donations did not come with a monetary amount of the expenditures, but I can safely say the event cost approximately around \$800.00. For future events, I would urge all Units that donate items to provide a monetary amount for final accounting. Thank you, Carmel Post 512 Commander Gerry Parratore, for your support and providing the post for our event. Project Hero is looking forward to us hosting them again next October. We will start planning in August-heads up.

With the holidays approaching, several Units provided Thanksgiving dinners for their members and community. It is truly a gift to those who do not have families in the area. Next came the children's holiday parties. I did receive information that Seaside Unit 591 had the biggest turnout to date, serving 54 children of members and their families. I apologize to those Units that I do not have data to shout you out, as well. You all rock!

Next it was Wreaths Across America at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. Three Units were represented at this event. Then it was on to Palo Alto VA building 7. We are still not able to serve them holiday meals, but we were able to get in with holiday gift bags. Thank you to Connie Raya for making this happen. It was nice to be back up there again.

Now for upcoming opportunities to be of service. The Monterey County Blue Star Moms are planning a care package event before Easter. In the packets, you will find a

recommended donation list for items to put in the boxes. We have guidelines that we need to follow, so if you have questions, please reach out to Linda Lara-Guzman or myself.

The second activity that we will be looking for support is the Monterey County Veterans Standdown. We are still working on fundraising, so please share the donation request letter with your Post members. These events take a lot of financing, and as we are a new organization, we are looking for support from anyone and everyone. Please contact me with any questions.

The last opportunity to provide support is the Veterans Transition Center. Let's have a conversation on how to best support them. We have done it in the past, let's get back involved.

If you have any questions, please reach out. Let's share our ideas and make a larger impact in the lives of our veterans.

Respectfully~

Robin

Robin Falkenberg
ALA DOC D28 VA&R Chairman