

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
POST OFFICE BOX 942895  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 94295-0001  
Telephone: (916) 653-2158  
Fax: (916) 653-2456



February 24, 2010

Jeff Grover, Chair  
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors  
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500  
Modesto, CA 95354

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2009 MAR - 1 P 12:00 ✓

Dear Board Member:

During the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, your County Veterans Service Officer, Carolyn Hebenstreich obtained new and increased monthly cash benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), in the amount of 469211. On an annualized basis this amounts to more than \$5,630,532 in new benefit payments. In addition, Ms. Hebenstreich obtained \$4,501,183 in one-time benefits, which consists of single and retro-active payments received by veterans or their dependents. Studies have shown that monies spent in a community could turn over between 3 to 7 times, which is a fairly accurate measure of the spending impact on a community. Using the conservative multiplier of 3, this equates to a spending impact of at least \$16,891,596 from the annualized monthly cash benefits and \$13,503,549 from the one-time benefits received.

In addition to the fact that your veterans' community received the above cash benefits, claim advocacy services provided by Ms. Hebenstreich to obtain and maintain federal monetary benefits have resulted in savings to your county based on Ms. Hebenstreich's active participation in the State Mandated Welfare Referral Program. This program requires Ms. Hebenstreich to verify and make benefit entitlement determinations on all public assistance referrals (i.e. GA/FR, CalWORKS, Food Stamps, and Medi-Cal) received from your County Welfare Department. Included in the totals above is \$2,485 in annualized monthly benefits and \$77,484 in one-time benefits received by individuals who had applied for public assistance grants. In addition, Ms. Hebenstreich verified \$91,862 in prior monthly USDVA monetary benefits being received by public assistance and Medi-Cal applicants, which on an annualized basis represents \$1,102,344. Ms. Hebenstreich also assisted veterans' families in their application for the College Tuition Fee Waiver program. This resulted in either the veterans' or their family saving \$496,834 in tuition and fees at California state colleges and universities.

I hope that you will consider this valuable information when addressing the needs of a properly funded and fully supported Veterans Service Office. With a net county cost of less than \$313,000, your Veterans Service Office once again remains one of the few revenue producing offices in the county. Your county veteran population deserves, and has earned the right to continued high quality representation in veterans' affairs.

If I can be of further assistance in maintaining your Veterans Service Office services, please feel free to contact Ted Puntillo, Deputy Director, Veterans Services Division at (916) 653-2573.

*Carolyn is doing  
great work for  
the Veterans  
residing in  
your county!*

Sincerely,

ROGER BRAUTIGAN  
Secretary

Cc: County Veteran Service Office  
VSD File