



## Veterans

More than four years into her tenure as Los Angeles County Supervisor representing the First District, Supervisor Solis has maintained her commitment to supporting Veteran women and men with their housing, health, employment and social service needs. Supervisor Solis is working with both federal and local agencies to garner support and resources for such programs, including the Housing for Heroes Program within the County's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, as well as ensuring that female Veterans and their children receive comprehensive services that support their long-term well-being.



## Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)

Supervisor Solis has direct oversight over the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, which is located in the First District. Under her leadership, the Department has increased its productivity in filing benefit claims for Veterans and their families.

**Benefit Claims filed** - 27,893 filed in FY 2017/2018 (58% increase in past three years) amounting to more than \$40 million of federal awards.

- Veterans Service Officers provide services and advocacy to Veterans and their families
  - 18 field offices housed in LA County and VA facilities
    - Provide home visits as needed
    - **New sites in 2019** – DPSS Pomona Field Office, East LA VA Outpatient Clinic, and Midnight Mission (Skid Row).
- **Claim actions** – Over \$10 million in total college fee waiver value for 2017/2018, assistance with section 8 vouchers, VASH housing, Aid in Attendance, and rehabilitation services.
  - For 2018, DMVA has consistently submitted electronic claims in an efficient manner, thereby scoring the highest percentage (66%) of claims in the state. LA County has e-filed 4,500 claims, the most in the State of California.

- Supervisor Solis initiated a study to examine the feasibility of affordable housing for Veterans and their families next to Patriotic Hall. This study will also review improved parking options for than 30,000 people who visit Patriotic Hall each year.

## **Employment**

Supervisor Solis led the effort in collocating an American Jobs Center in Patriotic Hall through a partnership with Workforce Development Aging & Community Services and the American Jobs Center. This new AJCC created a one stop access for Veterans and their families to the State's employment-related services at Patriotic Hall.

In addition to bringing the AJCC to Patriotic Hall, Supervisor Solis also partnered with Los Angeles Trade Tech College to develop a Culinary Arts workforce training program for Veterans and their families geared towards transitioning Veterans into the workforce. As of early 2019, this program has graduated 44 Veterans and their families.

## **Additional Employment Efforts**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual LA County Veteran Employment and Resource Expo offered free services to Veterans and their families. More than 210 employers, legal, immigration and community resources, mental and health service providers, and County resources were available to Veterans and their families – all under one roof. Approximately 4,000 Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, along with their families, and non-military attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual LA County Veteran Employment and Resource Expo. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veteran Expo will be held in July 2019.
- Support of five Los Angeles Veterans Stand Downs: Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events providing supplies and services to Veterans experiencing homelessness, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment and mental health counseling. These are collaborative events coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, other government agencies, and community-based homeless service providers.

## **Veterans Homelessness**

As of the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, there are 3,879 recorded homeless Veterans in the County of Los Angeles; 948 reside in the First District, which is a 7% decrease from 2018.

- Supervisor Solis allocated \$5 million for the Housing for Heroes Program within the County's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. \$1.1 million went to the Landlord Veterans Incentive Program (VIP), now known as the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP). In this program, landlords receive one month's free rent

to hold available housing units for Veterans experiencing homelessness. The program also provides move-in assistance such as security deposits, utility assistance, furniture essentials, and other benefits to both landlords and Veteran-tenants.

- Supervisor Solis allocated funding for Bell Oasis project, which includes 64 affordable housing units dedicated to Veterans, including those facing chronic mental illness and/or disability.
- Supervisor Solis contributed \$3,000 to Military Women in Need, which provides housing assistance for female Veterans.
- Supervisor Solis allocated \$10,000 to AmVets' Veterans Welcome Home Program, which provides furniture to newly housed homeless Veterans.

### **Medical & Mental Health Services**

- Supervisor Solis allocated \$35,000 to the Salvation Army (Bell Shelter) for a neurofeedback program that helps Veterans with PTSD regain control of their lives.

### **Veterans Community Grants**

- \$5,000 Garfield High School Vietnam Memorial Foundation (contribution to erecting Vietnam Memorial)
- \$27,000 American Legion Post 1944, City of Industry (contribution to repairs of post)
- \$48,500 American Legion Post 272, City of Montebello (contribution to repairs of post)
- \$2,000 American Legion Post 397, Monterey Park (contribution to repairs of post)
- \$2,500 East Los Angeles College, Contribution to 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Veterans Wellness Day which hosted nine Community Colleges' Veterans Resource Centers. Also, collaborated on College's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Veterans Resource Day.
- \$2,000 Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Chapter 22, Montebello (contribution to the Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall)
- Hosted Military & Military Families Holiday event at Whitter Narrows, El Monte

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