

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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CORRESPONDENCE 1  
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April 3, 2008

William O'Brien, Chairperson  
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors  
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500  
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Chairperson O'Brien:

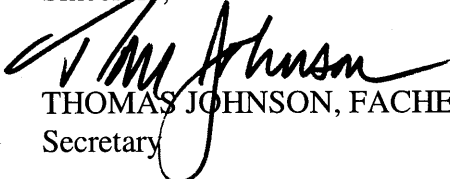
During the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, your County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) obtained new and increased monthly cash benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), in the amount of \$327,901. On an annualized basis this amounts to more than \$3,934,812 in new benefit payments. In addition, your CVSO obtained \$3,645,424 in one-time benefits, which consists of single and retroactive 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 \$11,804,436 from the annualized monthly cash benefits and \$10,936,272 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 your CVSO to obtain and maintain federal monetary benefits have resulted in savings to your county based on your CVSO's active participation in the State Mandated Welfare Referral Program. This program requires your CVSO 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 are \$687 in annualized monthly benefits and \$40,536 in one-time benefits received by individuals who had applied for public assistance grants. In addition, your CVSO verified \$63,232 in prior monthly USDVA monetary benefits being received by public assistance and Medi-Cal applicants, which on an annualized basis represents \$758,784. Your CVSO also assisted veterans' families in their application for the College Tuition Fee Waiver Program. This resulted in either the veterans or their families saving \$406,563 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 CVSO. With a net county cost of less than \$278,000, your CVSO once again remains one of the few revenue producing offices in the county. In addition, your county veteran population deserves, and has earned the right to continued high quality representation in veterans affairs.

If we can be of further assistance in maintaining your CVSO's services, please feel free to contact John King, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Services Division at (916) 653-2573.

Sincerely,

  
THOMAS JOHNSON, FACHE  
Secretary

cc: County Veterans Service Office  
VSD File