

Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office

❑ 10 Douglas Drive, #100
Martinez, CA 94553-4078
(925) 313-1481 FAX (925) 313-1490

❑ 2101 Vale Road, #302
San Pablo, CA 94806
(510) 374-3241 FAX (510) 374-7955



❑ 3361 Walnut Blvd, #140
Brentwood, CA 94513
(925) 313-1481 FAX (925) 313-1490

❑ 400 Hartz Avenue, #208
Danville, CA 94526
(925) 313-1481 FAX (925) 313-1490

July 11, 2016

Supervisor Candace Andersen, Committee Chair
Family and Human Services
Supervisor Federal D. Glover, Vice Chair

East Bay Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

Background:

The EBSD is an extraordinary event that services approximately 450 homeless Veterans and their families from the Bay Area. Veterans have an opportunity to receive instrumental support and diverse services. The care provided to Veterans and their family members is in a safe and secure environment.

The goal is to assist homeless Veterans to end the cycle of homelessness by bringing them into one location that provides transitional housing opportunity, medical/dental care, legal services, benefits counseling, food, clothing, entertainment and many other services. Most important, our participants receive this care in a respectful manner and we let them know they are not forgotten. This event is supported by over 1,000 dedicated community and military volunteers. East Bay Stand Down will also assist with companion pet care that allows pets to get any medical care that might be needed.

Recommendation:

The Board of Supervisors endorses and supports the East Bay Stand Down (EBSD) to be held September 15th through 18th, 2016 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA (EBSD 2016 brochure attached)

As a volunteer and member of the Executive Board for EBSD, I am pleased to present the opportunity to discuss an event that has a strong positive effect on our community.

Jerry Yahiro, Director, is with us today and would like to make a few comments.

Thank you for your support on this worthy endeavor!

Nathan D. Johnson
County Veterans Service Officer



It is the Soldier, not the minister

Who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the Soldier, not the reporter

Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the Soldier, not the poet

Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer

Who has given us freedom to protest.

It is the Soldier, not the lawyer

Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Soldier, not the politician

Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,

Who serves beneath the flag,

And whose coffin is draped by the flag,

Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Copyright 1970, 2005 Charles M. Province

Donations—go to:

www.eastbaystanddown.org
or write a check payable to:

DIABLO VALLEY VETERANS
FOUNDATION - EBSD

PO BOX 2133

DANVILLE, CA 94526

The Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation is a
501(c)(3) non-profit corporation,
IRS identification number 26-3198472



Executive Chair:

Ron Lowe

ronaldlowe@aol.com

Director:

Jerry Yahiro

(925) 743-8850



EAST BAY STAND DOWN



**Alameda County
Fairgrounds**



Sept. 15 -18, 2016

**HELPING DISPLACED,
HOMELESS AND NEEDY
VETERANS AND THEIR
FAMILIES.**



www.eastbaystanddown.org



A community is often judged by how well it takes care of its own. Serving those who have served our Nation is the primary goal of the East Bay Stand Down (EBSD).

EBSD is a consortium of community organizations coming together to provide a four-day event every other year that bring together the nine-county homeless and at-risk military Veterans in the Bay Area, connecting them with services ranging from:

V/A HealthCare, Dental, Mental Health Services, Clothing, Meals, Emergency Shelter, Transitional and Permanent Housing, ID/ Drivers Licenses, Court Services and Legal Aide, Showers and Haircuts and myriad other services and resources. EBSD is currently held at Alameda County Fairground in Pleasanton, serving no more than 500 Veterans.

While its primary goal is helping homeless Veterans access the resources needed, including housing, to regain their highest level of independence, its secondary goal is to bring our community and service providers together in a collaborative format that can build relationships throughout the year that positively benefit homeless Veterans. Ultimately, it is our hope that such events can bring forth the awareness, political/

community will and consistent data necessary to assert the on-going resources it will take to end Veteran homelessness once and for all.

Serving those who have served our Nation is the primary goal of the EBSD. We treat the Veteran participants with respect and dignity. Their former service to our nation is evidence of their ability to succeed and is also reason enough for our community to support them in regaining success.

Nationally, it is estimated that there are over 250,000 needy and homeless Veterans on the streets on any given night. Within the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that there are over 7,000 needy or homeless Veterans. In the Northern California area, estimates are as high as 15,000 or more. A significant number of these Veterans have had little or no contact with the VA for either monetary or medical benefits. Nor have they had much contact with any other agency offering assistance. Aiding or helping to improve their situations, especially for combat Veterans, is a difficult process, but one, which cannot be ignored.

Since the first Stand Down was held in San Diego, in 1988, Stand Downs have taken place in over 200 cities nationwide. Over 100,000 Veterans and their families have benefited from Stand Downs. These events have proved to be very effective in breaking the cycle of homelessness among Veterans and their families.

Since the first EBSD in 1999, our goals have been to provide a respite from the

streets so that needy and homeless Veterans can examine avenues of assistance. We help to place the participants into residential programs, offer employment, and to provide follow-up programs of various types. During recent EBSDs, we have "bumped it up a notch" by providing more services and higher quality services. We offer all new clothing, boots and other basic needs. Through the support of local dentists we offer quality oral health care, as well as follow up care after the event.

EBSD will be funded primarily through monetary and in-kind donations. All monetary donations will be applied to the needs of the Veterans. No donated money will be used for salaries.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

