

# Libraries and Veterans

*What every library should know about veterans in your community.*

Thursday, May 23, 2013  
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kristen Mulvihill

[kjmulvihill@gmail.com](mailto:kjmulvihill@gmail.com)

**Infopeople**  *helping libraries think differently*

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# Agenda

- Why talk about veterans and libraries?
- What is a veteran?
- Today' s challenges
- Organizations
- What every librarian should know
- What libraries are doing now
- What libraries can do next



# Why talk about veterans and libraries?

- “Aren’t veterans being helped by other organizations?”
- “Why should libraries be responsible for helping veterans?”

- This is about what libraries already do:
  - Learning about the community we serve,
  - Connecting community with information,
  - Building relationships.



## Poll #1

Are you a veteran or are you related to someone who is a veteran or in the military?

Also, please type your additional responses into the chat box.





# Who are our U.S. veterans?

- Branches of military service and types of separation
- Assumptions/biases
- Unique cultural backgrounds
- Recently separated or older veterans
- Talking / not talking about the past
- Veteran Community:
  - Spouses and children
  - Parents and caregivers
  - Organizations



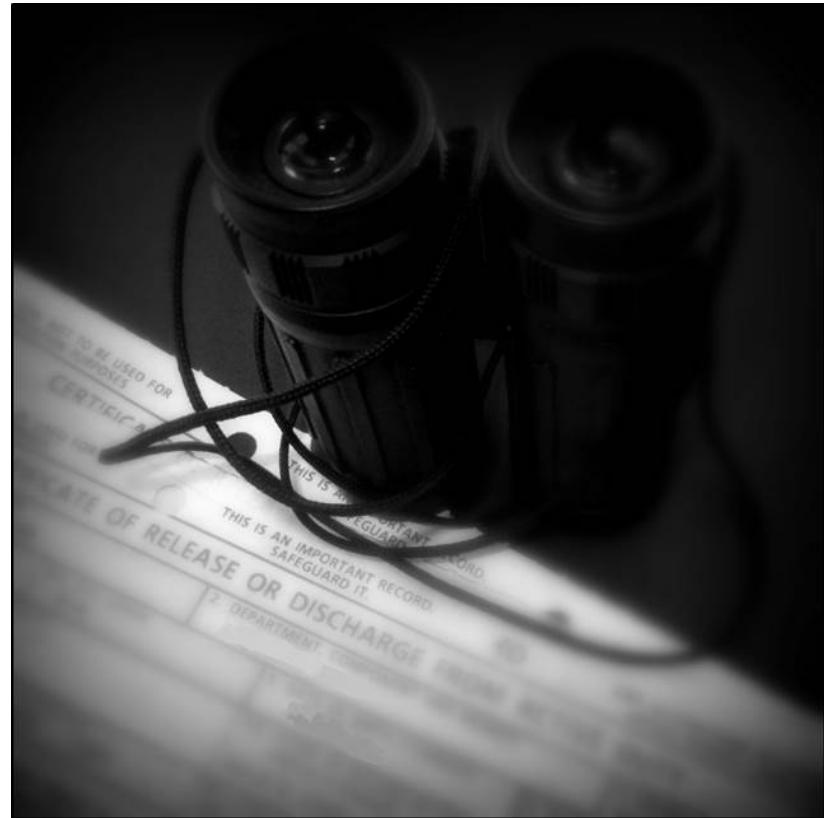
## **Poll #2**

What percentage of the nation's veterans live in California?



# Today's challenges for veterans and the veteran community

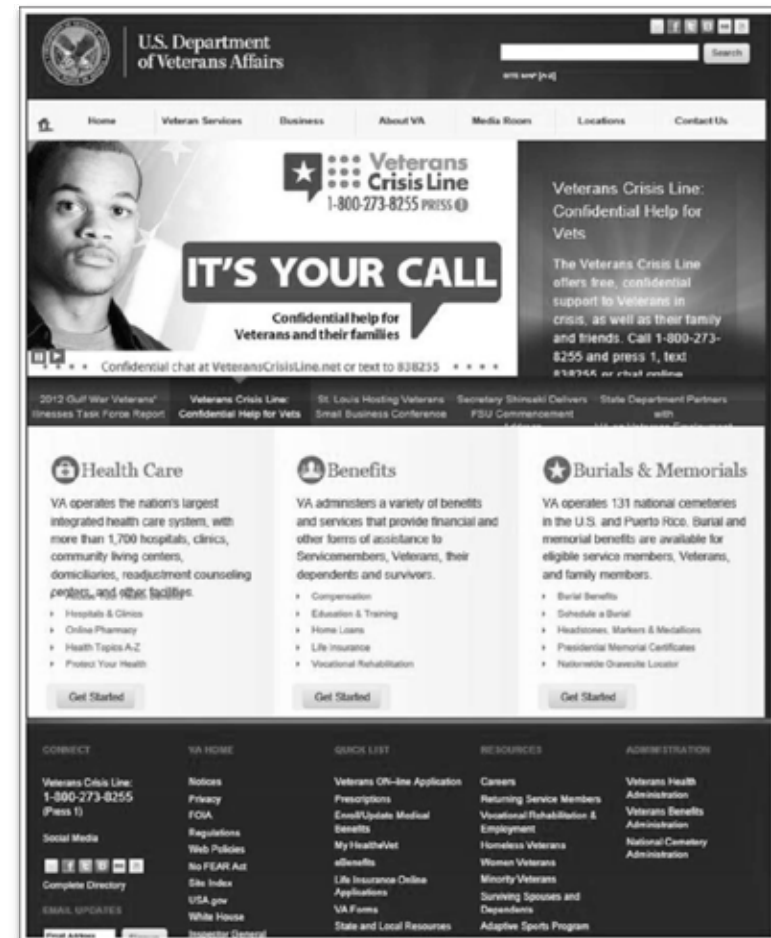
- Intimidating paperwork
  - Lost your DD-214?
- Media misconceptions
- Information overflow:
  - Resources are abundant*
  - but not necessarily *organized*



*New battlefield medicine yields more survivors  
+  
Veterans of previous wars are living longer*

# Organizations

- Department of Veteran Affairs – V.A.
  - Federal, State, County
  - VBA vs. VHA
  - Death and Burial Services
- CVS0 vs. VSO
- National Archives





# Alternate Access Points: Other Organizations (VSOs)

- Networks of knowledge, service, training
  - Get to know them,
  - Try to keep in touch,
  - Collaborate.
- Congressionally chartered organizations
- One-on-one counseling



<https://www.nrd.gov/>

<http://veterans.house.gov/citizens/resources>



## Poll #3

If I am a veteran and I make \$50k per year and have health insurance, can I still seek healthcare at the V.A.?

(What are “Priority Groups”?)

**Health Benefits**

### Priority Groups Table

The number of Veterans who can be enrolled in the health care program is determined by the amount of money Congress gives VA each year. Since funds are limited, VA set up Priority Groups to make sure that certain groups of Veterans are able to be enrolled before others.

Once you apply for enrollment, your eligibility will be verified. Based on your specific eligibility status, you will be assigned a Priority Group. The Priority Groups range from 1-8 with 1 being the highest priority for enrollment. Some Veterans may have to agree to pay copay to be placed in certain Priority Groups.

You may be eligible for more than one Enrollment Priority Group. In that case, VA will always place you in the highest Priority Group that you are eligible for. Under the Medical Benefits Package, the same services are generally available to all enrolled Veterans. VA determines your eligibility for VA's comprehensive medical benefits package through our patient enrollment system, which is based on Priority Groups from 1 through 8.

**Priority Group 1**

- Veterans with VA Service-connected disabilities rated 50% or more.
- Veterans assigned a total disability rating for compensation based on unemployability.

**Priority Group 2**

- Veterans with VA Service-connected disabilities rated 30% or 40%.

**Priority Group 3**

- Veterans who are former POWs.
- Veterans awarded the Purple Heart Medal.
- Veterans awarded the Medal of Honor.
- Veterans whose discharge was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.
- Veterans with VA Service-connected disabilities rated 10% or 20%.
- Veterans awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C., § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation."

**Priority Group 4**

- Veterans receiving increased compensation or pension based on their need for regular Aid and Attendance or by reason of being permanently Housebound.
- Veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled.

**Priority Group 5**

- Nonservice-connected Veterans and noncompensable Service-connected Veterans rated 0%, whose annual income and/or net worth are not greater than the VA financial thresholds.
- Veterans receiving VA Pension benefits.
- Veterans eligible for Medicaid benefits.

**Priority Group 6**

- Compensable 0% Service-connected Veterans.
- Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Project 112/SHAD participants.
- Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.
- Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, through November 11, 1998.
- Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, as follows:
  - Veterans discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, for five years post discharge

**Priority Group 7**

- Veterans with incomes **below** the geographic means test (GMT) income thresholds and who agree to pay the applicable copayment.

**Priority Group 8**

- Veterans with gross household incomes above the VA national income threshold and the geographically-adjusted income threshold for their resident location and who agree to pay copays.

**Veterans eligible for enrollment:** Noncompensable 0% service-connected and:

[https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/assets/documents/publications/IB-10-441\\_enrollment\\_priority\\_groups.pdf](https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/assets/documents/publications/IB-10-441_enrollment_priority_groups.pdf)

# What every librarian should know

- Crisis lines
  - Cheat sheet
  - Magnets, flyers, brochures
- Who is your veteran community and your CVSO
- V.A. & VSO locations
  - Shuttle services
  - Directions
- Keep track of FAQs



*Are there military families in your community?*



## **Poll #4**

What do you think should be added to the list of “What every librarian should know” about serving veterans and the veteran community?

Please type your responses into the chat box.



# What are libraries doing now?

- Online resources

[Shasta Public Libraries](#)

- Programming

[Kern County Library](#)

- Collections

[San Diego Public Library](#)

See also:

- [Escondido Public Library Veteran Services](#)
- [Chula Vista Public Library Veterans Wing](#)
- [California Center for the Book](#)



*Building relationships and collaborations*

## Poll #5

What are your ideas for raising awareness or improving services, programming, and collections for veterans at your library?

Please type your responses into the chat box.

*Remember our strengths as librarians:*

- *Organizing information,*
- *Helping people access information,*
- *Providing a venue for people to meet each other,*
- *Providing a sense of a safe place,*
- *Helping people in the community and the organizations in the community connect with each other.*





# Q&A

- Let's review your questions!

- More questions?

*Join the discussion on LinkedIn*

*References available at*

[Librarians Serving Veterans on  
Wordpress](#)



# Thank You!

- More information, more discussion, more connections:

[Librarians Serving Veterans on LinkedIn](#)

- If you are unable to access LinkedIn, resources discussed today will be listed at the following URL:

<http://librariansservingveterans.wordpress.com/references-and-resources/>

- Contact Kristen at [mulvihill.librarian@gmail.com](mailto:mulvihill.librarian@gmail.com)





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