

Veterans Resources

Overview

The City of Irvine is committed to providing services, recognition and continuing support to all active duty, reservists, veterans and retired members of the United States Military. Below, you can find detailed information and resource links to all relevant programs and services for active duty and veteran military personnel.

As with the entire community, the City of Irvine proudly supports its veterans, through programs and support services, annual community ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and through the administration of the country's only memorial dedicated to those servicemen and servicewomen who have died in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts – the Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial at Northwood Community Park.

Upcoming Programs and Events

City of Irvine is hosting the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council meeting, 5 p.m. Wednesday, February 10, at the Irvine Civic Center.

Memorials and Recognition

The City of Irvine salutes our nation's military service members, both active duty and veterans, for their dedication, courage, accomplishments and sacrifices to protect our everyday freedoms. Irvine is proud to recognize and honor our service men and women at various events and ceremonies throughout the year.

[Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Community Park](#)

Bill Barber is a Medal of Honor recipient who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He was an Irvine resident until his passing in 2002. The Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Community Park is named in his honor. For a full biography, click [here](#).

[Mark Daily Athletic Field](#)

Mark Daily grew up in Irvine and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was killed in action in January 2007. He received the War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and was posthumously awarded The Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service to his country. For a full biography, click [here](#).

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[Military Memorial at the Flag Monument](#)

The City maintains a Military Memorial at the Flag Monument of Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park, which is reserved for plaques authorized by the City Council, honoring Irvine residents who died in the line of duty during military service as a permanent tribute to their service.

The City of Irvine takes pride in honoring Irvine's fallen service members and hometown heroes. These heroes will be forever remembered not only for their service to America, but for their roles in their families and their community.

[Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial](#)

The Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial honors every fallen service member who served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. It was the first permanent memorial in the country dedicated to these service members and to list all the fallen from these two wars. It was dedicated on November 14, 2010.

[Military Banner Program](#)

The Military Banner Program is proud to recognize and pay tribute to Irvine's military heroes for their sacrifice and service through programs such as the City's Military Banner Program. Family members and loved ones may nominate an active duty service member from any branch of the military to be honored with a street banner with the individual's name and photo. The banner will be prominently displayed on Culver Drive throughout their tour of duty. Service members must be current Irvine residents or immediate family of an Irvine resident to apply.

Proposed Southern California State Veterans Cemetery

In 2014, Assembly Bill 1453 ([AB 1453](#)) was introduced in the California legislature to establish a Southern California Veterans Cemetery in Orange County (by former California Assemblymember Quirk-Silva) in the California legislature proposing to establish a Southern California Veterans Cemetery in Orange County. The legislation, co-sponsored by Assemblymember Donald Wagner representing the City of Irvine, was approved by the State legislature as of August 25, signed by Governor Brown on September 27, 2014 and is effective January 1, 2015.

On [March 11, 2014](#) the Irvine City Council adopted Resolution No. 14-27, which, in part, supported the passage of AB 1453 and expressed the City Council's strong interest in providing land at the Orange County Great Park to develop a State Veterans Cemetery. The City Council also established an Ad Hoc State Veterans Cemetery Committee to consider this matter. The Ad Hoc Committee was comprised of Irvine Mayor Steven Choi, Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Lalloway, a representative of Five Point Communities Management, Inc., a representative from the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and two members representing veterans groups.

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On [July 22, 2014](#) the Irvine City Council adopted [Resolution No. 14-92](#) expressing its intent to convey the Amended and Restated Development Agreement (ARDA) Transfer Site (at the former Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro) to the State for the purposes of creating the [Southern California Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery](#), subject to all necessary and appropriate studies, procedures and agreements with the State and Federal governments.

AB 1453 directs the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), in voluntary cooperation with local government entities in Orange County, to design, develop, construct and equip a state-owned and operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery. It also directs CalVet to apply for federal Veterans Cemetery Grant Program funds for a Veterans Cemetery.

Next Steps

As a key initial step, AB 1453 directs the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to submit a pre-application requesting Federal Veterans Cemetery Grant Funds (administered by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) to design, develop, construct and equip the cemetery.

CalVet indicates that it is working towards meeting next year's Federal grant pre-application deadline – July 1, 2016 – due to time required to complete the work necessary for submittal. CalVet shared that its next steps include hiring consultants to assist with the pre-application, determining burial rates and developing cost estimates. CalVet shared that they are unable to predict timing for this project beyond the July 1, 2016 pre-application submittal goal. This because the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines project eligibility, plus timing is dependent on the Federal Veterans Affairs' evaluation of applications received from all States. Click [here](#) for more information.

Employment and Hiring Benefits for Veterans

The City of Irvine is dedicated to providing benefits for full time employees who are active duty military personnel above and beyond what is required by federal and state laws. Full time City employees are eligible for up to one year of temporary partial pay while on military leave, and continue to have health insurance for themselves and their families. For more details on these benefits, click [here](#).

In addition to the above benefits, veterans also receive additional consideration when applying for positions with the City of Irvine. In the event that a veteran has qualifications identical to those possessed by another applicant, based upon the veteran's and the other applicant's examinations, interviews, experience, education, training and work history, the hiring authority will grant a preference to the veteran.

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Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee

The City of Irvine adopted the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (2/11 Marines) in April 2007 for the purpose of making a difference in the lives of military personnel and their families. The Adoption Committee hosts several events throughout the year to benefit the battalion, which is based in Camp Pendleton.

The Adoption Committee is a non-profit organization which organizes these charitable events. Click [here](#) for more information on the committee and how you can get involved.

Mission Statement

The specific purpose of the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee is to provide charitable and educational activities and support for the benefit and welfare of the United States Marines and their families assigned to Camp Pendleton, California, with special emphasis on the Marines and families of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (“2/11 Marines”).

Additionally, the Committee seeks to educate and inform the community regarding the 2/11’s activities and responsibilities. The Committee accomplishes its goal by soliciting private and public donations of cash, food, beverages, and new and used material goods to help underwrite the cost of sponsoring 2/11 Marines and their families.

Awards and Accolades for the City of Irvine

Freedom Award

According to the Secretary of Defense, the Freedom Award is “the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their support of their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.” The Irvine Police Department was honored with this award in 2011 as a result for “outstanding support of its Guard and Reserve employees.” Click [here](#) for details.

3rd Best City in the Nation for Veterans

Ranked based on 10 essential metrics including job opportunities, veteran-owned businesses, veteran wage growth and availability of VA health facilities. Click [here](#) for more information.

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City of Irvine Support

[FOR Families](#) 949-724-6650

FOR Families provides information and short-term support to individuals, couples and families living in Irvine who need assistance identifying and accessing needed services and resources. Our focus is on supporting the well-being of our community members.

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[Healthy City Healthy Planet](#)

The City Council has affirmed Irvine's long-held commitment to health, fitness, well-being, support for veterans services and the sustainability of our community. Through our webpage, residents can find more than 100 relevant categories, descriptions and links that support Irvine's Healthy City Healthy Planet initiative.

[Irvine Gives: Veterans & Military](#)

Irvine greatly values the contributions and sacrifices made by veterans and those actively serving our country from all branches of the military.

In honor of Irvine's fallen service members and hometown heroes, the City sponsors events throughout the year and provides opportunities to recognize those who have dedicated their lives to ensure the freedom we all enjoy exists forever. Memorial recognition opportunities exist at the Flag Monument at [Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park](#) and at the [Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial](#).

Honoring Our Veterans

The City supports its military heroes through the [Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee](#), which provides charitable and educational activities and support for the benefit and welfare of the marines and their families assigned to Camp Pendleton, California, with special emphasis on the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (known as the "2/11 Marines").

The Committee solicits private and public [donations](#) of cash, food, beverages, and new and used material goods to help underwrite the cost of sponsoring participants. The Committee also holds [special events](#) throughout the year in addition to an ongoing recycling program which donates the proceeds from recyclables to support 2/11 Marines and their families and a [letter writing and care package project](#). Volunteers are welcome.

[Keen Center for Senior Resources](#) 949-724-6900

The Center provides information about a wide range of services and programs for older adults, including healthcare, assistance programs, support groups, care management, health insurance, social security, finances, alternative living, transportation, home care, care giving and Meals on Wheels.

[TRIPS](#) 949-724-6650

Low-cost, door-to-door transportation services for adults who are unable to drive due to a permanent physical and/or cognitive disability. Pre-registration and eligibility required.

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Orange County Support

[American Red Cross of Orange County](#) 714-481-5300

Services for military families including emergency communication, financial assistance, information and referral services and deployment services.

[Animals for Armed Forces® Foundation](#) 714-465-5083

Animals for Armed Forces Foundation provides Free Pet Adoption events that help our shelter animals find loving homes with the Heroes of our Armed Forces

[County Association of Veteran Service Officers](#) 714-480-6555

The California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) is an organization of professional veterans advocates.

[Goodwill of Orange County Veteran Services Program](#) 855-998-3837

Provides veterans with job placement and career advancement, transitional services and family and health services.

[OC Animal Care](#) 714-935-6848

Partners with Animals for Armed Forces to provide discounted animal adoptions and events specifically for current or former armed forces personnel and their families.

[OC Department of Mental Health – South Region](#) 949-454-3940

Crisis Hotline: 800-854-7771

[Orange County Health Care Agency](#) 855-886-5400

[Health Referral Line:](#) 800-564-8448

[Substance Abuse:](#) 800-564-6600

[Behavioral Health Programs: Prevention & Intervention:](#) 714-480-6652

- OC4Vets
- Veterans Campus Program
- Veterans Court Programs
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services

[Adult Mental Health Services:](#) 714-480-6767

Veterans Resources

[Behavioral Health Programs for Older Adults](#): 714-972-3700

- Older Adult Mental Health Recovery Services
- Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)
- Senior Health Outreach Prevention Program (SHOPP)
- Substance Abuse Resource Team (START)

[Adult Public Health Nursing Services](#): 714-972-3745

[Orange County Housing Authority \(OCHA\)](#)

Veterans who apply for housing assistance through the Orange County Housing Authority receive the highest preference and placement on the waiting list.

[OC Parks](#) 714-973-6865

OC Parks manages a variety of locations consisting of regional parks, wilderness parks, historic parks, regional trails and beaches. [Some veterans](#) are eligible for free parking passes and free camping.

[Orange County Veterans Employment Committee](#)

The Orange County Veterans Employment Committee (OCVEC) is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to serving transitioning military members of all branches of service as well as disadvantaged veterans by providing assistance to remove barriers that may prevent them from obtaining employment.

[OC Veterans Service Office](#) 714-480-6555

Free benefit claims counseling and information and referral assistance for veterans, their dependents and survivors.

[Community Investment Division Programs](#) assist veterans to become self-sufficient by providing needed resources and services including case management, assistance with training programs, housing, behavioral health services, job search assistance and supportive services. 949-341-8000

[Office of the Assessor](#) 714-837-2727

- [Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption](#)
- [Service Members Civil Relief Act Declaration](#)

[Network of Care](#)

Directory of programs and facilities related to housing, employment, reintegration, education and behavioral health.

Veterans Resources

[North Orange County Vet Center](#) 714-776-0161 Or 877-927-8387

[South Orange County Vet Center](#) 949-348-6700 Or 877-927-8387

[Strength in Support](#) 949-505-5015

Individual, Couple, Family and Group Counseling. Mentorship, Educational and Recreational Workshops

[Women Veterans Health Care](#) 562-826-5633

Access and quality of care for women Veterans

[Working Wardrobes VetNet](#) 714-210-2460 EdwardG@workingwardrobes.org

Career development services, professional wardrobe assistance, job training opportunities, resume writing and interview skill workshops, mentorship and advocacy programs.

[Veterans First](#) 714-547-0618

Works to provide services exclusively to our region's homeless and at-risk veterans. Our organization provides a multitude of services including housing, meals, life coaching counselling, life skills, access to mental health counselling, benefit counselling, transportation, as well as job training and employment placement assistance.

[VA Long Beach Healthcare System](#) 562-826-8000 or 888-769-8387

State of California Support

[California Department of Veterans Affairs](#) 800-952-5626

Information about state and federal benefits and services for veterans and their families.

Homeless Veteran Outreach and Support

The [HUD-VASH](#) program provides long-term case management, supportive services, and permanent housing support. The [SSVF](#) program provides funding for organizations that provide eligible veteran families with outreach, financial assistance, case management and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits.

[Employment Development Department](#)

The Employment Development Department (EDD) assists veterans and their eligible spouses maximize their employment and training opportunities. Services provided include a veteran 24-hour priority hold on all job listings, customized job search assistance, job fairs, employer recruitments, and other events and resources.

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[Patriots and Paws](#)

We provide Veterans, active Military, and their families with home furnishings, and unite them with a rescued companionship animal.

[Veterans Crisis Line](#) 800-273-8255 (Press 1)

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

Federal Support

[Defense Centers of Excellence For Psychological Health & Traumatic Brain Injury](#) 866-966-1020

Serving active-duty military, their beneficiaries and veterans with TBIs through state-of-the-art clinical care, innovative clinical research initiatives and educational programs, and support for force health protection services. DVBIC fulfills this mission through ongoing collaboration with the Defense Department, military services, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), civilian health partners, local communities, families and individuals with TBI.

[DSTRESS Line for Marine Corps](#) 877-476-7734

From the everyday stressors of life to the stressors related to combat, stress can affect even the strongest Marine. The DSTRESS Line was developed by the Corps to provide professional, anonymous counseling for Marines, attached Sailors, and families when it's needed most.

[Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America \(IAVA\)](#) 212-982-9699

Provide valuable resources and empower veterans to connect with one another, fostering a strong and lasting community. Through education, advocacy and community building, we strive to create a country which honors and supports veterans of all generations.

[Military OneSource](#) 800-342-9647

A confidential Department of Defense-funded program providing comprehensive information on every aspect of military life at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve Component members, and their families. Information includes, but is not limited to, deployment, reunion, relationship, grief, spouse employment and education, parenting and childhood, and much more.

[National Coalition for Homeless Veterans](#) 800-VET-HELP (838-4357) or 202-546-1969

Resource and technical assistance center for a national network of community-based service providers and local, state and federal agencies that provide emergency and supportive housing, food, health services, job training and placement assistance, legal aid and case management support for hundreds of thousands of homeless veterans each year.

Veterans Resources

[National Resource Directory for Veterans](#)

Connecting Wounded Warriors, Service Members, Veterans, Their Families and Caregivers to Those Who Support Them.

[National Veterans Foundation](#) 310-642-0255 or 888-777-4443

To serve the crisis management, information and referral needs of all U.S. Veterans and their families through management and operation of the nation's only toll-free helpline for all veterans and their families. Provides outreach services that provide veterans and families in need with food, clothing, transportation, employment and other essential resources.

[National Veterans Transition Services, Inc.](#) 619-822-2701 reboot@nvtsi.org

Organization dedicated to assisting veterans in adjusting to civilian life and securing meaningful employment by combining best-practice performance social solutions and techniques.

[RRRP \(Rapid Response Referral Program\)](#) 855-917-2743

[Real Warriors](#)

Encouraging help-seeking behavior among service members, veterans and military families coping with invisible wounds.

[Semper Fi Fund](#) 760-725-3680

Financial, emotional, and tiered support for our injured/ill service members and their families through the following programs: Family Support, Adaptive Housing, Adaptive Transportation, Specialized Equipment, Education and Career Transitioning, Rehabilitative Sports programs, and more.

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) 800-488-8244

[VA National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) **877-424-3838**

[Make the Connection](#)

Encourages Veterans and their families to "make the connection"— with information and resources, with the strength and resilience of Veterans like themselves, with other people, and with available sources of support including mental health treatments.

[U.S. Veterans, Inc.](#) 213-542-2600

A private non-profit organization providing housing, employment and counseling services to our nation's veterans, the men and women from all branches of the armed forces who have served their country from World War II to the current conflict in Afghanistan.

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[VA Specially Adapted Housing Grants](#) 800-827-1000 sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov

VA provides grants to Service members and Veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability.

[Warrior Gateway](#) 202-455-4062 info@warriorgateway.org

Our mission is to provide a virtual community center where service members and veterans can connect with each other and with their local community.

[Wounded Warrior Project](#) 619-981-9642

To foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history.

Educational Support

[Veterans Services at Concordia University](#) 949-214-3124 dawayne.denmark@cui.edu

Support service members, veterans and their families in pursuing their academic, professional and vocational goals by providing academic and financial advising, and professional, personal and spiritual resources.

[Veteran Services at CSU, Fullerton](#) 657-278-8660 vss@fullerton.edu

Assists veterans and dependents at California State University, Fullerton in successfully navigating the academic environment through guidance, support services, and resources. VSS is committed to offering comprehensive and personalized services within a unique learning community that facilitates the student's social and academic integration throughout their educational experience.

[Veterans Services Center at IVC](#) 949-451-5296 ivcvets@ivc.edu

The Veterans Services Center is an initiative at Irvine Valley College to nurture a welcoming campus culture for our veteran students. It is founded on the premise that the challenges faced by veterans may be addressed through a combination of services stressing academics, camaraderie and wellness.

[Veterans Services at OCC](#) 714-432-0202 ext. 26645 or 714-824-1996 dropzone@occ.cccd.edu

Our goal is to assist you in acquiring your G.I. education benefits while you achieve your educational goal.

[Veterans Resource Center at SAC](#) (714) 564-6050 veterans@sac.edu

Veterans Resources

The Veterans Resource Center was created to help incoming Veteran students transition from soldiers to scholars. In addition, Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, and their dependents are assisted with accessing their VA education benefits when pursuing an eligible AA/AS, Certificate, or Transfer Program for a BA/BS. The VRC also can direct students to campus resources that would help them succeed in their educational goals.

[Veterans Service Office at Santiago Canyon College](#) 714-628-4793

The Veterans Services Office was created to assist Veteran students' transition from soldiers to scholars. Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, and their dependents/spouses are provided access to their VA education benefits to assist them with successfully meeting their educational goals.

[Veteran Services at UCI](#) 949-824-3500 veteran@uci.edu

UCI Veteran Services is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment for veterans, reservists, and their dependents. We provide assistance in obtaining the educational benefits to which they are entitled. The center is responsible for submitting entitlement requests for new and continuing students to the V.A., answering any questions veteran students or dependents may have concerning their educational benefits, and providing resources and programs to assist veterans in navigating their transition to civilian and student life.