BIG VOICE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Orange County Veterans Advisory Council (OCVAC) Meeting*

- **When:** November 18, 2026, at 2 p.m.
- **Where:** 1300 S. Grand Ave., Bldg. B, Santa Ana, CA 92705
- **Please note:** Meeting location is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the OCVAC webpage, or check our Facebook and Instagram before attending.



Veterans Day Events*

- **About:** Honor Veterans Day by attending local events and ceremonies across Orange County that recognize the service and sacrifice of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **Find a Veterans Day event near you:** Veterans Day Events

**Please confirm event details directly with each organization before attending.*



Veterans Day Discounted and Free Meals

- **About:** Many restaurants offer Veterans special discounts or free meals and drinks on or around Veterans Day. Check directly with participating locations for available offers and eligibility requirements.
- **View a list of participating restaurants:** 2026 Veterans Day Deals

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OCBA Family Law Section Pro Bono Expo

- **About:** Veterans can receive a free, one-hour family law consultation or limited basic document assistance from a volunteer family law attorney. **An appointment is required.**
- **When:** November 11, 2026, from 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- **Where:** The Great Room at Tierney Center for Veterans Services 1231 Warner Ave., Tustin, CA 92780
- **Register:** Veterans Legal Institute or Public Law Center

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Smiles for FREEdom 2026

- **About:** Smiles for FREEdom offers free dental care for Veterans, their spouses, and spouses of active-duty military members. **Appointments are required and available on a first-come, first-served basis.** Adults only.
- **When:** November 13, 2026
- **Where:** Shoreline Dental Studio 1409 S. El Camino Real, San Clemente, CA 92672
- **More information:** Free Dental for Veterans – Smiles for FREEdom

Event information is provided for informational purposes only. The County makes no guarantee as to the accuracy of the event content and assumes no responsibility or liability.

NEWS



County of Orange Launches Dedicated El Niño Emergency-Response Website

The County of Orange has launched a dedicated El Nino emergency-response website to help residents, businesses, and commuters find emergency updates, preparedness information, and infrastructure updates as storm season approaches.

Visit the County's El Nino emergency-response website for the latest information and resources.



2026 VA Federal Benefits Guide Now Available

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released its 2026 Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers. The guide covers VA benefits and services, including disability compensation, life insurance, education, employment, housing assistance, and mental health resources. It also outlines eligibility requirements and includes contact information to help readers find additional details.

View or download the booklet on VA's website.

VA Report Highlights Trends in Veteran Suicide Prevention

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released its 2026 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. The report found that suicide rates decreased 4.8% among Veterans enrolled in VA health care, while rates increased 3.7% among Veterans not enrolled. In 2024, 62% of Veterans who died by suicide had not received VA care in the current or prior year.

Learn more about VA's suicide prevention efforts and available resources.

DID YOU KNOW



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced a Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) premium holiday. Eligible Veterans enrolled in VGLI will not have to pay premiums from November 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027.

VGLI is a term life insurance program that allows Veterans to continue life insurance coverage after leaving military service.

Learn more at va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/vgli.

BY THE NUMBERS MONTHLY

Numbers are based on September 2026 service data.

Veterans Served (includes emails, calls, and appointments):
2,839

Benefits Granted by Veterans Administration:
$922,869

Claims Filed:
1,253

College Tuition Savings:
$2,273,711

For more information, contact the VSO at (714) 480-6555 or ocvso@occr.oc.gov.

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