

Resources for Caregivers and Veterans*
San Diego, California

AMVETS – www.amvets.org

AMVETS (or American Veterans) has a proud history of assisting veterans and sponsoring numerous programs that serve our country and its citizens. The helping hand that AMVETS extends to veterans and their families takes many forms. One of the most visible is AMVETS' network of trained national service officers (NSOs) accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Funded by the AMVETS National Service Foundation, these men and women can be found in close to 40 states, providing advice and prompt action on compensation claims at no charge to the veteran. Information about NSOs can be found at www.amvets.org/service/national_service_officers.html .

Blinded Veterans of America – www.bva.org

BVA employs seven full-time staff members as Field Service Representatives. The Reps have been strategically placed in different geographical areas throughout the United States. Their goal is to locate and assist blinded veterans in overcoming the challenges inherent in sight loss. The Southern CA Field Service Representative is Earl Iviee and can be contacted by e-mail at bvivee1@va.gov.

**California Statewide Collaborative for our Military and Families—
www.rebuildhope.org/casc.php**

This Collaborative is a strong voice advocating for a wholistic, compassionate continuum of services, treatment and care for service members, veterans, families, care givers and care providers. The Collaborative provide a forum to share information and education, raise awareness, focus outreach and promote strategic partnerships that will streamline and improve access to health and human services. They achieve this goal by building fully integrated partnerships of Federal, State, Local and Community in support of our Military and Families. The Collaborative can be reached at by contacting MaryEllen Salzano at maryellen_salzano@yahoo.com; 408-779-6916 or 408-489-0911 (cell).

Coalition to Salute America's Heroes – www.saluteheroes.org

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes is the leading non-governmental provider of emergency financial relief to wounded soldiers from Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom and their families. The Coalition partners with corporate sponsors, individual contributors, and volunteers to provide a simple and

*This list is intended to provide caregivers of veterans with helpful information about agencies and organizations that provide support, education, resources, and other services to veterans and families. This is not an exhaustive list. There are literally 100s or organizations that support veterans and families in a variety of different ways. The National Alliance for Caregiving does not endorse or receive funding from any organizations included on this list.

meaningful way for individuals and corporations to help these veterans and their families rebuild their lives.

Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) – www.dcoe.health.mil/

DCoE is the open front door of the Department of Defense for warriors and their families needing help with psychological health and TBI issues, promoting the resilience, recovery and reintegration of warriors and their families. The web site includes information and resources for families and caregivers at www.dcoe.health.mil/ForFamilies.aspx.

Disabled American Veterans – www.dav.org

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a non-profit charity dedicated to building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families. The DAV's members provide grassroots advocacy and services in communities nationwide. From educating lawmakers and the public about important issues to supporting services and legislation to help disabled veterans — the DAV is there to promote its message of hope to all who have served and sacrificed. DAV has National Transition Officers who can provide guidance for those making the transition to civilian life. The National Transition Officer in San Diego can be contacted at 858-689-9637.

Easter Seals – www.easterseals.org

Easter Seals' Military and Veterans Initiative responds to the needs of veterans with disabilities and their families. As the largest provider of disability-related services to individuals with disabilities and their families, Easter Seals is positioned to offer military and veterans systems of care with viable options to support and augment current reintegration efforts. Easter Seals provides veterans with disabilities and their families services and supports that strengthen and stabilize as they transition to civilian status and the civilian workforce. The website for the Southern CA Chapter of Easter Seals is http://southernca.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=CALA_homepage

Fisher Houses – www.fisherhouse.org

Fisher Houses provide transitional housing for families at the following two locations the San Diego area:

- West Los Angeles VA, CA
- San Diego Naval Medical Center, CA

