

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1

DATE: July 12, 2011

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION – A) Receive an update regarding the first Placer County Stand Down. B) Present a Resolution to Gold Country Chaplaincy in support of the first Placer County Stand Down.

ACTION REQUESTED

A) Receive an update regarding the first Placer County Stand Down. B) Present a Resolution to Gold Country Chaplaincy in support of the first Placer County Stand Down.

BACKGROUND

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety. At secure base camp areas, troops were able to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, mail services and enjoy the camaraderie of friends in a safe environment.

Today, Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's Active Duty, Veterans and estimated 107,000 homeless veterans on any given night "combat" life. Placer County Stand Down is open to all military and families. In the military, Stand Down afforded battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being. Today's Stand Down affords the same opportunity to Active Duty and Veterans.

The first Placer County Veterans Stand Down, sponsored by Gold Country Chaplaincy, is being held on September 27-29, 2011 at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

In the matter of a Resolution in support of the first Resolution No. 2011-
Placer County Veterans Stand Down being held to help
Veterans gain access to needed resources in one central location.

WHEREAS, the first Placer County Veterans Stand Down, sponsored by Gold Country Chaplaincy, is being held on September 27-29, 2011 at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville; and

WHEREAS, the term "Stand Down" was developed by the military to grant battle-weary soldiers an opportunity to gather in a relatively safe and secure environment while they take care of their essential needs, rest and recover from the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, for many Veterans, the battles continue long after they come home. They come in the form of homelessness, depression, anxiety and difficulty with readjustment to regular living and working in society. They also come through the frustration of navigating the red tape to access the benefits they have so duly earned; and

WHEREAS, the Stand Down is designed to provide a "one-stop shopping" atmosphere to provide Veterans with the resources, materials and contacts needed to sustain their well-being; and

WHEREAS, while the primary focus is on helping homeless Veterans get services, the program is available to any Veteran or family members who need access to some type of service to help them with their daily life needs; and

WHEREAS, about one-third of the adult homeless population are Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the first Stand Down was held in San Diego during the summer of 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Stand Down is manned entirely by volunteers. Professionals and concerned citizens extend their time and services to promote the Stand Down philosophy to provide a "Hand up Not a Hand out" to assist our Veterans as they get back on their feet; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) states the nation's homeless Veterans are predominantly male, with roughly five percent being female. The majority of them are single, come from urban areas, and suffer from mental illness, alcohol, substance abuse, and/or other disorders; and

WHEREAS, with Placer County being central in the region, hosting the Stand Down in Placer County will afford Veterans from neighboring counties, as well as Placer County, access to services and resources they otherwise may not be able to reach.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That, the Placer County Board of Supervisors supports the first Placer County Stand Down being held on September 27-29, 2011 with best wishes of success for the program; and

Be It Further Resolved That, the Placer County Board of Supervisors thanks all Veterans for their service and sacrifice for the freedoms of this great Nation.

Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor, District 2
Chairman 2011

Jack Duran
Supervisor, District 1

Kirk Uhler
Supervisor, District 4

Jim Holmes
Supervisor, District 3

Jennifer Montgomery
Supervisor, District 5