



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2012

CONTACT

Kim Brown
Communications Office
California State Library
(916) 651-6466
kbrown@library.ca.gov

**State Library and CalVet to Launch
Library Resource Programs for Veterans**

Volunteers needed at Redding, Bakersfield, and San Diego libraries

SACRAMENTO – The State Library and California Department of Veterans Affairs have embarked on a program to establish a Veterans Resource Center at three public libraries. The year-long pilot program will rely on trained volunteer staff at each library to connect veterans to the benefits and resources available to them. Libraries taking part in the program are the Redding Library, Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library in San Diego, and Beale Memorial Library in Bakersfield.

Volunteers will spend a day in training, provided by CalVet, learning about veterans benefits and services, veteran reintegration challenges, listening and problem-solving skills, and referral techniques. The training will prepare volunteers to answer basic benefits-related questions for veterans and their families, to offer CalVet and other appropriate veterans benefits resources, and to provide a checklist of documents and information needed when applying for benefits through the County Veterans Service Office.

"Public libraries across the state of California are dedicated to helping veterans find the information they need to be successful," said Stacey Aldrich, State Librarian. "We are dedicated to supporting the men, women, and families of the military, who have sacrificed so much for us to live in this great state and country in freedom."

Volunteers are sought who have an interest in serving veterans and their families, who can work a minimum of one two-hour shift per week in one of the partner libraries, and who will make a one-year commitment to the program. To view the full Veteran Resource Center volunteer position description and complete an application, go to <http://californialibraries.volunteermatch.org>.

This project is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

About the California State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for the Governor's office, Legislature, state employees, and the general public. The State Library administers federal and state grants for programs in historical preservation, library construction, civil liberties education, literacy, volunteering, and broadband connectivity in public libraries. For more information, visit www.library.ca.gov.