

Veterans and Public Libraries

January 26, 2021

Brought to you by Veterans Connect @ the Library

*A Pacific Libraries Partnership Project in Partnership with
California State Department of Veteran Affairs and the California State Library*

Instructors:

Kristen Mulvihill: Veterans and Public Libraries

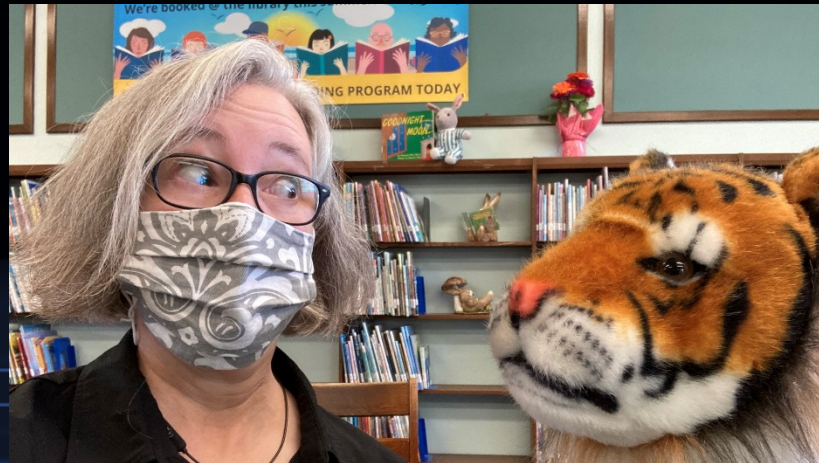
Karen Bosch Cobb: VetNow and Veterans Connect @ the Library

Veterans Connect @ the Library is supported 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. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.



What was that about “I didn’t know I was a veteran?”

- About your instructor and veteran self-identification
- What we want to learn about veterans today



Agenda

- Learning about U.S. veterans and the military
- Tools for libraries helping veterans including VetNow
- How we plan to handle Q&A today

Poll

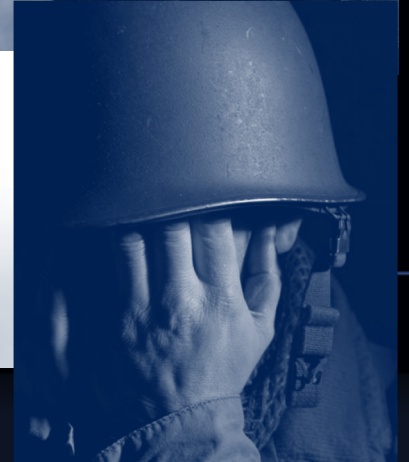
1. Have you served in the military?
2. Do you have a spouse or family member who has served or is serving in the military?
3. Do you have a friend or extended family member with military experience?



Veterans in the Library

Common experiences among veterans in public libraries

- Situational awareness
- Homelessness
- Silent veterans
- Family members, caregivers, friends



What is a Veteran?

- Why we care about veterans
- What is a “veteran”
- Stages of life
- The difference between a benefit and a disability
- Changes made by Congress



c. 1992, Catherine Stevens, U.S. Navy, on the left and Kristen Mulvihill, U.S. Army, on the right

Basic Training for Librarians: Veterans and Military Service

- Branches of service ..how we served...
- Eras of service ..when we served...
- Generational differences
- The V.A. and its acronyms
- Discharge paperwork (DD214)
- Military spouses, children, parents, and their support networks



Poll #2

Which of the following are the greatest number of veterans living in California?

- a) Vietnam era veterans
- b) Gulf War veterans

Veteran Culture: Things to Remember

- Starting the conversation and what we do
We do referrals, not social work
- Exposures, conditions and disabilities
How Congress decides and changes their mind
- Media and the changing landscape
Encourage ALL veterans to be counted



#DESERTSTORM30: VETERANS USING VA



Working with the Veteran Community

- CVSOs and LINC
- Veteran councils, collaboratives, and coalitions
- VSOs
- Stay connected

veterans
connect@
the library



Five minutes can open a door.

CVSO = County Veteran Service Officer

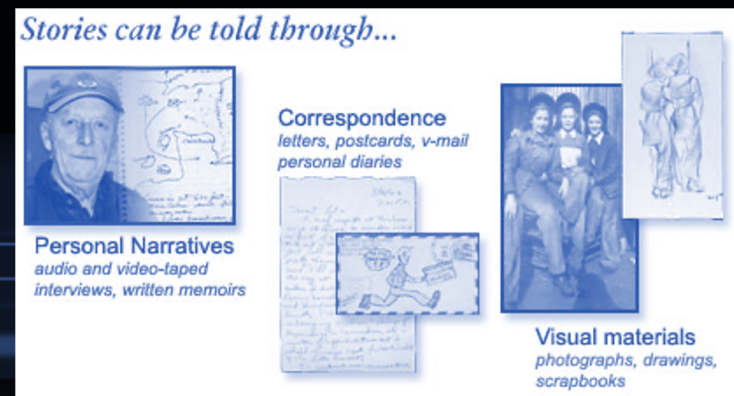
VSO = Veteran Service Organization

LINC = Local Interagency Network Coordinator

Creating Community Connections

- Host programs that enable connectivity
- Create opportunities for social learning
- Provide space at the library
- “Make the Connection” and Oral History Projects

Five minutes can open a door...

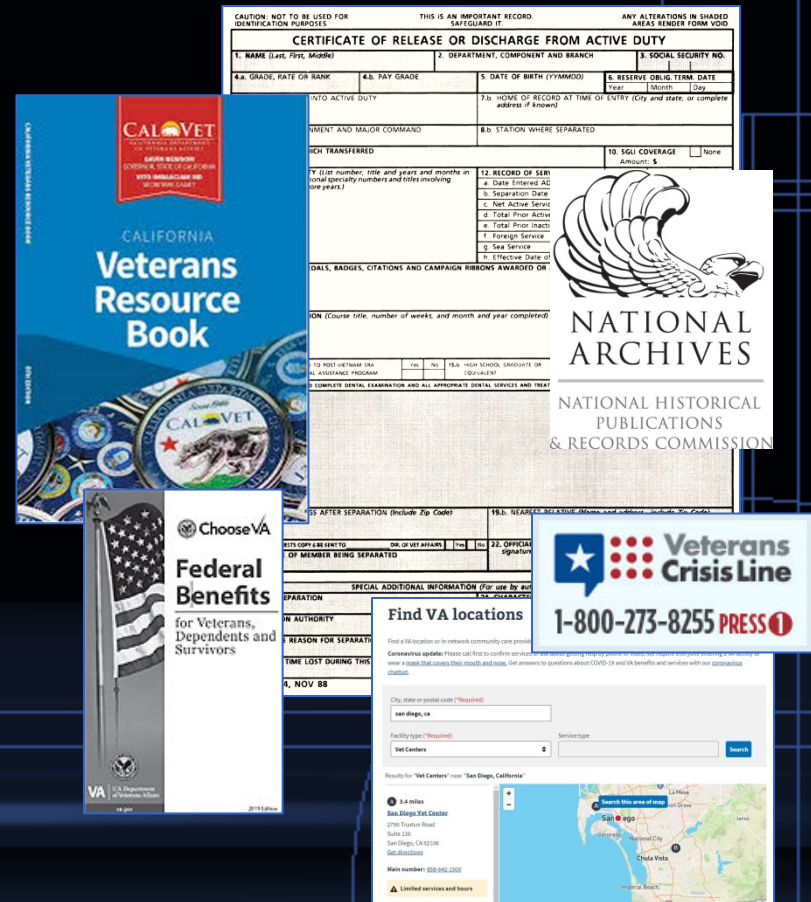


From <http://www.loc.gov/vets/about.html>

Tools at the Reference Desk

- Communicate with CVSO
- National Archives: DD214
- Reference materials
 - CalVet Handbook
 - VA Handbook
 - Directions to V.A. facilities
 - Binders and continuity

(We'll cover VetNow momentarily!)



Final Thoughts from a Veteran

- Stolen valor
You can vet a presenter but don't vet the vet
- Red poppies and flags
Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day
- "Can I pull up a chair?"
...Veterans who want to talk will want to talk to other veterans

VetNow at the Library

- VetNow Resources:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t4rr7gi5puy9avj/AAC_ufTQF_HDQ5M_YahYXLjha?dl=0&preview=Brainfuse+User+Guide+-+JobNow+%26+VetNow.pdf

- Website Placement:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t4rr7gi5puy9avj/AAC_ufTQF_HDQ5M_YahYXLjha?dl=0&preview=Link+Placements+and+Marketing+JobNow+VetNow+California.pptx

- Promote, promote, promote

- Social Media messages and Icons

- Video Clip:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t4rr7gi5puy9avj/AADhij587-0rntq7v3LiVoDBa/VetNow%20Commercial?dl=0&subfolder=nav_tracking=1L_36_seconds

- Bookmarks flyers in Grab and Go Kits

- People:

- County Veteran Service Office
- Local veteran coalition/collaborative

- California Veterans Interest Listserv

Links shown on
this slide are
available in
handout

Thank You for Serving Those Who Served!

- Veterans Connect @ the Library
- Veterans Caucus at ALA
- VetNow

