Veterans and Public Libraries
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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

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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
Working with the Veteran Community

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

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:

• 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/AADhjy587-0rntq7v3LiVoDBa/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