

Transportation Committee

List of Public Comments

Received before 5pm on Wednesday, November 4, 2020

|    | Date             | Sender Name     | Organization  | Agenda Item (AI #) | Notes  | Subject Line  |
|----|------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------|--|---|
| 1. | November 2, 2020 | Craig A. Durfey | Parents for the Rights of Developmentally Disabled Children | N/A                | Research about contributing factors to homelessness and connection between mental health and green space | TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE NOV,04 2020 FW: PUBLIC COMMENT HOMELESS COMMISSION TO END HOMELESS |

**From:** cadurfey@gmail.com <cadurfey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2020 3:20 PM  
**To:** TC Public Comment Group <TCpubliccomment@scag.ca.gov>; '.Craig Durfey' <cadurfey@gmail.com>; Kevin J. Gilhooley <Gilhooley@scag.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Murray, Bill <wem@ci.garden-grove.ca.us>  
**Subject:** TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE NOV,04 2020 FW: PUBLIC COMMENT HOMELESS COMMISSION TO END HOMELESS

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE NOV,04 2020  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

11-02-2020  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
900 WILLSHIRE BLVD,SRE 1700  
LOS ANGELES CA 90017

**From:** [cadurfey@gmail.com](mailto:cadurfey@gmail.com) <[cadurfey@gmail.com](mailto:cadurfey@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 12:39 AM  
**To:** 'Craig Durfey' <[cadurfey@gmail.com](mailto:cadurfey@gmail.com)>; [nickdibs1@gmail.com](mailto:nickdibs1@gmail.com); [Joyce.Rivero@ocgov.com](mailto:Joyce.Rivero@ocgov.com); [Jack.Du@ocgov.com](mailto:Jack.Du@ocgov.com); [Christopher.Aguilera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Christopher.Aguilera@asm.ca.gov); [georgeb@ggcity.org](mailto:georgeb@ggcity.org); 'Pam Haddad' <[pamha@ci.garden-grove.ca.us](mailto:pamha@ci.garden-grove.ca.us)>; [Valerie.Sanchez@ocgov.com](mailto:Valerie.Sanchez@ocgov.com)  
**Cc:** [norma.kurtz@asm.ca.gov](mailto:norma.kurtz@asm.ca.gov); [georgeb@ggcity.org](mailto:georgeb@ggcity.org); [ggraths@gmail.com](mailto:ggraths@gmail.com); [LISA.TRAN@sen.ca.gov](mailto:LISA.TRAN@sen.ca.gov); [Lisa.Bartlett@ocgov.com](mailto:Lisa.Bartlett@ocgov.com); 'Richard' <[Richard.Santana@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Santana@sen.ca.gov)>; [LISA.TRAN@sen.ca.gov](mailto:LISA.TRAN@sen.ca.gov); [JONATHAN.DAVIS@sen.ca.gov](mailto:JONATHAN.DAVIS@sen.ca.gov); [response@ocgov.com](mailto:response@ocgov.com); 'Carlos' <[Carlos.Condarco@mail.house.gov](mailto:Carlos.Condarco@mail.house.gov)>; 'Clayton' <[Clayton.Heard@mail.house.gov](mailto:Clayton.Heard@mail.house.gov)>; 'Lala' <[LALA.TRUONG@mail.house.gov](mailto:LALA.TRUONG@mail.house.gov)>; 'Julie Diep' <[juliediep2020@gmail.com](mailto:juliediep2020@gmail.com)>; '>' <[Jeff.Gallagher@ocpd44@gmail.com](mailto:Jeff.Gallagher@ocpd44@gmail.com)>; [norma.kurtz@asm.ca.gov](mailto:norma.kurtz@asm.ca.gov); [cabor1147@gmail.com](mailto:cabor1147@gmail.com); [padillacm@protonmail.com](mailto:padillacm@protonmail.com); [lynn9166@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lynn9166@sbcglobal.net); [donreidgg@gmail.com](mailto:donreidgg@gmail.com); [scottpenin@gmail.com](mailto:scottpenin@gmail.com); [mcclishrobert@gmail.com](mailto:mcclishrobert@gmail.com); [ggraths@gmail.com](mailto:ggraths@gmail.com); [mcclishrobert@gmail.com](mailto:mcclishrobert@gmail.com); 'Stephanie' <[Stephanie.Hu@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Hu@sen.ca.gov)>; [phatb@garden-grove.org](mailto:phatb@garden-grove.org); [georgeb@ggcity.org](mailto:georgeb@ggcity.org)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT HOMELESS COMMISSION TO END HOMELESS Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:00 A.M.

10-18-2020

(P.R.D.D.C.)  
PARENTS FOR THE RIGHTS OF DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN  
CRAIG A. DURFEY FOUNDER OF P.R.D.D.C.  
P.O.BOX 937 GARDEN GROVE, CA 92842  
CELL 714-321-8238  
[CADURFEY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CADURFEY@GMAIL.COM)

[SOCIALEMOTIONALPAWS.COM](http://SOCIALEMOTIONALPAWS.COM)

[FACEBOOK: CRAIG DURFEY](#)

U.S. HOUSE OF CONGRESS H2404 - HONORING CRAIG DURFEY FOR HIS FIGHT AGAINST AUTISM ... Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CREC-2003-03-27/pdf/CREC-2003-03-27.pdf>

new website [socialemotionalpaws.org](http://socialemotionalpaws.org)

please my email written letter under public comments.

cc. Orange County Board of Supervisors  
cc. American Legion District 29  
cc. Ca state Assembly/Senate  
cc. Calif U.S. Congress representatives

COMMISSION CHAIR ANDREW DO  
Homeless Commission to End Homeless  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Hall of Administration Building,  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.,  
10 Civic Center Plaza,  
Room 465, Santa Ana, California 92701

Dear Commissioner Chair Do

Seeking support to address the homeless veterans issues since our families has served one in Vietnam where my uncle Larry got a Purple Heart for a lost eye, my cousin served full career in the U.S. Navy retired, my father was a U.S. Marine, as for me I was on the draft list to Vietnam during the war. I As well support all homeless, the City of Garden Grove CA just recently named a new Congressional Medal of Honor Bike/Pedestrian Trail Park which P.R.D.D.C. had major role in helping to give Honor to all who have served and made truly sacrifice for our country. The letters of support came from American legion Post 555 Midway City American legion Post 716 los Alamitos , Assembly member Quick Silva call to Honor our War dogs saving lives in battle and now the American Legion Post 72 of Anaheim supports P.R.D.D.C. efforts. Since Southern in Calif State was only two memorials now there will be a new Memorial added to Congressional Medal of Honor Bike/Pedestrian Trail Park once the funds have been raised.

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/garden-grove-congressional-medal-of-honor-bike-and-pedestrian-tra>

I would like address some of my research from my website that has a contributing factors with homeless. Housing shortage in the City of Garden Grove in your District Supervisor Do City of Garden Grove Ca has five separates privately owned vacant lots and the six one the city-owned community garden it's a garden, located at 11421 Garden Grove Blvd., has about 40 plots <https://www.ocregister.com/2014/05/08/garden-grove-community-garden-offers-residents-an-oasis/>. I also request for consideration for P.R.D.D.C. contributions to the Community efforts ,State, Federal advocacy a letter of support to add to my organization as Founder of P.R.D.D.C..

I believe that OCTA Measure M 2 funds ought to be consider become a key player with having ownership of the Pacific Electric Corridor as to the mental health in developing green space from urban density increasing and Cities as such Garden Grove Calif is severely under the needed green space. OCTA PE Rail corridor much has been idle from the portion between the cities of Santa Ana and Stanton was purchased in 1982 for \$15 million using state and local funds.

The remaining portion was purchased in 1992 for \$13.1 million of Measure M transit funds. In recognition that the Corridor is some of the last underutilized land in a substantially built-out area of Orange County, the Board of Directors (Board) established "ROW protection" principles in 1996. Yet during that period of time OCTA survived resident as to what they wanted the outcome was more bike/walking back then. Now some 18.10 years in the making to occur from its purchase the guiding principles from then to now much has traumatically change and with new Calif State laws housing from SCAG want more density this a huge impact the lack of green space has an effect with mental wellness along the communities that OCTA owns as well los Angeles Transit. Recent CA State report local Cities have impacted from COVID-19 19 financially with transportation from hear on.

Just recently in the City of Garden Grove has develop 3700 feet of bike/pedestrian trail park with a 100 feet wide is empty of much needed funds to construct a complete park and as well as to ongoing maintenance cost per year per mile, just the 363 tree five year cost \$90,000 not including water bill, weekly up keep. I made suggestion to

Sacramento Assembly and Senate to create a trust which can provide a partnership with local Cities to provide needed park maintenance, Active Transportation, with increase funding for road maintenance from heavy trash trucks as well deferred road repair that effect the active transportation safety thus improves the opportunity to encourages safe route to school as well as more exercise which both have been proven to improve mental health.

Below I have utilized your outline tables of number descriptions to reference by numbers to provide how my research has found many suggested news reports, Ca State Resolution SCR 73 blue light impact health, to Federal funds to States in supporting LWCF, with AB 209 Parks outdoor environment grants. Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine has shown that overall symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder are lower among war veterans with service dogs. Then U.S. Congress about 10 legislation bills for veterans pass the House. To community youth Civic engagement from high schools' opportunities to help support active duty service by writing such as the City of LA Habra Resolution for adopting a platoon and large banners as well as Mike Rowe show from Facebook called return a Favor where there are approximately ten aired show about veterans helping each other to individuals helping veterans. Please consider the concepts can applied to the Homeless Commission much work needs to be done with technology safety with screen time in order to improve mental health see my website socialemotionalpaws.org. A request to the Orange County Chiefs Association to fully adopt AB 902 2015 bike fine into a diversion education than a fine for all due the cost of a ticket this was supported by the State Chiefs Association. How military war dogs play big part helping return veterans such as the movie true story Megan please review the YouTube story that we need to expand this program with added funding for food, shelter, vet bills in adding prevent from PTSD ,Suicides and even first responders now through workers comp been diagnosed with PTSD.

OUTLINE TABLE

1. Homeless Prevention (sub-categories will be listed) 2. Housing (sub-categories will be listed) 3. Shelter (sub-categories will be listed) 4. Outreach 5. Veterans Services 6. Employment 7. Benefits 8. Legal Services 9. Transportation 10. Mental Health 11. Substance Use 12. Physical Health (includes Vision and Dental) 13. Basic Needs (Food, Clothing) 14. Information and Referral 15. Domestic Violence 16. Education 17. Crisis and Emergency Services 18. Spiritual Support 19. Re-Entry/Criminal Justice 20. Other:
- 2.

## 12. Physical Health (includes Vision

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 9, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Senator Richard Pan and the California legislature are to be commended for having passed the California State Resolution SCR-73 in providing awareness around the importance of encouraging citizens, particularly children, to consider taking proactive safety measures in reducing eye exposure to high-energy visible blue light. Ophthalmologists, optometrists, and medical researchers continue to learn more about the dangers associated with blue-light exposure. The scientific community has produced a large and growing body of research, which identifies numerous known and emerging potential long-term concerns for all age groups with cumulative blue light exposure due to digital screen usage.

"Given California children and California workers are now required to spend even greater amounts of time in front of their electronic devices as a result of distance learning and remote working, it is more important than ever to take proactive safety measures in reducing exposure to high-energy visible blue light," said Justin Barrett, CEO of Eyesafe.

In commemorating this anniversary, Invisible Shield, a ZAGG Brands (NASDAQ:ZAGG) company, will donate Vision Guard® blue light screen protectors with Eye safe technology to Improve Your Tomorrow and The Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center.

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/eyesafe-is-pleased-to-recognize-the-second-anniversary-of-scr-73>

## 12. Physical Health (includes Vision

The Blue Light Summit 2020 brings together world leaders from consumer electronics and health care, and is open for registrants including employers, health care providers, media and the public. Featuring Dell, HP, Lenovo, Acer and ZAGG Brands (among other global technology leaders), the virtual event will include new product and solution introductions and discussions by health care professionals about the connection between screen time, blue

light exposure and overall health — an issue of growing importance with the widespread shift to remote learning and working amid COVID-19.

Presented by UnitedHealthcare Vision, TÜV Rheinland Group and Eyesafe, the Blue Light Summit 2020 will include an eye doctor roundtable discussion on the health impacts of blue light exposure and multiple newsworthy announcements relating to advances and new product solutions spanning electronics, health care and vision insurance. In addition to leading device manufacturers and health care experts, the event will include presentations by Gene Munster, Managing Partner at [Loup Ventures](#) and Frank Azor, Chief Architect of Gaming Solutions at [AMD](#).

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/dell-hp-lenovo-and-acer-to-announce-new-eyesafe-products>

## 12. Physical Health (includes Vision)

### HOW DOES BLUE LIGHT IMPACT THE EYES?

Anterior structures of the adult human eye (the cornea and lens) are very effective at blocking UV rays from reaching the light-sensitive retina at the back of the eyeball. But HEV blue light is different, with much of it passing through the cornea and lens and reaching the retina at the back of the eye. Studies suggest that, over time, cumulative exposure to the HEV blue light could cause specific long-term damage to your eyes:

Potential damage to retina cells, particularly in children and teens, Long-term vision problems such as increased incidences of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), Suppressed production of the natural release of melatonin, which can lead to disrupted sleep cycles, Digital eye strain, which is commonly exhibited by dry eyes, headache and blurred vision

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/what-is-blue-light-how-does-blue-light-impact-the-eyes> <https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/what-is-blue-light-how-does-blue-light-impact-the-eyes>

2. Housing (sub-categories will be listed) 3. Shelter (sub-categories will be listed) 4. Outreach 5. Veterans Services 6. Employment 7. Benefits 8. Legal Services 9. Ect,

*Rep. Levin spoke on the House floor about the DELIVER Act.*

Washington, D.C. – Today, the House of Representatives passed the *Dependable Employment and Living Improvements for Veterans' Economic Recovery (DELIVER) Act*, legislation led by Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA) that includes six bipartisan bills he introduced to strengthen and expand services for homeless and unemployed veterans. The legislation will allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide more services for homeless veterans, improve and expand eligibility for the HUD-VA Supportive Housing program, create a rapid retraining program for unemployed veterans,

improve the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for servicemembers returning to civilian life, and more. A section-by-section summary of the bill is available [here](#).

"Now more than ever, veterans are struggling to find jobs and secure housing, and we must do more to help them get back on their feet," said Rep. Levin, Chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. "I have seen veterans and their families in my district lining up for food, heard from veterans who couldn't access desperately-needed housing resources, and met with former servicemembers who struggled to start new careers despite services that should've been there for them. No veteran should go hungry, homeless, or jobless. I am proud to lead the DELIVER Act so that we can do right by our veterans and provide the housing and employment opportunities they deserve. I've had positive conversations with my colleagues in the Senate and I am hopeful that this legislation will receive a vote and arrive on the President's desk this year."

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/support-veteran-housing-and-employment-house-passes-major-legisla>

#### 4. Outreach

SACRAMENTO — The State Board of Education on Wednesday approved criteria for California students to earn a new Seal of Civic Engagement, an incentive aimed at encouraging active and ongoing citizenship.

To earn the seal, students must demonstrate excellence in civic learning, participation in civics-related projects, contributions to their community, and an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the American democratic system.

Students may earn the seal on a transcript, diploma, or Certificate of Completion. California history and social science teachers worked in partnership with the California Department of Education to develop the initial requirements.

"The future of our democracy depends on a knowledgeable and actively engaged citizenry," said State Board President Linda Darling-Hammond.

"With this new seal, we hope to prepare all students with an empathetic concern for others, a deep understanding of democracy, and the civic engagement skills needed to contribute to the welfare of their local communities, the state, and the country."

"We know that when young people activate their voices, they can be among the strongest change agents in our communities," said State Superintendent



of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. "Education is the cornerstone of realizing our democratic ideals, and this new seal puts additional tools in students' hands as they work to shape the future." <https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/california-board-of-education-approves-civic-engagement-award>

#### Other:

REQUEST U.S. CONGRESS REPRESENTIVES TO ADDRESS FOR THE ADDITIONAL NEED TO HONOR WAR DOGS BY REINTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF OUR HISTORY OF WAR DOGS SACRIFICES THEY MADE TO PROTECT THIER PARTNERS.. In 2007, U.S.

Representative Walter B. Jones sponsored congressional legislation within H.R. 4986 National Defense Authorizations Act for FY 2008, Section 2877 of Pub.L. 110-181 authorizing the JBMF the exclusive rights to design, fund, build, and maintain the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument. The bill was signed into public law by the President George W. Bush on January 28, 2008.

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/2007-within-hr-4986-national-defense-authorizations-act-war-dog>

#### 10. Mental Health

"The capability they bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine. By all measures of performance, their yield outperforms any asset we have in our inventory." -General David Petraeus Jun 07, 2017  
· Megan Leavey shares her story and talks about being portrayed in a new movie.

Real-life Marine fought the military to keep her hero dog  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caWofZhFLNI&t=50s>

Marine Megan Leavey And Her Beloved Dog Honored  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsmBDOgjlgs>

2012/05/13 Cpl. Leavey and Sgt. Rex honored  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzYv\\_asHYmY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzYv_asHYmY)

Bull Terrier), served as a mascot of the 11th

Pennsylvania Infantry during the American Civil War.

Every military working dog is a noncommissioned officer – in tradition at least. Some say the ...

Until November 2000, military working dogs were euthanized or abandoned after retirement. ...

Some even fight alongside elite Special Operations units. Specially-trained military working dogs ...

Some dogs even jump from planes and rappel from helicopters. These extremely resilient, super ...Real-life Megan Leavey talks about the Marines and Sgt. Rex

<https://www.lohud.com/story/entertainment/movies/...Jun> 02, 2017 · Real-life Megan Leavey talks about the Marines and Sgt. Rex. Valley Cottage native Megan Leavey's story has been made into a movie starring Kate Mara.

Real Life Megan Leavey Shares Stories of Dog Rex and Megan ...

<https://people.com/pets/the-real-life-hero-behind-megan-leavey-opens-up-about-how-her...The> Real Life Hero Behind Megan Leavey Opens Up About How Her Canine ... up to and who his new handler was. ... to when they see the film version of her story. Megan Leavey premieres in theaters ...

Author: Kelli Bender

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/1097173/military-working-dog-human-handler-bond-in>

## 10. Mental Health

### **President Trump Signs the Great American Outdoors Act, Preserving and Protecting our National Parks**

Fulfilling President Trump's promise to restore, conserve, and protect America's lands, the **Great American Outdoors Act provides the necessary funds, dedicating up to \$1.9 billion per year for five years** to fund deferred maintenance projects identified by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Education. These infrastructure updates will preserve our most important national treasures and give more American families opportunities to explore the great outdoors.

In addition to improving infrastructure at our national parks, the Great American Outdoors Act also provides permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF supports recreational access, protection, and preservation of our Nation's most valuable natural and cultural resources. **Supporting over 98 percent of counties across the country, the LWCF grants enable State and local governments to develop and improve parks in their communities, as well as permanently conserve outdoor recreation areas for public use and enjoyment.**

This legislation signed today is not just about outdoor recreation. In signing the Great American Outdoors Act, President Trump is protecting and enhancing the economies of numerous gateway communities that surround our national parks and wildlife reserves. By bringing more visitors to our parks, the Great American Outdoors Act will stimulate local businesses across the country. Again, President Trump is proving that a strong economy and a healthy environment go hand-in-hand.

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/president-trump-signs-the-great-american-outdoors-act-preserving>

VIDEO AT THE WHITE HOUSE EVENT

SIGNING <https://www.facebook.com/foxsanantonio/videos/4473446376030796>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land\\_and\\_Water\\_Conservation\\_Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_and_Water_Conservation_Fund)

<https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/502756-during-a-time-of-uncertainty-great-american-outdoors>

Parks and green space are precious, but should councils have to pay for them?

## 10. Mental Health

More adults want councils to protect spending on green spaces, including parks and playgrounds, than spending on libraries, youth clubs and helping people find work. Nine out of 10 adults in the Ipsos Mori poll commissioned by environmental charity Groundwork said green spaces are an important factor in making somewhere a good place to live or work.

The results come as councils face unprecedented budget cuts, and the future of non-statutory services are at huge risk. But a range of environmental bodies will argue in Manchester on Wednesday that failure to maintain investment in green space is a false economy.

Take building safe communities. Green spaces near our homes give us valuable places to get to know our neighbours, and build the social glue that reduces crime, says a report on the benefits of green space. "High-quality, well-maintained parks and green spaces make a significant contribution to the establishment and retention of stable and law-abiding communities," it says. It also states that if everyone had easy access to green spaces, obesity costs to the NHS could be reduced by up to £2bn, and that the calming effect of green spaces has been shown to reduce hospital admissions for mental illness in deprived urban areas in the US.

Get Society Weekly: our newsletter for public service professionals

Read more

Far-fetched claims? Not if we remember the origins of public parks. The first official acknowledgment of the need for my local park in east London came in the 1839 annual report of the registrar general of births, deaths and marriages. Recording a mortality rate far higher than the rest of London, brought about by overcrowding, insanitary conditions and polluted air, he

wrote: "A park in the East End of London would probably diminish the annual deaths by several thousand ... and add several years to the lives of the entire population."

This was followed by a petition to Queen Victoria urging the formation "within the Tower Hamlets, of a Royal Park". The Act of Parliament passed in 1841 made Victoria Park the first in the world specifically intended to meet the needs of the surrounding communities.

Today in the UK we don't need parks to prevent diseases spreading, but they still provide a range of vital benefits. So how can we pay for them? The majority of those polled want councils to pay for their upkeep. But 40% said money from sponsorship by local companies should foot the bill. In Manchester, MPs worked closely with major industrialists to bring parks to cities. Is that the way forward 150 years on?

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2012/oct/30/parks-green-space-councils-pay>

## 10. Mental Health

### Parks and Improved Mental Health and Quality of Life

More time spent in parks and green spaces can help individuals fight against mental health issues like depression, anxiety and stress. Making sure that all people have access to parks and outdoor programming is a critical way to increase these positive effects on health and quality of life for your community.

#### The Facts

- People living more than 1 kilometer away from a green space have nearly 50 percent higher odds of experiencing stress than those living less than 300 meters from a green space. Respondents who do not report stress have more than 50 percent higher odds of visiting a green space at least a few days a week than those reporting stress. Results also showed that the more often respondents visited green spaces, the less stress they experienced.

- Several studies have confirmed that separation from nature is detrimental to human development, health and wellbeing, and that regular contact with nature is required for good mental health.
- Scientists in the Netherlands found that people who lived in residential areas with the least green spaces had a 44 percent higher rate of physician-diagnosed anxiety disorders than people who lived in the greenest residential areas. The effect was strongest among those most likely to spend their time near home, including children and those with low levels of education and income.
- Physician-diagnosed depression was 33 percent higher in the residential areas with the fewest green spaces, compared to the neighborhoods with the most.
- People who lived in close proximity to natural space had significantly improved mental health up to three years after their move. Compared to pre-move mental health scores, individuals who moved to greener areas had significantly better mental health recorded three years after the move.
- Individuals reported less mental distress and higher life satisfaction when they were living in greener areas.
- A strong body of evidence suggests that physical activity in green spaces has stronger mental health benefits than physical activity in non-green spaces.
- Use of green spaces is associated with decreased health complaints, improved blood pressure and cholesterol levels, reduced stress, improved general health perceptions and a greater ability to face problems <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/three-pillars/health-wellness/parksandhealth/fact-sheets/parks-improved-mental-health-quality-life/>

One overlooked way we can significantly improve our mental health: more nature

You might grumble skeptically at the notion that parks and plants make a real difference in our happiness, but the research is convincing. A [pile](#) of studies on the subject consistently points to a strong connection between green space and mental health. In general, scientists believe that experiences in "green space" can boost mental health by improving the immune system, encouraging physical activity and social interaction, limiting air pollution and noise that interferes with thinking, and restoring a frenzied mind to a state of calm. Take a [study](#) published Monday in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The researchers used data from Danish health registries for more than 940,000 children born between 1985 and 2003, and analyzed their mental health outcomes in tandem with the green space surrounding their homes. They found that the relative risk for developing a psychiatric disorder in adolescence or adulthood was significantly higher — from 15 to 55 percent — for those surrounded by the least green space.

Even when the researchers controlled for parents' age and socioeconomic status, family history of mental health, urbanization, and municipal socioeconomic factors (think average income, education, and unemployment where the child lived), green space continued to have a protective benefit on mental health. The strongest association between exposure to green space and increased risk of developing a psychiatric disorder showed up for those who had lived in downtown Copenhagen while the weakest was demonstrated in rural Denmark.

There are questions the study can't answer, including whether people with a higher genetic risk for mental illness would be more inclined to choose denser urban areas, or whether unmeasured socioeconomic factors like higher crime rates and lower-quality green space could play a role in mental health outcomes. But this research begs us to consider anew how exposure to nature in an urban environment could enhance or hurt our mental health — and what we plan to do about that.

Kathleen Wolf, a research social scientist at the School of Environmental & Forest Sciences at the University of Washington who was not involved in the *PNAS* research, believes that this study and others like it prove that we need to take green space seriously in cities as a means for improving people's every day quality of life and well-being.

"Can we, by way of urban greening and other interventions, alleviate the pain and suffering before it happens?"

Some might see trees and gardens as "nice, frilly things" to have around us, says Wolf. But she sees encounters with green space and nature as opportunities to prevent or diminish mental illness.

"Can we, by way of urban greening and other interventions, alleviate the pain and suffering before it happens?" says Wolf.

It's a bold vision that may sound like it mistakes green space as a panacea for all that ails us, but Wolf is more realistic than that. She knows that greening alone won't prevent every mental health condition, but she's also confident that designing and creating public places, workplaces, schools, and parks around green space could significantly improve people's quality of life and emotional well-being. Scientific research, she says, suggests that experiencing natural environments in urban settings help people recover from the constant low-grade stress of city life.

## 10. Mental Health

### **'Blue' space: Access to water features can boost city dwellers' mental health**

Officials are increasingly recognizing that integrating nature into cities is an effective public health strategy to improve mental health. Doctors around the world now administer "green prescriptions" - where patients are encouraged to spend time in local nature spaces - based on hundreds of studies showing that time in nature can benefit people's psychological well-being and increase social engagement.

Much of this research to date has focused on the role of green space in improving mental health. But what about "blue" space - water settings such as riverside trails, a lake, a waterfront or even urban fountains?

You probably intuitively know that being close to water can induce feelings of calm. And many poets and artists have attested to the sense of awe and magic that water can evoke. But can it deliver the same wide-ranging benefits that urban green infrastructure brings to mental health? A few studies have shown that water bodies score just as well - if not better - in supporting psychological well-being as compared with "green" nature.

So far the evidence is sparse, though, and mostly limited to coastal settings in Europe. What if you're in one of the 49 countries in the world, or 27 American states, that are landlocked with no ocean shore? For natural



capital to deliver health benefits to people, it needs to be right next to them, integrated into the everyday fabric of their world.

A recent research review identified only 33 studies where blue care interventions, such as a beach activity, swimming, sailing, fishing or canoeing, were used to treat individuals with specific mental health problems – including PTSD, addiction and depression – and people with physical disabilities. Overall, these studies found that blue care interventions delivered direct benefits for health, especially mental health and social well-being.

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/%E2%80%98blue%E2%80%99-space-access-to-water-features-can-boost-city-dwellers%E2%80%99>

## 10. Mental Health

Real-life Marine fought the military to keep her hero dog

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caWofZhFLNI&t=50s>

## 10. Mental Health

### Green Space is Good for Mental Health

In a sweeping nationwide study, researchers from Denmark's University of Aarhus found that childhood exposure to green space—parks, forests, rural lands, etc.—reduces the risk for developing an array of psychiatric disorders during adolescence and adulthood. The study could have far-reaching implications for healthy city design, making green space-focused urban planning an early intervention tool for reducing mental health problems.

Using data from the Landsat satellite archive and the Danish Civil Registration System, researchers tracked the residential green space around nearly a million Danes and correlated that with their mental health outcomes. The scientists found that citizens who grew up with the least green space nearby had as much as a 55 percent increased risk of

developing psychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse in later years.

The research was published in the *[Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#)*. It is the largest epidemiological study to document a positive connection between green space and mental health.

The impact of green space throughout childhood is significant. Exposure to green space is comparable to family history and parental age when predicting mental health outcomes. Only socioeconomic status was a slightly stronger indicator.

Researchers are still working out exactly why green space is so beneficial, but it clearly provides health benefits across the population. It can encourage exercise, provide spaces for socializing, decrease noise and air pollution, and improve immune function by providing exposure to beneficial microbiota. It also can help with psychological restoration; that is, green space provides a respite for over-stimulated minds.

Green space most strongly protects against mood disorders, depression, neurotic behavior, and stress-related issues, the study found, signaling that psychological restoration may be the strongest protective mechanism that green space offers. The effect of green space is also dose-dependent, meaning those who have longer exposures to green space have greater mental health benefits.

#### 4. Outreach

Sharing from Facebook Mike Rowe show called return a favor these segments can be inspiring to all let's consider how this can spread in Orange County CA. California students to earn a new Seal of Civic Engagement, an incentive aimed at encouraging active and ongoing citizenship. Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community, and/or society, below are examples how it's possible to improve veterans hope such as these Return A Favor segments and through school districts could help expand the act of one million kindness. President Trump Signs the Great American Outdoors Act, Preserving and Protecting our National Parks Fulfilling President Trump's promise to restore, conserve, and protect America's lands, the Great American Outdoors Act provides the necessary funds, dedicating up to \$1.9 billion per year for five years to fund deferred maintenance projects

identified by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Education. These infrastructure updates will preserve our most important national treasures and give more American families opportunities to explore the great outdoors. In addition to improving infrastructure at our national parks, the Great American Outdoors Act also provides permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF supports recreational access, protection, and preservation of our Nation's most valuable natural and cultural resources. Supporting over 98 percent of counties across the country, the LWCF grants enable State and local governments to develop and improve parks in their communities, as well as permanently conserve outdoor recreation areas for public use and enjoyment. <https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/president-trump-signs-the-great-american-outdoors-act-preserving>

More time spent in parks and green spaces can help individuals fight against mental health issues like depression, anxiety and stress. Making sure that all people have access to parks and outdoor programming is a critical way to increase these positive effects on health and quality of life for your community

<https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/9c491783f73a45f89abb0443b1a3e977/parks-improved-mental-health-quality-life.pdf>

#### 4. Outreach

The Weights Veterans Carry

FACEBOOK SHOW MIKE ROWE CALLED RETURN A FAVOR

This week the team is in Texas to meet Justin "Boflex" Bohannon, an Army Veteran who is lifting up Veterans with PTSD through fitness.

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/315146612448877>

## Mike Rowe Returning the Favor Saving our Veterans

!!

177,144 members Welcome to The Returning the Favor Effect, the official Facebook Group for Returning the Favor, a Facebook Watch show by Mike Rowe. Here, members are encouraged to highlight do-

gooders in their own communities, inspire one another and discuss how everyday people can make an impact.

[Returning The Favor - Mike Rowe](#)

<https://mikerowe.com/tag/returning-the-favor>

mikerowe.com, Michael Gregory Rowe is an American television host and narrator, actor and former opera singer best known for his work on the Discovery Channel series Dirty Jobs, Deadliest Catch, After the Catch, Somebody's Gotta Do It - Mike Rowe introduces us to people who perform unique jobs in his CNN Original Series, Somebody's Gotta Do It

Saving our Veterans

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/55885282791876>

[1](#)

SOLDIER DOGS

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/20459859556726>

[64](#)

GREAT WAY TO HELP CHILDREN AND DOGS MIKE ROWE

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/22246341011646>

[89](#)

A Hero's Retreat

<https://www.facebook.com/1938059449798649/videos/1955900624681>

[198](#)

Paula & Serving Those Who Have Served | Returning the Favor

"Veterans need more than hot dogs and handshakes... To serve our country is the most beautiful thing in the world."

Here's to not needing to wait to celebrate our hardworking veterans!

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/7170314888642>

[71](#)

One Soldier's Inspiration to Serve

The Returning the Favor Effect Page comes to life when Mike and the team find themselves in the Heart of Dixie to meet MSgt. Rob

Dinsmore - a 30-year retired Air Force Veteran who was inspired to help local Alabama vets suffering from PTSD after watching the

premiere episode of Returning the Favor: Operation Combat Bikesaver. <https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/2397634806984462>

### Saluting Our Veterans

[Mike Rowe](#) and team return a special Memorial Day favor to veteran Darren Atkins who h... See More

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/690951921470587>

### Operation Combat Bikesaver

Mike Rowe visits a garage in Indiana to surprise Jason, a former Army engineer who runs a therapeutic bike building program for veterans.

<https://www.facebook.com/1938059449798649/videos/1942086476062613>

### The Weights Veterans Carry

This week the team is in Texas to meet Justin "Boflex" Bohannon, an Army Veteran who is lifting up Veterans with PTSD through fitness.

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/315146612448877>

### Veterans Helping Veterans

This week the RTF crew heads to Conesus, New York to meet up with Justin Cogswell; the founder of Operation Build Up: a Veteran run non-profit that assists local Veterans in need of transportation by giving them refurbished vehicles.

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/2130392330565359>

### Paula & Serving Those Who Have Served | Returning the Favor

"Veterans need more than hot dogs and handshakes... To serve our country is the most beautiful thing in the world."

Here's to not needing to wait to celebrate our hardworking veterans!

<https://www.facebook.com/1938059449798649/videos/717031488864271>

### Serving Those Who've Served

With the 4th of July in their rearview, Mike and the crew make a patriotic delivery to Paula Miritello, founder of My Brother Vinny: an organization that distributes furniture, housewares and clothing to formerly homeless veterans in Westchester County, New York.

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/2661763913465>  
66

Saluting Our Veterans

Mike Rowe and team return a special Memorial Day favor to veteran Darren Atkins who has been providing care packages to the vets in his community of Whitesburg, KY.

<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/6909519214705>  
87

#### 4. Outreach

SACRAMENTO — The State Board of Education on Wednesday approved criteria for California students to earn a new Seal of Civic Engagement, an incentive aimed at encouraging active and ongoing citizenship.

To earn the seal, students must demonstrate excellence in civic learning, participation in civics-related projects, contributions to their community, and an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the American democratic system.

Students may earn the seal on a transcript, diploma, or Certificate of Completion. California history and social science teachers worked in partnership with the California Department of Education to develop the initial requirements.

“The future of our democracy depends on a knowledgeable and actively engaged citizenry,” said State Board President Linda Darling-Hammond. “With this new seal, we hope to prepare all students with an empathetic concern for others, a deep understanding of democracy, and the civic engagement skills needed to contribute to the welfare of their local communities, the state, and the country.”

“We know that when young people activate their voices, they can be among the strongest change agents in our communities,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. “Education is the

cornerstone of realizing our democratic ideals, and this new seal puts additional tools in students' hands as they work to shape the future." Since then-Governor Brown signed AB 24 into law in October 2017, the CDE has worked with teachers, a variety of stakeholder groups, and the public to draft criteria and guidance for the seal.

Under the direction of the State Board, the department worked to ensure that the criteria approved today are accessible to all students, support rigorous and continuous civic engagement, promote diversity and inclusion, engage young students, reflect an interdisciplinary approach, and recognize civil disobedience as a form of civic engagement.

The criteria are:

- \* Be engaged in academic work in a productive way;
- \* Demonstrate a competent understanding of U.S. and California constitutions; functions and governance of local governments; tribal government structures and organizations; the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy; and democratic principles, concepts, and processes;
- \* Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts;
- \* Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection; and
- \* Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community, and/or society.

The criteria include extensive guidance to support local educational agencies as they implement the seal in their communities.

The CDE also created a [Resources to Support Civic Engagement](https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/california-board-of-education-approves-civic-engagement-award) <https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/california-board-of-education-approves-civic-engagement-award>

## 10. Mental Health

"Congressional Medal of Honor Bike and Pedestrian Trail" in honor of Garden Grove's Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

Effective immediately through Tuesday, December 1, 2020, the Garden Grove Congressional Medal of Honor Bike and Pedestrian Trail, from Stanford Avenue to Brookhurst Street, will undergo improvements causing temporary closures. Closures will take place in four phases: At the June 9, 2020 Garden Grove City Council meeting, the Garden Grove City Council approved the official naming of the trail as the "Congressional Medal of Honor Bike and Pedestrian Trail" in honor of Garden Grove's Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

The trail will fully reopen after the last segment is complete, on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, with an official unveiling tentatively scheduled for January 2021.

[http://www.oc-breeze.com/2020/10/03/188192\\_garden-grove-to-close-bike-and-pedestrian-trail-during-improvements/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/2020/10/03/188192_garden-grove-to-close-bike-and-pedestrian-trail-during-improvements/)

## 10. Mental Health

Study shows service dogs are associated with lower PTSD symptoms among war veterans

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A preliminary study led by researchers in the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine has shown that overall symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder are lower among war veterans with service dogs. The pilot study was co-funded by the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) and Bayer Animal Health.

The study was led by Maggie O'Haire, assistant professor of human-animal interaction, with the help of K9s For Warriors, an accredited nonprofit organization that provides veterans with service dogs. The



pilot research project provides scientific evidence of mental health benefits experienced by veterans with PTSD who have service dogs. "We found that the group of veterans with service dogs had significantly lower levels of PTSD symptomology than those who did not have a service dog," O'Haire says. "They also had lower levels of depression, lower anxiety and increased social participation, meaning a willingness to leave their house and go engage with society in different activities."

The study is published in the February issue of the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.

Participants were recruited between November 2015 and February 2016 from a national sample of 304 individuals who applied and were approved to receive a trained PTSD service dog from K9s For Warriors. Of these, 141 individuals chose to participate in the preliminary trial. Approximately half of the sample of participants were on the waitlist to receive a service dog and the other half already had a service dog.

Measurements of various aspects of PTSD symptoms, quality of life, social functioning and work were analyzed and compared between the two groups. Results reveal that veterans suffering from PTSD exhibited better mental health and well-being on several measures if they had a service dog, including:

- Lower overall symptoms of post-traumatic stress.
- Lower levels of depression.
- Higher levels of life satisfaction.
- Higher overall psychological well-being.
- Lower levels of social isolation and greater ability to participate in social activities.
- Higher levels of resilience.
- Higher levels of companionship.

- Less absenteeism from work due to health among those who were employed.

<https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2018/Q1/study-shows-service-dogs-are-associated-with-lower-ptsd-symptoms-among-war-veterans-.html>

Thank You

Craig A Durfey

---

THIRD READING

---

Bill No: AB 209  
Author: Limón (D), et al.  
Amended: 8/13/19 in Senate  
Vote: 21

---

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 8-0, 7/9/19  
AYES: Stern, Jones, Allen, Caballero, Hertzberg, Hueso, Jackson, Monning  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Borgeas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/30/19  
AYES: Portantino, Bradford, Durazo, Hill, Jones, Wieckowski  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bates

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-1, 5/23/19 - See last page for vote

---

**SUBJECT:** Parks: environmental education: grant program

**SOURCE:** Author

---

**DIGEST:** This bill establishes an Outdoor Equity Grants program.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) which is responsible for administering the state park system. The DPR has also been directed under prior bond acts to administer grant programs for local and regional parks and related programs. Authorizes the DPR to provide spaces within the state park system for schools to use for environmental education.
- 2) Establishes guidelines for the DPR to use in granting funds for programs that provide outdoor environmental education experiences to low-income students on public properties.

- 3) Creates the State Urban Parks and Healthy Communities Act, and requires the Director of the DPR to develop a competitive grant program to assist state parks, certain state conservancies, urbanized and heavily-urbanized local agencies, and community-based organizations within those jurisdictions to provide outdoor educational opportunities to children.
- 4) Establishes a statewide environmental education program, to be administered by the Office of Education and Environment within the Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), in cooperation with other agencies. The program, among other things, calls for development of a unified education strategy on the environment for elementary and secondary schools, including environmental education principles.
- 5) Establishes the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network as a program of the California Department of Education, to support environmental literacy by providing teachers with access to high quality education resources, and regional coordinators to provide professional development.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the Director of the DPR to establish an Outdoor Equity Grants program.
- 2) Improves the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental education experiences at state parks and other public lands where these activities take place. This bill prioritizes curriculum that includes one or more attributes, among others:
  - a) Aligns with the education content standards including Next Generation Science standards and California History-Social Science standards.
  - b) Integrates instruction in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.
  - c) Fosters stewardship of the environment.
- 3) Requires the director of the DPR to give priority for funding for outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to, and serve students, who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, and other at-risk youth.

- 4) Establishes the California Outdoor Equity Account as a depository for program funding, including from private donations. Requires the program to have deposited adequate donations or funds to administer the program and award the grants, prior to the establishment of the program.
- 5) Includes evaluation and reporting criteria on an ongoing basis.
- 6) Requires the DPR to adopt guidelines. Exempts the adoption of the guidelines from the Administrative Procedure Act but requires the DPR to develop a process for public comment and review of the guidelines that involves three public hearings in three different parts of the state prior to adoption.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, cost pressures, likely in the millions of dollars annually, to fund the grant program (General Fund, bond fund, special fund). Absorbable costs for the DPR to administer the grants.

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/30/19)

Access Fund

American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Amigos de los Rios

Audubon California

Audubon Center at Debs Park

Azul

Bear Yuba Land Trust

Brown Girl Surf

California Association of Museums

California Association of Recreation and Park Districts

California Catholic Conference

California Coastal Protection Network

California League of Conservation Voters

California Native Plant Society

California Outdoor Recreation Partnership, Inc.

California Park & Recreation Society

California ReLeaf

California Special Districts Association

California State Parks Foundation

California Watershed Network

CalWild

Climate Action Now!

Common Vision  
Community Nature Connection  
Davey  
Defenders of Wildlife  
East Bay Regional Park District  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust  
Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries  
Friends of China Camp State Park  
Friends of Joshua Tree  
Friends of the Los Angeles River  
From Lot to Spot  
Groundwork San Diego  
Just One Tree  
Keep Eureka Beautiful  
Latino Outdoors  
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust  
Mendocino Area Parks Association  
Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Monarch Ranch  
Mono Lake Committee  
Mountain Parks Foundation  
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter  
National Interscholastic Cycling Association  
North East Trees  
Our City Forest  
Outdoor Afro  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Outdoor Outreach  
Placer Land Trust  
Richmond Trees  
Roseville Urban Forest Foundation  
Santa Barbara County Trails Council  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
Save Our Shores  
Sierra Business Council  
Sierra Club California  
Sierra Foothill Conservancy  
Sierra Nevada Alliance  
Sonoma County Regional Parks

Sonoma Ecology Center  
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods  
Surfrider  
Surfrider Foundation  
Ten Strands  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Tree Foundation of Kern  
Truckee Donner Land Trust  
Trust for Public Land  
Victoria Avenue Forever  
Watershed Conservation Authority  
West Coast Arborists, Inc.  
Your Children's Trees  
One individual

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/30/19)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author, California has 280 State Parks and millions of acres of public lands that exhibit the natural beauty and history of our State, in addition to recreational and educational opportunities. Access to such outdoor experiences however, is often out of reach for communities and students in low-income or otherwise marginalized areas of the State. AB 209 ensures that all students have the opportunity to access California State Parks by increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental education programs.

A wide variety of organizations are in support of this bill. The range of these groups is noteworthy. They include conservation groups, educational groups, faith-based organizations, business organizations, nonprofits, a medical trade association, and public agencies.

As one such coalition letter stated, "Our organizations' priorities may differ, but we agree that outdoor experiences have tangible benefits and should be accessible to everyone. We also acknowledge that many Californians still face barriers to reaching the state's parks, beaches, and other outdoor areas, and that more must be done to ensure equitable outdoor access."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-1, 5/23/19

AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Bloom, Boerner  
Horvath, Bonta, Brough, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chen,  
Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Cunningham, Dahle, Daly, Diep, Eggman, Friedman,  
Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Gipson, Gloria, Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson,  
Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kamlager-Dove, Lackey, Levine, Limón,  
Low, Maienschein, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian,  
Oberholte, O'Donnell, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos,  
Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago,  
Smith, Mark Stone, Ting, Waldron, Weber, Wicks, Wood, Rendon

NOES: Melendez

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bigelow, Choi, Cooley, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Eduardo  
Garcia, Kiley, Mathis, Voepel

Prepared by: William Craven / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116  
9/1/19 10:50:15

\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*



Date of Hearing: April 20, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 902 (Bloom) – As Amended March 26, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Traffic violations: diversion programs

**SUMMARY:** Removes the age limitation on the use of locally adopted diversion programs for Vehicle Code infractions not involving a motor vehicle, allowing such programs to be offered to adults.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Prohibits a local authority from allowing a person who is alleged to have committed a traffic offense to participate in a driver awareness or education program or any other diversion program as an alternative to the procedure required to be followed under the Vehicle Code for alleged violations of the Vehicle Code.
- 2) Exempts from the above prohibition diversion programs for minors who commit infractions not involving a motor vehicle and for which no fee is charged.
- 3) Specifies the penalties for violations of the Vehicle Code or an ordinance or resolution adopted under the Vehicle Code, including the imposition of fines, fees, and forfeitures, and imprisonment.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**COMMENTS:** Under current law, local authorities can establish diversion programs for minors who are charged with moving violations not involving a motor vehicle (e.g., running a stop sign on a bicycle). These programs typically involve waiving or reducing the applicable fine and instead providing education to violators on bicycle and traffic laws, as well as best practices for safe bicycling. Many local governments and police departments have expressed interest over the years in establishing diversion programs for all bicyclists, regardless of age, only to find that current law stands in the way.

This bill would remove the limitation that these diversion programs only be used for minors. According to the author, "Ticketed cyclists should be allowed to attend a 'bicycle traffic school' class and have their fine reduced, which would turn a purely monetary penalty into a valuable educational opportunity, especially for people who would be unlikely to attend a bicycle safety class on their own volition. These programs would also enable bicycling advocates and educators to work directly with local police departments to help clear up common misconceptions about bicycle law and provide guidance on what types of violations should be targeted to have the biggest positive impact on safety."

A recent report from the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA) on bicycle safety found that bicyclist fatalities increased 16% nationwide between 2010 and 2012. California had the highest number of fatalities of any state during that time period at 338. The report additionally noted that in the past 37 years, adult bicycle fatalities have increased from 21% of the total number of fatalities to 84%. Among other recommendations for reducing

bicyclist/motor vehicle collisions and the resulting injuries and fatalities, the report recommends "education of bicyclists and motorists about lawful and otherwise appropriate behavior regarding motorist/bicycle interactions." Diversion programs would provide an opportunity for this type of education.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

California Bicycle Coalition (Sponsor)  
California Police Chiefs Association

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Anya Lawler / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093

RESOLUTION NO. 5098

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
LA HABRA TO ADOPT AND OFFER ITS ONGOING  
RESPECT AND SUPPORT TO CHARLIE COMPANY,  
426 BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION, 101<sup>ST</sup> AIRBORNE

The City Council of the City of La Habra does hereby resolve as follows:

**WHEREAS**, American military forces are either engaged in defending or are prepared to defend and support American interests and principles, and

**WHEREAS**, the Adopt-a-Unit program created by America Supporting Americans on March 4, 1968 provides a mechanism whereby all branches of the United States Armed Services can be "adopted" by American communities, and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this adoption program is to create a bond between American communities and the military men and women who bravely serve their country, and

**WHEREAS**, this bond is intended to support the morale of said service men and women without regard to individual political ties or affiliations, and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the challenges confronting American service men and service women, it is appropriate and fitting that the City of La Habra in the State of California show its support by adopting Charlie Company, 426 Brigade Support Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of La Habra in the State of California does hereby adopt and offer its ongoing respect and support, in time of war and in time of peace, to Charlie Company, 426 Brigade Support Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council hereby designates the following individual as the official, primary liaison between this community, the newly adopted unit, and *America Supporting Americans*, as the organization which has facilitated this adoption: Herlinda Chico, Management Analyst. All contact information for this individual is included in the Adoption Agreement Form accompanying this Adoption Resolution.


The City of La Habra in the State of California hereby encourages all City employees, businesses, service clubs, charitable organizations, and private citizens to become involved in supporting this adoption.

A copy of this resolution shall be posted in a central, public place and shall be sent to the California League of Cities urging participation in this cause.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2005, by the City Council of the City of La Habra in the State of California.

SIGNED:   
STEVE ANDERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
TAMARA D. MASON, City Clerk





The American Legion Albert E. Schwab Post 555 Department of California  
14582 Beach Blvd., Midway City CA 92655 . 714-893-9525

February 10, 2020

Garden Grove City Council  
11222 Acacia Pkwy  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Jeff Gallagher and I am the Commander of Albert E. Schwab, The American Legion Post 555, located in Midway City. The purpose of this letter is to express support for the establishment of a dog park and war dog memorial along the former Pacific Electric right of way through the city of Garden Grove.

On January January 13, 2020, Mr. Craig Durfey spoke at our regular membership meeting concerning his effort to have a full service dog park and war dog memorial in the vicinity of a bike/walking trail that is currently under construction in Garden Grove. After his presentation, a vote was taken of the membership to fully support Mr. Durfey's efforts and the project.

Military K-9's, often called "war dogs", have a long history with our military services of all branches. They were in the trenches of World War I, the mine fields of World War II, and on the front lines in Korea. Over 4,000 military dogs were used in Vietnam on search-and-destroy missions, for sentry duty and for mine and explosive detection. It is estimated that each dog saved more than 150 lives.


Most did not return home.

These dogs deserve to be remembered for their courage before enemy fire, their versatility in the field and their sheer tenacity. Today, every branch of service uses military working dogs for a variety of tasks. They are more valuable than ever as bomb and IED detectors. Surely, the war on terror would not be as effective without them.

To my knowledge, there are only two war dog memorials in Southern California and none in Orange County.

For these reasons, the entire membership of Albert E. Schwab The American Legion Post 555, endorses and supports the efforts to establish a dog park and war memorial in the City of Garden Grove, California.

For God and Country,

  
Jeff "Hollywood" Gallagher  
Post Commander

## PARKS AND IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

*More time spent in parks and green spaces can help individuals fight against mental health issues like depression, anxiety and stress. Making sure that all people have access to parks and outdoor programming is a critical way to increase these positive effects on health and quality of life for your community.*

### THE FACTS

- » People living more than 1 kilometer away from a green space have nearly 50 percent higher odds of experiencing stress than those living fewer than 300 meters from a green space. Respondents who do not report stress have more than 50 percent higher odds of visiting a green space at least a few days a week than those reporting stress. Results also showed that the more often respondents visited green spaces, the less stress they experienced.<sup>1</sup>
- » Several studies have confirmed that separation from nature is detrimental to human development, health and well-being, and that regular contact with nature is required for good mental health.<sup>2</sup>
- » Scientists in the Netherlands found that people who lived in residential areas with the fewest green spaces had a 44 percent higher rate of physician-diagnosed anxiety disorders than people who lived in the greenest residential areas. The effect was strongest among those most likely to spend their time near home, including children and those with low levels of education and income.<sup>3</sup>
- » Physician-diagnosed depression was 33 percent higher in the residential areas with the fewest green spaces, compared to the neighborhoods with the most.<sup>4</sup>
- » People who lived in close proximity to natural space had significantly improved mental health up to three years after their move. Compared to pre-move mental health scores, individuals who moved to greener areas had significantly better mental health recorded three years after the move.<sup>5</sup>



## THE FACTS

- » Individuals reported less mental distress and greater life satisfaction when they were living in greener areas.<sup>6</sup>
- » A strong body of evidence suggests that physical activity in green spaces has stronger mental health benefits than physical activity in non-green spaces.<sup>7</sup>
- » Use of green spaces is associated with decreased health complaints, improved blood pressure and cholesterol levels, reduced stress, improved general health perceptions and a greater ability to face problems.<sup>8</sup>

## SOURCES

- <sup>1</sup> Making the Case for Designing Active Cities, Active Living Research (Stigsdotter, 2010), 2015
- <sup>2</sup> Making the Case for Designing Active Cities, Active Living Research (Maller, 2008), 2015
- <sup>3</sup> Making the Case for Designing Active Cities, Active Living Research (NRPA Report, 2010), 2015
- <sup>4</sup> Making the Case for Designing Active Cities, Active Living Research (NRPA Report, 2010), 2015
- <sup>5</sup> Making the Case for Designing Active Cities, Active Living Research (Alcock, et al, 2013), 2015
- <sup>6</sup> Making the Case for Designing Active Cities, Active Living Research (White, 2013), 2015
- <sup>7</sup> Making the Case for Designing Active Cities, Active Living Research (BoP consulting, 2013), 2015
- <sup>8</sup> Making the Case for Designing Active Cities, Active Living Research (King's Fund, 2013), 2015





**For Immediate Release:**  
**June 19, 2020**

**Contact: Michael Henning**  
[Michael.Henning@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Henning@sen.ca.gov)  
(916) 834-8548

## **Senator Umberg, Assemblymembers Tom Daly, Tyler Diep, and Kansen Chu Commemorate Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day**

**SACRAMENTO** – **Senator Thomas J. Umberg** (D – Santa Ana), along with **Assemblymember Tom Daly** (D - Anaheim), **Assemblymember Tyler Diep** (R - Westminster), and **Assemblymember Kansen Chu** (D - San José) have introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 59 (SCR 59) in recognition of Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day. The resolution commemorates the day of June 19, 2020 as Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day to celebrate the courageous sacrifices, and contributions of Vietnamese Veteran Americans to California, and abroad.

“As a veteran, it is my honor to recognize all Vietnamese-American residents of Orange County and beyond that will celebrate this day for those who fought bravely for independence,” said **Senator Tom Umberg**. “Many of these veterans served their nation with honor, became residents in California, and contributed so greatly to our society. At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional burdens on our veteran population, we must be sure to remember and honor those soldiers who sacrificed so much fighting for freedom during the Vietnam War.”

“We honor the memory of brave service members and activists who gave their lives in defense of freedom,” said **Assemblymember Tom Daly**. “And we recognize those soldiers who have, along with their family members, contributed as citizens of our country.”

“As the only Vietnamese American in the State Legislature, I am proud to introduce this resolution with my colleagues to honor the veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces,”



said **Assemblymember Tyler Diep**. “It is through their sacrifice that we continue to fight for freedom, human rights, and liberty in Vietnam.”

“I deeply respect the ultimate sacrifices made by South Vietnamese Soldiers who fought for freedom and human rights. Their services and bravery should not be forgotten. It is my great privilege to co-author Resolution 59 with my colleagues to commemorate June 19, 2020 as Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day. This resolution also helps recognize the contribution of the many Vietnamese who have settled in San Jose and throughout the state after the Vietnam War,” said **Assemblymember Kansen Chu**. “The Vietnamese community have enriched the social fabric of America and SCR 59 is an important and necessary acknowledgement.”

SCR 59 recognizes June 19, 2020 as Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day, in memory of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for freedom and democracy and the victims of the Vietnam War, and in honor of the survivors, activists, and freedom fighters of that war. Currently, Vietnamese Americans around the world recognize Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day on June 19, and this year, 2020, mark 55th anniversary of this annual commemoration.

###

*Senator Thomas J. Umberg represents Senate District 34, which includes the cities of Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Garden Grove, Long Beach, Los Alamitos, Midway City, Orange, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, and Westminster. Umberg is a retired U.S. Army Colonel, former federal prosecutor, and small businessman. He and his wife, Brigadier General Robin Umberg, USA (ret.), live in Orange County.*

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

**Resolution No. 147: Women Veterans**

**Origin: Maryland**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**

WHEREAS, The total women veteran population in the United States and its territories as of January 2015 is 2,020,077; and

WHEREAS, Women veterans are the fastest growing demographic serving in the military, and enrolling in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for their health-care treatment; and

WHEREAS, Since 2000, women veterans receiving health care from VA has doubled from 159,000 to 337,000 and these numbers are expected to grow because of the increasing numbers of women veterans in the military that will be eligible for VA health-care enrollment and services; and

WHEREAS, Women veterans face many barriers and challenges with enrolling for and receiving their VA care due to a number of reasons such as: not identifying as a veteran; not being recognized as a veteran by VA employees and staff; lack of awareness and understanding of their VA health-care benefits; and the stigma and perceptions that VA is an “all male” health-care system; and

WHEREAS, According to VA, women veterans are 30 percent less likely to enroll for health care than their male counterparts, which is as a result of many factors that include, but are not limited to: lack of awareness of benefits, fragmentation of care from limited access to gender specific care (OB/GYN, Mammography), and obtaining compensation benefits through the Veterans Benefits Administration; and

WHEREAS, The VA only dedicated .5 full time employee (1/2 of 1 employee's time) in order to coordinate outreach and conduct analysis at the Veteran Service Integrated Network (VISN) level; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the Government Accountability Office conducted a study that identified a number of challenges VA faced in their delivery of health care to women veterans including: space constraints (i.e. configuration of exam rooms, bathrooms and privacy needs) and hiring providers with specific training and experience in women’s health care, in particular with mental health for treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Military Sexual Trauma (MST); and

WHEREAS, In 2011, The American Legion conducted a Women Veterans Survey with 3,012 women veterans in order to better understand their health care needs through VA; and

WHEREAS, The survey found while there were improvements in the delivery of VA health care to women veterans, challenges with service quality in the following areas remained: tangibles, reliability, responsiveness, competence, courtesy, communication, credibility, security, access and understanding; and

WHEREAS, Female servicemembers have been allowed entry into previous male specified military occupations, such as combat arms support jobs, have assumed more leadership positions and have increased presence conducting hazardous occupations; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2012 Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Task Force Report, a higher percentage of female veterans (22%) are diagnosed with mental health problems; and

WHEREAS, According to the VA, one out of every five women veterans using the VA health-care system screen positive for military sexual trauma; and

WHEREAS, MST is associated with a range of health and economic consequences such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, higher levels of depression, eating disorders, anxiety, adjustment disorders, sexually transmitted infections, genitourinary problems, substance abuse disorders, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Women veterans suffering from PTSD as a direct result of MST face significant odds when applying for disability compensation from the Veterans Benefits Administration even though research shows that women veterans disproportionately file for PTSD claims based on MST; and

WHEREAS, A 2010 decision by the VA to relax the evidentiary standards for PTSD applies only to combat veterans or those exposed to hostile fire, but specifically excludes PTSD diagnosed as a result of MST; and

WHEREAS, Currently, beyond the effects of PTSD, there remains limited data to show the long-term effects of combat on women veterans; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, it was reported that VA has been distributing male prosthetics devices to women veterans due to the lack of customized prosthesis; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion support the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) establishment of a women veterans awareness training program that educates employees about the changing roles of women in the military, their combat-related exposures and Military Sexual Trauma (MST) sensitivity; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion work with the VA in order to ensure that the needs of the current and future women veteran populations are met; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the VA significantly increases the amount of outreach to women veterans through awareness campaigns, benefits education, and community organizations; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the VA dedicate one full-time employee at the Veterans Integrated Service Network level in order to analyze data on women veterans and to help women veterans program managers conduct outreach; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the VA provides full comprehensive health services for women veterans department-wide, including, but not limited to, increasing treatment areas and diagnostic capabilities for female veteran health issues, improved coordination of maternity care, and increase the availability of female therapists/female group therapy to better enable treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from combat and MST in women veterans; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the VA conduct long-term studies in order to show the impact of combat on women veterans; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the VA furnish gender-specific prosthetic appliances, orthotics, services and eliminate the male-only approach to treatment of all injuries and illnesses.**

**Introduced by Senator Archuleta  
(Coauthors: Senators Hurtado and Rubio)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Ramos,  
Robert Rivas, Blanca Rubio, and Salas)

January 28, 2020

---

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 80—Relative to Latino Veterans Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 80, as introduced, Archuleta. Latino Veterans Day.

This measure would proclaim September 20, 2020, as Latino Veterans Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The history of California veterans of Latino descent  
2 abounds with acts of heroism and exhibits a heritage of valor which  
3 has brought honor and earned the gratitude of our country; and  
4 WHEREAS, As early as 1863, the United States government  
5 authorized the military commander in California to raise four  
6 companies of native Mexican American Californians in order to  
7 take advantage of their extraordinary horsemanship; and  
8 WHEREAS, Several thousand Latino volunteers, mostly from  
9 the southwestern United States, fought with distinction in the  
10 United States Army during the Spanish-American War. Captain  
11 Maximiliano Luna and others who comprised a portion of the  
12 famous 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry with Colonel Theodore  
13 Roosevelt, better known as the “Rough Riders,” fought in Cuba;  
14 and

1 WHEREAS, Discrimination, racism, and language barriers  
2 meant that many Latinos were relegated to menial jobs or served  
3 in segregated units. A number of Mexican-American cavalry  
4 militias chased bandits and guarded trains and border crossings  
5 for the Union during the Civil War; and

6 WHEREAS, Admiral David G. Farragut, a Latino of great  
7 renown and hero of the Civil War, distinguished himself as a  
8 military strategist whose concepts and accomplishments served as  
9 examples of military excellence. Admiral Farragut was responsible  
10 for, among other things, establishing the Mare Island Naval Yard  
11 at Vallejo; and

12 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, Loreta Janeta Velázquez,  
13 who was born in Cuba, masqueraded as a Confederate soldier using  
14 the name of Lieutenant Harry T. Buford, enlisting in 1860 without  
15 her soldier husband's knowledge. She fought fearlessly at the  
16 Battles of Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, and Fort Donelson, and spied in  
17 both male and female disguises. Her bravery in the Civil War  
18 showed extraordinary courage and commitment; and

19 WHEREAS, The bravery of countless Latinos in World Wars  
20 I and II and the conflicts of Korea and Vietnam is consistent with  
21 the greatest acts of heroism known in our history, as exemplified  
22 by the 20th and the 515th Coast Artillery Battalions, which were  
23 comprised of a majority of Latinos, many of whom were from  
24 California, who fought to the bitter end at Bataan in World War  
25 II; and

26 WHEREAS, During World War II, General Douglas MacArthur  
27 called the Arizona National Guard's 158th Infantry Regiment, "the  
28 Bushmasters," one of the greatest fighting combat teams ever  
29 deployed for battle. The regiment was comprised of many Latino  
30 soldiers; and

31 WHEREAS, During World War II, Marine Corps Private First  
32 Class Guy Louis Gabaldon of Bellflower, California, distinguished  
33 himself with conspicuous gallantry by capturing 800 enemy  
34 soldiers in seven hours; and

35 WHEREAS, The 65th Infantry Regiment, "the Borinqueneers"  
36 from Puerto Rico, served valiantly in both World War II and Korea.  
37 Fighting as a segregated unit from 1950 to 1952, the regiment  
38 participated in some of the fiercest battles of the Korean War, and  
39 its toughness, courage, and loyalty earned the admiration of many  
40 who had preciously harbored reservations about Puerto Rican

1 soldiers based on lack of previous fighting experience and negative  
2 stereotypes, including Brigadier General William W. Harris, whose  
3 experience eventually led him to regard the regiment as “the best  
4 damn soldiers that I had ever seen”; and

5 WHEREAS, During their service in the Korean War, the 65th  
6 Infantry Regiment won four Distinguished Service Crosses and  
7 125 Silver Stars. The Borinqueneers also were awarded the  
8 American Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, two  
9 Korean Presidential Unit Citations, and the Greek Gold Medal for  
10 Bravery. President Barack Obama signed House Resolution No.  
11 1726 to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Borinqueneers  
12 on June 10, 2014; and

13 WHEREAS, During the Korean War, Marine Corps Private  
14 First Class Eugene A. Obregon of Los Angeles, California, armed  
15 only with a pistol, unhesitatingly dashed from his covered position  
16 to the side of a wounded fellow Marine. Still under enemy fire,  
17 while he was bandaging the man’s wounds and hostile troops of  
18 approximately platoon strength began advancing toward his  
19 position, he placed his own body as a shield in front of the wounded  
20 soldier and lay there firing accurately and effectively into the  
21 hostile group until he was fatally wounded by enemy fire, earning  
22 him the Medal of Honor; and

23 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, First Sergeant Maximo  
24 Yabes of Lodi, California, distinguished himself when he used his  
25 body as a shield to protect others in a bunker, moved two wounded  
26 men to a safer position where they could be given medical  
27 treatment, and destroyed an enemy machine gun position before  
28 being mortally wounded. He was posthumously awarded the Medal  
29 of Honor; and

30 WHEREAS, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert  
31 Storm provided another opportunity for Latinos to serve their  
32 country. Approximately 20,000 Latino servicemen and women  
33 participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and

34 WHEREAS, During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Marine Corps  
35 Lance Corporal Moses Cardenas from Fullerton, California,  
36 distinguished himself by leaving his safe position behind a vehicle  
37 and fought his way across 50 meters of fire-swept open desert  
38 against five armed insurgents to rescue a fallen Marine. After  
39 sustaining a gunshot wound to the neck that knocked him to the  
40 ground, he calmly reloaded his squad automatic weapon and

1 continued his assault until he reached the wounded Marine.  
2 Throughout this close and fierce fight, he ignored his own severe  
3 wounds, remained fixed on his task, and saved the life of a fellow  
4 Marine, earning him the Silver Star; and

5 WHEREAS, Today, Latinos make up approximately 14 percent  
6 of America’s fighting force. Since the beginning of this century,  
7 Latinos have been the boots on the ground in antiterrorism  
8 operations; and

9 WHEREAS, Latino veterans, both men and women, have shown  
10 and continue to show a superb dedication to the United States,  
11 evidenced by the award of 60 Congressional Medals of Honor, the  
12 greatest number received by any ethnic group; now, therefore, be  
13 it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
15 *thereof concurring*, That September 20, 2020, be proclaimed as  
16 Latino Veterans Day; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
18 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.



Garden Grove City Council  
11222 Acacia Pkwy  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am pleased to support the establishment of a dog park and war dog memorial along the former Pacific Electric right of way through the city of Garden Grove.

It has been brought to our attention that there has been an effort made to have a full service dog park and war dog memorial in the vicinity of a bike/walking trail that is currently under construction in the city of Garden Grove.

Military K-9's, often called "war dogs," have a long history with our military services of all branches. They were in the trenches of World War I, the mine fields of World War II, and on the front lines in Korea. Over 4,000 military dogs were used in Vietnam on search-and-destroy missions, for sentry duty and for mine and explosive detection. It is estimated that each dog saved more than 150 lives. Most did not return home.

These dogs deserve to be remembered for their courage before enemy fire, their versatility in the field and their sheer tenacity. Today, every branch of service uses military working dogs for a variety of tasks. They are more valuable than ever as bomb and IED detectors. Surely, the war on terror would not be as effective without them.

To my knowledge, there are only two war dog memorials in Southern California and none in Orange County.

For this reason I support the efforts to establish a dog park and war memorial in the City of Garden Grove, California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Quirk-Silva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Quirk-Silva  
Assemblywoman, 65<sup>th</sup> District