



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL

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SENATOR JOSH NEWMAN AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN SABRINA CERVANTES NAMED AS THE 2018 VVA-CSC LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR

The Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council (VVA-CSC) has named Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) and Assemblywoman Sabrina Cervantes (D-Riverside) as their Legislators of the Year for 2018. The VVA-CSC Legislators of the Year award is bestowed to legislators who have supported California's veterans, military members, and their families. The Legislature oversees and deliberates on a wide array of issues important to California veterans such as: Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans memorials, veterans homes, veterans cemeteries, veterans outreach, assistance with claims filing, the National Guard, veterans in the criminal justice system, non-profit organization regulations, veterans license plates, base realignment, and education.

Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton)



Senator Newman is a veteran who served as an officer in the United States Army from 1986-1990. He served in South Korea with a nuclear weapons detachment and conventional artillery units in the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. He was elected to the Senate in 2016 to represent the 29th senate district which encompasses parts of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties. He was the Chair of Senate Veterans Affairs and was a champion for veterans while serving in that capacity. Prior to his time in the Senate, he served as Executive Director of a non-profit veterans organization which assisted young veterans transitioning into career oriented employment.

Senator Newman was the author of numerous measures concerning veterans, including expanding personal sick leave benefits for state employees who are National Guardsmen or Reservists and getting specialists into the prison system to identify veterans who have PTSD, TBI, MST, and other service-connected disabilities.

During his first term in office, he authored over 10 veteran and military bills and resolutions and received the Governor's signature on 5 bills that are improving the lives of veterans across the state.

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SENATOR NEWMAN AUTHORED LEGISLATION

SB 455; Military dependents enrollment: – Chaptered

SB 694; Veteran Resource Centers in California Community Colleges – Achieved in a budget bill

SB 728; State public employees sick leave for veterans with service-related disabilities. – Chaptered

SB 731; Public school employees: Veteran, Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve leave of absence for illness or injury. – Chaptered

SB 747; State military officer commissions. – Chaptered

SB 776; Veterans benefits California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Chaptered

SCR 5; Purple Heart Day Resolution. – Signed by the Secretary of State

SCR 65; Military and Veteran Suicide Prevention Awareness Week Resolution. – Signed by the Secretary of State

Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes (D-Riverside)



Sabrina Cervantes was elected to represent Riverside, California's 60th Assembly District in 2016. Cervantes is a lifelong resident of Riverside County. She attended and graduated from the University of California, Riverside, as well as completing an Executive Education program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Before being elected, Cervantes served as a District Director for a member of the California State Assembly. She also worked in the private sector alongside various community organizations.

Cervantes has been at the forefront of issues such as women veterans, education, and oversight of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. She has sought to ensure that California veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserve members are given the best possible care, education and lifestyle possible.

Cervantes pushed two important veterans bills through the process and those policies are now law. AB 226, which allows service members with spouses that have teaching credentials from out of state to transition faster into their new duty stations and integrate into their new communities. AB 1618, creates a certification process and competitive grant program through Cal Vet to provide grants to charitable entities that serve veterans.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CERVANTES AUTHORED LEGISLATION

AB 226; Teacher credentialing for spouses of active duty members – Chaptered

AB 296; Task force: health of women veterans.

AB 741; Community colleges: veterans.

AB 1618; Veteran service providers. – Chaptered

AB 1786; Community colleges: academic credit for prior military experience.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) was founded in 1978 to promote, support, and aggressively advocate on the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, the next generation of America's war veterans, and to also serve our local communities.

Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. Nationwide VVA has 84,073 members, while the **Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council** has 5,041 members statewide.