

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

Supervisor, First District  
San Bernardino County

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### **County Provides Advocacy Service to Assist Veterans**

SAN BERNARDINO – Residents of the Veterans Home of California in Barstow who need assistance processing claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will have a representative from the County available to help, thanks to the approval of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today of a contract with the State of California to fund a Veterans Claims Representative.

“The men and women who served honorably and now live in the Barstow area deserve all the assistance we can provide,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the High Desert. “I am gratified that we can partner with the state to assist veterans in ensuring they receive the full benefits to which they are entitled.”

Services provided by the Veterans Claims Representative include analyzing and preparing claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, initiating appeals when necessary, and representing veterans at administrative review boards.

The \$45,000 contract with the California Department of Veterans Affairs will fund a part-time Veterans Claim Representative from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. The state had been providing the services but when the state-employed claims representative retired, the County entered an agreement with the state to ensure the service continued.

Although the services are being provided at the Veterans Home in Barstow, the representative is also available to assist any veterans in the area. For information or to schedule an appointment, call (760) 252-6257.

The Veterans Home in Barstow opened in 1996 and is now home to approximately 174 veterans, many of whom are eligible for benefits.