



Sept 2024

VETERANS TRANSITION CENTER OF CALIFORNIA

Empowering Veterans to move from crisis to self-sufficiency



TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Jerry, a 78 year old Veteran who graduated from VTC in August of 2023. He began running the VTC clothing closet, AKA "Jerry's Boutique," back in February of 2023, after joining the program.

As Veterans are enrolled into VTC, one of the first things we do is take them to our clothing closet, where they can begin to build their personal wardrobe. When case managers took Jerry to pick out some clothes, he immediately noticed that the clothing closet was in need of some work, as many of the donated items were still in the bags they were donated in. He brought the idea to his case managers and was given the opportunity to work on the presentation of the room.

Jerry created clothing racks out of items he found around Martinez Hall, organized clothing by size with tags he made himself, brought in mannequins from LCM, and even built a dressing room for Veterans who want to try things out first. Staff and visitors all agree that the clothing closet has never looked better. It transformed into something that resembles a small boutique, hence why we call it "Jerry's Boutique." After a VTC case manager made the joke, the marketing department created a sign and made it official.

Jerry is an Army Veterans and served from 1965 - 1968 and finished his tour after serving in Vietnam. In 1977, he rejoined the military and served until he was honorably discharged in 1979. Now that he has his own place, Jerry enjoys taking nature walks and has a positive "do better everyday" attitude.

We are all going to miss Jerry when he moves to San Diego next year to be close to his son and 7 grandchildren. But for now, we can't wait to see what else Jerry has in store for Jerry's Boutique. Thank you Jerry, for all you do!

UPCOMING EVENTS



September 9th - November 10th

Sponsor the Vets Virtual Fundraiser will conclude at our Salute to Veterans Jamboree. This family friendly community event will take place at Martinez Hall on 11/10/24. At the event, you will have the opportunity to Meet & Greet our Veterans at the Liberty Lounge at 2:00pm.



To learn more or donate,
scan this QR code or
visit vtcofcalifornia.org/sponsorthetvets

SALUTE TO VETERANS

Jamboree



November 10, 2024

Live Music
Arts & Crafts
Local Artisans
Food Booths

Bounce House
Classic Cars
Raffle Prizes
Liberty Lounge

Face Painting
Fire Truck
Dunk Tank
Silent Auction



April 4, 2025

Join us for our second annual Hope for Heroes Gala!
More information to come.



Scan here for more VTC events,
or visit: vtcofcalifornia.org/upcomingevents



RANDY'S PLANTS



Who is Randy and why is he selling plants?

Randy is a Veteran who recently graduated from VTC's LTORR program. He has been employed at VTC since July of 2023 in our Operations department, but has recently taken on new fundraising roles like this one.

The goal of Randy's Plants is to raise funds to support our Veterans, while offering job opportunities for Veterans in our program. In September, Randy will have his shop open on Imjin, near Martinez Hall and will expand to local farmers markets in the near future. You can also find Randy at most VTC events!

Visit vtcofcalifornia.org/randysplants

To stay up to date on where to catch Randy!

MC GIVES!

DONATE TO VTC THROUGH MC GIVES
**AND THEY'LL MATCH
A PERCENTAGE**



MC GIVES

Locals contribute to an overall match fund that spurs donations for participating organizations. At the end of the campaign, each nonprofit receives 100% of their donations, along with a pro rated match on the first \$75,000 raised.

November 9th - December 31st

Scan for MC Gives:

Or visit montereycountygives.com



HB Heinrich
Brooksher

SIP, SAVOR, SALUTE AND SUPPORT

Thursday,
Nov 7

5:30 - 7:30
p.m.

12 Del Fino Pl,
Carmel Valley



Enjoy a night at Twisted Roots Winery while supporting our Vets!

This fundraiser will include wine, appetizers, live music, & raffle prizes!

Scan the QR
Code for
tickets!



Donate Your Time

Do you have skills in a professional trade? Or maybe painting is a hobby of yours. No matter your field of expertise, VTC is always seeking volunteers to enhance the property and improve the living environment for our Vets.

Email Info@vtcmonterey.org for information on volunteer opportunities

LIGHTFIGHTER VILLAGE UPDATE

Photo Credit: Huff Construction Company



If you've been following along with the quarterly updates on Lightfighter Village, then you know opening day is right around the corner! This collaboration with EAH housing has been an amazing journey and we can't wait to see the completed project in January, 2025.



Stay up to date on everything VTC, and see firsthand how your support makes a difference by following us on social media.

FOLLOW US!



@VTCofCalifornia



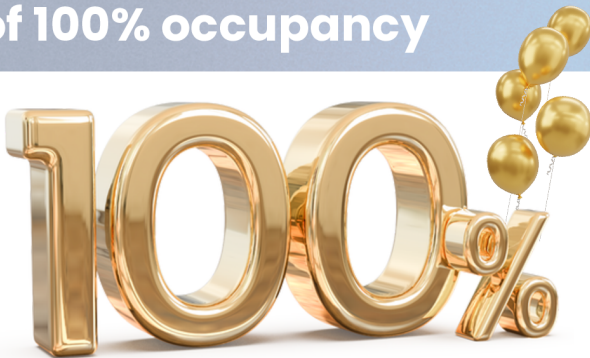
Celebration of Freedom!

Thank you to everyone who joined or made a donation towards our Celebration of Freedom on July 4th, 2024

Scan for more photos!



VTC hit a major milestone of 100% occupancy



Last month, VTC hit a major milestone, we reached 100% occupancy in every program!

53 in VA Grant Per Diem

36 in CDCR Long Term Offender Recovery and Re-entry (LTORR)

15 in Housing and Urban Development Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

10 in VA Emergency Housing (HCHV) —Health Care for Homeless Veterans

Thank you to VTC staff who make this all possible!



FAREWELL DAN

VTC sends our warmest wishes to Dan as he embarks on a new journey. Dan, who served as VTC's Shelter Supervisor, found great passion in his role. His last day was August 2nd, before he relocated to Iowa to be closer to family. As a Veteran himself, Dan had completed our program and moved into his own place prior to his job here. He returned to VTC back in 2020 after our former COO, reached out with a job opportunity.

Throughout his tenure, Dan went above and beyond to assist many homeless veterans from various backgrounds. Pictured above is one of Dan's last times picking up a Veteran. VTC received a call late on a Friday night from a veteran named David. Dan responded promptly, arriving early Monday morning to pick David up from a local shelter. He took David out for breakfast before bringing him in to begin the enrollment process.

Dan's wife still works with us as our GPD Director, and will join Dan later this year.

Both of them will be greatly missed.

Scan for full interview





Veterans Transition Center of California
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Marina, CA 93933

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To those who make it possible for VTC to continue our mission of helping Veterans re-integrate into society:

Thank You!

NPS Foundation
Pebble Beach Company
Gene's Import Auto Body
Boyd's Asphalt Services
The Heinrich Team
Carmel Realty Company
Marina Target
Lakeside Nursery
United Way Monterey County
Marina Grocery Outlet

VOLUNTEERS



Pictured are volunteers from VTC and DLI at the Pebble Beach Concourse D'Elegance on Sunday, August 18th.

JAMES MOVES IN

One July 25th, 2024, a huge milestone was caught on camera for one VTC Veteran. James Kulka, a recent graduate of the LTORR program, has officially moved into his first apartment after 40+ years of incarceration. When a Veteran moves out, VTC takes them on a shopping spree to LCM, our partnered thrift store, to pick out some furnishings for their new place. VTC staff helped move James in and stuck around for a quick photoshoot to celebrate the occasion.

James spoke very fondly of the day he was picked up from prison and excitedly told the story of his first cup of hot chocolate while out to breakfast with VTC's grant writer, Tom, who picked him up the day he was released.

James is excited for his new and quiet life, walking distance from the beach. His future plans are to simply enjoy his retirement...

