

**Santa Cruz County  
Veteran Advocate  
Travis Deyoung**



**Able to meet veterans where they  
are in the community. Assist any  
veteran with any need.**

**Phone: 831-588-0589**



# Santa Cruz County Veteran Services Office

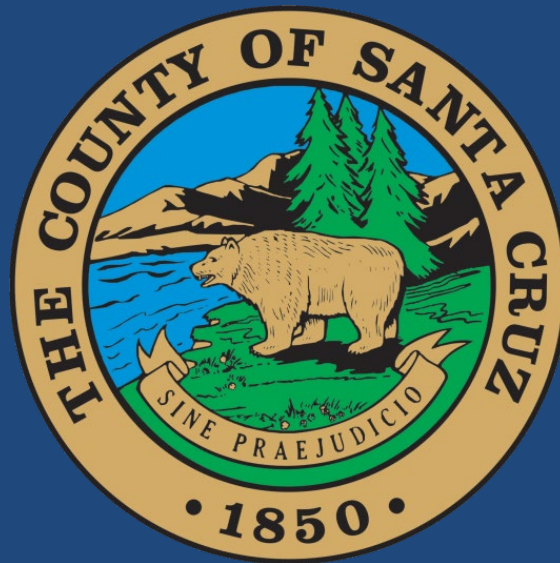


**Address:**  
842 Front St,  
Santa Cruz  
Next the post office  
downtown

**Hours:**  
Monday – Thursday  
8-12 & 1-5

# WATSONVILLE OFFICE

18 W Beach St,  
Watsonville, CA 95076



Monday – Thursday  
By appointment only



# A Holistic Approach To Wellbeing

# WHAT IS HOLISTIC HEALING?

The 8 Pillars  
Of Holistic Healing

**Physical**

**Emotional**

**Social**

**Intellectual**

**Spiritual**

**Occupational**

**Financial**

**Environmental**



# Assisting all Veterans



- Any period of service
- Any type of discharge
- Any length of service
- Any veteran for any need

# VETERAN SERVICE DAY AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING



**EVERY WEDNESDAY (9AM-3PM)**

**846 FRONT ST, SANTA CRUZ, CA  
NEXT THE POST OFFICE DOWNTOWN.**



# VETERAN SERVICE DAY AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING



- WALK IN HOURS AT VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE
- VA MEDICAL OUTREACH TEAM
- HOUSING RESOURCE GROUP
- SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER GROUP
- HOT LUNCH AND FOOD PANTRY
- EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

# Employment Services for Veterans

Employment Development Department (EDD)

Veterans Rehabilitation Services Inc. (VRSI)



# Housing Programs in Santa Cruz



**Supportive Services for Veterans and Families- SSVF  
(case management, financial assistance)**



**Paget House (60-90 Emergency housing)**

# Housing Programs in Santa Cruz



HUDVASH (Sect 8 voucher for veterans)



Veterans Transition Center  
(transitional housing up to 2 years)

# Branches of the VA



- Benefits (Monetary benefits)
- Healthcare
- Vet Centers (Readjustment counseling for combat veterans and MST victims)
- Cemeteries

# VA Benefits

(monetary benefits)

VA Disability

NSC Pension

VA Education Benefits

Survivors Benefits

# VA Healthcare

## Basic Eligibility

- Honorable & General Discharge type
- Duty requirement:  
Before September 7,1980 – 90 days  
After September 7,1980- 24 months
- Title 10 (Reservist/National Guardsmen called to active duty by Federal Executive Order)

# VA Healthcare

**Palo Alto(main hospital)**

-3801 Miranda Ave, Palo Alto

**Capitola Clinic**

-1350 41<sup>st</sup> Ave, Suite 102, Capitola

**Monterey Clinic**

-201 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Seaside

**San Jose Clinic**

-80 Great Oaks Blvd

**VA Healthcare Outreach team is available every  
Wednesday at the Veterans Memorial Hall in  
Santa Cruz**





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Mental Health Programs – VA Palo Alto

### Inpatient Mental Health Care

- Acute Psych Care - Bldg MB520 (5150 and Detox)
  - Hospitalization with pathways to residential programs
- Men's Trauma Recovery Program (PTSD, MST)
  - Residential program up to 6 months
- Woman's Trauma Recovery Program
  - Residential program up to 6 months



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## Mental Health Programs – VA Palo Alto

### Outpatient Mental Health Care

- Psychiatric and psychological counseling
  - At the VA and through community care options
- Treatment for co-occurring disorders
- PTSD Intensive Outpatient program
- Peer Support programs
- Women's Counseling Center



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## Substance Abuse Treatment Programs Inpatient/ outpatient

- Addiction Treatment Services (ATS)
- Intensive Outpatient services
- Foundation of Recovery (FOR) – 28 day
- First Step – 90 Day
- VA contracts for residential care-
  - The Camp in Scotts Valley



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## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

- **Poly Trauma Rehabilitation Program (PTRP)**

- Acute – Residential- Outpatient

- **Spinal Cord Injury / Disorder Unit (SCI/D)**

- Spinal Cord, MS, ALS, CVA,



## Mental Health Programs – VA Palo Alto

### Compensated Work Therapy

- **Compensated Work Therapy**

- The CWT Program provides job development and counseling services to Veterans with a wide range of barriers to employment, which may include medical and/or mental health disorders, homelessness, and any combination thereof.



## Mental Health Programs – VA Palo Alto

- Homeless Veterans Rehabilitation Program (HVRP)
  - 6-month residential program aimed at providing homeless veterans the skills necessary to function self-sufficiently in society. Residents attend training classes, participate in therapy and support groups, and attend community meetings.



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## VET CENTER

- Counseling services for combat veterans, Military Sexual Trauma (MST) survivors, and bereavement

- 1350 41st Ave., Suite 102 Capitola, CA 95010





# **Veterans Court**

- **Specialty court for Veterans who suffer from mental health conditions related to their service**
- **Veterans follow a treatment plan for 12 to 18 months**
- **Benefits can include dismissal of misdemeanor charges, reduction in fines, early termination of probation**



# Vets 4 Vets Santa Cruz



# Vets 4 Vets Santa Cruz

Events- bowling tournaments, member meetings, chili cook off, documentary showings with panel discussions, Art Events, etc.

Emergency Assistance funds- food, clothing, transportation, etc.

Volunteer coordination- home repairs, rides, moving assistance, home visits, etc.

# Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



The suicide rate for Veterans is 1.5 times higher than that of the general population. Comparing the rate among women Veterans to non-Veteran adult women, the rate is 2.5 times higher.

Veterans who misuse drugs or alcohol are more than twice as likely to die by suicide than other Veterans

# Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



Among U.S. adults who died from suicide in 2020, firearms were more commonly involved among Veterans (71.0%) than non-Veterans (50.3%).

Of the on average 16.8 Veteran suicides per day in 2020, approximately 39.7% (6.7 per day) were among Recent Veteran VHA Users<sup>16</sup> and 60.3% (10.1 per day) were among Other Veterans.

# Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



In 2001, Veterans between the ages of 35 and 54 had the highest suicide rates, among both Veteran men and Veteran women. In 2020, suicide rates were highest among Veterans between the ages of 18 and 34

# Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



**In 2020, the suicide rate among White Veterans was more than twice the rate among Black or African American Veterans.**

**Among Veteran VHA Users, suicide rates were elevated for residents of rural areas, as compared to urban areas**

# Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



Emergency room/ psych care at the VA

Veterans Crisis Line  
- Dial 988

Gun Locks

Community Support

# Journey 4 Change

-preventing suicide through community action and awareness





# Journey 4 Change

-preventing  
suicide through  
community action  
and awareness

...which is equally distributed, opportunity is not," Santa Cruz County CEO Lance Linares unveiled the "Girls in Pajaro Valley Initiative" for an started with a \$100,000 gift from an anonymous donor, and a \$500,000 matching gift on the table. "We have our first match," said Linares, thanking the second gift, \$50,000. The goal is to raise \$2.5 million by the end of 2017 to fund a three-year pilot program to

GIRLS » PAGE 5

PACIFIC AVENUE

## LOCAL GROUP RAISES SUICIDE AWARENESS



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL  
Vietnam veterans Buzz Gray, right, and Stoney Brook, center in orange shirt, lead a procession in downtown Santa Cruz, as members and supporters of Journey for Change begin a 24-hour Veterans Day walk on Pacific Avenue to bring awareness to the suicide rate among America's veterans.

### Veterans Day march extends 24 hours, into Saturday

**By Jessica A. York**  
jyork@santacruzsentinel.com  
@ReporterJess on Twitter

**SANTA CRUZ** » In the same way that the phrase "Happy Veterans

Day" can feel awkward when recognizing the federal holiday, Friday's march up and down Pacific Avenue to raise awareness about veteran suicide was a quiet and serious event.

Most of the several dozen people wearing bright yellow and orange T-shirts emblazoned with the "Journey for Change" logo at the start of their 24-hour walk said they have personally

felt the sting of depression or lost a family member or friend to suicide.

"When you think of a veteran who went to war, he's a hero. I think people forget what each one of these guys and girls carry inside them when they come

CHANGE » PAGE 5

**TRUMP'S PROMISE**  
**Pathway to rebuilding infrastructure is bumpy**  
Donald Trump vows to rebuild the nation's roads, bridges and railways, but the path is full of potholes. **PAGE A11**

**STILL FIGHTING**  
**Vietnam veterans seek help for rare cancer**  
A rare cancer that may be linked to time served in the Vietnam War is quietly killing some former soldiers. **PAGE A12**

**BUSINESS**

- ▲ **Dow Jones Industrial** 18,847.66 (+39.78)
- ▼ **Standard & Poor's** 2164.58 (-3.03)
- ▲ **Nasdaq** 5237.11 (+28.31)



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# A real world Story

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