

## *Veterans Corner*

### *The Kings County Veterans Service Office*

The Kings County Veterans Service Office aggressively seeks out veterans and their families to provide assistance and service. To meet this objective the office seeks to increase awareness of eligibility, entitlements, benefits programs and services provided to veterans and active duty personnel by Federal, State and Local government agencies. Information is provided through outreach, counseling and referral services. We are not employees of the VA. We are however, accredited by the VA as well as many other Veterans Service Organizations. We are Kings County employees who stand ready to assist you with any and all veteran issues that you or your family members may have.

We have recently expanded the hours available to see veterans. Appointments are available daily by calling (559) 582-3211 ext 2669. You can stop by the office most any time between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm daily and receive services on a first-come first-serve basis. Please call the office at the number above to ensure we are doing walk-ins before you plan on stopping by.

As part of filing a claim for benefits, we ask for many different forms of documentation. In addition to asking for medical records, we must be able to prove things such as veteran status, marriage status, dependents, Social Security numbers, etc. Some of these items may not be necessary for an initial disability claim, but depending on the outcome of the claim, a dependent may also be eligible for benefits. If there is a dependent, the veteran may also receive additional compensation. By requesting all the documentation up front, our office can ensure that the veteran and their family receive all the benefits they are eligible for as soon as possible. We can assist in ordering copies of military discharge papers and service medical records.

Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office website at [www.countyofkings.com](http://www.countyofkings.com).

*Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 582-3211, ext. 2662; or e-mail [joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us).*