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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PEACE OF MIND FOR CONTRA COSTA VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

“Operation Documentation” event to help veterans gain access to benefits

MARTINEZ - Contra Costa County is hosting a free event in November to help veterans and their families access benefits they are entitled to because of their honorable military service to this country.

The “Operation Documentation” veterans’ assistance event will be held Wednesday, November 14 from 8:00 am to noon at the Contra Costa Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office, located at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez. Former military members and their families can record original or certified copies of DD-214 discharge documents free of charge, receive a comprehensive overview of the VA benefits they may be eligible to receive and sign up for a veteran’s distinction on their state driver’s license.

Representatives from various county departments will also be at the event to share tax breaks, job opportunities and other perks and services veterans may be eligible to receive. Refreshments will be provided.

“Contra Costa County is home to many Veterans, and this is another very important opportunity for the County to serve those Veterans who have earned these important benefits,” Veterans Service Officer Nathan Johnson said. “These benefits may save them money, time, and may improve their quality of life.”

The Clerk-Recorder Division offers veterans a place to record and store their DD-214 documents free of charge. These documents provide veterans and their spouses access to veteran benefits, medical insurance, compensation, and even discounts at some retail stores.

Often the documents can be misplaced when the veteran or their family needs to find them. These documents can also be destroyed during natural disasters.

Though there are over 54,000 veterans in Contra Costa County, less than 150 veterans recorded their DD-214 documents over the last 10 years. Over 60 veterans recorded their DD-214 documents at last year’s Operation Documentation event.

“It’s one less thing for veterans and their families to worry about. One veteran told us at last year’s event that it provides peace of mind,” Clerk-Recorder Joe Canciamilla said. “We’re pleased to be able to provide this service for those men and women who proudly served our country.”

There is no cost for veterans and their families to record DD-214s or to retrieve a certified copy of the document, once it is recorded. Contra Costa residents who are on active duty can also receive a complementary certified copy of their marriage license from the Clerk-Recorder Division.

The Clerk-Recorder's Office, is open weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. For more information, call 925-335-7900.

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