



**California Enlisted
Association of the
National Guard of
the United States**

August 2024

*The only association that solely
represents the Enlisted Soldiers
& Airmen of the California
National Guard*

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**Message from
the President**



As we approach the final months of 2024, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made this year and share some thoughts on the path ahead. It has been an incredible honor to serve as your President during a time of significant growth and change for our organization.

Strengthening Our Advocacy

This year, we have made great strides in advocating for the needs of our enlisted members and veterans. Our work doesn't stop, and I am committed to ensuring that CAL EANGUS continues to be a powerful voice for the National Guard in California.

Building a More Inclusive Community

One of the initiatives I am most proud of this year is our sponsorship of the California Military Department's participation in Pride events across the state. By supporting these events, we have reinforced our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion within our ranks. We must continue to foster an environment where every service member, regardless of background or identity, feels valued and respected. Our diversity is our strength, and it is essential that we celebrate and support all who serve.

Preparing for the Future

Looking ahead, there are several key areas where we will focus our efforts. We will be working to strengthen our connections with both state and federal legislators to advance our priorities and secure the resources necessary for our National Guard members.

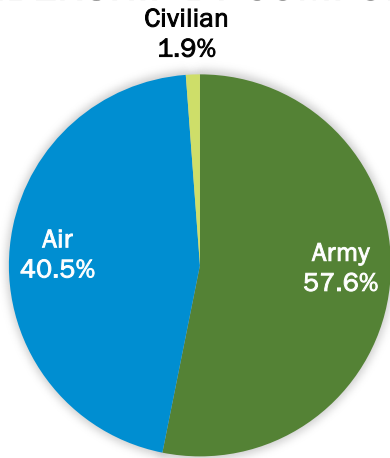
Our upcoming State Conference on October 12, 2024, in Rancho Cordova will be a pivotal moment for us to come together, share our successes, and plan for the future. I encourage all of you to attend and be a part of these important discussions. Your input and involvement are critical to the success of our organization.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your dedication to CAL EANGUS and the broader National Guard community. Your hard work, resilience, and commitment are what make our organization strong.

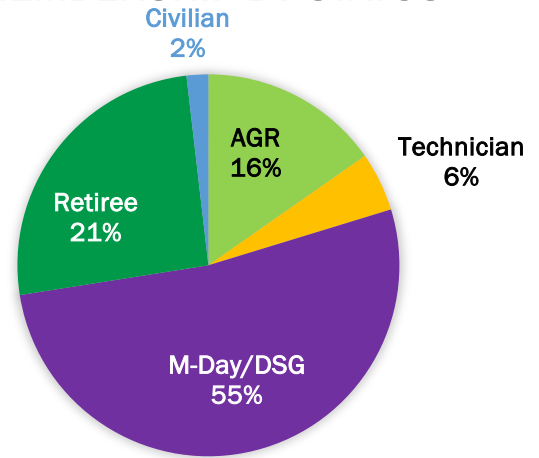
Membership

As of August 29, 2024, CAL-EANGUS had 1,808 members! Continue to educate and recruit fellow Guardsmen to the Association. The bigger the membership, the louder our voice is in Sacramento and on Capitol Hill! Welcome to our newest members!

MEMBERSHIP BY COMPONENT



MEMBERSHIP BY STATUS



Membership Type



CAL EANGUS Referral Patches – Collect Them All!

The CAL-EANGUS Board is proud to announce our recruiting incentives! With help from our friends at All Patch Stuff, we have designed the patch.

How to receive a patch

OCP Patch:

- Recruit 1 member into CAL EANGUS
- The new member can be an Enlisted, Life or Associate Member
- The new member must enter your name as the “referred by”
- The New Member can be a Free Jr. Enlisted Membership

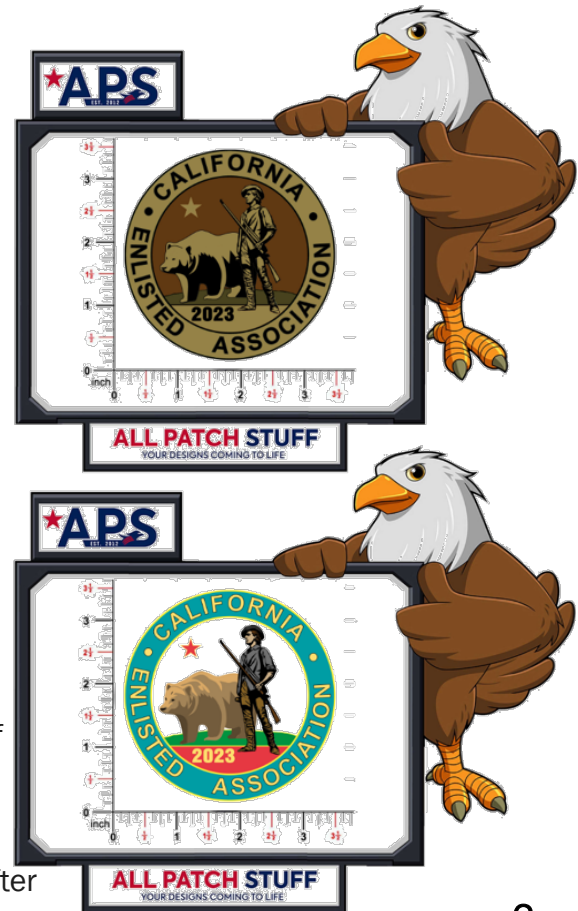
Color Patch:

- Recruit 5 members into CAL EANGUS
- The new members can be an Enlisted, Life or Associate Member
- The new members must enter your name as the “referred by”
- The New Member can be a Free Jr. Enlisted Membership

Members are only entitled to receive 1 set of patches for the CY Referrals will be totaled at the end of every month and the patches, once earned, will be sent to the membership address at the beginning of the month until the end of 2023 or while supplies last.

Current Membership Deals:

- Life Membership \$250: Use code LIFE50 to receive \$50 off
- Annual Membership \$20: Use code DOLLAR = \$1/first year, \$20 thereafter
- Junior Enlisted (E-1 thru E-4) = FREE



State President and Past President elected to National EANGUS Positions

CAL-EANGUS Members Secures 2 of 4 National Executive Level Positions

During the 53rd Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Conference, 2 California Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (CAL EANGUS) members were elected to serve in the National Office of EANGUS. CMSgt Josh J. Baker, the current President of CAL EANGUS, was elected as the Vice President of EANGUS, while SFC(Ret) Marsha Adams, a Past President of CAL EANGUS, was nominated for the role of EANGUS Secretary. These appointments mark a momentous occasion for the organization, showcasing the caliber of leadership emerging from California.

Josh J. Baker: A Dynamic Leader

Josh J. Baker, who has served as the President of CAL EANGUS since 2019 with distinction, brings a wealth of experience and passion to his new role as EANGUS Vice President. Under Baker's leadership, CAL EANGUS has seen substantial growth in membership and influence, advocating tirelessly for the rights and benefits of enlisted members of the National Guard. His election as Vice President of EANGUS is a testament to his dedication to the organization and his effectiveness as a leader. Baker will serve concurrently as the President of CAL EANGUS. Baker's vision for EANGUS centers on enhancing the association's advocacy efforts, ensuring that the voices of enlisted National Guard members are heard at the highest levels of government. His focus on mentorship, professional development, and strategic partnerships is expected to strengthen EANGUS's ability to serve its members and fulfill its mission.

Marsha Adams: A Proven Advocate

Marsha Adams, a Past President of CAL EANGUS, was nominated for the position of EANGUS Secretary, a role that is pivotal in ensuring the smooth operation of the organization. Adams has a long history of service to the National Guard and EANGUS, having dedicated countless hours to advancing the interests of enlisted personnel. Her nomination is a recognition of her unwavering commitment and her deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the National Guard community.

During her tenure as CAL EANGUS President, Adams was instrumental in implementing several key initiatives that have had a lasting impact on the organization. Her strategic approach and attention to detail have earned her the respect of her peers and colleagues. As EANGUS Secretary, Adams is expected to bring her organizational acumen and passion for service to the national stage, ensuring that EANGUS remains a well-coordinated and effective advocate for its members.

A Bright Future for EANGUS

The election of Josh J. Baker as EANGUS Vice President and the nomination of Marsha Adams as EANGUS Secretary signal a bright future for the organization. Their leadership will undoubtedly bring fresh perspectives and renewed energy to EANGUS, furthering its mission to support and advocate for the enlisted men and women of the National Guard.

Baker and Adams are set to play crucial roles in shaping the direction of EANGUS in the coming years. Their combined experience, dedication, and leadership abilities are expected to drive the organization forward, ensuring that it continues to be a powerful voice for the National Guard community.

As EANGUS moves into this new chapter, the contributions of leaders like Baker and Adams will be essential in navigating the challenges ahead and seizing opportunities to advance the interests of its members. The entire National Guard community will be watching closely as these two exemplary leaders take on their new roles, confident that EANGUS is in capable hands.

The election of Josh J. Baker and the nomination of Marsha Adams are significant milestones for CAL EANGUS and EANGUS as a whole. Their leadership represents a commitment to excellence and a dedication to the service of others. As they step into their new positions, they carry with them the support and admiration of their colleagues, ready to lead EANGUS into a future of continued advocacy and success.



**FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR JUNIOR ENLISTED MEMBERS OF
THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD**





Meeting Information

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Noon via Zoom. Zoom has the capability of dialing in to the meeting with a telephone (landline). Email caleangus31@gmail.com for the monthly Zoom invite and call-in number if you do not receive it on your membership email.



Receive email updates from CAL-EANGUS

Are you missing out on important email updates from CAL-EALNGUS? Scan the code below or visit the link and sign up. Important bill support and “Calls to Action” will be sent to the address on file. Update your email address now.

<https://caleangus.org/meeting-docs/>



Update AB46, Exemption of Military Retirement Pay

By: MOAA Staff

Plans to reintroduce legislation exempting some or all uniformed services retirement pay and survivor benefits from state taxes are in place in two states where summer deadlines passed without bills reaching the governor’s desk. Here’s a look at the latest from California and Delaware, plus some details on other states where work on an exemption will continue, thanks in part to efforts from MOAA members and affiliates.

AB 46, a state assembly bill which would have exempted all uniformed services retirement pay and survivor benefits from state taxation, will not become law this session despite clearing several legislative hurdles and never receiving a “nay” vote since its May 2023 introduction.

This California Assembly passed the bill by a 77-0 margin that month, then two Senate committees unanimously moved it forward before it was placed in the state’s “suspense file,” where the Senate Appropriations committee sends legislation costing more than \$150,000 for further consideration (without further testimony). The bill was held over by the committee in 2023 but was not moved forward by the committee in its Aug. 15 session.

The bill was supported not only by the California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA), but also by state-level affiliates of the American Legion and the Marine Corps League, as well as the [California State Veterans Commanders Council](#) and nonmilitary advocacy groups.

Efforts to secure the support of Gov. Gavin Newsom have been unsuccessful; Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Breiten, USN (Ret), CALMOAA vice president of legislative affairs, said the governor “has sat silently on the sidelines failing to support any legislation that was introduced each of those five years that would have provided an exemption on military retirement pay.”

Breiten, citing DoD’s Office of the Actuary, said California’s military retiree population declined for the 11th straight year in 2023.

Legislators have expressed interest in introducing a bill for the 2025 session, Breiten told MOAA. Talks will continue with lawmakers as advocates work to craft a bill that will carry the governor’s support.

Delaware

Legislation that would have partially exempted uniformed service retirement pay and survivor benefits from state taxes did not advance out of committee in the Senate before the June 30 end of the state legislative session.

SB 201 would have increased existing maximum exemptions to \$15,000 for the 2024 tax year, \$20,000 in 2025, and \$25,000 in 2026 and thereafter. The bill was amended to include Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, and NOAA members.

MOAA’s Dover Chapter “will continue to ‘drive on to the Ranger objective’” with the tax legislation next session, said Col. Eugenia “Gene” Thornton, USA (Ret), Dover Chapter president.

Thornton highlighted the chapter’s support of other pro-veteran legislation that did become law, to include bills updated state laws to include Space Force members; offer children of servicemembers priority in school enrollment; reduce wait times for interment at state veterans cemeteries; and allow the state to accept “concurrent jurisdiction over juvenile matters on military installations,” which could allow some juvenile cases to be resolved in the state’s Family Court instead of federal courts.



2024 CAL-EANGUS Scholarship Recipients

- A1C Ryan Rojas - 146 AW
- A1C Ernie Nombrando - 146 AW
- A1C Erika Ortiz Mercado - 163 ATKW
- SPC Quinn Whiting - 79 IBCT
- SrA Lisette Nguyen - 163 ATKW
- SrA Jabrae Downs - 163 ATKW
- SSgt Ricardo Maggin - 163 ATKW
- SSgt Duane Ramos - 129 RQW
- SSG Alex Vera - 640 AVN SPT BTN
- TSgt Teresita Zamudio Bucio - 129 RQW
- TSgt Jeonid Cawaling - 129 RQW
- MSgt Kat Tan Marin - 163 ATKW
- MSgt Michael Sepielli - 163 ATKW
- SMSGT Robert Knox - 163 ATKW
- SMSGT Adam Hiebert - 146 AW
- Joseph Blancett - Separated CAARNG



2024 CAL-EANGUS Scholarship Recipients

Dependent Category:

- Abel Dominguez - Child of CMSgt Dominguez - 163 ATKW
- Breana Natalia Alano-Alcantara - Child of SPC Alcantara - 100 TC
- Jerielle Cawaling - Child of TSgt Cawaling - 163 ATKW
- Luz Duran - Child of CW4 Duran - Retired
- Leevegar Kim - Spouse of SGT Kim - 115 RST
- Emily Luna - Spouse of SrA Luna - 195 WG
- Celeste Guzman - Spouse of SGT Guzman - 79 IBCT

All CAL-EANGUS Scholarship Recipients received \$1,000 to be used towards their educational goals. Special thank you to USAA and our Supporting Partners that make this program possible.



163d Attack Wing Units Presented with CAL EANGUS Award

Two units at the 163d Attack Wing at March ARB were awarded the Triad Award from CAL-EANGUS. The Triad award is presented to a unit whose Commander, Senior Enlisted Leader and First Sergeant are all Life Members of CAL EANGUS – signifying the unit’s support of its Enlisted members and the Association. The military leadership triad is a dynamic team composed of the commander, senior enlisted leader, and first sergeant, who fill the roles of decision maker, subject-matter expert, and human resources advisor, respectively. CAL EANGUS President Josh J. Baker presented the awards to the units at the June 2024 UTA. The 163d Medical Group Triad Award winners are Col B. Dupper, CMSgt J. Walker and MSgt M. Camarillo. The 163d Mission Support Group Triad Award winners are Col S. Anderson, CMSgt J. Nguyen and MSgt V. Baker.

Association of the United States Army Benefits



The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) has partnered with the Army Association of the United States (AUSA). When a member joins a State EANGUS Association, they also gain membership automatically (unless they opt out) into AUSA, regardless of component affiliation. As a dual member, members can participate in benefit programs and scholarship programs that AUSA offers its members! More information can be found at: <https://www.ausa.org/memb-er-benefits-public>



CAL EANGUS Sponsors California Military Department's Participation in Pride Events Across the State

The California Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (CAL EANGUS) is proud to announce its sponsorship of the California Military Department's participation in four Pride events throughout the state. This initiative underscores CAL EANGUS's commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the military community.

By sponsoring the California Military Department's involvement in these Pride events, CAL EANGUS aims to show support for LGBTQ+ service members and veterans, recognizing their contributions and affirming their place within the National Guard. The events, held in various locations across California, provide an opportunity for the military community to celebrate diversity, promote unity, and engage with the broader public in a meaningful way.

WHAT CAN THE NATIONAL GUARD RELIEF FOUNDATION DO FOR YOU?

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS AND LOANS:

- Current, retired, or former National Guard member in good standing?
- Experienced a financial hardship, catastrophic loss, natural disaster, and/or personal property loss not covered by insurance?

SARGE GRANTS - Soldier & Airmen Relief Grant for Emergencies

- Unemployed or suffered a reduction in work hours?
- Facing eviction or utility shut-off?
- Do you have necessary bills like mortgage/rent, utility bills, groceries, or gas/transportation needs that are overdue with no ability to pay?

INTEREST-FREE LOANS

- Have you been hit by an unexpected expense?
- Do you have a delay in military or civilian pay or unresolved pay issue?
- Utility bills piling up? Mortgage/rent, or other bills past due?

The National Guard Relief Foundation may be able to help with an interest-free loan or grant. Grants are generally no more than \$500, and interest-free loans are available in amounts from \$500 to \$2,000. Low monthly repayment terms are established based on the loan amount.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD RELIEF FOUNDATION?

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

Federal employees/AD/AGR members can make an impact on the life of a National Guard member by making a donation to the Foundation via payroll deduction. Through the CFC, you can help other National Guard members and their families in need - select: "EANGUS We Care for America Foundation" - Code 11859

Use the CFC QR Code shown here, or go to <https://givecfc.org> The Annual CFC Giving Period is 1 September to 15 January.



DONATE

Help us help National Guard families by making a donation, participating in our retail and special giving programs, or by leaving a legacy gift to the Foundation. 100% of individual donations are used to provide grants to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who are struggling and need help. Get more information about our giving programs or DONATE on our website using the link or QR Code below.



DEDICATED TO PROVIDING EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THEIR FAMILIES!

www.eangus-wcfa.org/donation-3/

As a 501c3, your donation to the National Guard Relief Foundation is tax-deductible.



CAL EANGUS

Conference

12 OCT 2024

At 08.30AM

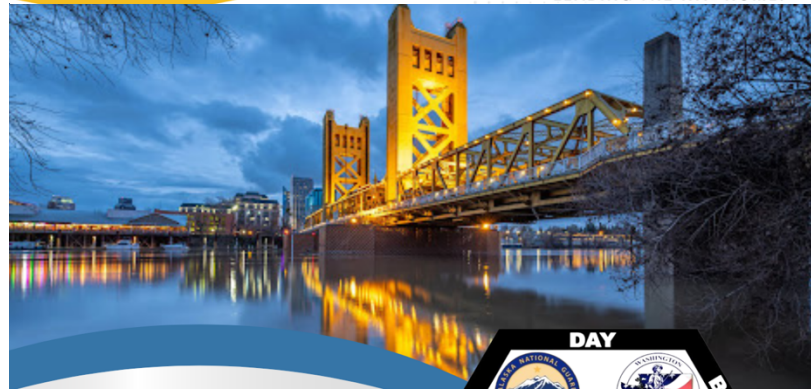


Focusing on Legislation and Connecting with the Community

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THANK YOU!
TO OUR SPONSOR.....

<https://caleangus.org/2024-state-conference/>



AREA 6 & 7 MID WINTER

JANUARY 17-19, 2025 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown – Arena
300 J Street Sacramento, California

- Jan 17 – Travel & Icebreaker
- Jan 18 – Combined Area 6 & 7 Meeting
- Jan 19 – Area 6 & 7 Break out – Travel after 1400



REGISTER

<https://caleangus.org/area6-7conference/>

EANGUS 2024 Legislative Priorities: A Focus on Reproductive Healthcare, Deported Veterans, and Veterans Court Services

As the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) outlines its legislative priorities for 2024, the organization has underscored its commitment to advancing key issues that directly impact the lives of National Guard members and veterans. Among the top priorities are three critical initiatives championed by the California Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. (CAL EANGUS): the expansion of access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) and reproductive healthcare, the expedited return of deported veterans to the United States, and the expansion of Veterans Court Services programs. These initiatives reflect EANGUS's dedication to addressing the evolving needs of its members and the broader veteran community.

Expansion of Access to IVF and Reproductive Healthcare

One of the primary legislative priorities for EANGUS in 2024 is advocating for the expansion of access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) and comprehensive reproductive healthcare services for National Guard members and their families. The rising costs and limited availability of these services have made it increasingly difficult for many service members to start or expand their families. EANGUS is pushing for legislation that would ensure all National Guard members have access to affordable and timely reproductive healthcare, including IVF, regardless of their duty status.

This initiative recognizes the unique challenges faced by National Guard members, who often juggle civilian careers with their military duties. Access to reproductive healthcare is not just a matter of medical necessity but also one of equity and support for those who serve. By expanding access to these services, EANGUS aims to alleviate the financial and emotional burdens associated with infertility and reproductive health challenges, ensuring that service members and their families receive the care they deserve.

Expedited Return of Deported Veterans

Another key priority for EANGUS in 2024 is advocating for the expedited return of deported veterans to the United States. Despite their service to the nation, many veterans have faced deportation due to legal and immigration issues. EANGUS is calling for legislation that would facilitate the prompt return of these veterans, recognizing their contributions and ensuring that they are treated with the dignity and respect they have earned through their service. This initiative is particularly important to CAL EANGUS, which has been at the forefront of efforts to support deported veterans. The organization argues that veterans who have served honorably should not be subject to deportation and should be provided with a pathway to citizenship. By prioritizing the return of these veterans, EANGUS aims to correct past injustices and provide these individuals with the opportunity to reintegrate into American society, where they can access the benefits and services they earned through their military service.

Veterans Court Services Expansion Program

EANGUS is also championing the expansion of Veterans Court Services programs across the United States as a legislative priority in 2024. Veterans Courts are specialized court programs that focus on rehabilitation and support for veterans who find themselves in the criminal justice system, often due to issues related to PTSD, substance abuse, or other service-connected conditions. These programs offer an alternative to traditional sentencing, emphasizing treatment and rehabilitation over incarceration.

The expansion of these programs is particularly relevant in California, where the veteran population is among the largest in the country. EANGUS is advocating for increased funding and resources to establish more Veterans Courts, ensuring that veterans receive the care and support they need to address the underlying causes of their legal issues. By expanding these services, EANGUS aims to reduce recidivism rates among veterans, improve their overall well-being, and help them successfully reintegrate into civilian life.

The 2024 legislative priorities for EANGUS reflect the organization's unwavering commitment to supporting National Guard members and veterans. By focusing on the expansion of reproductive healthcare, the expedited return of deported veterans, and the growth of Veterans Court Services programs, EANGUS is addressing some of the most pressing issues facing the military and veteran communities today.

These priorities, with strong backing from California, highlight the importance of comprehensive support systems for those who have served. EANGUS's advocacy efforts in these areas will be crucial in shaping policies that enhance the quality of life for National Guard members and veterans across the country. As the legislative session progresses, EANGUS will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that these priorities are addressed, securing a better future for those who have dedicated their lives to serving the nation.

For the whole 2024 EANGUS Resolutions Report, go to <https://caleangus.org/2024/08/23/eangus-2024-legislative-priorities-a-focus-on-reproductive-healthcare-deported-veterans-and-veterans-court-services/>





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