



California Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

February 2025

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 embark on a new year, CAL EANGUS remains committed to advocating for the men and women of the California National Guard. Our mission continues to be strengthening benefits, enhancing professional development, and ensuring that the voices of our enlisted force are heard at both the state and national levels.

One of our key initiatives this year is proposing a resolution to EANGUS that would recognize a “Change in Military Status” as a qualifying Life-Changing Event for Federal Employee Benefits and Life Insurance under FERS. This change would allow service members to adjust their benefits accordingly during critical transition periods, ensuring they receive the support they need.

Additionally, we are advocating to equate California Cadet Corps graduation with JROTC for enlistment rank advancement. Recognizing the rigorous training and leadership development provided by the Cadet Corps will help young Californians who choose to serve get the credit they deserve when joining the military.

On the legislative front, CAL EANGUS has proudly sponsored **AB 53**, a state bill that seeks to exempt military pensions from California state taxes. This initiative aligns California with the vast majority of states that already offer this benefit, helping us retain experienced service members and their families while making California a more military-friendly state.

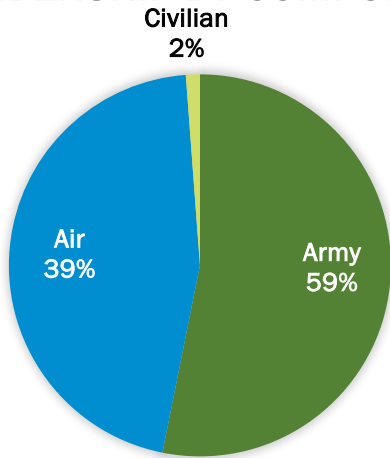
Membership remains a top priority for CAL EANGUS. We are focused on increasing engagement through targeted membership drives and recruiting incentives to strengthen our voice at the state and national levels. The greater our membership, the stronger our advocacy power to effect meaningful change.

I encourage all of you to stay involved, participate in upcoming events, and support our efforts to improve the lives of our Guardsmen and their families. Together, we can make a lasting impact for those who serve.

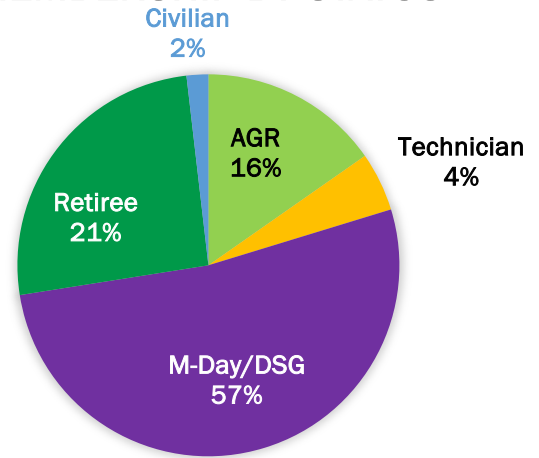
Membership

As of February 1, 2025, CAL-EANGUS had 1,929 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



REFERRAL PROGRAM



REFER 3 NEW ENLISTED MEMBERS, RECEIVE A SHIRT!

Must be a current CAL EANGUS Member to receive a shirt

To receive a CAL EANGUS Coyote Tan Shirt, you must:

- Be a current CAL EANGUS member (Life Member or Annual Member).
- Refer three (3) new enlisted members to join CAL EANGUS.
- The new members can join under any of the following categories:
 - Free Junior Enlisted Members (E1-E4)
 - Life Members
 - Annual Members

Current Membership Deals:

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

New registering members must enter a current CAL EANGUS Member's Name in the referral field when registering to receive credit. Once your referrals are verified and their memberships are confirmed, you'll be rewarded with the exclusive Coyote Tan Shirt as a token of our appreciation for your efforts in growing the CAL EANGUS community.

CAL EANGUS Partners with Firearms Legal Protection to Support Members

CAL EANGUS is proud to announce a new partnership with Firearms Legal Protection (FLP), an organization dedicated to providing uncapped legal defense for individuals who use a firearm—or any legal weapon—in self-defense or the defense of others. This partnership reflects CAL EANGUS’s commitment to ensuring that its members have access to critical protections, especially in an evolving legal landscape.

Why Firearms Legal Protection?

For those who exercise their Second Amendment rights, the legal implications of self-defense situations can be overwhelming. Individuals who use a firearm in self-defense may face arrest, legal fees, or even extensive court battles. Firearms Legal Protection offers peace of mind by covering all attorney fees associated with such cases, providing bail bond protection, incident scene clean-up, and access to a 24/7 attorney-answered emergency hotline. Members are also protected against Red Flag laws and receive exclusive access to webinars, product discounts, and more.

Proactive Advocacy for CAL EANGUS Members

“The CAL EANGUS Board decided to partner with Firearms Legal Protection after SB-8, the firearms liability insurance bill, gained significant momentum last year—a bill that would require every law-abiding gun owner to carry insurance for their firearm,” said Josh J. Baker, CAL EANGUS President. “We wanted to offer a low-cost program to our members so they could remain compliant if this bill were to pass in the future, while also providing them with outstanding legal protection.”

This partnership ensures that CAL EANGUS members are prepared and protected should they ever need to defend themselves or their loved ones. By offering access to a reliable and affordable legal defense program, CAL EANGUS continues to stand by its members, providing valuable resources and advocacy in matters that impact their rights and security.

For more information and to enroll in Firearms Legal Protection through CAL EANGUS, visit:

<https://firearmslegal.com/caleangus/>

MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

LOWEST PRICE	MOST POPULAR	BEST PROTECTION
INDIVIDUAL BASIC	INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM	FAMILY PREMIUM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Protection in your state of residence✓ Uncapped attorney fees for defense of criminal cases✓ Uncapped attorney fees for defense of civil cases✓ Applicable for all legal weapons✓ Extreme Risk-Protection order (Red Flag Laws) protection✓ 24/7 emergency attorney-answered hotline✓ Local criminal defense attorneys✓ Access to "MyFLP" mobile app	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Protection in all 50 states✓ All the benefits of INDIVIDUAL BASIC✓ Bail bond protection up to \$250,000✓ Expert witness and investigator fees✓ Counseling support✓ Lost wages reimbursement✓ Incident scene clean-up✓ Firearms confiscation payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Protection in all 50 states✓ All the benefits of INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM✓ Benefits for spouse✓ Benefits for all minor children* <p><small>*age 17 and younger. Certain limitations may apply</small></p>

*Not available in every state. In some states, Firearms Legal Protection offers a prepaid legal membership. In other states, Firearms Legal Protection offers an insurance product, regulated by the laws of that state. Some benefits are not available in all states. To view product availability and designation by state, please visit the availability page.

FIREARMS LEGAL PROTECTION **PROTECT YOURSELF. WE'LL PROTECT YOU.™**



What if you actually have to use it?

FIREARMS LEGAL PROTECTION | **Protect Yourself. We'll Protect You.**

CAL EANGUS State Conference Recap: A Day of Insights, Legislative Engagement, and Community



Meeting Information

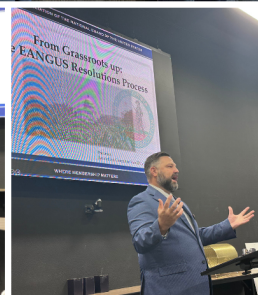
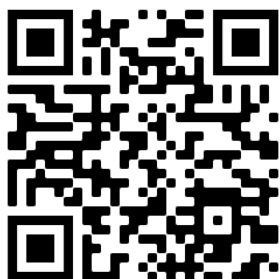
Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Noon via Zoom. Zoom has the capability of dialing in to the meeting with a telephone (landline). Email caleangus31@gmail.com for the monthly Zoom invite and call-in number if you do not receive it on your membership email.



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/>



On Saturday, October 12, 2024, the CAL EANGUS State Conference took place in Rancho Cordova, offering members the chance to engage with military leaders, policymakers, and fellow Guardsmen. The conference focused on leadership perspectives, legislative advocacy, and organizational updates, creating an enriching and collaborative experience for all attendees. For those who couldn't be present in person, the conference was also made accessible virtually via Zoom, with approximately 10 members participating online throughout the day.

The event opened with a Senior Enlisted Leader Perspective session led by State Command Chief Seth Zweben, CSM Refugio Rosas (Senior Enlisted Leader for the 40th Infantry Division), and CSM Richard Aller (Senior Enlisted Leader for Task Force Torch). Each leader shared valuable insights on the evolving priorities and challenges faced by California Guardsmen, emphasizing the importance of leadership in navigating these issues.

Following this session, SMSgt(R) Grant Roper, EANGUS Area VII Chair, conducted a Resolutions 101 Seminar, educating members on how they can actively participate in the resolutions process. This session aimed to empower CAL EANGUS members to use their voices effectively within the organization and beyond.

The conference then shifted to a Legislative Perspective panel featuring SPC Sergio Robles of the Elk Grove City Council, Isabel Gatdula, District Representative for Senator Ashby, and Matt Ceccato, District Representative for Representative Bera. The panelists shared their expertise on the legislative process, offering guidance on how members can influence policy that supports Guardsmen and their families. Adding a broader viewpoint, BG(CA) Darrin Bender, the Director of External Affairs for the California Military Department, provided updates on current initiatives and the collaborative efforts between the military and legislative bodies to support the National Guard.

Attendees were treated to a delicious lunch, generously provided by Corazón Tacos, which added to the sense of community and camaraderie as members connected with one another throughout the event.

The day concluded with an Annual President's Report from State President Josh J. Baker, who highlighted the year's achievements and outlined the organization's goals moving forward. The conference wrapped up with the election of Susan Hernandez to the Member at-Large (Life) position, a significant addition to the leadership team.

Thank you to everyone who attended, both in person and virtually, and contributed to the success of this year's conference. Your involvement is crucial to the growth and impact of CAL EANGUS. We look forward to building on these efforts and continuing to advocate for our Guardsmen throughout the year!



EANGUS 2025 CONFERENCE

HOME MEANS NEVADA

AUGUST 11 -14, 2025



<https://eangusconference.org>

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/member-benefits-public>

Governor includes tax exemption in state budget for military retirees and survivor pensions; Ramos working with veterans and administration to secure benefit



SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom has included a 2025-26 state budget item proposal to grant uniformed retirees and their survivors a state tax exemption on their military pensions. Assemblymember James C. Ramos (D-San Bernardino) has championed such an exemption in the past and last month introduced AB 53 which would allow military retirees and their survivors to claim the benefit.

Ramos who has introduced proposals for military retiree state tax exemptions three times in previous years, including during his chairmanship of the Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, was heartened by the governor’s willingness to include a pension tax exemption in this year’s state budget proposal. Last year, Ramos’s bill was the first time the measure made it to the other house of the legislature’s fiscal committee.

“I’m not one to give up on something I think is important, and I am grateful to the governor for including this item in the upcoming year’s budget proposal. We are excited to work with him on this exemption for those who have served our country and that honors the many sacrifices of our armed services personnel and their families.”

Jeffrey Breiten, of the Marine Corps League-Department of California Legislative Affairs office said, “Assemblymember Ramos’s strong support for California’s military community is without question. Assemblymember Ramos has been working diligently for the last three years to remove the stigma of California being the only state in the nation that fails to provide an exemption on military retirement pay, and he continues that battle today. I want to thank the Assembly member for his continued staunch support of our nation’s veterans and military retirees and Governor Newsom for recognizing the economic benefits that military retirees bring to the state they chose to call home after their 20 plus years of military service to our great nation.”

AB 53 is jointly sponsored by the American Legion-Department of California, the Marine Corps League-Department of California, the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers, California Military Officers Association of America, **the California Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (CAL EANGUS)** and the California State Commanders Veterans Council.

Assemblymember James C. Ramos proudly represents the 45th Assembly district that includes the Cities of Fontana, Highland, Mentone, Redlands, Rialto and San Bernardino. He is the first and only California Native American serving in the state’s legislature. Ramos chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6 on Public Safety.

Operation SoCal Rebuild: NGRF Fire Relief

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.



In the face of the devastating wildfires sweeping through Southern California, thousands of National Guardsmen have answered the call to protect lives and property. These brave service members not only fight the blazes but also often find themselves directly impacted by the disasters they combat. Recognizing the urgent need to support these heroes, the National Guard Relief Foundation (NGRF) has launched **Operation SoCal Rebuild: NGRF Fire Relief** to provide crucial aid.

The fires have wreaked havoc across communities, leaving many service members and their families in dire need of assistance. To bolster relief efforts, the **California Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (CAL EANGUS)** has stepped forward with a significant initiative. CAL EANGUS has pledged to match donations up to \$25,000, effectively doubling the impact of every contribution made to the NGRF's fire relief fund.

Josh J. Baker, President of CAL EANGUS, emphasized the importance of this campaign, stating, "The CAL EANGUS Board of Directors voted to approve the donation and to work with the NGRF to entice others to donate. Since California tends to use the NGRF more than other states, we feel it is our responsibility to help replace the funds that went to help our State's Guardsmen." This initiative not only underscores the commitment of CAL EANGUS to the well-being of California's National Guardsmen but also highlights the community's role in supporting those who serve. By matching donations, CAL EANGUS aims to amplify the relief efforts and ensure that the Guardsmen receive the support they need during these challenging times.

"We have already heard from members as well as the Military Department's Family Readiness Specialists that Guardsmen have lost their homes and we have started processing NGRF Applications," Baker said.

How You Can Help

Contributions to the NGRF's fire relief fund will provide immediate financial aid to service members so they can purchase items, including temporary housing, clothing, food, and other necessities. Every dollar donated will be matched by CAL EANGUS up to \$25,000, doubling the assistance provided to our Guardsmen. To donate and support the National Guardsmen affected by the Southern California wildfires, please visit <https://ngrf.odoo.com/socal>. Your generosity will help rebuild lives and restore hope to those who have sacrificed so much to protect us.

Together, we can make a significant impact and stand by our National Guardsmen in their time of need. Join CAL EANGUS and the NGRF in **Operation SoCal Rebuild** and help us turn the tide against these devastating fires.



Legislative Update from your State Lobbyist

By Seth Reeb – Reeb Government Relations



REEB GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

We have been advocating for legislation to exclude various taxes for the veteran community—from car taxes to home and property taxes. Unfortunately, the State Capitol, currently dominated by a single party, has not passed these measures, citing concerns that any revenue loss would create significant budgetary challenges without appropriate offset measures. That said, this marks the beginning of a new legislative year and session. Now is our time to unite and mobilize to raise awareness within the veteran community. Let's act decisively.

Legislative Updates

Early in the year, several major initiatives have been introduced, and we anticipate another significant development in the coming days. Notably:

- **Governor's Budget Proposal:** Includes an exemption of up to \$20,000 for military retirement pay and survivor spouse benefits.
- **ACA 5:** Assemblymember Schiavo has introduced a constitutional amendment to raise property tax exemptions for veterans.
- **Military Tax Exemption Bills:** Assemblymember Ramos ([AB 53](#)) and Senator Seyarto ([SB 1](#)) have introduced legislation on military tax exemptions.

Introducing ACA 5

A Constitutional Amendment to Expand Veterans' Tax Exemptions

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, Chair of the Military & Veterans Affairs Committee, has introduced [ACA 5](#), a priority proposal to reform property tax exemptions for veterans.

What is an ACA?

An Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) is a proposal to change the California Constitution. Unlike regular bills, ACAs:

- Require a two-thirds vote in both the Assembly and Senate to pass.
- Do not need the Governor's signature to advance.
- Must be approved by California voters in a general or special election to become law.

ACA 5's Goal:

- Remove the current ban on "stacking" the homeowners' exemption with the disabled veterans' exemption.
- Allow the Legislature to increase the exemption cap (currently \$4,000) to better reflect today's economic realities.

This amendment would empower lawmakers to provide meaningful financial relief to veterans and disabled veterans. We'll keep you updated as it moves through the legislative process.

AB 53 Gains Bipartisan Momentum

AB 53 now has 26 co-authors, including bipartisan support with one Republican Principal Co-Author. The bill will first be heard in the Assembly Military & Veterans Affairs Committee, a strong signal of its priority status.

Advocacy Tools: How to Engage Effectively

This year, we have worked to increase accessibility for veterans, their families, and the broader community. To make it easier than ever to stay informed on California-related legislation, we now offer two primary platforms for you to stay connected:

1. California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC)

[CSCVC](#) has been advocating on legislative issues since the 1960s. It provides campaigns that allow you to send letters to legislators with just a few clicks. Check out their website for more details on how the Council promotes the rights and benefits of veterans in the state, engages with the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and collaborates with other state agencies.

2. California Veterans Legislation Hub

Reeb Government Relations (RGR) developed the [California Veterans Legislation Hub](#)—a first-of-its-kind, all-inclusive interactive platform designed to help you contact, connect, and track veteran-specific legislation. The Hub includes:

- Links to CA live hearings
- Template letters
- Printable advocacy materials
- How-to guides on connecting with legislators and their staff
- A list of veteran-related bills with links to bill language, analysis, votes, and fact sheets
- Additional resources for veterans

Bonus: [RGR](#) is offering guidance on setting up accounts to track bills and send advocacy letters through the portal. I'm available to teach you how to navigate the systems effectively.

Contact Seth Reeb: sethr@water-warrior.com

CAL EANGUS is a proud member of the California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC), a coalition dedicated to promoting the rights and benefits of veterans across the state, who employs Reeb Government Relations as its lobbyist. The CSCVC advocates for policies that support veterans' entitlements, benefits, and overall well-being. Through legislative efforts, the Council engages with the California State Legislature, the California Department of Veterans Affairs, the California Veterans Board, and other key agencies to ensure that veterans' programs are effectively managed and continuously improved. As part of this collective effort, CAL EANGUS remains committed to championing initiatives that enhance the quality of life for National Guard members and all veterans in California.



CAL-EANGUS
PO Box 785
Folsom, CA 95763-0785

GSJJ

Have 3D technology to show a real-to-life effect for your design

Challenge coins

3D technology

GS-JJ.com is a leading custom promotional gift company with 20+ years of experience, specializing in military and law enforcement product solutions. Our product line includes custom challenge coins, pins, medals, buckles, patches, lanyards, and more.

Committed to top quality and customer value, GS-JJ.com has implemented cutting-edge design, quotation, and 3D modeling systems. Our unwavering pursuit of excellence ensures we consistently deliver exceptional products and services to our esteemed clients.

For the past six years, CAL EANGUS has had the pleasure of working with **GS-JJ** for our custom challenge coins and conference pins, and they have continually exceeded our expectations. Their attention to detail, excellent customer service, and commitment to quality make them a trusted partner for us. GS-JJ understands the pride and tradition that these items represent for our members, delivering products that truly honor our service. From design consultation to final delivery, every order has been seamless, making them our go-to for memorable, high-quality items year after year.