



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

June 2025

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

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BEAR FACTS



Your Voice. Your Service. Your Newsletter.

Message From the President



Over the last six months, CAL EANGUS has made significant strides in advocacy, membership growth, and member support.

From pushing legislation forward to supporting our members during emergencies, we've proven once again that we are a force built by and for California's enlisted National Guard community.

We were proud to lead advocacy efforts for AB 53, which seeks to exempt military retirement and survivor benefits from state taxes. This effort took center stage during All Vets Day at the Capitol, where I had the privilege of emceeding the event. Alongside four CAL EANGUS members, we met with lawmakers to voice the needs of our Guardsmen.

In response to Southern California wildfires, we launched Operation SoCal Rebuild, matching up to \$25,000 in donations to support impacted Guardsmen. We also enhanced member protections through our partnership with Firearms Legal Protection, providing 24/7 emergency legal defense for those who exercise their right to self-defense.

Our visibility continues to grow. We co-sponsored the California State Commander's Veterans Council All Vets Day at the State Capitol, hosted successful Membership Appreciation Nights with the Sacramento Athletics and the San Diego Padres, and boosted morale while building stronger community bonds. These efforts have helped increase our membership to over 2,000 strong.

Looking ahead, we are excited to attend the upcoming EANGUS National Conference in Reno, where California will send 12 delegates—the largest number in recent memory. This is a testament to our growing influence and engagement.

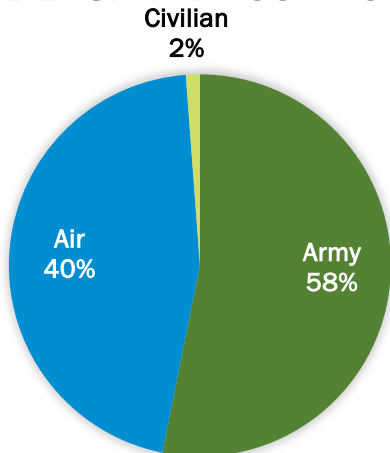
Thank you for your continued support. Let's keep building a stronger, united voice for California's enlisted force.

caleangus.org

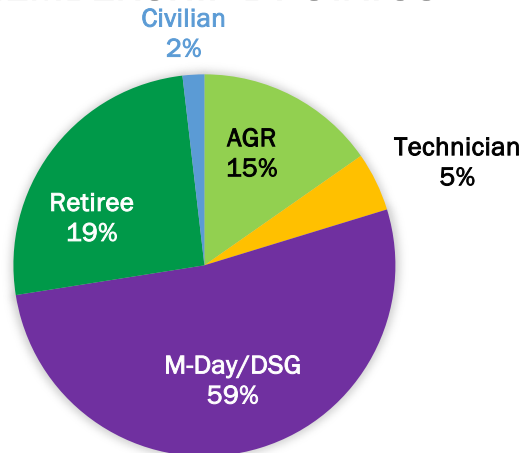
Membership

As of **June 1, 2025**, CAL-EANGUS had **2,015** 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.

California Veterans Take the Capitol: All Vets Day 2025 Delivers Powerful Advocacy and Connection



On June 11, 2025, veteran leaders from across California converged in Sacramento for All Veterans Capitol Advocacy Day, a signature event hosted by the California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC). Held at the March Fong Eu Secretary of State Building, this day-long event brought together over a dozen veterans service organizations committed to strengthening legislative impact and advancing key policy priorities for California’s veterans and military families.

The morning program featured high-level briefings and updates from some of the state’s most influential leaders, including Assemblymember James Ramos (author of AB 53, the military retirement tax exemption bill), Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo, Senator Bob Archuleta, CalVet Secretary Lindsey Sin and her executive leadership team, as well as Jon Siepmann, Executive Director of the Governor’s Military Council.

Following a working lunch and networking session, attendees crossed the street into the Capitol Swing Space—a temporary location housing legislative offices during Capitol renovations—where they engaged in face-to-face conversations with legislators and staff. Veterans discussed not only current legislation such as AB 53, but also educated officials on emerging issues impacting veterans, service members, and their families. These dialogues also included potential future bills that the CSCVC may consider sponsoring—proposals that align with the council’s Legislative Priorities, including mental health care access, earned benefit protections, and military family readiness.

“All-Veterans Day at the Capitol was a great success this year!” said Seth Reeb, legislative advocate for veterans service organizations. “Attendees were able to hear and interact with speakers ranging from key legislators to the Secretary of CalVet and the Executive Director of the Governor’s Military Council. All 120 legislative offices were visited by a veteran who left behind a folder of information on veterans legislation and other key issues. This was grassroots advocacy at its best and I thank all who participated.”

The event was proudly sponsored by the California Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (CALEANGUS), whose Board of Directors unanimously approved the sponsorship in keeping with its mission to elevate enlisted voices and empower legislative action.

“Our board proudly supported this event because advocacy is not just part of our mission—it is our responsibility,” said CMSgt Joshua J. Baker, President of CALEANGUS and Legislative Director for CSCVC. “The success of All Vets Day 2025 proves what can be accomplished when veterans unite across affiliations to engage directly with policymakers. I’m incredibly proud of everyone who showed up to speak, listen, and walk the halls of the Capitol with purpose.”

As California continues to navigate budgetary challenges and federal policy shifts, sustained engagement by veteran leaders remains essential. All Vets Day 2025 served as a powerful example of what happens when knowledge, commitment, and collaboration come together in service of our state’s military community.



Meeting Information

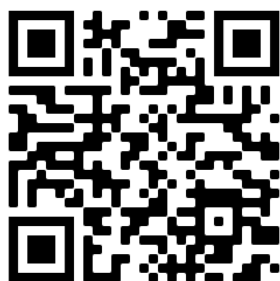
Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Noon via Zoom. Zoom has the capability of dialing in to the meeting with a telephone (landline). Email caleangus31@gmail.com for the monthly Zoom invite and call-in number if you do not receive it on your membership email.



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/>



CAL EANGUS Helps Raise Over \$40,000 for National Guard Relief Foundation

The California Enlisted Association (CAL EANGUS) launched a critical initiative, Operation SoCal Rebuild, to provide financial relief to National Guard members impacted by the devastating Southern California wildfires. This matching donation campaign, which concluded at the end of February, has made a lasting impact—demonstrating the strength of our National Guard community.

State President Josh J. Baker highlighted the motivation behind the initiative, stating: “The CAL EANGUS Board brought this proposal forward in response to the devastating SoCal fires. We saw an uptick of NGRF applications for grants and loans from Guardsmen who lost their homes. We wanted to ensure not only Californians had available funds, but Guardsmen from all over the country as well when disasters strike in their state.”

Thanks to the generosity of donors, including a \$1,000 contribution from the Colorado National Guard Association and an extraordinarily generous \$10,000 donation from AFBA, Operation SoCal Rebuild raised over \$40,000 in support of Guard members and their families.

This campaign is a testament to the power of community, compassion, and action. Though the campaign has ended, its impact will continue to be felt, ensuring that those who serve our nation have the support they need when disaster strikes. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed—your support has made a real difference!

CAL EANGUS Hosts Successful Member Appreciation Night at San Diego Padres Game



On March 28, 2025, CAL EANGUS hosted a Member Appreciation Night at the San Diego Padres game, bringing together 45 members for an evening of camaraderie, baseball, and fun. The event provided a well-deserved break for attendees, allowing them to connect outside of meetings and strengthen relationships within the CAL EANGUS community.

The event coincided with several key leadership gatherings at the Hilton Bayfront in San Diego, including the Senior Leader Event, the Additional Duty First Sergeant Symposium, and the California Force Development Course. With so many dedicated leaders in town, the game offered a great opportunity to step away from formal sessions and engage in casual, meaningful conversations.

One member shared, “it was a nice break from attending the meetings, and I really appreciate the opportunity to talk with other members during the game.” Events like these highlight the importance of building connections and fostering a strong support network among our enlisted force.

CAL EANGUS is committed to continuing these opportunities for engagement and appreciation. Be on the lookout for future events throughout the state, as we work to bring our members together in meaningful ways.

Thank you to everyone who attended—we appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at the next event!



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/memb-er-benefits-public>

GM Financial Expands Financial Education Resources Support With EANGUS



FORT WORTH, TEXAS, April 17, 2025 – This month, GM Financial became a financial literacy affiliate with the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), part of a shared goal to ensure service members have the tools and resources needed to make educated financial decisions for themselves and their families while at home or deployed. EANGUS serves more than 450,000 men and women serving in the National Guard, and their families, as well as tens of thousands of retired members.

“Our emerging relationship with EANGUS further highlights our continued commitment to military members and their families,” said Dan Berce, President and CEO of GM Financial. “We are proud to work alongside service men and women every day at GM Financial. This collaboration will allow us to expand our financial education reach to support and empower more of our nation’s heroes.”

EANGUS is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare and professionalism of its members. The organization supports efforts that provide adequate staffing, pay, benefits, entitlements, equipment and installations for the National Guard. GM Financial continues to broaden support for its employees who serve in the armed forces, recently enhancing employee benefits for active military members. The new policy grants employees, who also serve in the military, flexibility in their work schedule, relieving pressure that may have previously occurred when employees were expected to begin a shift soon after traveling home.

GM Financial is a resource for both National Guard individuals as well as National Guard units for educational resources with the goal of becoming financially resilient and to safeguard military security clearances. To schedule and coordinate a unit group presentation or class, contact president@caleangus.org.

General Motors Financial Company, Inc. is the wholly owned captive finance subsidiary of General Motors Company and is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. For more information, visit gmfinancial.com.

EANGUS Welcomes CSM(R) John Gipe as Executive Director

EANGUS is proud to announce the appointment of Command Sergeant Major (Retired) John Gipe as its new Executive Director. A seasoned leader with decades of service, Gipe brings unmatched experience in national defense policy, strategic operations, and enlisted personnel advocacy. Gipe previously served as the 9th Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, representing over 1.1 million service members across all reserve components. He also chaired the DoD Reserve Component Senior Enlisted Advisory Council and served on key advisory boards for compensation, Yellow Ribbon programs, and the Freedom Award.

Before that, Gipe served as the 8th Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, advising on training, family programs, and personnel policy for more than 370,000 Soldiers and their families.

His proven commitment to the enlisted force will drive EANGUS’s mission forward—advancing the welfare, benefits, and professional development of National Guard members nationwide.



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/
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Legislative Update from your State Lobbyist

By Seth Reeb – Reeb Government Relations



REEB GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

At the midpoint of the 2025–26 legislative session, California veterans face a pivotal moment marked by budget constraints, stagnant program growth, and federal policy uncertainty. Though a projected \$28.4 billion deficit has been reduced to \$12 billion, the fiscal pressure remains high. While veterans' programs have largely avoided direct cuts, they are increasingly strained by underfunding and rising demand.

CalVet retains a \$551 million budget (\$372 million General Fund), with \$350 million allocated to operating eight state veterans homes. However, \$819,000 for ongoing maintenance was withdrawn, adding to a \$43.3 million backlog. The California Military Department faces similar issues, with a \$1.1 billion budget but \$4.8 million in cuts for deferred maintenance at key armories, contributing to unsafe conditions.

Federal workforce reductions at the VA—up to 80,000 positions—pose a serious threat to California's large veteran population. These cuts have already disrupted care, including crisis line operations. In response, the Legislature has explored contingency plans such as expanding Medi-Cal eligibility and certifying more VA claims officers.

The rise of unaccredited "claim sharks" has prompted urgent calls for stronger consumer protections. AB 826 seeks to regulate these entities, while other measures like SB 296 (property tax relief), AB 264 (education access), and AB 53 (retirement tax exemption) aim to improve veterans' financial and educational standing.

SB 519 addresses veteran outmigration by proposing a task force to study systemic challenges like housing costs and employment barriers. Simultaneously, the unsheltered veteran homelessness rate—at 71% in California—demands immediate attention as federal homeless assistance funding is threatened.

Infrastructure upgrades are another key concern. While \$38.7 million has been reappropriated for the Yountville Veterans Home steam system—a crucial project for the state's oldest veterans facility—overall deferred maintenance continues to go underfunded, posing risks to resident safety and facility integrity.

Several important veteran-related bills have become two-year bills, including SB 60 (expanding GI Bill eligibility), AB 556 (waiving campus-based fees), and SB 519 (veteran outmigration task force). These delays signal the need for sustained advocacy through 2026.

Beyond legislation, the broader context includes economic pressures like high housing costs, spouse unemployment, and the rising cost of care. These stressors continue to drive veterans out of California, undermining the state's reputation as a place of opportunity for those who have served.

As the Legislature works toward a final budget, veterans' advocates must push for tangible commitments: stronger consumer protections, robust housing and mental health programs, and funding for state-level safety nets. Without coordinated action, veterans risk falling through the cracks of a system stretched thin by both federal and state budget constraints.

In summary, while California remains a national leader in veterans' investment, the compounding effects of budget tightening and federal retrenchment require urgent and unified legislative response. CAL EANGUS, in partnership with the CSCVC and allied organizations, will continue leading that charge.

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

FIREARMS LEGAL PROTECTION

MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

LOWEST PRICE

INDIVIDUAL BASIC

- ✓ 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

MOST POPULAR

INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM

- ✓ 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

BEST PROTECTION

FAMILY PREMIUM

- ✓ Protection in all 50 states
- ✓ All the benefits of **INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM**
- ✓ Benefits for spouse
- ✓ Benefits for all minor children*

*age 17 and younger. Certain limitations may apply

*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.



PROTECT YOURSELF. WE'LL PROTECT YOU.™

