



UCLA Veterans Initiatives & Partnerships July Newsletter

A VetJET Veteran was featured at UCLA!

Graduate Profile: Veteran pays it forward with paralegal certificate

UCLA Extension graduate helps his peers navigate their VA benefits

When Miguel Quintero returned from Army active duty nearly four decades ago, he was dealing with physical and mental ailments, including PTSD. Receiving help requires a lot of paperwork, and over the years, Quintero found himself becoming a bit of an expert.



Many veterans return home needing vital benefits they are entitled to. But too often, Quintero said, they don't really speak the bureaucratic language demanded of them. A lot of the paperwork, he said, requires knowledge of the system and the law. With an assist from **UCLA VetJET** (Veterans Job, Education & Training), he will graduate with a **Paralegal Studies certificate** from UCLA Extension this summer, which will help him take an even more active role in this vital cause.

"At this point, I know quite a lot about the VA benefits and the process, so I can help any guys that need guidance," Quintero said. "Having a paralegal certificate gives me more clout so that they can look at me as someone who really knows what he is doing and is qualified to lend support. Even though you don't need legal experts for VA disability, it's just better to have us available. Everyone feels better about it. The legalese of learning how to think like an attorney or paralegal comes in very handy."

Read the rest of the story [here!](#)

Congratulations to our first cohort of VetJET graduates!



A dozen graduates (six pictured above) have completed one of the 20+ certificate programs offered through VetJET, a UCLA Veterans Initiatives & Partnerships and UCLA Extension program offered at no cost to Veterans regardless of discharge status, current VA benefits, or time of service. The program saw a meteoric rise after it's inception last year, with nearly 100 Veterans signing up to begin the process.

Summer fun at UCLA!





Our summer has been full of activity! Kickball at the stadium and the Challenge Course at UCLA are always a great opportunity to get out in the LA sun and enjoy some time together.

Check out What's Happening!



Recreation and Wellbeing Expo!

Join us at the annual Veteran Recreation and Wellbeing Expo! The Expo features Veteran recreation and wellbeing organizations from all over Southern California sharing the activities they do for Veterans.

Saturday, July 26
10:00am - 2:00pm

Lunch provided by:



Jackie Robinson Stadium
100 Constitution Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90095



*This is an outdoor event and includes a large shaded area
*Free parking is available adjacent to the Stadium

click here to
Register 



Scan here to register

or visit :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recreation-and-wellbeing-expo-for-veterans-tickets-1382781630079>

This event is open to all!

- Free music, food and drinks
- Recreation and wellbeing activities
- Free giveaways
- Veteran providers and resources
- Kid friendly activities
- Family friendly environment



Thank you to our sponsors:



Veteran Family
Wellbeing Center



U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs



Los Angeles
Veterans Collaborative

Take advantage of everything UCLA has to offer

UCLA Veteran Family Wellbeing Center



The Veteran Family Wellbeing Center (VFWC) provides evidenced-based resilience building services to Veterans, Guard and Reserve members of all eras (regardless of discharge status) and their family members residing in California. Located on the West LA VA campus, appointments are available both in person and remotely using a computer or laptop.



The VFWC services help individuals, couples and families:

- Improve communication
- Express and respond to emotions
- Feel closer to loved ones
- Solve problems
- Plan for the future
- Increase overall wellbeing
- Overcome challenges of all kinds, including marital difficulties, parent-child relationships, grief and loss, reintegration, caregiving, feelings of isolation and many others

Services are free, confidential and offered regardless of military discharge status. Whether you have served or supported someone who has, we look forward to helping you achieve your wellbeing and relationship goals.

Location:

**VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
West Los Angeles Medical Center
11301 Wilshire Boulevard
Building 220, 3rd Floor Room 316
Los Angeles, CA 90073**

Appointments available

**Monday-Friday 8:30am-7:00pm
and Saturday mornings.**



Veteran Family
Wellbeing Center



U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs

For more information, contact our Family Services Coordinator

310.478.3711 ext 42793 | info@vfwc.ucla.edu | vfwc.ucla.edu

UCLA Veterans Legal Clinic

Need **legal** advice?

What types of legal issues do we handle?

Veterans Benefits: Pension and service-connected compensation benefits.

Citations & Traffic Infractions:
Violations in traffic court, not DUIs.

Criminal Record Clearing:
Expungements and 290 removals
Housing: Assistance for tenants in disputes with their landlord.

(424) 248-9783



2nd & 4th Tuesdays

8 a.m. - 12 p.m., 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Located at Building 218, ground floor Room 5A.

Call or walk in.

Any person who served in the U.S. military, regardless of discharge status, length of service, or era of service may be eligible for services. **The service is for low-income, Los Angeles-area Veterans.** Additional criteria apply. Services are not guaranteed. Referrals are available.



Take ownership of your health care

Operation Mend heals our nation's post-9/11 military service members, veterans and caregivers by providing innovative, comprehensive, world-class care for the physical and psychological wounds of war.

Veterans who have gone through the in-person intensive outpatient program (IOP) have shown improvement in mental health symptoms within 3 months after program completion.



Scan, call **310-267-2110** or visit uclahealth.org/programs/operationmend to learn how you can get help today

UCLA Health



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