

## CalVet, DMV Sign Historic Agreement

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Department of Veterans Affairs and the California Department of Motor Vehicles today announced an historic agreement that will help connect nearly all of the 2.1 million veterans in California with information about their benefits and services that they have earned through their service in the U.S. Military. Under an agreement signed by CalVet Secretary Roger Brautigan and DMV Director George Valverde, effective July 1, 2011, new driver's license and state identification card application forms will ask veterans if they have ever served in the U.S. Military. If they mark on the forms that they have, their mailing addresses will be sent to the CalVet Department for distribution of information relative to services and benefits available to all veterans who served honorably in the military. "This new partnership will help our department reach out to veterans and help them connect with the benefits and services they have earned through their service that are offered by the state of California and the U.S. Government," said Secretary Brautigan. "California Veterans have a long and storied history of excellent service in our Armed Forces, and the DMV is pleased to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in this worthwhile effort," said DMV Director George Valverde. The information provided by the DMV will include the name of the veteran and his or her mailing address. The CalVet Department will mail to that address information that will explain some of the benefits available to them such as health care, education assistance, job training assistance and home-purchasing assistance and how to obtain those benefits and services. The Veterans will also be asked to log-on to the state department's new Veterans Reintegration System and register their contact information and areas of interest. This new system provides veterans with on-going information about areas such as housing, health care, mental health, state benefits, etc. If the veteran can't utilize a computer or doesn't have access to one, they will be provided with a card that will allow them to sign up for the same information which will be mailed to them whenever there is news to share. "Information is a powerful tool and the purpose of this outreach effort is to provide the veterans of California with the tools they need to successfully transition from the military into civilian life," said Brautigan. The DMV is in the process of redesigning its driver's license and state identification card forms to accommodate mandated changes and new information that is required by state law and this provided the two departments the opportunity to achieve this historic agreement.