



**The Superior Court**  
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, September 23, 2014

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## **2014 HOMLESS VETERANS STAND DOWN**

On Friday, September 26, 2014, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., San Joaquin County will hold its fifth Homeless Veterans Stand Down (see attached flyer) with Homeless Court commencing at 3:00 p.m. The Stand Down will take place at the County WorkNet Building located at 56 S. Lincoln Street in Stockton and at the satellite Stockton Shelter for the Homeless & St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services site on S. Harrison Street in Stockton.

The term "Stand Down" stands for a grass-roots, community-based intervention program designed to help the homeless Veterans and those Veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless to "combat" life on the streets. It's been reported by the media that almost half of new combat Veterans seek disability making them the most medically and mentally injured Troops in the history of our nation. Forty-five percent of the 1.6 million Veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are seeking compensation due to service-related afflictions. Combat Veterans have lost limbs, fingers and toes; they are blind or have impaired vision; they have hearing loss or hearing difficulties; they have been disfigured, with as many as 200 possibly needing face transplants. More than 400,000 new Veterans have mental health problems upon their return from combat, primarily Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

This important event serves as an opportunity for our community to join forces and assist Veterans who have served our country to keep Americans safe and preserve our freedom. The Stand Down's genesis was the Court's monthly Homeless Court which serves the homeless population of our county by allowing them to clear their minor criminal and traffic matters and old fines through community service or by participation in substance abuse or mental health programs rather than through the payment of fines and service of jail time.

In years past, approximately 40 local agencies and over 200 volunteers have participated to make the Stand Downs successful. This year's event will be no different. Numerous agencies and organizations are eager to provide our veterans with services ranging from dental work, mental health services, housing opportunities, legal help, employment and educational assistance, to a meal, sleeping bag, and a backpack full of hygiene and many useful items.

Judge Barbara Kronlund, who spearheaded the Stand Down in San Joaquin County, had this to say about this year's event, "Our goal is to provide services to assist in breaking the cycle of homelessness for Veterans, and to encourage their reintegration into society. We connect them to services which will continue far beyond the one day event to support their rehabilitation efforts and healing. I am thankful for all the community members who volunteer their time to help our Veterans. It is truly a collaborative effort. I am so proud to be a part of this important event."

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# HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN 2014

Friday, September 26, 2014  
 9:00AM - 2:00PM  
 Homeless Court 3:00PM

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY WORKNET**  
 56 South Lincoln Street  
 Stockton, CA  
 FOR INFORMATION CALL  
**JASON LEBEOUF**  
 (209) 954-3920



It is the Soldier, not the minister  
 Who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the Soldier, not the reporter  
 Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the Soldier, not the poet  
 Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer  
 Who has given us freedom to protest.

It is the Soldier, not the lawyer  
 Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Soldier, not the politician  
 Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,  
 Who serves beneath the flag,  
 And whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
 Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

*-Charles M. Province, a U.S. Army Veteran*



**We will be providing:**

- Backpacks
- Personal Hygiene Kits
- Medical & Dental Exams
- Legal Services
- Employment Information
- Housing Information
- Veteran Services
- And Many Other Services

**ALL FREE OF CHARGE**