



STANISLAUS COUNTY LIBRARY

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Grand Opening of the Veterans Resource Center at the Modesto Library

The Modesto Library will host a grand opening celebration for its Veterans Resource Center, Monday, April 4 at 5:30 p.m. The festivities will feature U.S. Rep. Jeff Denham, Stanislaus County Supervisor Dick Monteith and other officials, as well as a special performance of patriotic music by members of the Johansen High School band.

Stanislaus County veterans can visit the Modesto Library's Veterans Resource Center for help finding information about services and resources available to them. The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) offers books, DVDs and pamphlets on topics of specific interest to veterans and their families, such as state and federal benefits for veterans, housing, health care, education and employment. A dedicated computer is also available for veterans to access information online.

With an increasing amount of information offered online, the VRC will be particularly helpful for those veterans without online computer access at home or have challenges navigating through the benefits process online. For those seeking help accessing information, assistance is available Monday through Thursday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"Libraries have always acted as neutral ground when it comes to finding information," said Michael Leamy, Modesto Library manager. "Some veterans don't feel comfortable approaching other government agencies for help. Since many veterans already use the library, we feel that the VRC is in a unique position to help them obtain the benefits they so richly deserve."

The Stanislaus County Library in Modesto is one of 38 public libraries offering a VRC through the State Library and the California Department of Veterans Affairs. California public libraries are working to connect veterans and their families to benefits and services for which they are eligible.

The Modesto Library joins a number of local organizations and agencies providing services to veterans. "There are so many great services already being offered. Our goal is to improve access," said Leamy.

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This project is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

The April 4 grand opening event is free and open to the public. The Modesto Library is located at 1500 I Street. Free parking is available in the parking lot behind the library and on surrounding streets. For more information, please call 209-558-7814.

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